

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.

Average Mortality of 100 Colonies

QUERY No. 267—How many patent pails full of dead bees during winter (say five months) will be on the cellar floor from 100 strong colonies, supposing they winter well?—A. McG.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Never measured them.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—Two or three.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—Not more than two if they winter well.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY ONT.—They might winter well with one or up to five.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—This varies so much that no answer would be satisfactory.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—If the "patent pail holds one quart, 10 to 20 pails should hold the dead bees if they winter well.

MARTIN EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I usually take from 3 to 4 bushels of dead bees from cellar floors from each 100 colonies.

EDGEVE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I would not feel alarmed if there were two (2) bushels.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Sometimes not a quarter of one pail full, and other times several pails full, and that too when they winter really well in both cases.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS.—"Supposing they winter well" and in a warm cellar so that they can throw out all the dead ones, and there are no mice in the cellar to eat any there ought to be about 15 patent pails full.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—As I don't know the size of the "patent pails" I cannot answer. I should suppose, however, the loss would average about a pint to a hive, perhaps a little more. It will depend on too many factors however to give more than a guess.

DR. MILLER, MABENGO, ILL.—At a rough estimate I should say eight. Depends on circumstances and time of taking out. If mine had been taken out just after five months confinement the dead bees would have been less. More dead bees are now (April 12) coming out than any

time before.

R. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—This is something "no fellow can tell"—till the spring comes. There are a variety of causes that tend to increase winter mortality—If the fall flow of honey be light then breeding will cease early, and bees will go into winter quarters, "well up in years" or days in consequence of which the death rate will be high. I should look upon more than two bushels of dead bees with misgivings.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—There are so many different conditions that it would be but a guess to say how many. I carried out ten times the dead bees this winter that I ever did before. Temperature too high, it was at 50° and above the greater part of the winter. I prefer 30° to 40° in my cellar.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS, ONT.—I took out nearly 3 (sugar) barrels full one year from 225 colonies but it is hardly necessary to say that they did not winter well. The temperature got 100 high in December and some colonies that had 25 lbs. of honey starved. I should say that $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel would be about right from 100 colonies. I use saw-dust now, it is therefore not so easy to compute.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—Well now my friend "A. McG." I am an old lawyer and have studied hard questions for a living, but I "give it up," just what the size of a "patent pail" is, I beg to be excused. I have heard and seen patent bee gums and their size and form are legion. They fill the world like dust and stick (to the inventor) like beggar lice. Pray tell us the size of the patent pails.

Weighing Sections with Honey.

QUERY No. 268.—In Query No. 257 I notice that G. W. Demaree says that when he ships sections he ascertains the net weight by weighing a crate filled with *empty sections*, and this is deducted as tare from every crate. Is this the common practice?—F. H. C.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY.—No.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS, ONT.—I believe not. It is not with me.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—No, but it should be. A man should never sell anything for more than it is.

R. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—It is not the common practice but it is the honest one nevertheless.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—No not with me tail goes with the hide every time.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS, ONT.—Not with me, I sell the sections along with honey, so much per lb. which I think is the common practice.