

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.

Contracting for Comb Honey.

QUERY NO. 265.—In practising the Hutchinson plan of contracting the brood chamber for comb honey, how shall I get sufficient stores for winter *without feeding*?

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS, ONT.—Ask Hutchinson.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, OHIO.—Ask Hutchinson.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS.—That is just what I would like to know.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—I never "contract" for comb honey or for any other purpose.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I think Mr. Hutchinson explains it all in his book on comb honey.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Give combs early enough to have plenty stores. But I don't know but that might knock the "Hutchinson" out of the plan.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—It may pay best to feed, or some colonies may be kept for this purpose. Often we can get late honey enough for winter.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONT, ONT.—I have not practiced the Hutchinson plan, but when I get all the honey in the supers I give combs of sealed stores in the fall.

WM. McEVoy, WOODBURN, ONT.—By giving them combs of sealed honey taken from top stories of other colonies not worked on the Hutchinson plan. I would like if friend Hutchinson would answer this question in the C. B. J.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I don't know. I had bees starving in August on that plan. I believe you cannot get sufficient stores at all without supplying filled combs from other stocks, but this is equivalent to feeding.

MARTIN EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I don't know much about the Hutchinson plan. I suppose you might have some colonies storing for winter purposes while others were storing comb honey.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Expand the hive during the fall flow of honey, or run

a few colonies for honey in the brood combs which can be given to those lacking in the fall.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—The best answer I can give is, "follow his plan in detail as laid down by himself. It is given in his little book on the subject, and in his "Bee Keepers Review." Subscribe for that if you don't already take it. It is well worth the price."

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—The only way I now think of would be to have surplus combs filled with honey to be given the bees when they need it. If wintered in the cellar that time might not be till spring,—my bees do not consume much over 10 lbs., per colony during 4 months in cellar.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Some time during the honey season when most convenient or economical put on a second story over the super of sections or between the supers containing frames of comb or foundation same size as those in the brood chamber, and when filled and capped over remove and put away till it is time to supply the colony with it for winter stores. This of course is predicated on the assumption that you are running for comb honey.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—If you practice the "Hutchinson plan" of contraction, you must carry out his plan in detail, and that means sugar swapped for honey, and *that* means sugar and honey mixed. In other words you force all the honey gathered into the surplus cases, and at the end of the honey season feed sugar for winter stores, a part of which will be carried from the brood nest to the surplus the following spring. But as you put the question I can only answer that you will have to buy the material and feed the bees. I feel a deep interest in the prosperity of bee culture, though my living does not depend on the apiary, and I want to advise as many as feel that way, to make the apiary business self sustaining. Keep the profits inside of the business.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—I believe Mr. Hutchinson's plan is carried out through the use of my patented divisible brood chamber hive, and with it, it is a very easy thing and the right thing to do is to have one of the brood cases well stored with the best of honey free from bee bread, at a time of year when that kind of honey is coming in which you consider best for wintering in your locality. Then, as soon as the brood is hatched out in the fall, you can shake the bees out of the poor, light case into the fat, heavy one, well stored for winter, nearly as quickly as you can read this paragraph, and so quickly and completely that robber bees cannot get even a taste. On the other hand, if you desire to winter in two cases, which we do not, you can set the previously stored brood case on top of the one which has been the home of the bees during the summer and used when contracting.

* * If you require catalogues, circulars, note heads, envelopes, or anything in the line of job printing give us an opportunity of estimating.