

may try it on a nucleus which he takes to be a strong colony. It is want of sufficient experience.—TAYLOR.

The plan of caging queens during a part of the honey season, with the view of concentrating the whole of the force of the colony in the work of storing surplus honey, has succeeded in the hands of very few persons. If Mr. France makes the plan a success he ought to tell the rest of us how to do it.—DEMAREE.

It isn't confined to novices, friend Darling. You would scarcely call me a "novice"; but I have done lots of caging and removing, though I doubt if I will do any more of it.—C. C. MILLER.

Much depends upon the locality and honey flow at the time and place where the caging is done. Perhaps Mr. France is not sure of repeated success yet, and I will predict that in five years Mr. France will not be found practising any such method.—HEMION.

#### QUESTION.

3.—Why is it that others, like G. M. Doolittle (a very great misnomer, I think), declare that there is no way that they can get as good crops as by natural swarming? Yet, if a novice tries to follow their plan, he would be likely to have more swarms than honey.

#### ANSWERS.

I don't know, unless you do not look out for after-swarms. With the after swarm goes all prospects of honey.—DOOLITTLE.

I think in this that Mr. Doolittle is correct. I have tried so many different methods, and have come to the conclusion that "Natural swarming" is best for me in my location. I obtain more honey and so more increase than by many other methods.—CUTTING.

Natural swarming is best, I think; but it should be governed so as to only double the number of your colonies in one season. More swarming than this will reduce your honey crop.—GATES.

Mr. Doolittle resides in a peculiar location. Basswood is the supply from which his honey comes; it blossoms in late June and July, and as he himself says, he has only about thirty days or less in which to gather his whole honey crop. With him undoubtedly "natural swarming" is "the thing," while with the novice, differently situated, it would prove a failure. As to the balance of the queries I will say, one trouble with our bee-writers is, that they use too much guess work and call it theory. Desirous of winning fame as a writer, too little pains is taken with practical work. Many "pad up" from the articles of others, some even "cribbing" entire paragraphs. The cure for "novice" is for him to study bee culture thoroughly, practise experimentally till he knows the possibilities of his own locality, and then take advantage of every thing that can work in his favor. By so doing, and only by so doing, can he bring about success. He can study the experiments of others; but in their application to his own case, he must be guided by common sense, and not attempt to do that in Northern Maine, which is done with impunity in the extreme south.—POND.

I think the day for dividing bees artificially has gone by. If you increase at all, I should say let it be by swarming. The best result I ever had from a colony was one run for extracted honey. It was a strong colony in the spring; it never swarmed; had at one time three full supers on. It gave me two hundred and seventy-five pounds of extracted honey. I fancy just as we think a colony that has no queens fills up with honey quickly because the larvae are not using it up, so we think a new swarm for a few days does better. We often come to conclusions too quickly, just as they did on the quality of that Hutchinson taffy.—HOLTERMANN.

They declare it because it is true as a rule. The novice fails because he allows his bees to swarm themselves to death, and then puts supers on the old hive and the after swarms, and leaves the prime swarm without any till the honey season is past. Want of experience.—TAYLOR.