

Swarming out of Second Swarms.

QUERY No. 280. —(1) Is it advisable to cage the queen to avoid swarming out in the swarming season? (2) If the bees do leave their queen will they invariably return when they have discovered their loss?

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—(1) I'd rather clip her. (2) Yes.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—(1) It may be, though usually it is not. (2) Yes.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—It will serve the purpose, but keeps her idle when she should be busy. To the later question, yes.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—(1) I will let those who have practiced that method answer. (2) Yes, they invariably do with me.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, ONT.—All first swarms will return provided they do not meet with another swarm in the air.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—(1) No, never. They will rear a young queen and go off with her in spite of you.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—(1st) Hardly. (2nd) Bees will not swarm out and leave a caged queen, unless, another hatches to lead them out.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, O.—(1) No. To prevent swarming as much as possible, give plenty of room before the colony has the swarming impulse. (2) They always have at "our house."

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—(1) I think not. (2) Yes, I think so, but not always without alighting. I have seen a swarm without a queen remain clustered for several hours. But this is unusual.

A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—(1) No, it is not advisable, except for a short time under exceptional circumstances. As to when the "exceptional" comes round you must be your own judge of that according to circumstances. (2) Not invariably, but well nigh.

J. K. DABLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—(1) I should say not, would rather have her wings clipped. (2) No. A young queen in the air might upset all calculations, and some times they will try twenty wrong places rather than go where they ought to. They act out "There is no place like Home."

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—(1) never use the plan. (2) Bees will always come back after swarming if no queen is with them. Caging queen, however, or otherwise confining her is apt to work badly. I prefer the alley queen and drone trap for the purpose of preventing excessive swarming. On the whole, I do not advise caging queens to prevent swarming.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—(1) I would not advise caging the queen, I prefer to have her wings clipped. (2) The bees are sure to leave the queen if she cannot go with them, but they will as surely return when they miss her, unless they chance to fall in with another swarm that have a queen with them. All my queens had a wing clipped so that they cannot fly and out of 30 swarms only two swarms "missed fire" by falling into other swarms that were out in the air and tumbling in with them. Sometimes two swarms would mix up, all in air or on a limb at the same time, but generally they will separate and each go to their own hive. But look here, my querist, you have got to satisfy in some way swarm desire. If you expect the bees to give up the swarm project because their queen is caged or is unable from any other cause to go with the swarm, you are mightily mistaken. They will keep on swarming and returning till the first young queens hatch out and then they will go with the young queen to new quarters, and after swarming will follow till the parent hive is exhausted of its population. If the old queen cannot go with the swarm her life will pay the penalty in the end, unless the apiarist interferes.

THE EDITOR.—We prefer using a perforated metal division board, giving the queen a few combs to occupy. The bees always return back to the hive if the queen does not leave. We suppose our correspondent may have meant swarms just hived. The answer is for ordinary colonies, but would answer for a swarm just hived. Perforated metal entrances will prevent the queen leaving.

PACKING BEES IN THE BARN.

JOHN STUMPF.—Would it do to pack bees in the barn over winter, where there are no cattle in it, in saw dust the same as out doors.

Ans prior, September 1st, '90.

We see no objection to using the barn for a cover to keep rain and snow from your packing, they might be set back from the outside boards of the barn from six to 12 inches to allow sufficient packing in front, but you should place a tube over the entrance, cutting a hole through the boards, and connecting it with the outside, this would give them an opportunity of flying where they chose. But the difficulty I see in packing them is when you want to remove them in the spring to their summer stand a great many of the old bees will return where they were packed in the barn unless you placed them in a dark place for some days; then smoke and excite them so they will mark the new location. Even then doubtless some would return, and be lost.