

## REMOVAL OF BEES FROM BUILDINGS.

When bees take up a position in a building they in course of time become troublesome to their owners. In the busy season, when they are flying freely, they usually find access to other quarters, to the annoyance and general discomfort of everybody concerned; and, as the bees in most cases select a location behind the weatherboards or under the eaves of the house, they are hard to remove. Fumigation is not as a rule successful, as it is well-nigh impossible to get the poisonous gases confined to the quarters the bees are occupying.

The quickest plan to adopt is to strip the weatherboards or otherwise remove parts of the building so as to expose the combs. If the services of a beekeeper are not available bees can be successfully removed by proceeding as follows: In case the person is unused to handling bees, or is nervous, a veil should be worn. Take a bee-smoker and charge with dry sacking, so that when lighted the smoke can be forced in at the entrances which the bees are using. Usually a few puffs of dense smoke will drive the bees to the honey, and they can then be handled without much risk of the operator getting stung. The weatherboards or other material can then be removed, the bees brushed into a box, and the combs removed. After the operation is complete, block up all entrances so as to prevent further swarms from taking possession; and if provision is made for smearing the inside woodwork with carbolic acid or a pungent chemical this will act as a deterrent to bees again entering the building.

If the position the swarm has taken up in the building will permit of a hive being placed so that the crevice through which the bees have been passing adjoins the entrance to the hive, the bees may be removed by means of a bee-escape. This will obviate the handling necessary in the other method described. It is first necessary to stop up all the openings except one. Over this should be placed a Porter bee-escape, through which the bees can come out but cannot re-enter. In the hive place several combs, including one containing brood with adhering bees, care being taken to see that eggs and hatching-brood are both present. As the bees pass out of the building they will be unable to find their way back, and will enter the hive.

In a few days the field-bees will all have entered the hive, and in the course of time the emerging bees will shortly follow those outside, with the result that the entire colony, with the exception of a very few bees, will be in the hive. The bees in the hive, finding themselves without a queen, will raise one from the young larvæ in the comb provided. The nurse-bees will care for the brood in the old home, with the result that the colony will be transferred with little loss. In a few weeks' time, when the bees have settled down and the young queen has started to lay, the escape can be removed, and the bees allowed access to the honey in the old brood-nest. They will remove this and carry it into the hive. When the operation is complete the hive can be removed to a location in the garden, and the entrance to the building closed so as to prevent another swarm occupying the same position. When the hive is removed take the usual precautions to prevent the bees from returning to the old location.

—E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor.

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## THE GARDEN.

### VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

EARLY crops of cabbages and cauliflowers will in forward districts now be well advanced in growth. If growth is not quite satisfactory apply nitrate of soda,  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz. to 1 oz. per square yard, and repeat the dressing four or five weeks later. In later districts the surface soil should be loosened, where possible, after heavy rain. Nitrate of soda should not be applied till the normal frost period is past; after that it can be counted on to produce good results.

In some places cabbages and lettuces lose their bottom leaves, which turn yellow, and often show patches of grey mould. The grey mould is a fungus known as *Botrytis cinerea*, an early form of a damaging disease, *Sclerotinia fuckeliana*. The *Botrytis* form occurs only in wet conditions, and generally is the result of poorly drained soil or continued rainfall. If, however, it advances to the *Sclerotinia*