

FIG. 1.—PIECE OF COMB WITH WORKERS AND DRONE CELLS.

BEE NOTES.

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The season is now at hand when prompt action must be taken to secure a large force of bees to gather the honey as the season advances. If colonies are in proper condition at this season, brood rearing will progress very rapidly. The requirements are: a properly arranged movable comb hive, clean, straight worker combs, a fair quantity of bees, the necessary food with which brood-rearing may be carried on, and most important than all, a good prolific queen. As our notes are particularly for the benefit of the beginner, I will speak of some of the common hindrances to progress. The inexperienced often fail to observe the difference between worker and drone combs, and the consequences are that a large proportion of the comb, and that often in the very center of the hive, will be drone. After a little experience, the difference may be observed, and such combs removed, or at least placed at the outside of the brood nest, where they will not occupy space that properly belongs to the workers. The advantages to be gained by the use of Artificial Comb Foundation in securing straight worker combs, are worthy of investigation. The worker cells are about one-fifth smaller than drone cells. Figure 1 shows a piece of comb which consists of worker cells at the left, and drone cells at the right and upper side. A study of this engraving will aid in determining the kinds of comb. The different kinds of bees are also shown in the same engraving, very true to nature. As it is very essential to know that the queen is present in the hive at this season, her appearance and the attention shown her in the engraving, may aid in recognizing her. If the inexperienced are unable to make out the queen, her presence may often be ascertained by finding eggs or brood. If eggs are found, the queen must have been in the hive within at least four or five days. The eggs and larvæ in different stages are shown in figure 2, somewhat magnified. The absence of a queen may often be determined by finding queen cells that have been started. Bees will sometimes start these cells when the queen is unprolific, before they destroy her. Queen cells in different stages are shown at *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* in figure 3.

After other necessary things are provided, the next important object is to secure sufficient stores. While there are advantages to be gained by supplying a proper amount of liquid food, I am of the opinion that the average beginner will do best to avoid

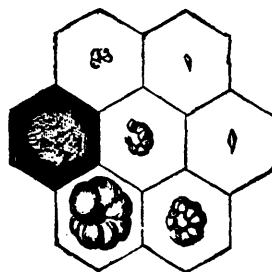


FIG. 2.—EGGS AND LARVÆ.

feeding it, if each hive has a good supply of sealed stores, but the essential point is not to allow them to consume all of their stores and thus interrupt proper brood rearing. During the past winter bees have consumed more than the usual amount of honey, and the consequence will be that great care will be necessary in furnishing food before the supply is exhausted.

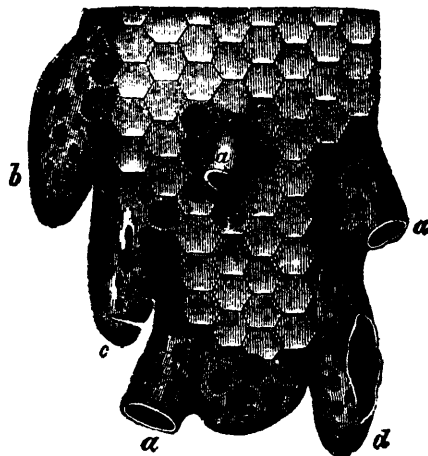


FIG. 3.—QUEEN CELLS IN DIFFERENT STAGES.

TRANSFERRING BEES.—If it has not already been done no time should be lost in transferring swarms from the common box-hives to those with movable combs. In the space given me here I can only briefly call attention to the different operations necessary to be performed. Those who are interested in the proper care of bees, and desire to proceed with a view to such results as are attained by the best methods, must secure a practical work where all the different methods are minutely described and illustrated. Such works are prepared with great care, with a view to those wants, and will be found invaluable. [We may here add that "Quinby's New Bee-keeping," contains the most complete directions for this and all else relating to apiary management.—ED.]—*Gardener's Chronicle*.