

this was not so, I invariably had the food removed and the young grub not fed again for twenty-four hours, when royal food has been given it and good queens reared. So that I arrive at the conclusion that it is possible to choose larvæ which is too young. I also find on one occasion where eight larvæ just hatched from the egg were transferred, three were removed, and four ultimately re-fed, and afterwards developed into good queens. This leaves one unaccounted for, as to which my notes are silent, and I cannot remember what its ultimate destination was. I see my notes state "as nearly as I can fix the time the larvæ must have been thirty to thirty-six hours old before being re-fed."—*Henry W. Brice, Thornton Heath, Surrey, in British Bee Journal.*

TO BE CONTINUED.

Drones.

—R. H. Smith.

In the March number of the C. B. J. I see a letter from Mr. Wells, referring to experiments made by Mr. McArthur with drones from laying workers. Mr. Wells says he "tried it and it won't work;" again, "I concluded the theory was all bosh."

Well, on page 131 of the Honey Bee by T. W. Cowan, F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.M.S., F.S.S.C., etc., I find the following statement: "Those drones born of mothers not impregnated, or drone breeders, are as perfectly developed and as fully virile as the others. This may be said of drones raised accidentally in queen cells, dwarf drones raised occasionally in worker cells, and drones from fertile workers."

Fenckart has well established the fact, for he found drones produced by an Italian fertile worker which gave, mated with black queens, workers of the mixed races. In these drones raised from fertile workers identically the same spermatozoa were found as in the others.

If Mr. McArthur's statement will take a pinch of salt, surely this statement of Mr. Cowan's will require a barrel.

St. Thomas, Ont.

Your C. B. J. is a very welcome visitor to our home. It is very much improved since you have had control of it. This has been the worst season for honey since we kept bees. We had 150 colonies, spring count. Took 1,100 lbs. of honey. Enclosed please find \$1.

GEO. HARRIS & SON.

Dungannon, Ont.

FIRST STEPS IN....BEE-KEEPING.

KEEPING EVERLASTINGLY AT IT
BRINGS SUCCESS.

QUESTIONS SENT IN BEARING UPON FIRST STEPS
IN BEE-KEEPING WILL BE ANSWERED IN THIS
DEPARTMENT BY THE EDITOR.

During the month of May there is ample scope for good and bad work with the bees, much that may be done to advantage and much which has been advocated which had better be left undone. The beginner is often between two extremes. He may be everlastingly "tinkering" with the bees, or he may be under the impression that they require no attention whatever. The less a person knows about bees the greater the haste they should make to go slow in manipulating a hive. There are, however, a few directions it is safe for all to carry out. Keep the entrance no larger than the bees require to pass in and out when working at their best. During a warm day open the hive and see that they have sealed stores and plenty of them. If this is not the case the best way for a beginner or a novice to feed is by means of a cake of sugar or bee candy laid on top of the frames. Do not keep pulling the hive to pieces to see how much brood there is, or do worse, spread the brood to induce the queen to lay. I have foolishly done this: but never practice such manipulation unless after settled warm weather and when five or six out of the eight combs are already well filled. Under these circumstances I sometimes turn the outside of the comb on the outside of the brood chamber in. Before the end of May many supers should be on the hive, as stated some time ago, when the bees begin to whiten the edges of the comb along the top bar. supers should be put on. Not necessarily comb honey supers, until honey comes in freely. I generally put an extracting super on with a division board, one comb of brood, the less the better as long as it is unsealed, an 'two combs with foundation answers very well. The bees in this way can attach foundation and partially draw out the comb, when other frames with foundation can be put in its place. This must however not be done until there is no danger of chilling the brood. If comb honey supers are put on before honey comes in fairly well the bees will gnaw the