

SELECTIONS.

Making Artificial Swarms.

JNO. S. DENT.—My present apiary consists of three colonies of black bees in double-walled hives, each containing twelve gallup ($11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$) frames. Now, I wish to manage them this season so as to have all Italian bees by fall, and at the same time to get the best results both for increase and honey; especially extracted. As you know, I have ordered a pound of bees with a queen from you, as well as a nucleus of Italians; and with the aid of these, and one box hive colony, if necessary, I would like to fill eight more Combination hives with Italian colonies by next October. The only thing which makes me feel at all "dubious", is that my work will take me away from home from 6 A. M. until 6 P. M., so that I will have to dispense with natural swarming entirely. I can take what time I need for extracting, and other purposes, but I cannot afford to lose time watching for natural swarms. I have never seen artificial swarming practiced, yet I think I have sufficient intelligence to carry out any directions you may give me, except perhaps clipping queen's wings. The first thing I intend doing is to buy a boxhive colony and transfer it, giving for it a 9-frame hive and some Italian brood later on. This will leave me seven empty (combination) hives, three of which I will occupy by dividing your pound of bees and nucleus between them, moving the old colonies away, and setting them in their place; then I think the other four will contain what further increase it is advisable to make; if not, I can hive some in upper extracting stories. Now, Friend Jones, do you approve of my plan as far as it goes? And will you give me further direction, so that I can send you a report next fall of "150 lbs. per colony and increase four-fold?"

Cowansville, Que., April 15, 1890.

You had better not divide the pound of bees you are getting until they get strong as one colony—dividing up and having a lot of weak colonies simply prevents you from obtaining the best results. A pound of bees and a queen will not usually produce more than one good colony the first year, but with favorable management you might obtain two. The box-hive had better be transferred during fruit-bloom, or at the beginning of the clover harvest. Do not attempt to divide at all, until the colonies are just about ready to swarm, and have started queen cells; but do not expect to get a big increase, and a large yield of honey as well, unless the season is extra good. We never think of doing more than doubling our colonies, if we desire the largest possible yield of honey. Strong colonies mean success in this respect, while weak colonies, with lots

to do in the hive on their own account, mean failure. We cannot give you such instructions as would ensure the end you desire,—a four-fold increase and 150 lbs per colony,—unless you mean by the yield you desire, 150 lbs per colony spring count, which would be equal to 450 lbs, as you now have three colonies. In this case, you will perhaps, with careful management reach the goal aimed at. See information as to artificial swarming on page 88, this issue.

A HOST OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

JOHN F. GATES.—The new C. B. J. is an improvement, but how I would like to see its face every week.

Does "A Hallamshire Beekeeper" write to make himself feel good, or others, which?

The editor of the B. B. J. has it about right when he says, "get the working qualities of our bees right before we notice the markings too much", or words to that effect. A cross between the Italian and the black bee suits me.

Of course the queen will try to get in the sections to lay drone eggs, if there is no drone comb in the brood chamber, but they always did best when I had some drone comb in every brood chamber.

Mr. R. L. Taylor! Will you please tell us how those bees came out that you took from their winter quarters in January. I did that once and the bees all dwindled in the spring and died.

Tell that correspondent in *Gleanings*, not to advocate the adulteration of honey for the purpose of keeping it from granulating. I have kept liquid honey a reasonable length of time by simply heating it to the boiling point—it does not hurt its flavor.

Any more surplus bees to kill? Next!

Don't try to heat your bee-house artificially. Build it warm.

What is an article? Is it a sermon? Our preacher preaches shorter than t'other, and we pay him more.

When does the funeral of that man take place, who wrote the conundrum about the boot-black and the bee?

If you winter your bees rightly perhaps they don't need a deep-space under the frames, but if wintered carelessly the space might be best.

Don't think any such contanglement as C. W. Dayton describes as a queen-restrictor will work good to any one. Daniel Foolery never raised honey.

I like to read such pieces as F. O. Addison wrote in the *JOURNAL* of March 1, under the title of "Poor Investments". Read it again.

Believe the best size of brood-nest is 9 in. high and 13 in square, inside measure

Mr. F. H. Cyrenius, page 1118, leaves the beginner to suppose his bees are shut in the hives tight, while in the cellar. Write thing