

QUESTION DRAWER

By Mr. F. P. Adams, Brantford

Q.—Could I transfer the bees and brood from two-frame nuclei into hives containing frames of a different size by putting the nuclei frames into supers of the right size to fit them, and placing these supers over my own hives with queen-excluders between, after hunting up the queens and placing them below?

A.—If you can place a frame containing a little brood in the lower story it will be all right to put the queen there, but otherwise the bees would desert her for the brood above, and she would likely turn up missing in a few days.

Q.—What is the best way to introduce queens to a colony already containing a queen with the regular Benton shipping cage?

A.—Remove an outside frame from the brood chamber and shift the rest over to make a vacant space in the centre of the brood-nest. Remove the cardboard covering from the wire cloth on the cage. Cork up the candy hole, and tack a thin piece of wood across the back of the cage. Then place the cage, wire cloth down, in the space left by the frame withdrawn. The thin strip of wood will support the cage by resting on the adjoining frames. Cover up the hive and leave it for three days. At the end of this time remove the old queen and take the plug out of the candy hole, letting the bees liberate the new queen.

Q.—Will you kindly give a system of dividing bees to make increase, as I do not get many swarms, and would like to increase much faster than I do. I work on section honey, and keep them well supplied with supers, and put wedges under hive body. I have not seen any signs of swarming yet, nor have I seen any drones, but some of them are capping the first crate of sections. Would

it do to take two frames of brood with adhering bees and start a swarm in that way by giving them two frames of drawn comb, filling out with dummies, and giving them a queen cell or queen? How can white clover honey and raspberry honey be kept separate when both are in bloom at the same time? I think this will puzzle the most of us.

WM. A. O'CONNOR.

A.—The difficulty encountered in taking two frames of brood from a hive, with adhering bees, and making a nucleus, is that usually the frames contain quite a percentage of very young larvæ, which perishes for want of attention during the first few days it is separated from the warmth and attention it should have secured in the parent colony. This can be overcome by raising the brood into an upper storey above a queen-excluder, and leaving until capped over. The frames, with their adhering bees, can then be taken to the new stand and given either a ripe queen cell or laying queen. Another very good method of making a considerable increase during the swarming season is to carefully brush part of the bees off the frames of a colony that has swarmed, in with the swarm, and then place this brood over a medium colony, with excluder between, letting the cells ripen and the brood get pretty well capped over. The brood and cells can then be divided into several small nuclei, from which the queens will mate. Just a word of caution in handling cells after the swarm has left the hive: Be sure and don't jar them in any way, and also see that you put them where there will be plenty of bees to keep them warm until they are about ready to hatch out, which will be about five or six days after they are capped over.

In answer to this last question, would say that there is no way of keeping two different kinds of honey separate if they