

Questions and ✻ ✻ Answers

[Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least, the replies will be procured from various sources.]

QUES.—I have a lot of dark combs in use in my extracting supers. I am inclined to think that they are affecting the honey stored in them, both in color and flavor. Are there any means of cleaning or renovating these combs to prevent this? They are good combs and I don't care to melt them up if I can help it.

Brant County.

NOVICE.

ANS.—The only way we know of to clean combs that have been used in the brood chamber is to wash them. Lay them flat on the grass and fill with water from a garden sprinkler. If this is done in the evening they should be turned over and filled on the other side next morning. Leave in the shade till evening, then empty by means of the extractor. Great care will be needed in handling them while filled and soaked, as they break very easily, especially when the water is cold, or if they have soaked too long.

To lay them out in a warm rain would be even better than sprinkling.

If dark combs have been in use in the extracting supers for some time I do not think there is any danger of the flavor or color of honey being affected by them now. We secure just as white honey from some dark combs in use in our supers as from any other. Is it possible the spring honey was not extracted closely enough.

MORLEY PETTIT.

Belmont, Ont., July 28th.

Moving Bees.

Bees may be successfully moved any time during the summer, autumn, or spring, but it is done with great risk in the dead of winter. Apiarist frequently change locations with large apiaries to get the advantage of good honey locations where flora is of great abundance. Bees are also shipped by express in large numbers all over the country to purchasers, and frequently carloads of them by freight are moved from one point to another. A few years ago quite a business was done at shipping bees to Florida in autumn to take advantage of the honey obtained there during the winter months, and returned north for the summer; but the expense of transportation cut too deep into the profits to make it a paying business.

The different modes of shipping bees are as follows: Full colonies, nucleus and bees by the pound. Full colonies are sent by express usually in perfect safety, and shippers generally insure safe arrival of them. Perhaps the greatest trade is in nucleus. These are part of a colony, usually two frames of comb, with some bees, some brood in the same and a queen. These will soon build up into a new colony, and the expense of transportation is small, compared with new colonies. A large trade is also done in bees by the pound. A pound of bees and a queen is a good start for a colony, and as they are put up in a light wire cage the expense of shipping is small, but it requires some experience to properly care for them on arrival, and the inexperienced will succeed better with either the full colony or the nucleus. Queens are sent by mail, and the amount of postage that will carry an ordinary letter will take a queen and a dozen bees to any place that the letter will go.—A. H. DUFF in Farmers' Tribune.

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