

the bees are removed put the diseased combs into a spare super and cover immediately. Remove all parts of the infected hive and combs to a place of safety out of reach of the bees. In four days' time the operation of removing the "starters" must be undertaken, when in their place frames fitted with fresh sheets of foundation are substituted. Shake the bees off each of the starter frames, and insert the frames containing full sheets of foundation. The comb built from the starters must be cut out and melted up. The object of the treatment is to induce the bees to use up the infected honey taken from the old hive, so that when they are given the second shaking they start clean.

It may happen that the bees will swarm out when given the second shaking. To prevent this either cage the queen, or, better still, place a piece of queen-excluder in front of the entrances. This will prevent the queen from leaving, and all will be well.

A further examination should be carried out in three weeks' time to note the condition of the brood. If disease reappears after treatment do not start tinkering with the brood by cutting out isolated cells. This practice is dangerous, and although often advised is misleading. A much better plan is to remove the entire comb, or, better still, make use of a modified form of the McEvoy method. In place of shaking the bees on to strips of foundation starters for four days, the bees are shaken on to nine sheets of foundation and an empty bone-dry comb, this being inserted in the centre of the hive. At the end of twenty-four hours the comb can be removed and a frame containing a sheet of foundation put in its place. This operation should be performed quickly and quietly, with the use of very little smoke. The object of inserting the dry comb in the centre of the hive is to induce the bees to store the honey which they took from the diseased hive when shaken.

Treated colonies: If bad weather sets in a strict watch should be kept over treated colonies to prevent them from starving out. Feed sugar-syrup in the proportion of four of water to one of sugar. Feeding should be kept up until the bees are gathering nectar freely.

—E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor.

THE GARDEN.

VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

As the new season's vegetables and fruit come in the rhubarb and asparagus beds should be given a rest and allowed to complete their growth. It is often advisable to assist them now with a good dressing of suitable fertilizer.

Complete the sowing of hardy main crops—carrots, red and silver beet, &c.—and keep all seedlings well thinned and hoed.

The seeds of pumpkin, marrow, cucumber, and melons may be sown as soon as the danger of late frost is over. They prefer a warm, moist, well-drained locality. Plant 6 ft. to 10 ft. apart, about six to eight seeds in a clump, first making a slight depression. If, after planting, a sheet of glass is laid over clumps of the more tender kinds it assists germination and keeps away birds, which are often very troublesome.

In localities which are sufficiently warm the kumara (sweet potato) may now be planted out. Space the plants a little wider than the ordinary potato.

Winter crops, such as broccoli, savoy, cabbage, leeks, and celery, may be sown now for planting out early in the new year.

Maintain a supply of salads and spinach by repeated sowings at short intervals.

Tomatoes.

In most districts tomato-plants may be planted outside now. To get an early crop the plants must be strong, well rooted, and hardened off; avoid plants that are stunted and crowded in the boxes. While the ground should be well prepared, it must have settled down firm. The plant does best on rather a solid bed.

Under glass the first picking of fruit will probably be made this month. The ground should then be well mulched down, and occasional applications of liquid manure made. Keep the plants well secured to the strings and all laterals pinched out. Foliage may be trimmed from round the ripening bunch.