

colonies under the swarming instinct; in other words, my bees have done the queen rearing. I followed this course because it is the cheapest, and it is as good, but not better, than artificial queen rearing, in any sense when the latter is rightly done. How careless H. B. K. must have read. Who wonders that we think our English cousins 25 years behind.

Dowagiac, Mich.,

JAMES HEDDON.

The use of Separators a Necessity in Producing Comb Honey.

To separators: I claim that no strictly No. 1 honey can be produced without them. What I mean is, that it is so perfectly built in the sections that all can be glassed on both sides if wanted. I always thought that honey produced with separators was whiter, and there is good reason for this, too, as separators get fully half of the travel of the bees.

I know that many otherwise good bee-keepers differ from me on this point, and even claim that they can have comb built almost as straight without separators. I have never seen such, and I cannot produce honey without separators that is satisfactory to me. If only a small quantity for one's own use is produced, it would make little difference. When thousands of sections have to be handled, however, combs should be so straight that any two should fit up against each other without the comb interfering.

I imagine that in the near future, grocers will be more discriminating on this point, when they once fully realize the difference. They may be impatient to ask, "Did you use separators?" and if not, refuse to buy, or "dock" you one to three cents per pound. Some have contended that not nearly so much honey would be stored if separators are used; but my experience is that it makes no difference. I certainly do not want any surplus honey stored without separators.—C. H. DIBERN in Western Plowman.

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Extracted or Comb Honey.

THE greatest yield of honey can be obtained by extracting, as it can be extracted from the combs without awaiting their sealing up. It seems to take the bees about as long to seal over the combs as to fill them with honey. We can, therefore, get double the number of pounds of extracted honey that we can of comb. Besides keeping the combs emptied of their contents, there is the additional advantage of keeping the bees working right along filling the combs. Bees thus treated are not so liable to swarm, as they have at all times abundance of room for storing honey. It is true we may give them large surplus room, but when this is filled with comb honey, it is not completed. Several days are necessary to ripen the honey and seal the preparations to swarm, and then plentiful storage room will not prevent it. Of the two methods of producing honey, comb and extracted, the latter does not require more than half the labor. It has been said that extracted

honey does not bring as high a price. But in the majority of cases the apiarist is making more money from extracted honey because he is producing three or more pounds to one. True, there are a few specialists who make the raising of comb honey a study, and those probably receive the greatest profits. But the masses find much difficulty in producing comb honey, when they can easily produce large crops of extracted. To succeed properly in raising profitable crops of comb honey requires the greatest skill and study of anything connected with the apiary. It is beginning at the wrong end to raise comb honey first, instead of the more simple and easy method of using the extractor.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked, and replied to, by prominent and practical bee-keepers—also by the Editor. Only questions of importance should be asked in this Department, and such questions are requested from everyone. As these questions have to be put into type, sent out for answers, and the replies all awaited for, it will take some time in each case to have the answers appear.

Getting Bees Out of Sections.

QUERY No. 241.—I am awfully troubled getting bees out of sections. Please give us your method if you take comb honey.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, OHIO.—I drive them out with smoke.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—One way is to put a little open topped tent on top.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—I take the sections off just as soon as finished. I drive the bees with smoke and use a feather.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—Shake them off a wide frame of sections as you would from a frame of comb or if in a case drive them down with smoke.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG.—I generally set my section cases in a dark closet having a bee escape attached and leave them there till all the bees have deserted the cases and returned to me.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Shake out most of the bees when you remove the surplus cases and then stand the cases on end so the light and air can go through the passages readily, and the remaining bees will at once depart. If robbing is rife, protect the cases accordingly.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—I use one tier wide frames which I pry apart a little at the top and blow a stream of smoke down between each range of sections waiting a moment for the bees to run below which the most of them do. What few are left after I take them off I shake off by shaking the wide frame.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—Blow a thick smoke on the bees and remove the super at once before they return, take it a short dis-