

mon cells, the largest end being uppermost. The lower end is open till the season for closing it comes, and the maggot is ready for transformation. It would be difficult to conceive how a tender maggot can remain in a cell turned bottom upwards, if we did not find it buried in a substance scarcely fluid, and if it were not in itself, as first, small and light enough to be suspended in this clammy paste. As it grows, it fills all the larger and upper parts of the cell. As soon as the young queen comes out, her cell is destroyed, and its place is supplied by common ones; but as the foundation of the royal cell is left, this part of the comb is found thicker than any other. They take care to prepare several such cells to guard, as it were, against accidents: for if there were only one reared in each hive, the swarms might often want a conductress; or the little maggot might chance to be destroyed before it came to a bee. It is, therefore, necessary that a number of such cells should be provided; and accordingly there are observed several young queens in every hive at the beginning of summer.

A young queen is in a condition to lead a swarm from a hive in which she was born in four or five days after she has appeared in it with wings.