

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.

Should Importation be Discarded.

QUERY No. 301.—If the importation of bees was stopped, would our own bees become superior to what they now are, owing to the gradual adaptation to climate, as we know they have adapted themselves to climate in other countries?

—J. G.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—I think so.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—I don't know, who does?

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE—I don't know; let some person try.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON.—Under certain considerations "yes."

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I am inclined to believe they would.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I think they would become superior in wintering qualities and capabilities.

C. W. POST, MURRAY.—Our bees are improved by importations, and I am not prepared to say that we would be better off to have it stopped.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Yes, unless there is yet, undiscovered, some very superior race of Bees. Since the introduction of our Italians, I am persuaded that all latest importations have been a damage to us.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING MICH.—I think it would depend much on the pains taken in breeding. Importation of new blood if not better blood is of no use. If we breed carefully so as to produce the best bee, and why may we not, then we would need to import no more.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I think they might become superior or inferior according as the breeding might be wisely or unwisely carried on. I should not like to depend on nature for improvement. The finest cattle and horses are not developed without skillful breeding.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Much

depends, I don't think importation will effect the matter of acclimation, but we do want importations of pure races from time to time, to keep up purity. To do this though, importations must be made from reliable sources, I should myself prefer no importations at all, to making them generally, and without regard to the honesty of foreign breeders.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—It would require years of observation to test a question of that kind, it is a law in nature that interchange of blood is conducive to increased vitality, in both the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Importations in my opinion in the future, can only benefit us in that way. I am certain that I now have better bees bred up by selection than any imported bees that have not undergone the same care in selection.

D. A. JONES, BEETON, ONT.—We know of no bees superior to those in America at the present time, and a judicious selection and breeding, constantly selecting the best, and breeding carefully under the most favorable circumstances, would give results in our opinion far superior to indiscriminate importation.

Would United Experiments be Beneficial.

QUERY No. 302.—Would apiculture be advanced by bee-keepers conducting experiments in union, say experiments with light and heavy section foundation? Would the results of a test in this way have more weight than the testimony of individual writers?—W. F.

C. W. POST, MURRAY.—No I don't think it would.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—No not if several individual writers would give testimony.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Perhaps, but it is not best to even experiment with heavy foundation in sections.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, Ont.—It requires no further experiments to demonstrate that the lighter the section foundation the better. See answer to Query 300.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY.—Apiculture would be advanced by bee-keepers conducting experiments as you suggest but no one would want to waste time experimenting with heavy section foundation.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—Perhaps some experiments might be beneficial so conducted, but for my part I can't see how any good could come of using "heavy section foundation."