

forced swarm or nucleus, and it will hardly do to take that as a basis for what would happen in a full colony. At any rate, the time has been shortened since then, and most of the text-books now give sixteen days. Cowan gives fifteen; and as he is a careful observer, and, withal, properly conservative, it is not likely he would so far depart from the traditions of the fathers without being very sure of his ground. So it is safe to say that fifteen days is correct.

Another question: "When a queen is taken from a strong colony, the bees being left to their own devices as to raising a queen, how long is it from the removal of the queen to the emerging of the first young queen from her cell?" Perhaps something like twelve days is given, and I do not remember ever to have seen any record of the emerging of the young queen any sooner than the tenth day after the removal of the old queen. A somewhat large experience of my own confirms this view.

Now, suppose a queen emerges ten days after the colony is unqueened. How old was that queen, or, rather, that larvæ, when the bees began to treat it as a thing of royalty? Ten days taken from its entire inter-cell life of fifteen days leaves five days as its age from the laying of the egg, or two days of age as a larvæ. Allowing that the bees did not discover their queenlessness immediately, there is still leeway enough to assure the selection of the larvæ before it was older than three days. When the young queen emerges eleven or twelve days after unqueening, then a still younger larvæ must have been chosen. On this point Berlepsch says, on the page I have already quoted from, "I will only add, in passing, that the bees do not, as is commonly stated in the books, usually select a larvæ three days old, but in most cases a younger one."

I know it is a quite commonly accepted belief that bees left to themselves select larvæ too old for the best queens; but it is high time to lay such beliefs aside. The truth is, they don't make such mischance; and if they did, such old larvæ would emerge as queens later than their younger sisters. A larvæ chosen at the time of weaning, at three days old, will emerge a perfect queen at an earlier date than any other larvæ either older or younger.

So there is no need of any remedy such as Mr. Taylor proposes, "to remove the larvæ, in four or five days, from all but three or four of the most satisfactory

cells." Even if such remedy were necessary, how many are there who can tell which are the most satisfactory cells?

In the hands of experts I believe queens as good as the best can be raised by confining the bees to eggs or larvæ of a certain age, but they will average no better queens than will be reared by the bees when they have brood of all ages from which to select. In the hands of the common honey-producer, the best queens will be reared by allowing the bees their own way, and then when the cells have been sealed in a strong colony, letting the nucleus or colony in which the queen is to be kept till laying have several cells from which to select. I know that I have reared hundreds of good queens in that way, and there is less chance for miscarriage thereby than in any of the other ways that may be advisable for queen-rearing specialists.—Gleanings (American).

[My own experience of several year ago, when I was doing the queen-rearing here—and the subsequent experience of our Mr. Wardell, who now has charge of that same work—would rather lead me to lean toward Mr. Taylor's position; namely, that when a colony is made queenless of eggs and larvæ of all ages, they do not, as a rule, "select what will make the best queens." I have sometimes thought that, when they find themselves suddenly deprived of their mother, they are in such haste to supply the deficiency that they start with anything they can get; but, on the other hand, when they are about to supersede a queen there is no hurry; neither is there need of any haste during the swarming season, for they have in either case plenty of time, not only to do good selecting, but to do good work. Our recent experience shows that, in order to get good queens under any circumstances, a moderate honey-flow or moderate feeding is an important requisite.—Ed. Gleanings.]

[We have thought it advisable to quote Mr. Root's footnote to the above article in order to have his views on the subject dealt with. We shall also invite our esteemed contributor, Mr. H. W. Brice, to give his opinion.—Eds. British Bee Journal.]

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I set my bees out of the cellar on April 10th and I find them better than I expected as they seemed affected with dysentery.

WM. COLEMAN.

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