For the Canadian Bee Journal.

DRONE FOUNDATION IN SECTIONS.

AS I have, for four years, been hiving swarms upon frames furnished with starters only, and as drone comb will be built in considerable quantities with this method *unless* certain precautions are taken, it was with great interest that I read the replies to query No. 132—the one asking about "drone foundation in sections.

Mr. Pettit seems to have gotten down to the *philosophy* of the matter. His views also agree with those lately expressed by Mr. Dadant in *Gleanings*, viz.: that drone comb will be constructed should the bees hatch from the first built cells before the brood nest is filled with comb. As soon as any bees hatch the queen returns to re-fill the empty cells, and if she is not close to the heels of the comb builders they build comb. I agree with these gentlemen and will add that the *reason why* drone comb is built under these circumstances is because it is being built for *storage*. When building comb for this purpose, bees usually build drone comb, especially so if honey is coming in rapidly. I wipe out all these troubles, however, and gain other advantages besides, by using a brood-nest so small that it is *always* (with me) filled with comb before a bee is hatched

Mr. Corneil says he does'nt think the use of drone comb or drone foundation in the sections would prevent the building of drone comb in the brood nest when hiving swarms on frames furnished with starters only; because drone comb was built in an empty frame placed in the brood nest of a hive, in the super of which was an abundance of drone comb, but from which the queen was excluded. Although the query is in regard to the prevention of the building of drone comb in the brood nest by newly hived swarms (and not in an old established brood nest) yet this experiment of his is something of a "pointer." I wish he would tell us more about it; the time of the year, the age of the queen, had the colony swarmed, were drones reared at once in the comb, or was it filled with honey, the amount of honey coming in, etc., etc. The theory has been, or is, that an abundance of drone comb in the supers leads the bees to believe that, as they are already possessed of so much drone comb, it is foolishness to build more. It is possible, however, that we cannot "fool" the bees in this manner; that they are beginning to "catch on" to the merits of a queen-excluding honey-board; that when they find that the queen cannot come up stairs to the drone comb, they will, if allowed to do so, build drone comb where she is.

I was sorry, though, to see that Mr. Corneil advised his readers to give my method of hiving swarms upon frames with starters alone, "a good letting alone," for if, as Mr. Heddon intimates, the present price of honey will not warrant the use of full sheets of foundation, would it not be better to try my plan, but upon no larger scale than which upon failure can be borne; then if failure does come, report it, together with the accompanying circumstances.

Some have reported that they have tried my my method and failed; but upon close inquiry I have *always* found that they did *not* follow my method exactly although they *thought* they were doing so; and as this matter is really more complex than it appears upon the surface, I have, at the suggestion of Mr. A. I. Root, written a little book upon the subject, taking up also a few other important points connected with the profitable production of comb honey. The book is now in press and will soon be out.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

Rogersville, Genesee Co., Mich., March, 9, 1887.

Well done! Friend H., we are pleased to learn that you have put your experience in a little pamphlet. Let us know the price and when it will be ready for distribution, that we may supply them to our customers. The experience of one who conducts his experiments with so much care and precision, will be valuable, we are sure, to every bee-keeper. Doubtless many will remember when we first introduced the perforated metal and experimented with it at the National Convention. On more than one occasion we spoke of the possibility of placing the drone comb out of reach of the queen by the use of the perforated division board, and that in such cases the bees seemed less inclined to build drone comb, but in all instances it did not entirely prevent them. We have not experimented as much with perforated metal honey-boards to prevent the queen from going up with the drone comb as we have with perforated metal division-boards. Placing the queen on about eight frames with four frames behind the perforated division board with drone comb did not seem to prevent the building of drone comb in the brood-nest. Each frame was about 10⅜ x 12½ inches inside measure, but when we closed her up on three to five feet of comb, thus narrowing down her brood-chamber, more worker and less drone comb, was the result. If