

to mate the cells would have been torn down before she left the hive. It seems to us more likely that a young queen hatched, and wanted to tear down the cells, but was prevented from doing so, and got up an agitation in the hive and probably ran out on the alighting board as if intending to swarm, and when the swarm commenced to issue went back; or she may have taken wing and then gone back. The fact of there being no eggs, or brood less than ten days old in the hive, leads to the supposition that the old queen either died or was superseded, and the fact of the queen not laying for about eight or ten days after you had divided them is not a proof that she was not a young queen, because after she was hatched it would be five or six days before she mated and would commence to lay probably in four or five days more. It is not unusual for ten or fifteen days to elapse between the time of the queen's hatching and commencing to lay. Unless you had some mark on the queen to indicate her age, it would require careful observation to distinguish a young queen from an old one, especially when a mother duplicates herself perfectly as is frequently the case. Supposing the old queen had been superseded, or had died after she had ceased to lay, it would be about ten days before the young queen would be hatched, and the oldest larvæ taken for the queen would of course hatch first.

#### QUEEN NURSERIES—HOW TO USE THEM.

Fred Trigg, Oshawa, Ont.—When using a queen nursery when should I remove the cells from the hive I am raising queens from? When they are capped or before? Should I hang the nursery in the hive I am raising queens from or in another hive; and do you have to remove the hive that you have the nursery in and as soon as the queens are hatched in the nursery can I introduce them into other colonies that I am raising them for? Can I get them all fertilized by introducing one at a time into a hive, and as soon as they are fertilized removing them and put

others into their place until I have them all fertilized, as I have sold some and the parties who have purchased the queens want them fertilized at my place. When I want to stop a third swarm coming off will I cut all the queen cells out or should I leave one.

The cells should not be removed until they are about hatched, or within one day of it. We prefer to remove just before they are hatched. The queen nursery may hang in any hive, but you should be careful to keep several bees with the queen, and plenty of food in each cage. You may introduce them as soon as they are hatched or just as they are gnawing out. You can cage several queens in a hive, liberating one at a time and as soon as fertilized remove them, and liberate another, and so on until all are fertilized. It is not advisable to keep a queen until she is old before being fertilized. We prefer to have them fertilized before they are twelve days old, if possible, so if you have many queens, you would require more than one hive to cage in. If you do not wish the third swarm to issue, remove all the queen cells but one then if the queen hatches there are no others to take her place.

#### CLIPPING QUEENS WINGS.

JOHN CALVERT, REABORO', ONT.—Do you advise clipping queens wings?

We have practiced clipping the wings for a number of years, and never could see any bad results, or at least not enough to over-balance the good ones. By clipping one wing as soon as the queen commences laying, then the other the following Spring slightly, the first clipping, will indicate that it is her first season; the second her second season, and for the third a slight notch will do. By this means the age of every queen is known and if she is superseded it is easily detected. We practice clipping more and more every year, and feel now like having them all clipped. We do not believe in cutting their wings off square, but cutting from the top of the wing down towards the body. At the second or third clipping the point may be removed.