

to call attention to what I regard as an error. I will name the gentleman, and I regard him as a high-toned gentleman, and a very honorable man—stands so, I think, before the bee-keeping fraternity throughout the United States and everywhere he is known. I have reference to Mr. Doolittle. When I first commenced to read bee-keeping and study it carefully, I was attacked through the press several times. I went all the way through the State of Michigan and discussed it before the Michigan Bee-Keepers' association, at the request of Prof. Cook. Two or three years ago I wrote him asking whether he had experimented any concerning that matter, that is, the effect the fertilization had upon the queen's drone-progeny. He said he had not only experimented, but he had proved my theory to be correct. Mr. Doolittle takes the position that it does affect the progeny of the queen, and I believe he says the fourth generation has produced a queen no one could tell from a hybrid. While I believe he is candid and sincere in his conclusions, the manner in which his experiments were conducted I am satisfied was erroneous. I doubt very much whether Mr. Doolittle is so situated that he can have four generations of bees and the fourth queen successfully fertilized where he is situated, on account of the fact that there are hybrid bees all around him, and on that account I think it is true that the drone-progeny is affected by her fertilization. The spermatozoa are lodged there—never escape at the will of the queen. When depositing a worker-egg she fertilizes that at will as it passes the mouth of the spermatheca. To suppose that affects the drone-progeny is to suppose it becomes a part of her system, that the spermatozoa become food and consequently part of the system of the queen. That is an utter impossibility. The revelations of the

microscope prove the contrary, and I am satisfied that Mr. Doolittle, although honest and sincere in what he teaches, is mistaken, and I would not like at this time to have the idea go out that such a thing is possible, because it is not.

Re-Queening or Superseding Queens.

Mr. Wheeler—Before dinner I was going to speak of the value of changing queens. We read a great deal, and it was the talk of some of the gentlemen before dinner about when a colony showed weakness or anything the matter with it, to change queens, and by selecting the right queen you improve your stock of bees. That is right to a certain extent, but I think it is carried too far. In the spring, quite often when the bees come out of the cellar, they will fly together and are quite apt to kill off the queen. There will be a very strong colony of bees, and when I look a little later they will have their queen killed, and there is a great lot of bees, and what am I to do with those bees? They are losing their time. I will look around and find a colony withered away—a few bees with a queen. I put that queen in the colony with the colony or bees and that queen will lay eggs, when she gets started, for all the bees that are there—fill two or three hives. If she had been left with that little colony, her stock was bad and not worth saving. I think that the bees have a great influence over the queen. The care they give a queen determines how many eggs she will lay, and determines her life as long as she has her youth and strength, and I think there is a great deal too much stress laid on the point of the queen being to blame for a colony being weak and dwindling.

Age When Queen Does Best Work.

"How many think a queen does her best work in the first year?"

Pres. York—All who think so, raise

your hands. queen does her best work in the first year? 9.

Dr. Bohrer—In either case. My observation is to be positive.

Dr. Miller—the third year.

Pres. York—year raise your hands any one on that.

Dr. Miller—may add one. I did not vote.

Pres. York—way it was going.

Introducing

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"How shall a queen to a colony?"

Mr. Wilcox—Dr. Miller—

a virgin queen. Almost invariably she will be accepted.

Mr. Whitney—because last season I had a great experience with colonies for re-queening, and I had a great deal of success in removing colonies for re-queening. I would use the same queen in the usual way, but I thought she had killed her in a colony, and then I tried another colony, and she killed her in a colony at a distance, and introduced a new queen, and killed her.

of the hive-box. I filled with frames of the queen in,