

Queries and Replies

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

Contraction of Brood Chamber,

QUERY No. 291.—Do you practice contraction of the brood chamber during the honey flow, and to what extent?—J. M. B.

R. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.—No.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—No.

J. ALPAUGH, ST. THOMAS, ONT.—No.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—No sir.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Only in a very few cases.

C. W. POST, MURRAY.—No. I want 10 Langstroth frames of all worker comb.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Yes, when hiving new swarms in the honey season.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Yes, sometimes when I want a nice lot of comb honey, leaving four or five frames below.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I have, to the extent of taking out two Langstroth frames, out of eight and substituting dummies.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—I allow only 5 or 6 Gallup frames to all new swarms. Rarely contract the brood nest (9 frames in parent colony.)

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE.—Only partial, but shall do so more in the future. Without it there is too much brood when it is not wanted, and too little honey when it is wanted.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY.—Yes, I do, to the extent of diminishing eight or ten Langstroth say to six frames for the queen; or a Heddon to one section of the brood chamber.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY.—Not as long as honey is stored rapidly in the supers. When the bees fail to store in the supers I soon get at the trouble by examining the brood chamber, and if necessary, contract; but never have to do much of it.

G. A. DEADMAN, BRUSSELS.—Yes. I confine the queen on four Jones frames when running for extracted honey. I double any weak colonies so as to have eight frames or more, of brood, in each hive, and then confine the queen as above, adding empty frames from which to ex-

tract. I consider this far better than caging the queen, it being somewhat of a compromise.

JAS. HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—SURE. The same as described in my book, "Success in Bee-Culture." I consider the practice a most important one. I have now, (since the Oatmans, the originators, have gone out of the bee business) used the contraction method longer than any bee-keeper in the world, so far as the records show, and I swear by it.

J. E. POND, NORTH ATTLEBORO, MASS.—I do not. I have a plan originated and first made known to the bee-keeping public by myself some years ago which I then called, and it is now called, "The Close Spacing Principle." It will require too much room here to give the principle in full, but it will be found discussed in the bee journals for the last two years. The idea is that all combs should be spaced just *bee space* apart, during the honey gathering season.

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—I do not. The best contraction is a standard size brood chamber filled with brood and sealed honey. There can be no reason why a brood chamber filled with brood alone, is in a better condition for storing surplus above it, than if a brood chamber with same amount of brood and the rest of the space filled with sealed combs of honey. Bees are governed in a peculiar way by habit, when once started in the surplus cases bees, by obedience to habit, will neglect the brood nest, and often come through the honey season in a starving condition, after the surplus is removed. For this reason I want my bees to have room for stores in the brood chamber.

BY THE EDITOR.—Yes, giving queen small brood chamber, just enough to satisfy the calling.

An Under-rim for Ventilation.

QUERY No. 292.—Do you advise the use of a 2-inch rim between the bottom and brood chamber for wintering, and what other purpose does it serve besides preventing dead bees clogging the bottom of the frames?—A. B.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—Yes. Gives more air.

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—I do not. I believe it is not necessary to success.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—For loose bottoms I think it is good. The "other purpose" would be facilitating ventilation.

R. McKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND.—Sometimes I use 4 inch rims. Not aware that they serve any other good purpose than the one stated.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I have never used such a rim. I think it would be all right as far as wintering is concerned.