

Questions

I am situated in the country and am thinking of clipping the wings of my queens. Before doing so, I would like to hear the arguments in favor and objections to the practice, also the individual opinion of those taking part in the question drawer. Please tell me about how often you "go into" or take frames out of the brood chamber of the hive in the course of the year.

I am a clipper, would not think of raising a yard without. When my bees swarm I have a cage made by banding a piece of wire cloth over the end of a broom handle about 4 or 5 inches long, sewing it with a piece of fine wire in this shape and tying a piece of corn cob for cork. When you see your swarm beginning to issue, watch for your queen,—let her run into the cage. When the bees are all out move the old hive away where you wish, place a new one in its place, lay the caged queen at the entrance and your work is done. There is no first swarm that makes its sneak from my yard. Only when they need attention.

WILL ELLIS.

I have never clipped a queen, so I cannot speak from experience. But after reading the discussion for some years I am led to believe that if clipping is followed generation after generation, it will weaken the swarming power of the workers. The majority of my hives I do not open at all during the year. Only those that show signs of wanting attention.

WARRINGTON SCOTT.

I never had any experience in clipping queens. It may have advantages, but from what I have read on the subject I do not approve of it.

GEO. B. MCCOLLOCH,
Harwood, Ont.

I don't clip because I can't make it work charmingly as others say they can, although sometimes I can. Am anxious to know myself, how to make clipping work with some degree of certainty. I never take queens from the brood chamber. I use the division case system. If I were using the division case I would also avoid it as much as possible, in fact I think I would almost forget it. If I had a full flow of honey I could have swarms on five frames in the brood chamber, afterward the dummies would have to be removed and combs in-

serted and also under such abnormal accidental circumstances as in first question I would go into the brood chamber.

A. E. HOSHAL.

I am in favor of clipping queen's wings, it saves a good deal of trouble, there is no climbing of trees after swarms. I never take any frames from the brood chamber.

JOHN PIRIE,
Drumquin, Ont.

Some of the advantages of clipping queens are:

1st. It prevents swarms from absconding.

2nd. It simplifies the process of hiving, because the swarm will generally return soon, if the queen does not accompany it. It is not necessary to climb tall trees when queens are clipped.

3rd. It enables the apiarist to know with certainty how old his queens are and when they are superseded.

I never handle frames in the brood chamber unless there is some reason for doing so. An experienced eye can usually determine most of their wants without removing frames.

EUGENE SECOR.

In favor of clipping queens,—ensures the return of swarm to be dealt with according to the bee-keeper's plans, thus allowing him to leave his apiary sometimes in the swarming season.

Against—Probable loss of queens in the grass, if not at once attended to.

Some argue that these return swarms do not work with the same vim, as those allowed to have their swarm out. I should clip every time. Never unless in case of necessity.

R. H. SMITH.

I have nothing to say in favor of clipping queens' wings. From my experience the worst objection is you never know where to find her. When a swarm issues, she is not always to be found on the ground in