

ada who are beginning to use wire. From the great demand that is springing up, it appears that many who have heretofore done without are commencing to use it. When wire is employed a lighter foundation can be used without danger of breaking down.

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

### HOW SHOULD QUEENS BE REARED ?

QUERY NO. 16.—DELTA, ONT.—Is it advisable to raise queens early by artificial means or to wait until the honey flow and raise them naturally? Are queens thus produced as good as those raised under natural impulses?

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Cannot speak from practical experience.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—To the first I say, wait. To the second I say, no.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY ONT.—I do not know from personal observation.

MARTIN EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—In this section it is an expensive job to raise queens early. I would prefer queens raised in the swarming season.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—You will have much better success in raising queens under the swarming impulse, less loss in introducing, and they will be more vigorous.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I have had queenless stocks raise good queens, if weather is favorable previous to swarming season. But in practice I pin my faith to queens raised under the swarming impulse.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I prefer queens raised under the swarming impulse when there is a rush of honey, yet I think the difference not very great, and with proper pains, nearly, or quite as good, queens can be reared out of the season,

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, OHIO.—The advisability of raising queens early by artificial means, will depend upon the facilities one has for doing it. Queens thus raised by me

have proven as good as those raised under the natural impulses.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Neither one suits my case so well as to wait for honey flow and then raise queens artificially. Properly raised, they are as good as queens raised naturally, with the great advantage of having all queens raised from the best stock. In general queens raised early are not so desirable.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—The artificial or forced queens are inferior to those reared in full colonies on the natural and voluntary method. Good queens can, however, be raised early in the season, and before the honey flow, by feeding the colony to be used for queen rearing liberally and reinforcing it with bees and brood from other colonies, till it gets so strong that it will voluntarily begin the queen cells and perfect them after their most "approved method."

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN IOWA.—These are questions I would prefer to ask than answer, but will give my opinions. I find it much cheaper to buy early queens from the extreme south, than to raise them in this climate. The question whether queens are as good when raised artificially as when raised naturally is a vitally important one, and one on which I have been conducting experiments during the past year or two, but have reached no positive conclusion. Am quite strongly inclined to the opinion, however, that *properly raised* are as good as any.

BY THE EDITOR.—We prefer queens raised artificially under the swarming impulse. By having the colonies unusually strong—if they contain bees enough for four colonies so much the better—the larger and stronger the colonies, the larger will be the number of, and the finer the queens raised. But with very strong colonies, to give nature its course, they would swarm out and divide up. When kept together by artificial means superior queens are the result.

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