

cappings of sections is unsightly, and causes the honey to "leak" after removal from the hive. The escapes are fitted to a board of the exact dimensions of the hive in use. In inserting the board gently prize up the super from the brood-chamber and insert the board. A puff of smoke suffices to control the bees while the operation is being performed. If this is done late in the afternoon the bees pass through the escape during the night to the brood-nest, and are unable to return. In the morning the supers may be removed, when practically no bees will be left in the super.

A word of caution to those who formerly have not used the escapes: Should there be brood in the super-combs, the bees do not leave, and the escapes do not prove effective in ridding the supers. Over and over again many beginners complain that they cannot get the bees to leave the supers when using escapes, but the reason lies in the fact that no examination had been made, to ascertain beforehand whether the super contained honey only.

Uniting Colonies.

In the autumn, work requiring attention is the examination of the colonies for the purpose of ascertaining if each possesses a laying queen, and of noting those that are too weak to survive the winter. It is advisable to unite a weak colony or one without a queen with a stronger colony to save the bees. On no account should an attempt be made to winter weak hives, as they are likely to get robbed, and this may cause the bees to start robbing when everything in the apiary should be quiet. A simple method of uniting may be practised by placing the weaker hive on top of a stronger one, and placing a sheet of newspaper between the two hive-bodies. In the course of a few days the bees of the weaker colony make their way through the paper and unite peaceably with the bees in the stronger hive. The surplus combs may subsequently be removed and reserved for spring feeding if required. It is advantageous to destroy the queen in the weak hive prior to uniting.

Robbing.

At the close of the honey-flow the beekeeper should guard persistently against robbing. Robbing, the result of carelessness, once started is exceedingly hard to check. As previously mentioned, neither honey, sugar-syrup, nor anything that the bees can take should be exposed. If wet combs have to be returned to the hives for the bees to clean, postpone this operation until late in the day, when robbing is not likely to start. See that the honey-house is bee-proof, and that all combs and vessels containing honey are removed to a place of safety. Contract all hive-entrances, and especially guard against hives being open in a way that they can be attacked by robbers. All operations must be carried out quickly. If robbing has started it is better to postpone all outside work until the apiary is quiet again than to risk extending the trouble by opening the hives. Should a colony be attacked, contract the entrance and pile wet grass in front of the hive. This usually cures mild cases of robbing, but where a colony has been overpowered by the robbers it should be closed altogether.

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HORTICULTURE.

Vegetable Crops.

THE full enjoyment and economical use of many vegetables depend not only on a wise selection of varieties and careful culture; sound consideration must be given to harvesting and storage if there is to be no loss in quantity and quality and the stocks are to be available over a maximum period. Under most local conditions such crops as celery, parsnips, salsify, artichokes, autumn-sown carrots, and beet may be left in the ground during winter, with quite satisfactory results, and lifted in dry weather as required