

CLIPPING QUEEN'S WING'S.

QUERY No. 88.—Some advocate clipping queen's wings to prevent loss of swarm and we have heard of it being much practised but it is claimed by some that it injures the queen and that she is often superseded on that account and that it causes less confusion in a large apiary to have them fly out with the swarm? How do you stand on the subject, and what has been your success with them?

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I have had the best success with unclipped queens. It depends on the method adopted which will be the most successful.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—Clip the queen's wing. Have done so for many years, and have seen no bad results.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Have practiced clipping all queens' wings for the last 15 years and think the arguments of the opposition fallacious.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I let mine fly out with the swarm; never lost a swarm by flying away, don't think I have any more trouble than those that clip.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I could not be induced by considerable money to leave my queens' wings whole. The first time my eyes light on a queen after she commences laying, both wings on one side come off.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I have tried both methods and am now an advocate for clipping, but the bee-keeper must be on hand in swarming time. Queens will be lost in a certain proportion by adopting either method, the minimum of loss results from practicing clipping.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I have practiced clipping queens' wings largely for a number of years, and expect to continue doing so. I have never seen any facts tending to prove the correctness of the theory that clipped queens are injured by so doing, or are more apt to be superseded than are others, and I do not believe that it is true.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—My practice has long been to clip. It never injures the queens, and saves much labor and anxiety. I would as soon think of mowing with a sickle as to run an apiary without clipping the queen's wings. Think of a colony high up in a tree, or a dozen swarms all lighting in one cluster, then, with me, clip the wings.

J. E. POND, FOXBORO, MASS.—I never clip

queen's wings; not that I think or believe it injures them in any way, or adds to the chance of their being superseded. I do not allow my bees to swarm at all, but prevent them from so doing by dividing them. For this reason alone I do not clip. If I ran my apiary for natural swarms I should most certainly clip all my queens, as it adds much to the ease by which they can be managed.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—I clip all my queens, and have never seen any injured by it. Before I used clipping I had as many as three or four swarms sometimes in one cluster and used to have a time in separating them; sometimes I would by chance get two swarms separated and oftener foiled; two first swarms uniting are not any better in the fall than one; you have only one queen and the old bees keep dying off. I never saw them superceded on that account unless you return them two or three times when they swarm; there are always some queens that cannot fly without clipping they are so heavy.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—As a matter of mere convenience in a large apiary, clipped queens are a real advantage. But I oppose the general practice of clipping the wings of queens on the grounds that *wing power* is superior to any other trait in bees and while I breed with an eye to the development of wing power in my bees I could not be so inconsistent as to maim the wings of my breeding mothers. All queens that are not intended to rear successors may be clipped to advantage as to apiary work. Prof. Cook insists that because ants bite off the wings of the ant queens therefore it does not affect the wing power of bees to clip the wings of the queen honey bees. Strange that the Prof. fails to see that nature has thus provided a wise scheme to deprive the worker ants of wing power otherwise they would be an intolerable nuisance to man and beast.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I stand a "clipper," and will continue no doubt so to stand as long as I handle bees, and I intend to handle bees until my "usefulness is gone" as John A. would say. Whoever says "it causes less confusion in a large apiary to have the queens fly out with the swarms" is either a—well, has not had much experience. The other day I had to leave home and expected 3 or 4 or more swarms out. I left a supply of cages with my little girl, 11 years old, and directed her to watch, and as soon as she saw a swarm coming out to go and cage the queen which she would find just near the entrance trying to fly, and then lay the cage on the alighting board close up to the hive. When I came home in the afternoon I found the caged queens