

her as a strange worker would be, she is "balled." She may have been recently introduced to a colony successfully, and some disturbance, by the bee-keeper or other wise, will often so irritate them that they will "ball" her.

DR. A. B. MASON.

(a) When bees do not accept a strange queen, they show their "ill will" towards her by giving her a "good hugging," (not the general way with the human family I trow). In other words, she is surrounded by a ball of bees, about the size of a walnut, and kept a prisoner for an indefinite period, or until killed or rescued by the apiarist. Sometimes however, she is finally released by the bees themselves, but such treatment as a rule results in no good to the queen, she being generally clipped in some shape or another.

(b) The course for such treatment, may be the result of the queens own conduct, whether while being introduced to a strange colony, or among her own bees. Nervous queens are more apt to be balled, than those of a quiet or easy going habit. A void disturbing or jarring the hives immediately after the cessation of a honey flow, or very early in spring, before the colony has settled down to moderate brood rearing, and is in a fairly prosperous condition.

F. A. GEMMELL,

Stratford, Ont.

The inference I draw from the above query is the actions of the bees and queen "in balling a queen." I think that all practical bee-keepers have been an eye witness to the stampede. It begins by the queen acting shy and frightened, and instead of marching about in her ordinary dignified style gets up a high rate of speed over the combs, presently a few bees will start after her and grab hold of her wings or legs, others will soon join in the fray until she is literally overpowered by her persuers and imprisoned in a ball of bees. about the size of a butternut, they usually fall to the bottom of the hive and remain there in a clinched mass until the queen dies, or until they decide to let up their grip and give her her liberty.

(b) Several reasons can be given: 1st, In opening the hives in early spring, notably in windy weather. 2nd, In introducing queens in unfavorable weather by unreliable methods. 3rd, Young queens returning from their mating flights. The latter cannot be avoided. C. W. POST.

Bees will invariable ball a stranger queen, by so many of them trying to get at her to kill her, so that they sometimes form a ball the size of a hickory nut.

They will sometimes ball their own queen without any apparent reason.

A. D. ALLEN,
Tamworth.

"Mangling" her. A bunch or knot of angry bees, about the size of a hickory nut or walnut nut tightly clustered about her, pulling, biting and apparently trying to sting her.

Anything that will cause her to act unnaturally, as fright caused by pounding a hive, or improper handling, presence of another queen if introduced to a colony, etc

A. E. HOSHAL.

On opening a hive at times the queen is found covered by a large number of bees, who cling to her, and to themselves very closely; at times so closely as to smother or seriously injure the queen.

The cause may be a sudden fright or something of the kind, if the queen belongs with the colony. If a new queen just introduced, it is probably antipathy to her; but the cases are frequent and it is almost impossible to give the cause or reason for so doing.

J. E. POND.

(a) A number of worker bees forming around the queen in a very compact ball.

(b) Because she is a stranger as a general rule.

JAS. ARMSTRONG.

"Balling" is the term used for the peculiar way in which bees surround a queen, whom they want to kill, "whether she be a stranger or born in the land." A queen suddenly released into a queenless colony, or a queen entering a hive not her own in mistake, is likely to be thus treated. Sometimes indeed, when in an excited state they will rush at and ball their own. A short time ago, after hiring a swarm I found the queen balled on the alighting board, not having my smoker in shape just then to disperse the rebels, I lifted the little cluster and dropped it in a dish of water. this had the desired effect, they at once released her in order to make their own escape. I caged her on the frames until the swarm quieted down, and then let her out among them. They received her all right.

W. J. CRAIG,
Brantford.

Birds of a feather are the most jealous of each other's plumage; fine feathers often make unfair birds.

Purity of heart is that quick and sensitive delicacy to which the very thought of sin is offensive.