

I can see the secret of this claim of Mr. Doolittle very plainly in the conditions with which he has to deal. During the white clover, in his locality, his bees can build up, swarm, and be ready for his best source for surplus (the linden), while my bees must get their surplus from white clover, and if they swarm right in the midst of the harvest the effect is very different to Mr. Doolittle's experience.—**DENAREE.**

Regarding results with natural and artificial swarming, everything depends upon the operator, the locality, the kind of bees, and the character of their honey flow. Novices had better, and nearly always do, follow natural swarming. That is, they let artificial swarming alone.—**HEDDON.**

Every man's own way is his best way. Let one man for twenty years encourage swarming, and another of equal ability repress it as much as possible for the same time, each being equally successful; then let them change plans, and they will both make a mess of it. Besides, in some cases a man succeeds not on account of his management but in spite of it.—**MILLER.**

#### QUESTION.

4. Why is it that the majority of writers advise keeping the queens doing their level best?—Professor Cook going so far as to advise having laying queens ready to put in a hive after it has swarmed, so that no time be lost; while the experience of a great number of beekeepers shows that a larger quantity of honey is stored when there is no brood to feed for ten or fifteen days, than there is when the colony is kept raising bees that may be good for nothing except to consume the stores that have been laid up for winter use.

#### ANSWERS.

This is a poser. It is like Mr. Darling. I don't understand such advice when in connection with securing a crop of comb honey. With extracted honey it is all right.—**DOOLITTLE.**

I have lost many times by not having colonies strong, and gained so much by having strong colonies, that I prefer strong colonies every time.—**CUTTING.**

I want all the bees I can get in my hives twelve months in the year. I never try to subvert nature's laws.—**GATES.**

I don't know why the majority of writers should advise queens to do their level best all through the season. I am hardly prepared to admit they do so advise. I say, have a queen do her level best (even if linden is your first possible source of surplus) right along through spring until within four weeks of the close of the last possible source of surplus. I care for nothing stronger than medium colonies for winter. I have now a two frame nucleus alive in good condition in cellar (date Feb'y. 20th).—**HOLTERMANN.**

To use a slang phrase, Mr. Darling is "away off" here. I don't know of a single respectable writer that advises that now. Prof. Cook would write very differently now from what he did when he wrote his Manual. Brood that can never result in useful bees should be discouraged.—**TAYLOR.**

This also is a question that is seriously affected by locality. As a general rule prolific queens are the best; but in some cases, where the honey season is extended and the yield slow, some colonies with very prolific queens will rear brood to excess and store little surplus. But, on the other hand, if a colony like this should be confronted with a flow of nectar such as I have seen, you could count on them; they would open their eyes. My experience is, give any colony of bees all the nectar they can handle, with plenty more in sight, and for the time being they will ignore the prolific notions of any queen.—**DENAREE.**

Because they entertain the erroneous idea, that it is cheaper to use large hives, and fuss and labor with the queen, than to have two queens to the same amount of combs, by using small hives. They think capital is invested in queens, when it is nearly all in combs. The only time to push the work of the queen is when, by the death of bees, we are left with more combs than queens. You see a great advantage again in small brood chambers.—**HEDDON.**