

one or two in the yard comes in very handy.

QUESTION—What are the objects of contracting by division board?

Mr. Newton: The writer of this does not say whether it is in the spring or fall or when. We have had a discussion this afternoon on the fall part of it and partly in the spring. I was surmising that he probably meant during the swarming time in connection with comb honey. He also follows with the question: What are the advantages in clipping queens? So I would take it for granted that he was speaking of contracting in connection with the comb honey. I think it is a great advantage the way I work for comb honey. I believe that the swarms are the ones we get the nice comb honey from, and are the ones we get the most from; contracting them by division boards and filling up with dummies we get them into such space that our combs are mostly all worked. The bees are crowded into the sections and we get them nicer and better filled.

Mr. Post: I think it depends a great deal on the time the bees swarm whether you get the most or best comb honey. If you can keep bees from swarming altogether I think you can get far better honey and more of it. If they swarm two weeks before the main honey flow, they will be the poorest swarms you have in the yard, and if it is a little too late it is just about the same.

Mr. Hall: That is something I would give fifty dollars to know. He might get on without swarming; his location is different from mine. I have tried his method, and it is good for many things: it ventilates the bees, it retards swarming, and they work better, but as far as pre-

venting swarming with me I don't know that it prevents ten per cent. of them, I think it must be the location.

As far as the contraction is concerned I want my bees to swarm right in the commencement of the honey season, not one day before. My hive is large enough and they fill it with brood, and not much honey. We get precious small percentage of drone comb, especially if the queen is old.

Mr. McKnight: I asked the question, and I do not think anybody could have any particular trouble in discovering what the meaning of the question is. I have heard a great deal in my thirty years' experience about division boards and contraction. I want to know if the use of division boards has any other purpose than that of conserving heat and confining bees.

Mr. Hall: I know of no other use than those two.

Mr. McKnight: I never use a division board, because I never was yet persuaded that a division board was necessary for either of these purposes unless the division board is perfectly tight.

Mr. Hall: We don't want it that way any more.

Mr. McKnight: Unless it is of that character it cannot conserve heat to any great extent. I asked the other question that grows out of this: What is the object in clipping queens in a home apiary or any other yard where the bee-master himself is present? The only object in the world that I see of clipping queens is to control swarms, and to prevent the queen from flying away. I don't think it prevents the queen from being lost. I never clipped a queen, and therefore, I cannot say anything upon the various methods of performing that surgical operation.