

### Introducing Queens to Colonies that have been Long Queenless.

SOME time in August, I sent a queen to a party in Canada; and in writing to me, telling of his losing her in trying to introduce her, he incidentally mentioned that he introduced her to a colony that had been queenless for three or four weeks, and asked what I supposed was the trouble. I suppose the colony had a queen, or something it called a queen. I do not know whether or not he had given this colony unsealed brood at different times during this time that they were queenless; but from the tone of his letter I should judge that he had not. The object in answering this question in *Gleanings* is to particularly emphasize this thought: Don't ever try to introduce a queen to a colony which has been long queenless, without first giving them unsealed brood, so as to know to a certainty that they are queenless. According to the many letters of the past, in regard to loss of queens in introduction, I judge that more queens are lost by trying to introduce them to supposedly queenless colonies than from all other causes put together. "But," says one, "how shall I know to a certainty that a colony has or has not a queen by simply putting in brood?" As far as I have had experience, a queenless colony will always start queen cells on brood given them, unless they have laying workers, in which case they do not always consider themselves as queenless, and, as a rule, one might about as well try to get a queen into a colony which has a queen as to try to introduce one to a colony having laying workers. If a colony builds queen cells you may know that it is queenless, and that, if the right amount of care is used, a fertile queen may be successfully introduced to it. But if any colony does not start queen-cells on brood given them, it may be known that it is a dangerous undertaking to try to introduce a queen to such a colony. Don't let us as a bee fraternity be longer ignorant or heedless on this matter, for enough money and fine queens have already been sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance and carelessness.

#### SECTIONS PARALLEL WITH FRAMES.

Another writes, telling how he is about to make some new hives in which he desires to have the sections in the cases go crosswise of the brood frames, and wishes me to tell in *Gleanings* whether I think the bees will do as well in them when worked in this way as they do were they go with the frames, as is the usual custom. As far as the bees are concerned or the amount of honey produced, it makes no

difference which way the sections run to the brood-frames where the Langstroth bee-space is used, as I have repeatedly proven to my satisfaction. Where a continuous passageway is used, necessity compels us to place the sections parallel with the brood-frames. There is one important item in this matter, however, which makes it very desirable to have the sections run parallel with the frames, and that is the matter of having all hives pitch towards the entrance. This is almost a necessity to keep the water out of the hives, both as regards rain at all times, and the condensed moisture from the bees' breath during the winter and early spring months. If hives do not slant towards the entrance, injury is worked, not only to the bees, but to the hives; for a hive will not last nearly as long which stands level as will one that pitches enough to the front to run off all water. If such pitch is used and the sections go crosswise of the frames, the combs in the sections will be run from one section into the bottom of the next one, for bees always build their combs perpendicular; or if the frames run crosswise to the entrance, and the hive is pitched toward the entrance, as it always should be, then the combs will not be built true in the frames. Having hives pitched toward the entrance also helps the bees much in cleaning the bottoms of their hives and keeping them clean; also in defending themselves from robbers and other insects. For these reasons I should prefer to have the sections run parallel with the frames, if such a thing were possible.

#### PARTLY FILLED SECTIONS.

Still another writes, saying: "I am about having my partly filled sections fixed up by the bees preparatory to next season's operations. This I do by uncapping the sealed part of the honey and placing them over colonies which need feeding. After the bees have removed the honey, during my leisure hours this fall and winter I wish to put them in my cases so as to have all in readiness for another harvest when it comes, so as to have no fussing with these in my hurry next summer. Should the supers be entirely filled with these sections, or partly filled with new? If the latter, what part of the super is the best location for the sections containing the comb?"

My way of doing this would be to divide the number of sections by the number of colonies which I expected to have next year to produce comb honey, and place the quotient in each case, placing the partly filled ones in the center and the other on each side. Used in this way as "bait" section, these partly filled sections are of great value, and will bring you a