

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

Ridding Wax of Bacilli.

QUERY No. 209.—Will wax rendered by the sun wax extractor contain the spores of foul brood? Would such wax be dangerous to use, or should I melt it in a vessel with boiling water and keep it at that temperature for half an hour that I may destroy the disease?

JAS. HEDDON, Dowagiac, Mich.—Adopt the latter plan.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, Borodino, N. Y.—Have no experience along this line.

J. K. DARLING, Almonte.—Have had no experience. Would not use it without the boiling.

H. D. CUTTING, Clinton, Mich.—I would be afraid to use wax from colonies thus affected unless it was well boiled.

A. B. MASON.—I believe it will. Should certainly boil it. But a few minutes boiling would do as well as half an hour.

MARTIN EMIGH, Holbrook, Ont.—I don't know, but I would not use it in my apiary until it was brought to a boiling heat.

PROF. COOK, Lansing, Mich.—I should prefer to have it boiled. It can be rendered by use of solar extractor and subsequently boiled.

EUGENE SECOR, Forest City, Iowa.—I have never had any experience with foul brood. I can give no satisfactory answer to this query.

ALLEN PRINGLE, Selby, Ont.—Should spores be present in the comb there is no doubt I think that they would survive the solar extractor. For safety boil as you propose.

DR. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.—I don't know much about it, but I shouldn't want to risk it. I mean if the wax had been taken from foul broody hives. If you mean to ask whether the sun extractor will generate foul brood in healthy combs, certainly not.

J. E. POND, North Attleboro'.—Yes, most certainly. The only way to render it safe will be to boil it thoroughly; and even then I should not care to use it, but should sell it to be only used in the ordinary way of trade, not to be used in making foundation.

G. W. DEMAREE, Christiansburg, Ky.—I have no practical experience with foul brood. Not a case has ever been reported in Kentucky so far

as I know. A few cases may have developed right along the Ohio River, but I am not certain that such is the case. Concerning the solar wax extractor I know by experience that my improved solar wax extractor by means of its large glass surface and its unobstructed cylinder shaped melting pan, generates heat sufficiently to destroy any form of living organism with which I have any acquaintance. Bees, ants, roaches, &c., perish in an instant when subjected to its heat. But very little is known by the wisest of earth about the myriads of so-called spores with which the atmosphere of earth abounds. To remove all danger of contagion from wax rendered from foul brood comb it is an easy job to melt the cakes of wax in boiling water.

Have never tested the matter but are of the opinion that the heat of the sun would not be sufficient to destroy the spores. It takes a temperature at boiling point for some minutes to destroy the germs. Would not recommend its use unless boiled for a space of five or ten minutes. The heat at which wax is kept for sheeting in fdn. making is, we think, sufficient to destroy all germs, and if the wax is used for fdn. no danger may be apprehended.

Using Queens from Diseased Colonies.

QUERY No. 210.—Do you think that I would be safe in using the queens from such colonies as contain the disease, or should they be destroyed and other queens introduced?

J. K. DARLING, Almonte.—Can't give an opinion. See No. 209.

JAS. HEDDON, Dowagiac, Mich.—Am not sure. Have absolutely no experience with foul brood.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, Borodino, N. Y.—I never knew a queen to carry disease of any kind with her.

EUGENE SECOR, Forest City, Iowa.—I should not want to use queens from such colonies myself.

DR. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.—I am afraid of foul brood. I wouldn't want anything that had been in a hive where foul brood was.

MARTIN EMIGH, Holbrook, Ont.—I cannot say that it would do any harm, but I would not use such a queen under any consideration.

A. B. MASON.—Should prefer not to use such queens, but if there was no honey on them believe they might be used with perfect safety.

PROF. COOK, Lansing, Mich.—From the practice of our best beekeepers, and an ounce of practice is worth a pound of theory, it is safe to retain and use the queen.