

My readers will bear in mind that these observations were made upon only a single colony—that this colony might not have been entirely pure, and that I had not any blacks with which to compare it.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Dayton, Ohio.

We think we only voice the sentiments of every bee-keeper in the world when we say we are pleased to receive the following from the Rev. Father Langstroth as we are always delighted to have his opinion in reference to any question pertaining to bees. Although the C. B. J. has now changed hands and I am not interested in it directly, beyond the interest I have for bee-keepers in general, I can assure Father Langstroth that we feel very grateful for his kindness in favoring the C. B. J. with his valuable articles. We think friend Langstroth is quite correct when he says there is a probability they are a cross. We do not see how any person in England could possibly breed pure bees surrounded by hundreds of colonies and we believe the Punic bees as they are called are not superior but inferior to those we now have. Our esteemed friend Mr. Cowan, Editor of the B. B. J., will give us all the information on the Punic bees that is required, as his visit to Africa will enable him to give us much valuable information in reference to them. In the meantime we would not advise any of our friends to introduce the African bees into their present apiaries. We fail to see what advantage there would be in introducing African black bees among our improved strains and the Hallamshire bee-keeper who sent these bees out as such a wonderful race has made some statements that we feel would be hard to reconcile with facts. For instance he stated, that when a queen died or where a quantity of them were put on combs, without a queen in other words, the loss of a queen in the absence of eggs, brood or larvæ, the bees would commence laying their own eggs and raising themselves a queen from what we ordinarily termed fertile worker eggs. Such statements as these lead me to believe that the persons making them are not conscientious in so doing

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Winter and Spring Management--Foul Brood--Clipped Queens.

I AM a diligent reader of your paper, but I have not had the same measure of success as I had before I read so much, and begin to feel like one of my neighbors, who says that before he commenced reading up bee journals he had lots of bees and lots of honey, but after reading and endeavoring to practice what he read, he lost all his bees.

I have tried cellar and outdoor wintering. Some winters the cellar answered well—other winters not so well. Last winter all I kept outside packed with leaves in clamps came through all right. Put eight in a neighbor's house intended to be frost-proof, lost four of these, whilst some of my neighbors who left them on the summer stands, without the slightest protection, had as good success as I had, and their bees built up better through the spring, and commenced to swarm freely three weeks earlier than mine. I left mine in the packing cases until the 1st of June, and fed most of them more or less to stimulate brooding, but my neighbor's, who had no protection, neither in winter nor spring, and no feeding, built up through the spring much more rapidly than mine.

I am quite satisfied that Mr. McEvoy's plan of preparing the bees with full combs of good capped stores is the safest and best method of preparing for safe wintering; and if bees have plenty of good stores they will come through whether put into packing cases or not.

I have been battling with foul brood for several years, and find it a very difficult trouble to master. I have tried the method proposed by Wm. McEvoy, and I cannot as yet report success. My yard is now pretty clear of it, but if it should make its appearance during the summer, I will destroy every colony tainted with it in the fall, and only attempt to winter good healthy colonies.

I have little experience with clipped queens, and until I am more fully convinced of the advantages there may be in the clipping business, I will let them have their wings. I never had a swarm to leave my yard without lighting, and it is a great pleasure to see them clustering so snugly on a branch, and then if well sprayed, there is no trouble in hiding them. I bought some clipped queens a year ago from friend Deadman, of Brussels, and a swarm from one of these came off somewhat unexpectedly, and being from home, my family was watching them, expecting them to cluster on some tree as usual, and not having seen them issue, didn't know from which hive they had come, but instead of clustering they soon returned to the hive. They then discovered the queen near the front of the hive, and lifting her up gently let her return; also next day being dark and showery, no further attempt was made at swarming. On my return the second day I at once examined the hive to find a young queen in full possession, and my fine clipped queen lying dead at the bottom of the hive. My conclusion is that clipped queens may be managed in a large apiary where it will pay to sit and watch, but for small apiaries they would be a nuisance.

Linwood, June 28th, 1892.

A. BOOMER.

(See comments in next issue.)