

than will take three frames, so that an introducing-cage may be inserted between them with ease. The bottoms of these hives are best nailed on, projecting in front from 2 in. to 3 in., the entrance being cut out of the front  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep. Nail two battens, 2 in. deep, across the bottom, to keep the latter off the ground. Flat covers are best.

A strong two-story colony will make five nucleus colonies, and, if very strong, six may be made. As the bees are to be confined in the nucleus hives for over a day, ventilation should be arranged by tacking a piece of queen-cage wire cloth over the entrance. It is a good plan to bore a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. hole through the bottom, and to cover this with wire cloth also.

#### FORMING NUCLEI AND INSERTING QUEEN-CELLS.

When the queen-cells are thirteen days old from the egg they are ready to be given to nuclei. If there is any doubt about their age it is better to deal with them, say, on what is believed to be the twelfth day, or, if absolutely certain of their age, they may be left until the fourteenth day. Be careful when handling the cells that they are not roughly used, and that they be kept warm in a small box on cotton wool.

The cells and hives being in readiness at the colony intended to be broken up, blow a few puffs of smoke in, lift off the upper box, and, without looking for the old queen, proceed to place in each nucleus hive, finishing one at a time, one frame of brood (as much sealed brood as possible) with adhering bees, one containing honey and a little brood, with bees, and an empty comb. There should be a good many bees, without the hive being overcrowded. See that there is food enough. On the centre comb in each nucleus place a queen-cell confined in West cell-protector (obtainable from hive-makers), and close the hive. When all are done put them in meantime in a cool dark place till the evening of the following day, when they may be set out just before dark and the bees be liberated. Set them a good distance apart from each other, and away from the main part of the apiary.

A nucleus colony should, of course, be left on the stand. This need not be closed. The old hive can remain, but it should be contracted in size by two division boards, to suit the size of the colony. This hive will catch all the returning bees.

#### CAUTION IN MAKING NUCLEUS COLONIES.

A mistake, resulting in failure in making nuclei, is frequently made by beginners by not confining the bees for a while. If the nucleus colonies are placed out at once all the field bees are bound to return to the old hive after their first flight. Thus the brood and queen cell are deserted, and they perish. When confined, as I have advised, though some of the bees may return, it does not affect the welfare of the colony.