

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.

A Question About Foundation.

QUERY No. 315.—Are the raised edges of foundation drawn out and thinned by the bees in constructing comb upon it?
E. F.

J. F. DUNN, DUNNVILLE, ONT.—Yes—but not always.

ENGINE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—Not in my yard.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Generally, but not always.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Yes, when all conditions are right. Sure.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I think both the base and walls are thus thinned.

R. F. HOLTERMAN, BRANTFORD, ONT.—Nearly always, if not always, at least as foundation is generally made at present.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—Yes, and if you will observe a little you can see them do it.

F. J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Yes, so far as my own apiary is concerned, but it is not well to use too heavy foundation.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I am inclined to think from all my experience, that in fine points like this, the bees differ in opinion, and in their methods. Some would do it one way and some another, and reach the same mathematical result, the same as you might figure a sum in fractions one way while I would figure it another, and given a correct solution in both cases, the better man would be the one who took the shortest cut.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—Yes Sir. But bees do not "construct comb upon" foundation. They draw out the rudimentary cells, which constitute foundation till the material gives out, and then they continue to draw out the cells by adding the little pellets of wax of their own secretion till the cells are as deep as wanted. The honey bee is not a mason, she does not build her comb, she is a smith, she draws out her work, using her finely formed vice like jaws to weld and hammer to orthodox thinness, the delicately finished honey comb.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I believe that it depends to a certain extent on the location of your sections and the honey flow. I can imagine if honey was coming in very fast, there

would not be much of the side wall used. To illustrate my first assertion, I may say that on one occasion I had a frame holding six sections, which filled in the hive proper, and would be what is known as "side storing." For some reason or other I placed a frame of these behind the stove, and before I was aware of it the cells had melted off even with the base. Now in the two top sections all surplus wax had been used. The next two I might say were likewise, but the two at the bottom not at all.

D. A. JONES, BRETON, ONT.—Yes.

Raising the brood Chamber.

QUERY No. 316. (a).—Is there anything gained by raising the brood chamber two inches from the bottom board by means of a rim in wintering outside?
(b) Ditto—wintering in cellar?—A.M.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—I think so.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—Never tried it. It would do no harm in my judgment.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Yes, if your winter protection is ample and proper. Ditto inside.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Yes, in both places. The rim allows a free circulation of air, and also the dead bees to drop clear of combs.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—(a) I guess so, some times, but I don't know. (b) In the cellar I should have more faith in the procedure.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—(a) Not outside unless very thoroughly packed. (a) Yes, but whether enough to pay may be questioned.

R. F. HOLTERMAN, BRANTFORD, ONT.—(a) I do not know if it is necessary. I think it might be an advantage, and could do no harm. (a) I think it an advantage decidedly.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—More space for dead bees. Not so much danger of entrances getting clogged up and bees dying for want of ventilation.

G. H. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—Not if you have large entrances, say from eight inches to one foot, try $\frac{3}{4}$ slack. I would use the former size for outdoor, and the latter for cellar wintering although less will do.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Not as hives are usually constructed. They should be raised high enough to give ample ventilation, and allow the pulling out of dead bees, without disturbing the others.