

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.

The Best Swarm Catcher.

QUERY No. 307.—What is the best contrivance for catching swarms?—E.F.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—A clipped queen.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Alley's swarm-catcher.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I do not think there is anything better than the swarming box described in Root's A. B. C. of *Bee Culture*.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—A clipped queen in a large cage placed where you wish the bees to cluster, or hold a pole in the thickest part of the swarm in the air.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY—Mr. Alpaugh, of St. Thomas, had on exhibition at the Industrial in 1889 the finest hiving arrangement I ever saw. Perhaps he will describe it in the C. R. J.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—There are so many of them now before the public which I have not tried, that I do not know. I think, however, that the idea is practical, and will be utilized by bee-keepers.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—The "best contrivance for catching swarms" is a sharp pair of scissors or clippers, to be freely applied to the young queen's wing, just after she begins to deposit worker eggs. This contrivance never fails, like most of the other contrivances.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—I don't know, never having turned my attention in that direction. As yet I have not been satisfied that there has yet been invented a practical swarm-catcher, though not at all sure of it, as I have kept my attention turned in other directions.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—I keep my queens clipped, and catch my swarms in a hive with empty combs or foundation on the old stand; have not tried any of the swarm catchers or swarm drivers either. I think, as a general rule, they will laugh at a "swarm-catcher," and cluster where they please if allowed to "roam at their own sweet will."

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—The best contrivance is a clipped wing of each queen in the apiary. No device can ever be of much service to capture swarms. When you want a swarm you want a good one, and no device yet made public can "ketch" more than a meagre part of the swarm. Novices may be pleased with a "swarm hiver" or "swarm catcher," that may secure the queen and a hatful of bees, but the veteran bee man knows that the little prime

swarms play a losing part when it comes to surplus honey. It is sheer nonsense to suppose that the full force of the swarm will join the queen after she has passed through a tunnel into a hive but a few feet from the parent hive. When the bees swarm, and miss their queen they instinctively return to where they came from, and only part of the swarm will discover where the queen is. And if you have to open the parent hive "to make up the swarm," you may as well do it without the swarm hived.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.—Low busy trees for them to settle on. I believe a swarming device on the market now may do the work, only the queen objects often to going down; this, however, could be easily remedied. I think Alley's idea is a good one, and he deserves credit for it.

D. A. JONES, BRETON.—It depends on where you want to catch them. If you are in the yard among the bees, and watching your colonies, a small tent set over the hive, as soon as the swarm commences to issue; a few bees and queen caged in a wire cage hung on a limb under a bunch of thick bush, or between two old brood combs, or Alley's swarm-catcher and hiver.

A Question of Distance.

QUERY No. 308.—(a) How far will queens go to mate, or how far apart is it safe to keep bees, and be positive that pure mating is assured? (b) How far has any one ever known Blacks or Carniolans to become mixed with Italians? There seems to be some misconception on these points, and we are anxious to be safe, and have our queens purely mated.

MUSKOKA.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—(a) Five to six miles. (b) four and a half miles—Italians and Germans.

ALLEN PRINGLE, LEBBY.—I would not feel absolutely certain and positive—short of eight or ten miles apart.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I cannot speak positively—I would feel safe three or four miles away.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—(a) Ten miles, to be positive. (b) Eight miles.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Who knows? I should desire at least five miles separation.—(b) I don't know.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—(a) Five miles. (b) At four and a half miles I had many black queens give a hybrid progeny before I had any Italians.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—I have known them to mate where blacks were three miles away in a bee line. My own Italian drones hybridized blacks that distance away. How much further they will go I don't know.