off it, or place it in the mouth for a few minutes. Then insert it under one of the tiny grubs, making sure that it is not in any way injured. If there is any doubt in this respect, it had better be discarded and another taken. If it can be so lifted that it partly projects over the edge of the needle it will be easier to deposit it into the jelly, which acts as a soft cushion for the delicate larvae.

When each of the cell cups have received one of these small grubs, destined to be a queen, the bars can be inserted in the frame, which is then placed in the queenless hive prepared for its reception. Great care must be taken to see that they are kept warm during the move from the room to the hive.

Place this frame in the centre of the hive, and if all has gone well the bees will start on the cells immediately, drawing out the wax cup into cells and feeding the young grubs. Unless nectar is coming in freely the hive had better be fed with a light syrup made from equal parts of good sugar and water. In any case, it will be better to feed the hive used for queen-raising a day or two beforehand, as they will then feed the young queens more lavishly.

If the bee-keeper is anxious to know whether the cells have been accepted it will do no harm to have a look at them after 24 hours. Give the hive a little smoke, gently remove the outside frame, and space the frames on either side of the frame with the cells so that it can be easily removed without damaging it.

Handle Cells Gently

On no account attempt to dislodge the bees hanging to the cells by shaking, as in all probability the young grubs would be dislodged and injured. Give them a little smoke, or remove them gently with the finger until the cell can be seen. If the jelly is in the cell all is well, for, if it were not accepted, the bees would clean out the cell and it would be found empty. After taking a brief glance, place them back in the hive.

A record of the date of grafting should be kept in order to know when it is necessary to remove the ripe cells. If the larvae inserted is about the size of a carroway seed it would be about two days old, so that ten days later the cells should be removed, as they would hatch out the next day.

Placing Cells in Nuclei

It will be necessary to have a number of nuclei boxes prepared to receive the cells. If a good, strong swarm can be secured at this time it can be divided up into the nucleus boxes, which will avoid removing frames and bees from the other hives. It will be necessary, however, to find the queen in the swarm and destroy her. If the swarm can be obtained from a distance of a mile or more, so much the better, as, when the bees are divided and have no queen, they will stay "put."

A good swarm should make five or six nuclei. To find the queen, dump the swarm into an empty super, place a queen-excluder on top, and then place another super on top of that with a frame of brood. The bees will soon go up to the brood, but the queen and drones, being unable to get through, will remain below. The top box can then be removed and the queen killed before dividing the swarm into nuclei boxes.

Honey Flow

As the main flow of nectar may be expected any time after the first week in December up to the end of January the colonies kept for gathering the surplus crop should not be unduly molested during these months.

The adding of necessary supers, however, may be done without interfering with the honey gatherers of the hive. It is better to super somewhat ahead of requirements than to restrict the bees from storing through lack of space to store the honey.

—G. V. WESTBROOKE, Apiary Instructor, Hastings.

Slaughterings of Stock

THE following return of slaughterings of stock at meat-export slaughterhouses and abattoirs for the six months, May-October, 1939, has been compiled by the Livestock Division:—

District	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Of which Ewes were	Lambs	Swine
North Island						
Meat-export Slaughterhouses—						
Auckland	80,704	518,903	39,863	18,624	75,892	56,208
Poverty Bay-Hawke's Bay	20,078	56,162	87,522	23,859	132,034	6,993
Taranaki-Manawatu	46,719	208,377	55,987	27,130	167,004	36,029
Wairarapa-Wellington	15,710	17,813	35,035	14,657	69,919	7,083
Totals	163,211	801,255	218,407	84,270	444,849	106,313
Abattoirs	62,563	20,687	247,842	128,780	17,005	48,140
North Island Totals	225,774	821,942	466,249	213,050	461,854	154,453
South Island						
Meat-export Slaughterhouses—						
Nelson-Marlborough	597	8,984	5,433	2,114	23,420	2,134
Canterbury	5,751	35,798	151,072	110,014	435,833	12,238
Otago-Southland	3,199	37,044	62,409	39,853	572,445	2,076
Totals	9,547	81,826	218,914	151,981	1,031,698	16,448
Abattoirs	29,284	6,203	142,363	69,503	11,326	14,413
South Island Totals	38,831	88,029	361,277	221,484	1,043,024	30,861
Dominion						
Meat-expt. Slaughterhouses	172,758	883,081	437,321	236,251	1,476,547	122,761
Abattoirs	91,847	26,890	390,205	198,283	28,331	62,553
Grand Totals	264,605	909,971	827,526	434,534	1,504,878	185,314
In addition the following stock were slaughtered for local consumption during the 6 months ended 30/9/39, at rural slaughterhouses.	39,522	1,136	115,862	(unknown)	4,363	13,628
Same Period, 1938: Meat-export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs	248,500	878,953	938,762	543,511	1,339,795	255,844
Rural slaughterhouses	44,240	1,292	107,144	(unknown)	3,807	14,079
Same Period, 1937: Meat-export Slaughterhouses and Abattoirs	261,981	924,320	753,887	408,273	1,449,145	295,444
Rural slaughterhouses	45,301	1,117	107,370	(unknown)	3,077	14,285