

THE
BEE-KEEPER'S CATECHISM.

Question 1. What constitutes a good swarm of bees?

Answer. Every prosperous swarm or colony of bees has a fertile queen, some thousands of workers, and during the warm season several hundred drones.

Ques. 2. Give a description of the queen.

Ans. The queen differs in shape from the drones or the workers. She is larger than the workers, but not so large as the drones, and is longer than either; her abdomen tapers gradually to a point; her wings being considerably shorter than her body; the upper side of the native queen is nearly the same color as the other bees, but the under side is of a bright copper color. The Italian queens are mostly of a rich golden yellow, though both the natives and the Italians vary considerably in their color. In her movements she is quick and shy, especially when disturbed. She possesses a curved sting, but may be handled with impunity, as she will not sting except when she comes in contact with another queen. If two queens are taken and placed under a glass tumbler, a battle immediately ensues, and is kept up until one or the