

mix them, in order to prevent loss of queens while mating?—A. E. J.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—No.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—No.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, OHIO.—Not if the hives are placed far enough apart, say six feet.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Some say it is. I am not a believer in this doctrine.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS.—No, not if you will face your hives in different directions.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I think not if the hives are properly grouped.

WM. MCEVOY, WOODBURN, ONT.—No. But it would be a great help to both queens and bees if you would paint the fronts of your hives of different colors.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Unless there are trees, or something to break the monotony there will be loss.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—I do not know, some of my young queens come out and wander into other hives after being mated and laying.

S. CORNELL, LINDSAY.—No. A neighbor has a number of large shingles painted in different colors which he attaches to the hives above the entrance at the proper time. He thus gets whatever advantage there is in different colored hives.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Not by any means, I think it rather improves the appearance of the bee-yard, so to do, but will not in my judgement be of any aid to the bees in finding their homes.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—No. I don't think it is. I have used different colored cloth tacked to the hives, I expected a queen from you a few days ago. But I don't use them now I have no trouble as far as the hive is concerned.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—It is not necessary if you distinguish them in some other way. If you do not, and your hives are close together, it would be necessary.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I think not. It is of more consequence to have the hives so placed with regard to each other and to surrounding objects that no two shall look just alike. Something is gained by having hives in pairs.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS, ONT.—My experience is in favor of not having every hive alike in color and position. I prefer having them in sets of three rows, and than a few trees, on every other row. Then have a few of the hives different in color or position. Next to this plan I like those near each other to face in different directions say east, south east and south.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—No not if they are 8 or 10 feet apart as they should be. Paint hives white and if close to each other put a wide board or a large flat stone in front of every other one. Small trees or an occasional grape vine in a bee yard help much in this matter.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—I say no. Unhesitatingly no. In answering thus I am aware that the "Books" teach otherwise. But many errors of this kind live their nays nine times out. A good story like this is too good to give up. Some eight or ten years ago I spent days and weeks experimenting and studying the habits of virgin queens. When a virgin queen leaves the hive on her wedding trips the bees of that hive are left in an excited state and their movements at the entrance of the hive is a "finger board" to the young queen when she returns. The color of the hive has nothing what ever to do with her safe return. As an experiment I have kept a double hive with the entrances both at same end as the hive not more than 4 inches apart, and from 5 to eighty young queens have been mated in each of the divisions each season for four years past and not a single mistake has been made.

SAMUEL WOOD.—Bees are doing well. From 42 colonies in the fall, 41 are living, and have each got brood and eggs in three or four combs. Nottawa, April 27, 1890.

#### MELCHER'S HONEY EXTRACTOR,

DR. LEURIEUX.—Are any of the readers of the BEE JOURNAL acquainted with the Melcher's improved extractor? What are its advantages over other extractors besides its cheapness? Is it just as good and convenient as others?

Ethemin, Que., April 19, 1890.

The information desired will be given in next issue.

GEO. WOOD.—I placed 80 colonies last fall and on setting them out a week ago, found every colony alive, with plenty of honey, a laying queen, and the majority with young bees hatching. I have usually been successful in wintering but this is the best; loss, nothing.

Monticello, May 1, 1890.

F. A. GEMMELL.—Poor weather for brood-rearing here. cold winds. No pollen. Stratford, Ont., May 9, '90.

C. SMITH.—My 38 colonies came out all right this spring. I have never lost any yet. They are working on willows and soft maples, and dandelions are just coming out. The weather is cold and backward with frosty nights.

St. Helens, Ont., May 12, '90.

\* \* \* Please send us the names of your neighbors who keep bees, that we may forward copies of the BEE JOURNAL to them. A postal card and five minutes time will do it.

\* \* \* Secretaries of local associations are requested to forward us, at the earliest possible moment, the dates of their meetings; and when the convention is over, a full report of the proceedings.