

and when you get ready to introduce them, remove the old queen from the hive and let the queen free immediately; and, as Mr. Abbott has said, you do not then stop the production of bees in the hive. The old queen goes on laying all the time up to the very moment of her exclusion from the hive, and the new queen takes her place. I think it is the best method I have ever known.

Mr. Wilcox—If you could not place her over the colony, would you place her between the combs?

Mr. Whitney—Yes, you might do that; but I have placed the cage at the entrance of the hive. My hive entrances are wide, but just about high enough.

Dr. Miller—You could not do that in cool weather.

Mr. Whitney—Not very cool weather, no. I would not do it in cool weather. But I merely mention that I have done it in warm weather, but with my kind of hives there is scarcely any necessity for it.

Mr. Wheeler—What do you do with the attendant bees—bees that are with the queen? Do you kill them?

Mr. Whitney—Oh, they take care of themselves, or the other bees will take care of them. I don't pay any attention to them at all.

Mr. Abbott—Let them alone. They will do no harm.

Mr. Kimmey—You say turn the queen loose immediately; make the opening so that she can walk right out?

Mr. Whitney—Yes; run a pencil through and puncture the queen candy and let the queen out. She will usually remain in the cage for several hours, and the bees will go in. They do not often run out immediately, but I will let them free and turn them right out. Ordinarily they remain in the cage for several minutes, or hours, possibly.

Mr. Hutchinson—I think that the

idea of letting the queen free at once without leaving the colony queenless until they find out they are queenless is probably all right. The only reason that I could see in keeping a queen caged two days or more before letting her out is that sometimes it seems as though the mood of bees changes. You will come to a hive sometimes with a queen-cage in it, and you will find bees sticking right over the cage like so many burdocks, and perhaps the next day they have changed their mood and are walking peacefully over the cage. If you release the queen when they are inclined to bother her they might kill her. I think it is much better never to let a colony know they are queenless. Do not have them queenless long enough so that they find it out. I introduced a queen last fall after the honey-flow had ceased, when it is somewhat different. I went over the hives and found the queen. As soon as I would find the queen I would kill her and open that cage at one end and fill it perhaps an inch or an inch and half with sugar candy, and put it back in. I do not suppose those bees knew they had a new queen, and out of the 40 I lost two queens. Those were strong hybrid colonies.

Mr. Moore—Mr. Hutchinson, what would you do now to save the queens to those two strong hybrid colonies, in addition to what you did before?

Mr. Hutchinson—I don't know that I could do anything.

Mr. Whitney—I have introduced a strange queen to a queenless colony, and she was accepted immediately. There would be a buzz of bees all over the frames and down through the hive the moment she struck the top. An exception, of course; that would seem to be a sort of freak of the bees. I don't know why they accepted her so suddenly or willingly, but they did.

Mr. Taylor—They will almost invariably do that in the spring.