

from its combs, then set it on the stand of the next hive that swarmed, so that instead of a swarm going into an empty hive, it went on to combs of brood. The brood combs of this second swarm may be used in like manner for the next hive that swarms; but care must be taken not to use it if a young queen has been hatched, which may be known by queen cells being torn down. Many swarms treated in this way will swarm again in about a week, but many will not, and upon the whole it is the best method I know of to keep bees together, which must be done to get a large surplus when the honey season is early.

I have also formed nuclei of the combs after a colony swarmed, if the queen was such as I desired to breed from taking care that good queen cells were in each. These are frequently used to raise a queen close to the side of a hive that has not a good queen. After the young queen is laying, the poor one may be destroyed, and the colony and the nucleus united, which may be done by placing the nucleus combs at one side of the hive where they will be the better able to protect their queen if the others are not friendly.

In several instances I united weak colonies by moving one or the other a short distance at a time till they were side by side. This was done more particularly when I found a queen defective—that is, not filling the combs with brood as she should. As soon as the bees were located with the entrance of their hive close to the other, having a good queen, I killed the poor queen and alternated her brood combs with that of the other. In this way colonies that were too weak to accomplish work separately made a very satisfactory surplus by being united.—COR.

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked of, 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.

### HOW TO FERTILIZE YOUNG QUEENS.

QUERY No. 103.—Have failed to get young queens fertilized. Out of some fifteen or so raised in queenless colonies not one has mated. Hives are exactly alike, no trees in the yard and plenty of drones. What is best to do?

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—“Trust in Providence till the britchen breaks.”

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTON, IOWA.—Buy

queens of some reliable breeder. It will pay better to do so, than to raise them in *full* queenless colonies even if successful.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—If your queen failed to get fertilized, as you say, it is something very unusual. In all probability your queens will be laying in a few days, if you have a little patience.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Try again, have your hives as diverse in appearance as it is possible to make them, by setting up boards, bushes, &c. Some seasons are more unfavorable than others in this respect.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Keep trying until you succeed. If no bees are in your vicinity put two or three of your colonies about half a mile from your apiary. Select those with plenty of drones.

J. E. POND, FOXBORO, MASS.—The only thing to do is to keep trying. The queens may be caught by birds, and probably such is the case; too small data are given on which to base an answer that would be more than a mere guess.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, N.Y.—Put a wide board in front of one hive, a stick of wood at another, and so on, so the queen can have some object to mark the hive by. If the trouble is, they do not fly to meet the drone. I have had no such experience.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—I would not try to advise at this range, I never heard of such an instance, and have never experienced anything like it. Our 1886 success in hatching, introducing and fecundating queens, has been unprecedented.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I know of no way only to keep on trying. We have not lost one this season. Are there many birds? They might catch the queens. Birds are not very thick about our College campus and we rarely lose a queen in her flight.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Perhaps birds get them or perhaps they get into wrong hives. Place objects about at different places so they may mark location. Probably the best thing is to move the hives together in pairs, having two as close as they can possibly stand, then a space of three or more feet, then another pair.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—Have had very little trouble except in cases where bees have been queenless for some time and fertile workers have started operations. Where hives