

as to clipping queens, I am not in favor of clipping with scissors, I am afraid there is a liability to clip the queen in two.

Mr. Darling: I lay my finger right on the back of the thorax and the wings come up that way, and I clip what I catch, one, two or three and let her go.

Mr. McEvoy: Mr. Walton, how much do you take off?

Mr. Walton: I take off both wings, one on each side. I think I like to have the queen evenly balanced.

Mr. Gemmell: It is astonishing how easily they will fly if they have wings both the same on both sides.

Mr. Walton: I don't get down on one knee: when the queen is coming right down some comb I catch her by the two wings, (shows.) We are always in haste in doing this thing, and I think it is the nicer way to clip wings. I suppose I learned it from Mr. D. F. Doolittle. I think Mr. Heise's paper is very good.

Mr. Newton: I am sure this paper has been pretty well discussed, and a good paper it has been. I think any paper that will bring out the discussion that this has led to this afternoon is worthy of the thanks of 'his association. There are some things I agree with, but most of you know I am from Mr. Hall's school, and of course I fall in with a great many of his ways. With reference to the clipping of the queens Mr. Heise's plan seems to me to be a very awkward one. I think if I were to try Mr. Heise's plan I would be very apt to kill the queen the first go off. In working with my hive I sit down on the hive top; I place my comb between my knees, and catch her as she runs up the comb, and in somewhat the same way as friend Hall does I strike a knife across the finger and I take about one-eighth or a quarter of an inch off one wing,

which is sufficient to prevent the trouble, and this does not disfigure the queen. I don't believe in contracting in the fall. I give them a good letting alone in the spring until we have time to work with them in fruit bloom, and sometimes if it is extra good spring, and they have been shut up I have in mind two places where there have been four or five cards and a nice mass of honey built in. I generally find the medium winter best.

Mr. Pickett: The matter which I have risen to speak of is this uniting of weak colonies in the spring. I think one of the first things we require to take into consideration is the temperature at which our hives should be when breeding; and another is, how are we to get that temperature at the earliest possible moment, so as to secure the required amount of bees to bring in the honey at a proper season? I presume, these are two, at least, of the many things that are required. The more bees there are together and the more closely they are confined the sooner will that temperature be arrived at; the more room you give them the longer it is going to be, and the later in the season before they are going to start to breed, and the sooner they commence the sooner you may have something to replenish those old bees that have been laying back, because if they were light colonies in the fall, the chances are that there are a great many more, and therefore, even if they are left to themselves I don't wonder if you have a number of them that are no use in the spring and die, because it is so long before they can replenish their number that they outlive themselves. My impression is that if you unite them in the fall, and if you have them light in the spring, which I have any way, I would say unite them then; you had