

Queens.

s having
the work

ble when
1. I have
hat were
y eggs as
it would
keeper to
hat they
they do
e amount
supersede
en is fer-
eping the
her, even
ause from
eggs unt-
t there is
aps.

hat when
i worker-
ation that
ded, whe-
ually you
ere there
ase which
some peo-

I had a
ing laying
She was
ery much
er of the
been said
oor. She
I com-
ith good
me, each
she was
rker-cells
nade four
een.

ney think
al case?
rst I ever

i will ever

Mr. Whitney—Some say, "You must have been mistaken; it must have been a young queen that superseded the old one, and you thought it was the same old queen." The fact is that queen was clipped soon after she commenced laying, and I watched her from that time until she died, and it was the same old clipped queen. A doctor in Switzerland has taken the question up and asked me whether I was certain it was that queen. He said it was a very unusual thing, and something he never heard of. But two of my old bee-keeper friends were there when I took the frames out of that hive, and showed the worker-comb full, or two-thirds full, of drones, and they said, "Isn't that too bad?" Well, I thought so. I expected to have to supersede the queen, but I did not. I kept her that summer and made four good colonies of bees from that queen by feeding. She was a young queen, though. I would say that an old queen should be superseded, but the question is, What is an old queen? Some queens are old at a month, and others not old at 2½ years. It depends upon how hard the queen has been worked. A good queen you might keep two or three years, and with a poor honey-flow she would not exhaust herself for three or four years.

Mr. Hutchinson—What I want to know is, shall we do this work, or shall we leave it to the bees to do it? Who has been at work superseding the queens themselves? Mr. France, do you supersede the queens or let the bees do it?

Mr. France—As a rule, I supersede them.

Dr. Miller—Does a queen do better work, as a rule, in her first or her second year? That will help us a little in deciding, if we can get some testimony about that.

A Member—The best queen I had last

year was three years old. She made the record of the yard.

Mr. Taylor—My object in keeping bees is to make something out of them. I want to make the largest per cent. on my labor, efforts and expense, that I can, and I think I can make more by letting the bees do the work; and nowadays I do not practice meddling with the queens except in an occasional—very exceptional case. Of course, once in a while, when I see that there is any need of a new queen, and that the bees are not likely to supersede the queen themselves immediately, I may interfere, but I let the bees do that work, and I do not believe that I could improve much on it any way.

Mr. Whitney—If you find you have an old queen, and she is liable to be superseded, perhaps in the fall, it seems to me it would be a good deal better to supersede her in August than to let the bees supersede her in October when there are no drones flying, when you are liable to have a virgin queen there, to be a drone-layer in the spring.

Mr. Taylor—That is not likely to be the case. Bees supersede their queens in the summer-time. Of course, that is the time to do it, and they seem to know that that is the time to do it. Of course, there may be exceptional cases, but I should very much dislike to overhaul 50 colonies of bees to find out, whether there was one queen that needed superseding, because the bees were going to supersede her in the fall. It doesn't pay.

Mr. Whitney—Keep a record of the age of the queens.

Mr. Taylor—That makes lots of work.

Mr. Wilcox—I am astonished, and I want to know if anybody else has ever thought of such a thing as queens being superseded in October, a month or two after the season's harvest was over. I did not know that such a thing ever happened except by accident.