

ave queens in our own apiary that are four years old, and yet they have not swarmed, even under what might be called favorable circumstances. These bees always winter well, and breed up early enough in the spring; but when the honey harvest comes we find they are non-honey gatherers as well as non-swarmers; this leads us to almost conclude that non-swarmer queens are of but little use to anyone, the only reason we can give for this non-swarmer is that they lack the necessary ambition. The queens we like are those that keep their hive overrunning with bees, and when honey comes in they will want to swarm, non-swarmer or not. There is certainly no queen worthy of being kept in a colony if she is not prolific enough to keep the hive overflowing with bees under favorable circumstances, and if such is the case then non-swarmer is more the result of poor lavers than a predisposition not to swarm. We don't say there is no such thing as non-swarmer bees, for we have got them in our own yard, and our opinion as before stated, is that the reason for it is a lack of ambition. Perhaps friend Boardman will say the reason for their not swarming is because they are perfectly contented, and if he is right, then we want to say we have more contented bees than we want. We look upon non-swarmer bees about as we do on a non-swarmer hive with patent moth-trap attachment, and if we put non-swarmer bees and queens in such a hive, we have the *ultima thule* of worthlessness. If such would not be the result, we will give one of our non-swarmers to know why. Then again, will not a queen be more liable to swarm in one locality than in another, if so, then of what moment is a strain of non-swarmer bees? There is not the least doubt but that a strain of non-swarmer bees would be a bonanza to thousands, providing they were as hardy and prolific as the best strains of Italians, or even hybrids, but in our humble opinion, such a point has not yet been reached, but far be it from us to say that it will not be reached in the future, for it may be possible, but if there are any non-swarmer bees that are as hardy and prolific, and as able to send out the field-force as some of our best Italian colonies, we want to see them, and we want to see them pretty bad. Our experience says there are none; but as we don't know it all, we are willing to be convinced just the same as we are willing to be convinced that there is a better general purpose bee than the pure Italians.

M. W. SHEPPARD in Gleanings.

Rochester, Ohio.

The Best Kind of Fuel to Use in Bee-Smokers.

ONE of the "cold bast" smokers have draft sufficient to burn sound wood, but almost any kind of material will burn in the direct draft smokers.

While rotten wood is valuable as a quick means of kindling a sound-wood fire in the direct-draft smokers, it is much more trouble to control and keep burning steadily than sound stove-wood. The sound wood also makes a much stronger smoke; i.e., it is not steam and air mixed, but clean, strong, pungent smoke, containing very little creosote, and free from condensation. Especially is this true if the stove-wood is placed in the sunshine, on sunny days, to dry it perfectly. It cannot be too dry, nor dried too often. It does not burn faster for being dry, neither slower. With long, dry sticks, the direct draft-smoker is simply a base-burner—that is, sound wood burns only at the bottom, close to the grate, and this is one of several valuable features peculiar to sound wood.

Here it may be well to specify a weakness or two incident to rotten wood. One of them is, that it does not last long; the reason why it does not is, that it takes fire all over, and so, while yielding a cloud of smoke and steam, puts the operator to the needless trouble of re-filling so often.

Of course, if you have a smoker in which only rotten wood and rags can be made to burn, the question of fuel decides itself. On the contrary if your smoker will burn anything combustible, you have a wide field to select from, and convenience in obtaining may be to you the features of all others determining which is best.

T. F. BINGHAM in Am. Bee Journal.

Abronia, Mich.

Getting Bees Started to Work in Sections.

I HAVE never had any trouble to get bees to work in sections by simply placing in the center of the super a section upon which the bees had previously worked. It does not matter whether the honey has been emptied out or not, only so that previously it has been partly filled with honey. The severest test I ever gave to this plan was last year and the year before. In each super put on, I placed in the middle a section that had been filled or partly filled with honey, and this honey had all been emptied out. Every colony which had any honey to spare from the brood chamber commenced promptly in this section, filled it with honey, and com-

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