

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked of and replied to by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such question are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

DO DRONES DIE AFTER MATING ?

QUERY No. 66.—Do drones return to the hive showing signs of having mated with a queen.—B. L., Cobourg.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—No.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—I don't think so.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—They do.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Never saw one.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—Never saw one.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Don't know, but think not.

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, TEXAS.—I have never seen such.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Never saw any, nor never expect to.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Have never seen any do so.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—Never saw one showing such signs.

P. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N.Y.—I have never noticed any. I suppose they die.

S. CORNELL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Don't know. It is said the drone dies soon after mating with a queen.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I do not think they ever return to the hive after successful mating.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO.—Never saw any, nor do I think any one else ever did, because the drone dies immediately.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Never witnessed signs of this peculiar kind of "divarision" in the returning drone.

J. E. POND, JR., FOXBORO, MASS.—No. The drone dies in the act of copulation, and his carcass will be found where such act is accomplished.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—The "signs" which drones show after having mated with queens are I should say principally *negative*, being the signs of *death* rather than life. It seems to be a rather tough ordinance of nature that the poor drone should pay his life as a penalty for the only useful and gallant act he ever performs in his life.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG KY.—They do not. They never return. When a meeting takes place between a queen and drone, in the act of separation, the queen extracts the inner lining from the male organ and bears it away with her. This is the white appendage protruding from the extreme end of the queen's abdomen, and is the "evidence" of her successful mating. This pipe like lining is evidently intended by nature to answer the purpose of a syringe in the process of forcing the seminal fluid into the spermatheca of the queen. The drone dies immediately upon the separation. There is no doubt whatever of the latter conclusion.

BY THE EDITOR.—They do not.

COMB HONEY.

QUERY No. 67.—Is the quantity and quality of the comb honey produced in the body of your hive by means of the perforated metal division board equal to that obtained from the upper story?

P. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N. Y.—No.

J. E. POND, JR., FOXBORO, MASS.—I see no difference.

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, TEXAS.—I have no experience.

DR. A. W. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—I don't produce comb honey.

H. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Don't know. I never used the metal division boards.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Never tried it. always take comb honey from top of hive.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Cannot say. Never used the perforated metal division board.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Have never used a perforated metal division board, so cannot say.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—No; you can get more by the crate system with much less tinkering.