

the side of a frame, if the former then so arrange the cage on its side that the bees may have free access to it. If the cage is fixed so that she will be released by the bees all the better, only I would make sure that no new cells have been started, and if so, remove them and confine the queen for at least another twelve hours. When I find a colony determined to build cells I would remove all eggs and unsealed larvæ and cage the queen for twenty-four hours, in fact this is the plan I would adopt after the honey flow, as it is much less trouble to do this than to examine and remove cells, and a colony having no way of rearing a queen are much more willing to accept one. If a queen can be caged on the frames *immediately* on the removal of the old queen, it is much better than having a colony queenless for twelve hours or so as some have advocated. During the honey flow, if the queen has just been removed, I cage another on the top of the frames for twenty-four hours and then let her run down between the combs never looking for queen cells. I never remember losing any in this way in full colonies, and have introduced several; with nuclei, however, it is better to look for and remove cells, if any.

F. A. GEMMELL, STRATFORD, ONT.—My first experience in introducing a laying Italian queen to a full colony of bees, was successfully performed in the fall of 1863, by what is generally known as the caging process, and I have not yet found any more safe method, all things considered. I do not, however, think it necessary at all times to resort to this slow process of introduction, nor do I do so. My methods vary in accordance with the season, and are about as follows: (1) in the spring, by the caging system referred to, liberating the queen when I see the bees are behaving kindly towards her. (2) During a honey flow almost any of the numerous plans will succeed, and every one has his own particular hobby, but either of the two following ways suits me best. At nightfall give the queenless colony a strong but gentle puff of smoke at the entrance, then allow the alien queen to run in, sending another puff after her as she disappears, or open the hive, take most of the frames therefrom and shake off the bees in front, and while they are marching in, let the new queen pass in also; this too, should be performed as near dark as bees can be safely handled. (3) In the fall I always cage about 48 hours, and see that there are no cells being constructed. With a valuable queen I would also feed liberally. These remarks apply to laying queens exclusively as I have had little experience in the introduction of virgin queens to full colonies, except those

just hatching, but of all the plans suggested when desiring to supply nuclei with such, I prefer the smoking-in method best, 24 hours to elapse after the removal of the laying queen. The younger the queen the better. There are exceptions to all rules, and I have found this especially so with the "little busy bee," but my losses with the foregoing plans have been like "hens' teeth," few and far between.

D. CHALMERS, POOLE, ONT.—Various are the conditions of bees to which queens have to be introduced, and as varied are the modes of introduction practised by me, but will give the most practical. Should a colony be found queenless, destroy all queen cells, then, if you are going to give them a queen from another colony or nuclei in your own apiary, select from such a comb containing hatching brood or larvæ, see that the queen is on it and allow all the bees that wish, to accompany her; then insert said comb in or near the centre of brood nest, or part prepared for brood of queenless colony, adjust the frames, cover up and your work is done. But should you receive a queen bee by mail, I don't know of any better plan than to take a five-sided box, made of a piece of wire-cloth, say six inches square, cut three-quarters of an inch out of each corner, and fold down sides till square when ends of sides will meet and for the box or cage, take a piece of tin or heavy paper large enough to cover the open side, run bees and queen into cage, then get a card of worker comb that has cells prepared for eggs, shake and sweep all bees therefrom. Now place cage on part specified with slide or open side, next comb, pull slide from under the cage, being careful not to draw the queen's legs under edge of cage, then (like the fellow's recipe for killing potato bugs by placing them on one stick and pressing tightly with the other), place one hand on opposite side to support comb, and with the other press in edges of cage about three-quarters of an inch the queen then has about four and a half in. square to lay in while being introduced, which takes about 24 hours, when the cage should be removed. The case of a colony with fertile workers might also be cited. The most successful plan that I have practised is to deprive the bees of all combs for from 24 to 48 hours, at the same time giving them a fertile queen in an enclosed cage, either part or altogether wire-cloth, which can be placed on top of frames, under quilt or suspended in hive; in a day or two give them combs and liberate the queen. In the two latter cases feeding the bees a little honey while the queen is being introduced is a very good thing. A virgin queen is simply introduced by shaking the bees off the combs at the entrance