

days before, was on the combs. Can you explain?

Independence, Mo., July 30, 1888.

We cannot explain the mystery which seems to envelope the last queen you speak of. Perhaps some of the readers of the JOURNAL can help us out.

TOADS AND BEES.

My bees being high busy, I placed a sloping board from the ground to the alighting-board. Passing in the evening I noticed an impudent toad sitting on the edge of it, watching for a victim. On seeing me he took a header into a wide ditch three or four feet below. The next evening I mounted guard and found the fellow had climbed up to the same spot on the same business; I had not long to wait before out came his tongue like greased lightning and snapped up one of my little pets. I soon dislodged him from his perch and taught him never to come there any more. Toads are not dead body-snatchers, they never take anything unless it is moving.—R. Gough in B. B. J.

GREEN WIRE CLOTH AND BEES.

W. C. PUTNEY—Please answer the following questions through the BEE JOURNAL and oblige: Will green painted wire-cloth kill bees when caged in it?

We have not found it to do so.

FEEDING THE QUEEN.

Please give the best way to find the queen in a full hive, also in nuclei.

I like the C. B. J. very much and wish you prosperity.

East Hatley, July 29th, 1888.

In a very strong colony, when the queen is likely to hide, blow plenty of smoke in the bottom and not on top; the queen will then remain up nearer the top of frames. Lift quickly, take out one or two frames at back of hive. This will give you a chance to see queen. By looking at frame and drawing the top towards you she will immediately commence walking over the bees towards the bottom of the frames. There is no trouble detecting them this way, but sometimes they get off the frames before the operation is completed. Then the bees are shaken from each frame, setting the frame and brood without any bees in empty, lifting the hive from old stand and putting both hive and brood in place. Then the old hive containing bees may be taken and jarred three or four times from side to side until they become thoroughly mixed up, and as they crawl towards the front the queen will commence climbing over the other bees, travelling

in same direction only much faster. It seldom takes more than one minute to find a queen in this way, but should you fail, empty them out on paper or cloth in front of old stand, and as they pass in on empty combs or brood you can readily distinguish her.

WHAT IS IT?

C. OAKS.—I have had a very singular performance amongst my bees for the last few days, and am unable to tell what is the trouble. They will get in a riot on the alighting board, and after a tug-of-war one by superior strength will fly away with another, some flying out of sight and others dropping a few feet from the hive. On investigating them I found their legs were all in a snarl, and on separating them they both returned to the same hive from which they came, apparently in good humor.

If both had not returned to same hive we would have pronounced it a case of robbing, and the robbers were being ejected. You do not say whether they commence the same operation again after returning. We do not recollect ever seeing any like it, and if it is not a case of robbing we hardly know how to account for it.

WHICH SWARM LEAVES THE HIVE.

Another question which has caused a great deal of arguing between father and me, and each being unable to show satisfactorily to the other the true light on the subject, I thought I would try and get the opinion of some expert. This is the question:—When a hive swarms, which leaves said hive, the old colony or the young one. If some one would be so kind as to answer the above through the columns of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL I would be very glad.

Pt. Burwell, Ont., July 27th, 1888.

The old queen always leaves with the first swarm when there is an old queen in the hive, but sometimes she is being superseded, or when queens are being raised, there is no old queen to leave the colony. Consequently it is the young queen that leaves, but all the bees in the hive, or most of them, that are able to fly, leave, then the old bees that are out gathering honey in the fields usually return and keep it from being too much depopulated.

A GOOD YIELD FOR SIMCOE.

THOMAS STOKES.—Although the season so far has been poor in most parts of Canada, yet we two apiarists in this locality cannot complain so much. The weather has been very dry. Seven weeks have passed with only a few light showers and so much withering north-west winds. I set out of the center 27 colonies, and on the 21st June this is the record. Have 14 colonies to