

the village market with honey, trading it for goods at whatever price they can get. It is not the bee-novelist, who in ninety cases out of one hundred depend on some trade or vocation for their livelihood and keeps a few bees for his own amusement and to pass the time away, as it were. When any of them take a notion to go into it as a business, they move out where there is room. Beware Specialists! if you drive little bee-men out of corporations, you will very likely increase your bug-bear instead of diminishing him.

I beg leave to tender you congratulations for your able and sensible answer to Mr. Heddon's "Who, and how many should keep bees?" "Priority of location" and on page 928. Such men as Mr. Heddon would like to sell bees, queens and honey at big prices, fast enough to make a fortune, but would wish those to whom he sold never to appear in the market. As you have wisely said, when good sugar is so much cheaper and better than it used to be, you need not expect honey to retain good old prices. "Let the fittest survive" in that industry as in all other pursuits. When a bee-man quarrels with his neighbor, and the neighbor proves his bees are too busy, let him be injuncted. What business is it of those who will keep on selling queens and at prices fixed by him and his own class the Specialists?

I could have sold tons of honey here this winter had I had it and would buy at 12. cts. All that is necessary to be done, is to show the consumer that a gallon of honey is worth more to him than the price of it in syrup, then you can sell; if you cannot do that step down and out, that's all. This thing of dealing out honey from groceries and drug stores at double retail profits will never do, it is only bought in that way for medicinal purposes, or as a luxury, now and then. I have much more to say on the subject, but fear my letter is too long already, but trust you will make it readable and let it go, *bang!* among those specialists. "A fair field and no favour."

D. McLAREN.

Alliston, Ont.

Many of those who are in favor of confining the business to specialists have just as *large hearts* and "souls" as has our friend McLaren, but they have a different way of looking at the matter. It will take more than the mere fact of writing in favor of it to get the business into the hands of specialists, so that we must, in writing, be friendly and agreeable in our arguments, and take "hard knocks" as they are intended—only in good nature.

## 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.

### BEE PASSAGE IN INVERTED COMBS.

QUERY No. 131.—In using reversible hives or frames have you found that strong colonies will, after frames are inverted, make a passage between the bottom of comb and the bottom bar?

DR. A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, TOLEDO, O.—Have not with me.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—They did not in the only case I tried.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—No. Not if there is a bee space under the bottom bar.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—Never tried reversible hives, therefore I don't know.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Not at all; any more than with transferred combs, with which we have experimented for most 20 years.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY.—I have inverted both frames and hives but I never made any observations on this matter.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—My bees are doing well enough without inverting so I do not practise it.

H. COUSE, CHELTENHAM, ONT.—I do not use reversible frames but don't think they will do so if they have free passage under the bottom bar or around the side bars.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—You probably mean between the bottom of comb and the *top* bar of under frame, and as there is a passage already you probably mean do they build brace combs in this passage way. Yes. Strong colonies will do this in spite of everything.

JUDGE ANDREWS, MCKENNY, TEXAS.—I avoid the use of any humbugs, and hence do not know what antics the poor creatures might cut up, but I suppose they might possibly retain their usual common sense—would not do useless work.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I never used reversible frames, as I cannot afford to "advance" fast enough to throw away hives every year or two when anything new is placed on the market. Supposing they do make a pas-