

combs that it is necessary to discard, those that become broken and irreparable, combs from colonies that have been treated, burr combs, &c., furnish quite a lot in addition.

These are melted up in various ways, and rendered into pure wax, which sells at about 1s. 6d. per pound. It is difficult to estimate the revenue from this source, but probably 1s. per colony would be about right. Many beekeepers make their own foundation, and in these cases the wax is retained and used for that purpose.

QUEEN-REARING.

Probably the most fascinating yet the most difficult work in the apiary is queen-rearing. Many methods are in practice, and beekeepers invariably experiment with these before finally selecting the plan which is most suitable for their location. In this particular branch of bee-culture the novice is confronted with difficult complications which require much thought to circumvent. Queen-rearing is, indeed, a branch in itself, and many persons occupy their full time in this work. The queens are raised by artificial means, as a rule, and hatch out in separate cages. A number of these cages are sometimes together in one hive, which is called a "nursery." After leaving the nursery they are introduced to what are called "mating-boxes" or "nuclei," from which they take their wedding flight. This single occurrence is sufficient to keep them fertilized throughout their entire life. After this nuptial revelry they are able to lay drone or worker eggs at will, and are ready to be introduced to large colonies of bees that need requeening, and so fulfil their destined mission. A commercial queen-breeder rears as many queens as he has orders for, and has his apiary stocked with especially well-bred bees. Special equipment is also needed for this purpose. Her royal highness is sold for various prices according to her quality, the general price of a first-class fully developed and tested Italian queen being about £1.

SELLING COLONIES.

A source of revenue is derived from the sale of surplus colonies. For instance, an apiary may be increased by swarming or artificial means from seventy-five to one hundred stocks, and if this increase is not desired the surplus colonies are usually sold. In some cases they are left until the winter, when they are united with other stocks, thus forming exceptionally strong colonies that should do well the following year.

FOUNDATION-MAKING.

This branch of apiculture is fast becoming popular in New Zealand, and the time will come when it will be unnecessary to import founda-