

## QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked of, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

### EXAMINING BEES IN COLD WEATHER.

QUERY No. 83.—In cool weather how can I best open and examine my bees without causing loss of queens?—F. H.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—It must be done in a warm room.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Leave them alone in cool weather.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Wait until weather is warmer.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—By not opening them. There are enough warm days.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Don't know; never examine mine in cool weather by opening the hives.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—Don't open at such time unless actually obliged to, which rarely, if ever, occurs.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Wait till warmer weather. If you can't wait, keep brood out of hive as short time as possible.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Just drop a tent over them to keep away robber bees and then work carefully and close the hive as soon as you can.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Prefer to make all examinations in warm weather and let them alone in cold weather, and the queens will come out all right.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Open them in such weather as seldom as possible, but if for any cause it must be done, feeding rather liberally a short time previous to examination would reduce the evil to a minimum.

J. E. POND, FOXBORO, MASS.—Many queens are lost in examinations made in cool weather. If there is a necessity for making such examinations the risk must be taken; but I can see no reason why such necessity should exist, except in the early spring, and then there is little, if any, danger. Avoid the necessity then and save all risk.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Before touch-

ing the hive at all, smoke them at the entrance. Then carefully remove the quilts or honey boards, and smoke them gently on the top. Avoid all jarring of the hive or frames, and handle very slowly and gently. If they are still obstreperous under such treatment, chloroform them according to the instructions given by D. A. Jones in introducing queens.

BY THE EDITOR.—Blow smoke into the entrance until the bees become fully aroused and commence consuming their stores; then lift off the lid, blow a few puffs into the top of the hive, and you may commence operations, handling them very gently. After closing them up, great care should be taken in putting on the lid, as the slightest jar might cause them to ball their queen. Two or three puffs into the entrance after the lid has been put on will do no harm and insure success.

### PREVENTION OF ROBBING.

QUERY No. 84.—Give us the best preventative of robbing (where no honey is coming in) when examining our bees.—J. T. H.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—The tent.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Use a tent.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—I use what is known as a bee-tent.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—This is something I would like to learn myself.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Examine very little, and that near night; keep Italian bees.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—Use a bee-tent, or work at the bees in early morning or evening, when few bees are flying.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—A tent to go over the hive, made of mosquito-bar, or wire screen. It is a handy thing to have in any apiary.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—The best is to use a bee-tent, if we *must* handle the bees. Contracted entrances, or wet straw *a la* Jones, is usually a satisfactory safe-guard.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Put yourself and the hive you wish to examine under one of the screen tents now in general use in all apiaries and robbers cannot reach your hive.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Carry your hive into a large wire-cloth tent, or place the tent over the hive. I have one 4 x 6 x 6 feet, and if I were