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not because the virgin or fertile queen at swarming time has a smaller abdomen. Lastly, Bro. H. assumes, and this assumption is accorded to him by the editor in his footnotes, that the bees dislike to go through the perforated zinc. Now, if this is really so, we as apiarists of the nineteenth century had better dispense with it, only in cases where it is absolutely necessary to use it, and have it go out to the world that, whenever we do use it, we do it with the full understanding that we do so at a sacrifice of dollars' worth of honey to accomplish the purpose we are after. How is it, brother and sister bee-keepers? are we using perforated metal at a loss in honey?

[This is timely and to the point. There is always some one of our old veterans, if not the editor, who is prepared to say whether an idea is old and whether there is anything in it. As you intimate, we are not prepared to say that loaded bees would take the shortest road to the super. If it is true, as you say, that they turn their loads over to the young bees and they themselves deposit it in the combs, there would be nothing in the new plan. Mr. Doolittle has made quite a study of this matter, and, if we are correct, his conclusions have been endorsed by one or two others. But over against this there is this fact: Years ago we once left, in the height of the honey flow, some combs

leaning against the entrance. The loaded workers instead of going into the entrance, deposited their loads themselves in the aforesaid combs; and one or two observers have since said that they would also store in the first two combs near the entrance, leaving the young bees to transfer it to the supers.

But you say that this plan before us was tried by D. A. Jones and others—yourself included—and that there proved to be nothing in it. It is indeed important to know this at this time. In the mean time let us have facts from actual observation as to what the field bees do with their loads, as a rule, on arriving at the entrance. Definite knowledge on this point may make it necessary to make some modifications in the brood-chamber. Your last point is well taken, if bees do dislike to go through zinc. We had not thought of it in that light before. The mere fact that bees will store tons of honey above it, does not look as if they objected to it. So far, extensive bee-keepers say that they cannot discover that it makes any difference in the yield of honey.

Later.—Since writing the foregoing we have received a letter from H. W. Funk, of Forval, Ill., stating that, five years ago, he tried a non-swarmer plan, quite similar to the Hains plan on 10 colonies. They all swarmed, he says, and sooner than the rest of his colonies.—ED. GLEANINGS.]