

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.]

QUESTION—My bees are too black to suit me. I would like to Italianize them. What is the cheapest and best course to pursue. Can I do it before swarming time? I have twenty four colonies.

C. H. W.

Simcoe, Co.

ANSWER—Secure two tested Italian Queens, introduce them into two of your best colonies and induce them to swarm, you will likely secure enough young queens from the two mothers to re-queen the remaining twenty-two. These young queens may mis-mate and if you are particular to have your stock pure and there are no other black bees in your locality, simply repeat the operation late in the season or next season. It may be done before swarming if the two are hurried by feeding and the others kept back by giving plenty of room.

H. G. S.

York Co.

QUESTION—Don't you think bees rather unstable and fickle for a man to depend on solely for a living. If not, how many colonies would a man require to make a living with.

Galt, May 25th. ENQUIRER.

ANSWER—In answer to Enquirer I would say that I have made my living exclusively by producing honey since

1879. Possibly it does not take so much to keep my family as it would to keep some others.

There are three factors in keeping bees for a living: 1st, the pasture. 2nd, bees. 3rd, the man that is born adapted for the calling. Any of the above lacking, failure is sure to follow the venture. The number of colonies do not count much in producing a large crop of marketable honey. The pasture and the man count the most—the first is of more importance. I must say that to the man of the right stamp the pasture good the calling of the apiarist is no more risky than any other calling I know of.

ONTARIO.

Cure for Bee Paralysis.

After many trials with different drugs I found ultimate success with a mixture of sulphurous acid and tincture of podophyllin in the proportion of one of the former to four of the latter. I wanted a purge and an antiseptic for after effects, or in other words, something that would expel the excrement and leave the intestine in a condition afterwards not conducive to the growth of bacilli.

To $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of this mixture I added one pound of extracted honey heated to 90 degrees Fahr., and then with a mouth spray I daily sprayed combs, bees, brood, etc., as I took frame after frame out of a diseased hive. I applied the remedy in this way, as I found it the easiest to get the bees to take the medicated honey, each cleaned up her neighbor and combs, and thus unintentionally inbibed the dose required. Result: In from 3 to 5 days a clean, healthy hive.—The Australasian Bee-Keeper.