

any thing in the bee line with more reluctance than I did with the Cyprian bee. The Syrians are very different in this locality, regarding brood-rearing, from either the Cyprians or the Italians. They do not begin rearing brood to much more than supply the waste of the hive till the honey harvest commences, when they go to brood-rearing on the most extensive scale, this brood consuming the larger part of the honey gathered by the few bees they have at the beginning of the harvest; while this brood, after it has hatched into bees, becomes a consumer of the little honey they did not consume while in the brood form. I had from two to six Syrian colonies of bees for four years, and each fall I had to give them nearly all of their winter stores in the shape of frames of sealed honey taken from my Italian colonies. During this time I succeeded in taking about 50 lbs. of inferior comb honey from them. Of all the bees I ever had in my apiary, the Syrians proved much the poorest. Some speak well of them, and I think that they might prove better than with me where the season is of long duration for honey.

3. "Some say that bees need a cleansing flight when wintered in the cellar; others say that such a flight is unnecessary. Which is right? I do not wish to carry mine from the cellar till time to set them out for good, unless it is actually necessary."

It used to be thought, by nearly all, that bees should be carried from the cellar on pleasant days during the winter for a fly; but of late years most of our best apiarists believe this is of no special benefit. I used to carry mine out, up to about twelve years ago. At that time I commenced to experiment by so arranging in the fall that I could carry a part out without disturbing the rest; and when there came a warm day these were carried out, and the rest left undisturbed. The result proved that, on the whole, those not touched wintered a little better, if any thing, than did those taken out; consequently I have not carried a colony out of the cellar for a cleansing flight during the last ten years; only as two or three have been carried out and fed, as I feared they would starve before spring. Some say, "Leave them as long as they are quiet;" but my experience has been that there is nothing gained by carrying out the uneasy ones, should there be any such; for if they are going to die, carrying out for a flight does not seem to help them much if any.

4. "Would there be any injury to bees if placed in a cellar under a kitchen where there is lots of noise all winter?"

If the bees are so arranged that no jar comes to them, so far as my experience goes, noise

does no harm. It is the jar that arouses bees in the winter, not noise without jarring. To illustrate: In sighting my rifle one pleasant winter day, I fired it within eight feet of two or three hives of bees. Just before firing I listened at the entrance of these hives and heard the low hum of the bees which we always hear; but before I had fired ten shots these same bees were all in an uproar, many coming to the entrance. At the time I laid it to the noise; but thinking differently a few days afterwards, I again fired the same number of shots 50 feet in front of the hives (the first having been fired in the rear), so that the noise might reach them at the entrance, and they were not disturbed in the least. I now fired at the same distance as at first, when they became agitated the same as before.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Borodino, N. Y., Sept. 16.

—GLEANINGS.

Who First sent Queens Successfully By Mail?

BEE-KEEPERS of the present scarcely appreciate the advantages derived from the knowledge that queen bees can be sent from any point of the earth to any part thereof by mail. Not until July, 1863, had a queen with a few workers ever been caged and shipped per mail. From 1860 to '63 I was bothered about getting Italian queens by express. It occurred to me that queens might, perhaps, be transported by mail. I wrote to my ideal apiarist, Rev. L. L. Langstroth, suggesting the idea of sending queens by mail, and asking his opinion of the feasibility of mail transit of bees. He answered, saying that, in his opinion, he thought it not practical. I at once determined to test the matter. I took a small paper box, about the length and depth of the Benton cage, but wider, took a piece of sealed comb, very tough by age, and, with needle and thread, fastened the comb in one corner of the box, and with an eyelet hole punch made holes in the box, by which air could circulate among the bees. Then I put a common queen and some 15 workers into the box; made it secure and addressed it to Mr. Langstroth; paid postage; and the postmaster, who is still my neighbor, duly marked the package, and, to honor me, dropped it into the pouch with the installment of mail matter. A few days later I received a letter from friend Langstroth, informing me of the safe arrival of the bees, and complimenting me highly for suggesting and putting in practice so worthy an enterprise. At the time he wrote he sent a fine Italian queen in a very small cage, addressed to me. The workers, five or six, were dead, and the queen died soon after I took her from the postoffice. Later he mailed another fine Italian addressed to me, and all came safely.

This is the history of the advent of sending queen-bees by mail, which has proved a great boon to the bee-keeping public. Mr. Langstroth was the first who shipped queens by mail. The authors of the "New Langstroth" were mistaken in according credit to other parties as