

they may be required below for winter stores.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Question.—I am not much of an expert with bees—but I cannot see the use of so many drones eating so much honey and doing nothing. Would you advise me to use the *Alley Drone Trap* and catch and destroy them, or would there be danger of my catching the queen with the drones and destroying her as well.

C. C. F.

July 6th, 1893.

Ans.—The *Alley Drone* trap is an exceedingly useful appliance in the apiary. In hives where full sheets of comb foundation have not been used, there is a liability of having too much drone comb and drones. It is well to trap the drones and in addition cut out most of the drone comb and put in worker. There is no danger of catching the queen in the trap, unless a swarm should issue, or a young virgin queen should be in the hive and fly out to mate.

This latter will occur when the hive has for some cause lost its queen and they have reared another, or the young queen reared at swarming in the old hive fly out. The precaution may be taken to look for the queen in the trap when destroying the drones.

Question.—Two large swarms have gone into the same box. How shall I divide them? Both have queens. Is dividing advisable?

Apple Hill, Ont.

J. H.

The swarms may be divided by finding the queens and separating the bees. This can be done soon after they enter the hive. Generally I do not divide but the queens may be valuable when it is desirable to divide. Or one queen may be valuable, another not, when it is desirable to find the inferior queen and destroy her.

Question.—How would you cleanse an old hive (one that failed to winter through) so as to make it habitable for new swarms? There was considerable honey, but it was somewhat mouldy. Would it be better to take the old comb and honey out and put in a new foundation, and how much.

How do you induce the bees to commence to fill the sections. My bees seem to devote their time to breeding instead of honey. Is there any necessity of anything between the brood chamber and the sections for honey. Between what hours in the day are bees most apt to swarm? Is the gathering outside any sign of soon swarming, or is there any definite way of telling when a swarm will leave. Hoping that you will bear with these simple questions from an amateur and wishing you and the C. B. J. every success. I am

FLIP.

Iroquois, Ont.

Answer. I would cleanse the old hive by giving the combs one at a time to a strong colony. Of course they should be brushed clean, as far as possible by hand.

If this cannot be done, brush and dry the combs and either put in the upper story of a hive or throw a swarm upon them. Repeated batches of brood hatching from the combs render them old and for this reason they should be changed, otherwise the only danger with mouldy combs is that a swarm when thrown upon them will forsake them.

In reply to the question re best method of getting bees to work in the sections I would say the race and strain of bee has something to do with this. Again if the sections are not put on before the bees get the swarming impulse, they are likely to swarm out and not work in the sections. With an extremely deep frame the bees often appear reluctant to pass much sealed honey and work in the supers.

Perhaps oftener than any of the above the beginner's bees do not work in the sections because his colonies are not strong enough or not sufficient honey is coming in. Bees are most apt to swarm between ten o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon, but they quite frequently come off earlier in the morning, eight to four in the afternoon and very rarely earlier and later than that. The gathering outside in a cluster is an indication that the hive is crowded or the bees too warm inside, when this the case during a honey flow it is liable to be followed by swarming.

Bee-Keepers' Association Meetings.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The quarter Centennial meeting of this Society will be held at St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 16th, 17th and 18th, 1891. It is the first convention of the North American Association beyond the western bank of the Mississippi, and large delegations from the great West will be present. We hope the East, the North and the South will gather with them.

FRANK BENTON,
Secretary North American Bee-Keepers' Association, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

NORFOLK BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTION.

DEAR SIR:—The next regular meeting of the Norfolk B. K. A., will be held at the apiary and residence of E. E. & Rot B. Emrick, one-half mile north of Tyrell P. O., on Saturday, September 1st, at 2 o'clock p. m. All parties interested in bees and honey, are invited to attend.

ROBT. B. EMRICK,
Sec'y N. B. K. A.