

teur Expert" to join the O.B.K.A. and write five letters after his name? He was wanting a degree some time ago for that purpose.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### VARIOUS TOPICS.

WINTERING ON THE BRAY PLAN.—STORING WAX IN CELLS.—QUEEN-MATING MORE THAN ONCE.

I HAVE to report: Put seven in winter quarters buried on the McFadden plan, only I think with a little more stores. The Bray plan would be nearer it, I think. Six came through it, all right. In the one lost nearly all left the hive, as there was only a handful of dead bees in it. I had one, a light and late swarm of last year, I expected to lose; I put it in a Jones Combination hive, gave it comb, but did not feed it any—but that was not the one lost. It came through all right. The one lost was twice as strong. I consider the the Combination hive the Jim Dandy.

I have always understood by bee writers that all wax was made from honey. I have for a long time thought differently, and think I have good reason for it. I have at different times left combs in the sun; wax melted and ran out of the cells—pure yellow wax—not the comb itself, but wax stored in the combs. It is a light yellow mealy substance until it melts, then it turns into wax. The red or as I call it bee bread will not melt or make wax. If bees do not build comb with the stored wax what do they do with it?

It is said the drones are no good—only to make love to the queen. I do not believe that. They are for chewing wax and hatching brood. I have two hives that swarmed three times each. They left the hives filled with brood and drones with very few workers. I killed all the drones in one; it spoiled the hive. The other came along all right. I don't kill any more drones henceforth.

It is said mating is always done in the air or on the wing. I cannot believe that. I have often found drones dead at front of hive with signs of mating, their abdomens protruding and partly torn out. It is also said a queen only mates once. I cannot believe that either. I have good reason to think a queen is mated after each batch of eggs is laid. That may be once a month or six weeks, varying according to circumstances and season. Just before the first swarm issues the queen is as slim as a weasel. I can tell when they are going to swarm, or about ready, by the appearance of the queen.

She will not go until she has deposited all the eggs. Whether she is mated again before leaving the hive or after locating I do not know, but am sure it does take place about that time.

I send you sample of comb with wax deposited in it, which was melted by the sun.

D. McLAREN.

Alliston, May 3, 1889.

The comb you sent us is the ordinary comb, the same as found in all hives, and it is quite true that the wax will run out, leaving the pollen and cocoons if the comb is placed in the heat, but if you took new combs just built you would not find any pollen and but few cocoons. There is no wax stored in combs as you suggest, but after each hatching of brood there is a light coating of the cocoons with wax. In reference to your other statements, we think if you look over Prof. Cook's "Manual of the Apiary" you will find that your opinion is quite at variance with known facts. Finding dead drones at the entrance of the hive does not prove your theory. The queen, in the ordinary course of things, never mates but once. There is no doubt but that the Combination hive is going to prove a great boon to our bee-keeping friends.

For The Canadian Bee Journal.

### FAVORS THE CHANGE.

I THINK that the amalgamation of the BEE JOURNAL and the POULTRY WEEKLY is a step in the right direction, and a great benefit to both the bee-man and the poultry-man. I think it is a business that should go together, for in the winter we would be kept occupied with the poultry, and as we have such an able man as Mr. Peter as editor, and a man that has had long experience in the poultry business and a very obliging person. All the information that we wanted he would be most happy to supply, and as I know his stock is first class, he must be the right man in the right place. And then instead of wholly depending on the bees, we would have the poultry to fall back on in a bad year, and it would be the same with the poultry man, and it makes the JOURNAL far more interesting to the reader, and I think that every one that keeps bees or poultry should not be a day without the BEE JOURNAL.

Angus, May 1st 1889.

L. WADE.