

they prevent the bee from turning up the abdomen or in any way using its sting. The immense beak is quickly thrust into the thorax of the bee which dies almost instantly. A few seconds' enjoyment of the sweetest tit bit and *Promachus* is ready for another victim.

Should this new insect become numerous it may prove a formidable enemy to bee-keepers.

If the species be Canadian I will send you a full description. But please send me more specimens.

WM. BRODIE.

325 Parliament St., Toronto.

The "bug" referred to above came from Mr. D. McFarlane of Tilsonburg, Ont. He will note Mr. Brodie's remarks, and if possible send him further specimens, when they will be reported on in the *JOURNAL*.

QUERIES AND REPLIES.

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear Questions which have been asked of, 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.

DUMMIES FOR CONTRACTING BROOD CHAMBER.

QUERY No. 105.—In his book on bees Dr. Miller speaks of using division boards and dummies to contract brood chambers. I see no description of dummies in the book. Will he please describe them in the *C. B. J.*?—G. W.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO, ONT.—It is likely they mean the same thing.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I presume Dr. Miller will answer this.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—Perhaps he will if you ask him. Try it and see.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I suppose they are the same. I prefer the former name.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—This question is for Dr. Miller only to answer.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—As this is referred to Dr. Miller to answer, I need not describe them.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Dr. Miller will doubtless answer. I have not yet had the pleasure of reading the Doctor's book.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—I use one inch board the size of a frame with a top bar to a frame nailed to it for it to hang by.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—It has been my impression that dummy is another name for division board. We will hear from the author.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—I was surprised G. W. could not find description of dummy and still more surprised when I could not find it myself. It is simply a plain inch board just the size of a brood frame with a top bar nailed on it. Most of them are, however, only $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, the top bar being $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$.

J. E. POND, FOXBORO, MASS.—A division board, as I understand it, (I don't know that Dr. Miller will agree with me, however), is one that fills the whole hive tightly, while a dummy is a division board the same size as the frames of comb in the hive, and is used simply to fill up space. The bees cannot get by the division boards, but can travel all around the dummies.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—This valuable contraction system which gives us control in breeding workers, so that we may go to the expense of rearing them to be on hand only when needed, is fully described and illustrated in one of my articles in the *American Bee Journal* for 1885, page, 487, and in my book, pages 82-3. With the New Hive, no dummies are used or needed, as has been intimated in a back number of this *JOURNAL*, by some contributor.

THICK OR THIN COMBS FOR EXTRACTING FROM.

QUERY No. 106.—I have some 300 closed end frames, two inches wide filled with drone comb, which are used for the extractor. Would combs one and one-half inches thick be preferable to these thicker combs? If so, why?—R. M. R.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Yes, for many reasons.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—I think I should prefer the thick combs.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—No, I wish all my drone comb was two inches thick.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I should think not, if they are simply used for storing and extracting.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I do not see any reason why the thinner combs would be preferable.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I think not, for extracting, unless the combs trouble by breaking out.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I would prefer