

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.

Effect of Close Spacing.

QUERY No. 297.—If close spacing were resorted to in the brood chamber, would this, or would it not, increase the mortality in the bees, owing to less honey being stored in it, and the bees starve for want of stores, which the bee-keeper intended putting in but put off until too late.—T. J.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I doubt if it would make any practical difference.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Yes, if it all turned out as you suggest.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE—I do not see the practical side of the question. Bees will starve at any time without food, and if they have enough to eat they will not starve with close spacing.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—Possibly it might, yet I think those beekeepers who were so careless as to let their bees starve would not be likely to adopt the close spacing, which is a modern idea.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I think the bee-keeper (so-called) who would allow his bees to starve from reasons given above, would likely neglect them from other causes. It would therefore not increase the mortality of bees as suggested.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—Not in the least. I am the originator of the plan, have made use of it for years and have never found any trouble in this respect. One thing though, is sure, if bees are kept in a "slipshod" style, and from time to time, no plan can bring about success, but instead failure will always result.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Theory would say that less honey would be stored where close spacing was used, but facts would prove little difference in my opinion. Anyone worthy of the name of bee-keeper would know whether the bees had honey enough for winter or not, however, so close spacing should play no important part in this matter.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Yes, it would have a tendency to do just that thing. Over fifteen years ago we made extended and careful experiments in the matter of spacing and also width and depth of top bars, and demonstrated to our entire satisfaction that no style of top bar will prevent brace combs as we desire, and as a good honey-board will do, and also that a

hive should have a permanent frame space for both winter and summer, and the result is we put 8 frames in 11½ inches, and never make any top bar, (no matter how thick) more than ⅝ inch wide.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—It makes me tired to read so much about bees refusing to work promptly in the surplus cases. My bees under any management are prone to store too much of the honey they gather in the surplus cases, leaving the brood chamber empty of honey when all the brood has hatched out in the fall. Close spacing and every species of contraction is certain to bring the dirty, messy, sticky, bee-irritating and demoralizing unwelcome job of feeding for winter stores. I use a 10 frame undersized "L" hive, and yet half of my bees would starve before spring if they were not supplied with stores from the surplus cases. Of course close spacing would starve the bees if not fed, in all localities where there is little or no fall honey to gather for winter supplies.

D. A. JONES, BEETON, ONT.—Of course if they were allowed to go into winter quarters with too little stores the bees would starve, but this would be avoided if the combs were closer as there would necessarily be more combs in the hive, but we see no reason why the bees should not get enough irrespective of spaces, but the bee-keeper who puts off the feeding of his bees until too late will learn a lesson he will not wish repeated.

Is Outside Wintering Growing in Favor.

QUERY No. 298.—Is outside wintering growing so much in favor on account of having had a series of open winters? or is it gaining so very much ground after all?—J. K.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Neither gaining or losing ground in this locality.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—I believe outside wintering is growing in favor; at least it is with me. I may change my belief, however.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—It may be gaining some, but if so, it is with those who are experimenting by improving their methods of packing.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Open wintering, better preparation and several other considerations have much to do with it. Poor honey and hard winters is what does so much damage.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I cannot answer, but can say that I still "cellar" my bees, and think there are advantages to be derived from the practice, even in mild winters for this latitude.