

convenient for the bee-keeper to place them say 4 feet apart in the rows and the rows 8 feet apart. W. SCOTT.

I like the plan of grouping by fours, with entrances outward and room enough between to stand and work. Groups six to eight feet apart each way.

EUGENE SECOR.

Just as far as you can. Do as your taste and surroundings would indicate, but in swarming time, with queens wing clipped I prefer to have them six or eight feet apart, and have had queens crawl to an adjoining colony ten feet away from the swarming colony. DR. A. B. MASON.

### The Plain Section.

To the Editor :

DEAR SIR,—I hope that you will not think it too much of a sameness to answer my letter, knowing you get so many letters of enquiry. Before ordering a supply of sections, etc., from the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., I wish you would give me your opinion of the new kind of section (straight), and the size of the same as to width, and the square sides also; and if it is necessary to use a different kind of separator. Have you tried the 5x3½ section, 4 pieces, old style, 7 to the foot? If so, let me hear from that also.

Do the Goold-Shapley Co. manufacture the above kind of section cases and separators. If you remember, when at Mr. Byers meeting, when outside wintering was under discussion, I said that I did not believe a strong swarm was ever frozen to death. I am more decidedly of the opinion from what I saw this winter. One of my swarms is and always has been fully alive all winter, with the exception of one morning when the thermometer was about 20° below zero. They are always working about the entrance, carrying out any dead bees, even when down to zero. At first, when I found the bees so restless, I felt sure something was wrong with them, and that they would be sure to get the dysentery or eat so much honey they would starve, but up to the present time they are in first-class condition. I took off the cushion a few days ago, when I found all the frames (10) with bees on, smart and clean, in fact so much so, I put the cover down quick. So far my bees are in good shape. I expect to lose some, of course. This is too early a date to be able to know in what shape the bees will get through. Let me know how soon the G., S. & Muir Co. manufac-

ture wax into foundation, so that I may be able to get both supplies and foundation at one shipment.

Yours truly,  
Feb. 21st, 1898.

J. F. D.

REPLY.

I think that the plain section is a decided humbug. Mr. Alpaugh was here, and I gave him my views and the reasons, and he went home fully convinced that there was nothing in it. If you make the bottom bar as wide as the side bar should be, there is not enough room for the bees to properly enter, and if you make the side bar as narrow as the bottom bar should be, it is not wide enough. Mr. Pettit is of exactly the same view. Those who are practical bee-keepers, should not be so easily led astray. Now, as to that new size section. For goodness sake do not let us get any more off sizes; we have just gotten rid of the 3½ x 4½. The section does look a little better the other way, but the question is, is there any money in it? The deeper the sheet of wax in the section, the greater the tendency to sag. We are turning out our new sections this year in one piece, with the top and bottom bar cut clean away in the corners. That is where the difference in filling lies. Look at Hutchinson's front cut in the "Review." When you examine it closely you will see that in the sample of plain section the corners are not close, but in the other the cut out is not nearly so great in the top and bottom bar. That is where the difference comes in. The idea that the bees pay any attention to whether the wood is in the side of the section or against the fence, is on the face of it absurd. The Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited, will make the plain section for any one who wants it. The G., S. & M. Co., Limited, are making comb foundation and bee supplies right along, although they are crowded with orders at the present time and working overtime. When Mr. Alpaugh was here a week ago, I pointed out to him, from a specimen, that when a section is well filled, the bees attach the comb far enough out to the sides to strike the proposed fence, and in many cases the comb would be broken.

Yours very truly,

R. F. HOLTERMANN.