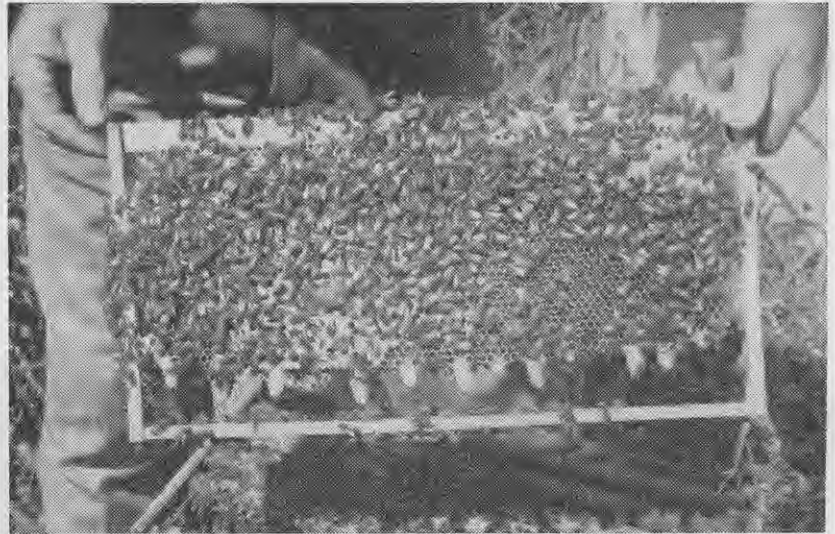


cut edge. Five days after the cells were sealed over, or on the 14th day after the eggs were laid, these cells will be ready to be cut from the comb and be inserted into the hives for requeening. When cutting out the queen cell the beekeeper should cut well up into the comb to leave the queen cell with a piece of comb attached; through this a piece of wire can be pushed to make an ideal fastening when the queen cell is introduced into the hive to be requeened, with very little or no chance of damage to the queen cell. Should more cells be built than are required, the beekeeper should select the cells that are wide at the base and are of good length, as from these cells the better queens are generally produced.

Introduction of Queen Cells

The introduction of a queen cell is very simple. First, the old queen and any queen cells that may have been started in the hive are removed; the new cell is then simply fastened with a piece of wire to a frame of brood near the top bar. The wire should be about 4in. long and bent in the middle to form a U very similar to a lady's hair pin. Both prongs of this pin are pushed through the piece of comb attached to the cell and then into the comb to hold the cell. The use of this pin will give a very firm and rigid fixing. The comb is then put back in the centre of the hive and the next comb to it spaced to leave just room for the cell to hang between without damaging it. In 2 days the young



A cut-away comb with queen cells ready to transfer.

queen will have emerged from her cell, and with average weather conditions will mate and be laying in a further 6 to 8 days.

When all queens are mated and laying, the drones reared for mating can be excluded from the hive by the method described in the notes in the October "Journal".

A beekeeper without a desirable strain of bees in his apiary would be well advised to buy a queen or two from a commercial beekeeper. These queens should be tried for a season and if they are satisfactory, cells should be raised from them for further requeening of the apiary. Queens obtained from some commercial breeders are dispatched in mailing cages with full instructions for introduction attached to the cages and if these instructions are followed, the introductions should be successful. Brief instructions are given here for beekeepers receiving queens with no instructions.

Remove the old queen and any queen cells that

may have been started. Place the mailing cage, gauze or wire side down, on top of the combs after opening the combs so that most of the gauze is free to the bees. The ends of the cage must also be left free for the bees to eat away the cardboard covering and candy placed in the cage. Gnawing away of cardboard and eating of candy usually take 2 days.

On the third day gently lift the hive mat and inspect the cage to see if the queen is free. If she is, replace the mat and do not touch this hive for at least a week, when a very gentle and quick inspection should be made to see if the queen has been accepted. If eggs are present, the queen will be also. On no account should the hive be gone through to find her, as this will result in upsetting the bees and perhaps the killing of the queen.

If the queen is still in the cage and no attempt has been made to gnaw away the cardboard, make a quick but thorough inspection of all brood combs to see if any queen cells have been started. If any are found, make sure they are destroyed. Now close the hive down again, leaving the queen cage on the top of the frame. If no queen cells are found, the release of the queen from the cage can be hastened by removing the piece of cardboard and leaving the bees to eat away the candy.

Queen rearing is a fascinating beekeeping technique and is the only way that a beekeeper can expect to maintain the strain of his bees at a level where he can expect freedom from excessive swarming, a type of bee easy to handle, and maximum crops.



A method of introducing a queen received through the post.