

foundation and it need not be more than one cell wide, thus without pressing it down very much you would have a slight rib down the centre. Two rows of cells only would be taken up from the width of the foundation. A very simple and ingenious device might be arranged to do this very quickly and very cheaply. No doubt it would work well and allow us to use much thinner foundation for the brood chamber. From past experience we feel sure bees would finally work that rib out as perfectly as the other parts of the foundation. We are sorry to hear that you are likely to have a poor honey season. The weather in this section has also been very dry up to within the last week, since which time we have had plenty of rain and look forward now in hopes of having a good harvest.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

A NEW PEST.

SOME three or four days ago as I was walking through my bee-yard, I observed a mosquito hawk (commonly called spindle) dart out from a bunch of grass and capture a bee. It alighted with it immediately and proceeded to devour it. I watched it for a few moments, and then went round behind it and killed it. I picked up the bee and found that it was nearly half eaten up. As there were hundreds of the spindles around the yard I sat down to watch. I had hardly got seated before I saw the same performance gone through with again, and I soon found that they were catching them by the hundred. Since then I have killed scores of them while in the act of devouring their prey.

I have lost about eight out of ten of all the queens I have raised this season, and have concluded that it is useless to try to raise queens here at present. I shall move part of my bees to a new location this week.

I would rather have all the bee-birds in creation hanging around my bee yard than to have this horde of spindles. I send you one; please tell us what it is.

A. W. BROWN.

Port Rowan, June 26th, 1888.

We recognize in the specimen which you send us the ordinary mosquito hawk, or, as we used to call it when boys, the "devil's darning needle." We were never of the opinion that they were any harm, however, to the bees. In fact, we looked upon them as being

more useful than detrimental. We have not got them in any quantity around our own apiary, though we have found it very difficult to get our queens mated this season, from what cause we are not positive. We shall be on the lookout now to ascertain whether our trouble be the same as yours. We have sent the specimen which you forwarded us to Mr. Wm. Brodie, President of the Natural History Society, and from him we will next week be able to give a fuller description of it, also if there be any known method of exterminating the pest.

From Gleanings.

SHALL WE SUPERSEDE OLD QUEENS OURSELVES?

FRIEND POPPLETON TELLS US WHY WE SHOULD.

MY attention has been called to the replies given some time ago to this question in the Question-Box department of one of our bee-journals. Seven out of twenty who furnished replies gave no decided opinion either way, while the other thirteen all replied in the negative. The principle reason given, when any was given for the opinions, was that the bees knew when to do this work better than we did, while one said it cost less to let the bees do the work themselves; and another said that superseding by rule would often depose queens of great value. As my opinions and practice have been directly opposite to those given by the thirteen, I will try to give my reason for the same, as the time of year is near at hand when such work should be done, if done at all.

The assertion, that bees know better when to do this work than we do, is in a certain sense true, and in other ways not true; for while they frequently supersede their queens before the apiarist can possibly detect any failure of the queen, or, at least, before he would detect it in the ordinary routine of work, they frequently retain failing queens, if allowed to do so, for months after they are nearly worthless; but all are agreed that such queens should be replaced by the bee-keeper. The fact that, in following any rule of superseding on account of age, we will sometimes destroy queens good for yet another season, is also true; but this is only one item to be considered in making a decision of what is best to do, and not the conclusive reason that the one who made it seemed to consider it was.

The entire question is one simply of profit and loss; that is, a question of which way costs the