

front of the hive, but is liable to be superceded and of course the young queen will fly with the swarm. It is much more convenient to use a queen trap, which can be slid on to the entrance of the hive when the swarm begins to issue. Or better still, slide on a wire cloth swarm catcher. Then you have the bees too.

A colony in a normal condition should never have its frames disturbed.

R. A. MORRIESEN,  
Inverary, Ont.

Clipping the wings of my queens is simply a matter of convenience with me. It puts the bees entirely under my control, and saves lots of work. This is practical argument in favor of the plan in my apiary.

Year before last I went through my hives and clipped all the unclipped queens in my yard but one, she headed a mere nucleus and I passed her. When swarming time came on she left with the swarm, and was a clear loss. I only open my hives when it is profitable to do so, not that often handling will hurt them if carefully done. A good strong colony can spare one, two or three frames of brood, if taken at intervals of, say a week apart.

G. W. DEMARCE,  
Christianburg, Ky., U. S. A.

This question is a "poser," and I'll answer the last part of it first. Well, I go into my hives, "as often as is actually necessary," and "as little as possible," never removing frames out of the brood chamber, unless compelled to do so. It all depends on what one wants to do inside the hive. If you are producing honey alone, then probably 2 or 3 times a year, and possibly not at all. If you wish to cut a young queen's wing, opening a hive and moving the combs to find her, will as a matter of course, necessitate one manipulation yearly.

As for cutting queen's wings I have no valid reasons against such a practice, while with my management, everything is in favor of so doing. But I am not everybody—a person's judgement must guide them in such cases, as with everything else relating to apiculture.

F. A. GEMMELL,  
Stratford, Ont.

I don't care to give any argument, either for or against clipping, unless my practice is an argument. I keep a wing of each queen clipped for convenience and profit. Convenience in hiving swarms, and profit in keeping swarms from "lighting out."

Dr. A. B. MASON.

I clip the wings of my queens. My reasons for so doing are: 1st, I can hive and care for double the number of swarms in the same length of time. 2nd, I run my

bees in out apiaries; if I leave the yards for a few hours at any time there is a satisfaction in knowing, that no swarms have absconded in my absence.

This varies very much I "go into" all my hives three times each year, in some cases five or six times, but I will admit, that if a colony is in good condition, the less that they are manipulated the better.

C. W. POST.

Having a number of yards I do not watch for swarms, therefore I clip my queens to keep them from going with a swarm, should they do so in my absence.

I go "into or through" the brood chamber once in about eight days during the entire swarming season, and destroy all the queen cells.

A. D. ALLEN.

I do not believe in the idea of clipping queens for the reason that I have never found it necessary so to do. I have always been able to take care of swarming without so doing. Others feel differently, and I will leave it to the "clippers" to give reasons for so doing.

I. E. POSEY,  
North Attleboro, Mass.

I never clip the wings of my queens. For as soon as you clip them you make a cripple of them, and that is something I don't like to see in anything. You are liable to lose your queens in the grass, if you are not right on hand when the swarm comes out. You are liable to injure the queen in clipping her, that is, if you are a green hand at the business. For you are liable to take too much wing, or perhaps a leg or two. Then nobody would thank you for a queen with part of one wing off, if you were selling them a queen they would want a whole one. I don't open my hives more than once in a year, and sometimes not that often. I can generally tell by the move of the bees at the entrance, if they want looking into.

JAS. ARMSTRONG.

Having queen's wings clipped does often save a lot of climbing and running after swarms and also serves as a mark, whereby one can keep record of the age of the insect thus far advantageous, but it certainly will not take the place of the apiary or some watch in the bee yard. If absent under such conditions, he may in all probability hold the swarm just then issuing, which will return to their own or unite with another colony, but he runs a great risk thus of losing his queen, as she may not be able to turn with them, or perhaps entering another hive gets killed. The new queenless colony proceeds to raise queens, they develop and hatch and lead off swarms in their turn, while the "apiarist" is happy