

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—Have never experimented. I use the Jones frame about $\frac{7}{8}$ square, two corners bevelled. Some brace combs are built, some colonies are worse than others,

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO', MASS.—I use a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch top bar. See No. 282 for particulars, I am not troubled with brace combs, when using this method.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I use $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ inch top bars, and a slatted honey board. We do have some brace combs, but with a properly spaced honey board, not very many.

A. B. MASON, AUBURDALE, O.—For a good many years I have used top bars $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick, and of course I have been much troubled with brace combs. Am trying some of Root's dove-tailed hives, with thick top bars $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch apart, and so far have no brace combs.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—With the exception of one hive my top bars are all $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. I have been troubled with brace comb in correct bee spaces, but have no trouble since using the Heddon slatted honey board. It is a jam in the apiary; try it if you don't believe it.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I have used top bars 1 inch wide, $\frac{3}{4}$ deep, and I am troubled with brace combs. I'm in hopes some day to have such thick top bars as I first saw in Canada. I have always had a spite at J. B. Hall for making me discontented with my top bars. It's a big job to change them by the thousand.

—EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—This question is having a "run" like the measles, "Authorities" will always be "conflicting," Possess your soul in patience. Probably in a year from now you will hear nothing about it. As for myself I don't prevent them. I don't know why they are worse some seasons than others with the same management. "One swallow doesn't make a summer."

G. W. DEMARBE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—I use the ordinary Langstroth top bar, which is about $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{2}$. O, yes! bees will build brace comb, but it depends very much on the management of the surplus department of the hive as to how much brace and burr combs are built, when practicing the tiering up system. If the manipulations are properly and timely done, the brace combs are not serious. Such is my experience.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELLS, ONT.—My top bars are $\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep, but vary in thickness from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. When the $1\frac{1}{4}$ are used in the brood chamber they are alternated with the $\frac{3}{4}$, but all are spaced as nearly as possible $\frac{1}{8}$ from centre to centre. This makes the spaces between the frames $\frac{1}{2}$ inch when the $\frac{3}{4}$ are used, or $\frac{1}{4}$ when alternated. What difference there may be, is in favor of the narrow spacing, but I notice very little, both are bad enough.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—Twelve or fifteen years ago I experimented largely upon deep top bars or thick top bars, varying the width horizontally at the same time. I have no

hesitancy in saying that no kind of top bars will prevent brace combs to any practical extent. Break-joint honey board does it, and this break-joint honey board has come to stay, and those who are trying to do without it now will come right back to its use. Do not forget to keep me on record for this statement, and I beg that when time proves that I am right, you will remember my declaration.

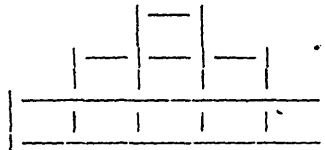
A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—As I use different styles of hives I use various frames, and different thicknesses of top bar. The one I prefer, however, and am making of late exclusively, is one inch wide and one inch thick or deep. It is composed of two pieces each scant $\frac{3}{8}$ thick, with a space between of about $\frac{1}{8}$. This makes the bar one inch deep. I space them about an inch and half apart from centre to centre. Every one to his liking, but this is the top bar which I consider best. The depth together with the open space or passage in the bar prevents brace combs, and besides, this space constitutes an excellent passage way for the bees in winter over the top from frame to frame. Such a top is also proof against sagging.

Packing Bees on a Barn Floor

JOHN STUMPF.

D. A. JONES,

Dear Sir—Allow me kindly to ask you, I want to pack my bees on a barn floor where there are no cattle or horses in the barn; would it do to pack them like the following, in sawdust, in three rows on top of each other:



Would it do to have the sealed rags or cloths on, or should I take new cotton, I will leave the fly holes open. Mr. Edwards, here gets your Journal, he leaves the sealed cloth on; he said they didn't get mouldy packed in sawdust in a little bee house.

They might be packed in the barn in single rows, but I would not care to pack them three deep, as it would be difficult to get at them for examination towards spring when it is necessary to see that they have stores. You could not leave them in that position until they marked the location in the spring, if you did you would lose bees when you set them out. Of course if you allowed them to set there all summer and fly out it might do, but we would prefer to pack them in a clamp in the yard where they were expected to remain during the summer season. If you packed them in the barn they would have to be set out very early in spring in order to prevent a loss of