

than his own cranium. Herein is the "tug of war." The editor is an exception however, for if he answers he may profit by what is before him, and I think his "comment" would be more in place than his answer if he cannot possess his soul. To me these answers are an amusing study because of their illustrative character as to comprehensions. The proper thing to do is, when a question is to be answered, first look all around it and decide what was in the mind of the querist when he penned the query, then answer the question as adhering to the points on which information is asked. To what extent this essential rule is followed in the query department will be made manifest by the following criticism.

We take query 258 in CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL of April 1st, 1890. The querist asks:—

"What thickness of comb in section will the bees cap quickest at top and sides, and top and bottom of sections."

Now when looking for the meaning of the query I take it that the querist was aware that when sealing section combs, bees do not commence at the top as they do when storing honey in brood combs but invariably commence to seal in the middle of the combs, and finish around next to the wood last. His question relates to "section combs," and finally he wants to know what thickness of comb gaged by width of section, will contribute most to rapid sealing of the honey clear out to the wood all around. The question indicates that querist was well aware that bees are, if not usually, sometimes slow to cap the outside cells next to the wood, and he is seeking a remedy. Hence the question.

Mr. Doolittle's answer comes first on the list, and his answer is: "One-and-five-eighth inches." Does Mr. D. really intend to say that just "One-and-five-eighth inches" answers the question.

Wm. McEvoy says: "I don't know." This is better than a guess would be.

Prof. A. J. Cook refers to his answer of query 256. There he refers to quality and quantity, a matter not embraced in the query under consideration.

Allan Pringle, says: "The narrow ones." His answer indicates that he understood the question, but his answer is indefinite.

Dr. Miller saw through the question but he went at it gingerly: "I should think the thinnest comb would be filled and capped the soonest." This is awfully indefinite. He "begs the question."

J. K. Darling: "Could not say, but would think brood comb thickness, seven-eighth inches." Why brood comb thickness? Bees always build store comb thicker than they do

brood comb if they have the room to gratify their instinct.

A. B. Mason: "They will cap thin combs sooner than thick ones." Is this true if all the conditions are relatively the same in each case? I think not. The Dr. does not understand the latter part of the question. Has he never observed that the cells next to the wood at top bottom and at the sides of the nearly finished sections sometimes remain full of unsealed honey till the apiarist gets impatient waiting for the bees to finish their job. I have often seen the like and may have complained of the same thing.

J. F. Dunn: "I prefer that the honey in sections should be about nine-eighths of an inch in thickness." He fails to understand the question. The question did not relate to preference.

H. D. Cutting had "La grippe," and is excusable for not "understanding the question."

G. A. Deadman: "They would no doubt cap cells one-quarter of an inch, quicker than those of one half inch, etc." This is putting it too fine. It is contrary to my experience. The question is certainly not reached.

Jas. Heddon: "One-and-one-half to one-and-three-quarters in the sections contains the thickness of comb which the bees will seal the quickest and most completely one time with an other." With the qualifying terms added the grounds are pretty well covered here.

Eugene Secor: "I have thought that comb built in sections one-and-one-half to one-and-three-quarter inches thick would be capped sooner than where the cells are longer, &c." No doubt this is true in the main but it "begs the question" after all.

J. Alpaugh: "A thin comb will be filled and capped before a thick one." True, if the surface is the same, but not so if the thin comb has extra surface to make its capacity equal to the thick comb. I believe Mr. Alpaugh is correct when he says that "a thick comb will be filled to the wood and capped before a thin one. Mr. Alpaugh saw through the question and went straight for the "point blank" hit or miss.

It would not do to criticise my own answer. I am satisfied that thick nectar rapidly gathered will be stored and sealed most rapidly. And when the nectar is thin there will be delay in sealing the combs because time is necessary to evaporate it to proper consistency. But these facts do not answer the question only in part. But they go to show that no certain thickness of comb in sections, will cure the trouble embraced in the query.

J. E. Pond: Mr. Pond is a trained lawyer