

QUEENS REARED IN STRONG COLONIES VS. QUEENS REARED UNDER THE SWARMING IMPULSE.

J. W. GARBNER.—I would like to ask a couple of questions through your valuable paper. 1st, Are queens reared in strong colonies and containing bees of all ages—inferior to those reared under the swarming impulse?

When queens are reared, not under the swarming impulse, but by simply taking away the queen and allowing the bees to raise the other queens we find that the bees do not care for them or feed them as well as when reared under the swarming impulse. If the colony was made very strong and a swarming impulse could not be brought on, by judicious feeding they will sometimes raise very good queens. When removing the queen and allowing them to raise others, care should be taken that there are eggs of suitable age or larvae just hatched to start them from, if old larvae is taken the queens will not be so good.

ABOUT DRONES.

Are drones from a pure queen that is mated equally as good as those from a queen that is purely mated?

Rockwell, Iowa, July 31, 1886.

We have never been able to detect any impurities in drones from mismated queens although we have had ample opportunity and have examined from time to time Blacks, Italians, Syrians, Cyprians, and Carniolans.

R. McLEAN.—Enclosed you will find a small vial containing a sample of the surplus honey I got this summer. Would you kindly explain through your journal the cause of color and taste? The bees did not work on Alsike clover this summer as usual. There is a field of what we call "stinking Willie" handy to our beeyard. Could this be the cause of inferior quality? We lost all our bees last winter except two colonies. They were in the cellar. Cause—house being locked up for three months, and frost got in. I purchased eight colonies this summer. The colony in your double-walled hive was the first to die; they had too much upward ventilation. The two which lived were in box hives sealed solid above. They seem to stand the cold better than those in movable frame hives. Winter of 1884 I lost all I had in the L. hives, while those in box hives were all right. I forgot to mention we had six weeks of the driest weather here that has ever been known by the oldest settler. The clover withered almost as soon as it came to bloom. The fall prospects for a honey crop are good. I am very

much pleased with your JOURNAL. If you can find room in it, please answer my question about honey.

Pictou County, N. S.

We have never found any honey exactly the same as sample sent; most of it has doubtless been gathered from the source you mentioned. We can find no trace of linden or clover in it. No doubt the ventilation you speak of, allowing the heat to escape when your cellar was too cold, was the partial cause of your loss, but perhaps it would be more correct to say that the low temperature was the direct cause. Never allow the temperature in your cellar to go below 45° if you can possibly prevent it by banking or otherwise, but do not use artificial heat unless all other means fail, as it is liable to make the temperature irregular.

WILL THE PROGENY OF ITALIAN QUEENS VARY IN MARKING.

Z.—Will the worker progeny of an Italian queen vary in marking, that is, will some be light and others dark?

What is considered a pure Italian queen is expected to produce three-banded workers. Sometimes the third yellow band does not show very plainly unless the bee is filled with honey. When a queen produces bees some having one band and some two or three, they are considered hybrids, or if the queen was pure she has, doubtless, been impurely mated.

FOUNDATION MILLS.

What foundation mill do you use, or what kind do you prefer?

We have three foundation mills, one Dunham and two Vandervoort make, the latter we use almost exclusively.

SECTIONS WITH UNFINISHED EDGES.

What is best to do with one pound sections having uncapped cells around the edges?

You may extract the honey from those not capped at all, while those capped, with exception of a few cells, can be retailed at fairs for their full value. Draw a knife diagonally across the section making four V shaped pieces, then by separating the sections at the four corners one of these pieces will remain fastened to each of the sides of section; these retail readily at 5 cts. and it is a very profitable way of disposing of that kind of sections.