

Mr. Abbott—Never turn a queen free if you have one or more cages if the bees are not walking around naturally, no difference whether they have been there one day or three. Never turn a queen free under those circumstances. Simply close up the hive. You have the old queen laying. What is the advantage of having a queen on top? To-morrow, if all is quiet, and they are walking around naturally, hunt out the old queen. If they have had 48 hours and have started queen-cells, then if you can't put her in, it leaves another day to work on the cells.

Dr. Miller—I want to say just a word on introducing as Mr. Abbott advises. I think I objected at one meeting here that there was some delay in doing that way, but a good deal of experience since has made me appreciate very much the advantage of having a queen in the hive some time—that is, the new queen in the hive some time before the old one is removed. As probably all here know, it is not an easy thing to introduce a virgin queen, and since that time I have introduced a good many virgin queens, using simply the method that Mr. Abbott speaks of, of allowing that there is just a little advantage in having the new queen get acquainted while the old queen is in the hive. When you take away the old queen you are throwing them into an abnormal condition and they are likely to show fight. When she is put in the hive beforehand, they are indifferent to the new queen. I don't know if it is because she gets the scent of the hive, or for any other reason, but I do know that a virgin queen, or any other queen that has been imprisoned in the hive for some time while the old queen is present, will be accepted kindly if freed by the bees a short time after the old queen is removed.

Requeening or Superseding Queens.

"Shall we requeen colonies having old queens, or let the bees do the work of superseding?"

Dr. Bohrer—It is questionable when a queen may be considered old. I have had queens four years old that were very prolific and laid as many eggs as any queen I have, and I think it would be a good policy for a bee-keeper to watch his queens and see what they are doing. If, for any cause, they do not seem to lay the requisite amount of eggs at any age, I would supersede them; but as long as the queen is fertile and in good condition, keeping the colony up, I would not molest her, even to three or four years old, because from my observation they will lay eggs until they are that old; so that there is no fixed rule about that, perhaps.

Mr. Whitney—I suppose that when one discovers drone-larvae in worker-cells it is a pretty good indication that the queen ought to be superseded, whether she is old or young. Usually you may find those in a colony where there are old queens, but I have a case which I have written up twice, and some people questioned my accuracy. I had a queen that I found in the spring laying drone-eggs in worker-cells. She was only a year old. I thought very much of her. She was the daughter of the old queen that so much has been said about, and she looked very poor. She came out poor in the spring. I commenced feeding her bees with good, rich honey, a little at a time, each night, and within two weeks she was laying worker-eggs in worker-cells, and during that summer I made four colonies of bees from that queen.

Dr. Miller—Does Mr. Whitney think that an exceptional or a usual case?

Mr. Whitney—It was the first I ever knew, or ever heard of.

Dr. Miller—It is the last you will ever know of.

Mr. Whit have been n a young qu one, and yo old queen." clipped soon ing, and I v until she die clipped que land has ta asked me w that queen. usual thing, heard of. Bu friends were frames out the worker-full, of drom that too bad expected to queen, but I summer and of bees from She was a would say tl be supersede What is an are old at a r at 2½ years. hard the que good queen ; three years, flow she woul three or four

Mr. Hutchin know is, shall we leave it to has been at queens thems you supersede bees do it?

Mr. France—them.

Dr. Miller—D work, as a rule ond year? Th in deciding, if mony about th A Member—T