

BEES NOT SWARMING.

ALEX. MURCHIE.—I have two colonies in the "Thomas" hive, and as yet they have not swarmed. I see no drones. Is that the cause? If not, what is it? I have honey boxes on and the bees are working well, and are strong. The frames are fast so that I cannot examine them. Please favor me with your advice.

Winthrop, July 1, 1886.

We would advise you to take all the box honey you can for this season, and then transfer them next spring to a movable frame hive that you can handle.

FOUNDATION STRETCHING.

J. O. FACEY.—I send you a sample of foundation, part of which is worked out and part as it comes from the mill. What is the cause of its stretching so bad? Is the wax pure or is the foundation too thin? The wax I got from some dealers in New York State. It was to be "select yellow."

Tavistock, Ont., July 1, '86.

The foundation appears to be about the right thickness. We should judge by its appearance after being worked out, that there was ceracin or parafin mixed with the wax. We have tried to get the bees to work out different kinds of ceracin and parafin but thus far have not succeeded. While experimenting with the ceracin or parafin, the combs were frequently drawn out, similar to the sample you sent us. We would suggest testing its melting properties by putting two lamps under two dishes of water, placing a thermometer in each dish, and keeping the temperature of the water the same. In one dish put the suspicious wax and in the other something you know to be pure. You will then see at what temperature this peculiar looking foundation melts. We think you will find that it will stand 130°, probably less, while the pure beeswax will require a much higher degree of heat to melt it. We think it must be some mistake on the part of the clerks' shipping as we never heard any complaints against the firm mentioned, and we consider them reliable. We have not found it necessary to import any wax this season, as the Canadian production has supplied all our wants. This year greasy wax has been our only trouble in the way of adulteration. Two years ago we received several barrels of presumably nice wax from an Eastern buyer and on examination nearly the whole lot turned out to be ceracin, with a few odd cakes of the genuine thing thrown in to give it variety. To the casual observer it was as fine a shipment of beeswax as you could possibly wish to have. Needless to say, we returned it all.

A REMARKABLE YOUNG QUEEN.

JESSE NEFF, JR.—A few days ago I met with a very singular occurrence. About three weeks

ago I examined one of my queen-rearing colonies and found, as I supposed, a first class queen just hatched. She appeared to be doing all right, so I left her in the hive and thought no more about the matter until a few days ago. While I was going over my hives I came to the one containing the queen referred to. I expected to find the brood already capped, but instead of that I was astonished to find not one egg in the whole hive. The queen was in the hive all right and could fly well, but it could easily be seen that she was smaller than when first hatched, where she should have been full size and laying freely. I had had some queens that could not fly, but turned out drone layers. The age of the queen at this date is something over twenty-two days and she has not as yet laid a single egg. I was going to stop, but I have a little more to say and I will attempt to describe to you another strange feature about queens. On going over a hive this afternoon, out of which several swarms had issued, I found three queen cells just hatching, so I cut the capping and liberated two of them. The third one was a fine large cell so I raised the capping and out came a small worker bee. It immediately put up its wings and commenced buzzing as if satisfied with her new home. I could not see the slightest difference between it and the ordinary workers. It must have turned around in the cell, for when I cut the capping it came out backwards. I never saw anything similar to this so I would be glad to receive any information in regard to this matter.

Arkona, June 30th, 1886.

We recollect once having a queen twenty-six or twenty-eight days before she mated. There is no question about this, as the queen was hatched and caged; the day she was hatched she was forwarded, with a lot of others caged, up to our islands in the Georgian Bay, and was there introduced to a queenless nuclei. There were no eggs or brood in it and she remained unfertile the above length of time, having been carefully watched every day. Afterward she became a good laying queen. We usually destroy them after fifteen days if not fertile. It is not unfrequently the case after a queen hatches out of a cell a worker bee crawls in. The capping not being cut off all the way around it forms a hinge or door which often is closed, the bees fastening it down. We have found bees imprisoned in queen cells, that to a casual observer might appear to have been bred in the cell. We have also known worker bees to be hatched in queen cells. This we supposed was caused by their attempting to raise a queen from larvae which was too old.

THE HEDDON HIVE.

R. KENNEDY.—Will you kindly tell me through the columns of the C. B. JOURNAL how to arrange