

Some years ago I had a queen which began failing during the forepart of the season. Wishing to replace her, I went to a nucleus and took out their queen, which had been laying about a week, then going to the colony having the failing queen, I removed her and placed this young queen on the combs instead of the old one. She immediately commenced to "peep," just as a virgin queen does when there are rivals in the cells in a hive calculating to send out an after-swarm. To this the bees paid no attention, but came to her with the intention of feeding her, to all appearances; but instead of taking food offered by them, she put out her foot and struck at them, or laid hold of their heads with her feet, and continued "peeping." She passed around among the bees, "peeping" at intervals for about five minutes, I should judge (I watching all the while), when she came to a young bee just hatched, all white and fuzzy. She immediately uttered a short "peep" and then clinched the little thing, and stung it so it curled up and died in an instant. At this the bees became exasperated, and showed signs of hostility for the first time, they now beginning to lay hold of the queen for the first time, as far as I had noticed.

With a little smoke I dispersed them and still continued to watch. In about 15 minutes she stung and killed at least a half dozen of these young bees, and was seen each time by the bees, but as I often dispersed them with smoke, at all other times they were ready to feed her and treat her as they did their old queen. Once or twice she took food of them, but as a rule struck at them with her feet when they offered her food. I closed the hive and left them then.

Upon looking the next day I found queen-cells started, and supposed her dead; but in about two weeks, they cast a swarm and lo! there was my queen running around in front of the hive, for her wings were clipped. I opened the hive, but found no eggs or brood (except sealed brood), cut off the queen cells, and returned the bees, upon which she commenced laying, and made a fine queen. I have had several such cases since, yet none quite as persistent as was this queen.

Again I have had queens which the bees treated as they would their own queen, but they would not stay in the hive at all. They would run out at the entrance, often followed by a few anxious bees which would feed them and keep them alive. I had one out thus till I had put in another queen, and she had begun to lay when I found the first under the bottom-board of the hive with a few bees with her.

Thus many facts in my experience go to prove that the queen has more to do with the loss sustained in introducing than the bees. Well, says

one, "If this is so, how can I remedy it?"

The plan I have lately adopted is this: Make a cage out of wire cloth, having about 16 meshes to the inch, large enough so that it will cover some honey and quite a little hatching brood, by cutting little squares out of each corner, and then bending the sides up at right angles, so as to form a bottomless box as it were.

Remove the queen you wish to supersede, shake the bees from the comb and place your queen on it where there is some honey and hatching bees, and then place the cage over it, pressing the edges of the wire-cloth into the comb till the cage does not project beyond the surface of the comb more than half of an inch.

Hang the comb in the hive, leaving three-fourths of an inch between it and its fellows, so that the bees can go all around the cage.

In a few hours, or the next day, open the hive, and if the queen is reconciled to the strange colony she will be quiet, and the bees quiet on the cage. When you find insects, it is generally safe to lift the cage, when she will go quietly among the bees the same as she would have done in her own hive.

The presence of the young bees with her, which have hatched from the brood enclosed within the cage, has much to do in expediting matters and reconciling the bees and queen.

If on the contrary the queen is found running around, and the bees are biting at the cage, do not let the queen out till such conditions cease to exist.

The above are the conclusions which I have arrived at, which may not be entirely correct, still I believe them to be nearly so in the main. I have introduced hundreds of queens as above, and rarely if ever lose one.—G. M. DOOLITTLE, in *American Rural Home*.

Borodino, N.Y.

A Non-Swarming Race of Bees.

WOULD THEY BE HONEY-GATHERERS AS WELL AS NON-SWARMERS?

IS it possible, from a practical standpoint, to produce a strain of non-swarming bees? If so, will they not be indifferent honey-gatherers, and lack the vitality necessary to be the bees wanted by the practical apiarist? "Why do bees swarm?" has been fully answered, and we infer that one prime cause is an overabundance of bees with a prolific queen, both in connection with a bountiful honey flow. Very likely by producing queens for several generations from stock of limited laying qualities, we may be able to produce a strain of bees that will not swarm, and for very obvious reasons. We