

## FERTILE QUEEN INTRODUCTION.

**I**N an article which we copied from the *English Journal of Horticulture* as written by T. Bonner-Chambers, some errors in the reading of the manuscript crept into the article which we copied *verbatim* from the former journal. Mr. Chambers requests the insertion of the following paragraph to take the place of the one beginning with "Now suppose" on page 133, No. 7, current volume :

Now, suppose there are neither eggs, larvæ nor queen-cells in the hive, how can the bees raise a queen? They cannot do it—twice I have had a stray queen take possession of such a hive, and in each case the queen has been of a different race to the bees. Place a frame containing a few eggs into the hive. Why do the bees recognise this gift? It is their habit to obtain all they can, which we all know perfectly well, and, as I have already stated, it is their habit to raise a successor from the egg. They therefore gladly commence operations upon this frame of eggs, the same conditions as above being present, that is, a disorganised state. Again, suppose the whole of their eggs and means of raising a new queen are withdrawn, or, more naturally, their queen dies. In a state of nature perhaps, there is at no time of the year a hive without eggs in a normal state. But in the case of a stock that has swarmed, virgin queen after virgin queen might meet with mortal accidents, and so this hive would become queenless; even if a virgin queen should survive unfertilised, or be raised after all drones were dead, or if the weather happened unfavorable for fertilization, all other conditions being favorable the hive would die out. But should a stray fertile queen fly to the hive, the habit is (I challenge anyone to contradict this,) that this queen is accepted. Hence the Hallamshire law is based on natural, rational and correct lines.

I have no hesitation in saying, from my own experiments and experience, that if the law is truly and faithfully tried, it will invariably succeed, excepting those few persons who believe and state their own way is best, and who omit, or cannot discern some of the particulars and conditions of the law.

T. BONNER-CHAMBERS, F.L.S.

Tref Eglwys, Calrsws, Montgomeryshire, Eng.  
March 22, 1888.

## POOR PROSPECT FOR CLOVER.

W. COUSE.—Bees are doing very little at present, and the prospect for clover is poor.  
Streetsville, June 13 1888.

From the American Apiculturist.

## PREVENTION OF INCREASE.

**H**E who allows his bees to increase by natural swarming at their own good pleasure may be called a bee-keeper; but it is only he who has learned to control increase, making it much, or little, or none at all, as circumstances may direct, that has earned the title of bee-master. It is often well to know how to run a yard of bees without making any increase. When a bee-keeper has already more colonies than he can manage, it would seem foolish to make more unless he has a good market for bees. Quite often, when his locality is already overstocked, he finds it is his neighbors only who wish to buy and at a price that barely repays him for foundation and hives. Sometimes a person could profitably keep one yard in connection with some other business if he knew how to manage them without increase and with the least expenditure of time and work; the time and work to be chiefly given when the bee-keeper can best spare it and not at the call of the bees. This method of running one yard with some other occupation and the minimum amount of work and expense may be the practice of the future, one strong argument against bee-keeping as a specialty being the uncertain value of the business when carried to a forced sale by the death of the bee-keeper and the consequent uncertain provision for his family. Then another very large class are now producing honey at a greater cost than the selling price and it would be unwise to enlarge a business already conducted at a loss. And it is always better to have the control of increase, like everything else, well in hand and under well laid plans, then a sufficient number of hives and supplies can be secured with some reasonable expectation of having them all used and yet have enough in those years in which bees when left to themselves often swarm to death.

When running bees to extracted honey it is comparatively easy to control swarming; for by giving them a large amount of room for both brood and honey, and extracting the old honey and afterward the new just before the main flow commences (as ought to be done in any case as it is of inferior quality) there will usually be no attempt to swarm; with reasonable attention to extracting afterward. This method is simple and it would be well if beginners would stick to the extractor until they are successful with box honey management. When box honey is raised it is much more difficult to control increase. It is easy in a swarming year to raise a crop of swarms, but not so easy to raise a crop of comb