ably fill. Having done this in the fall previous while the bees were more numerous, crowding them upon six frames, we will say, April may find the bees only able to cover two frames comfortably. The division board upon each side has been the means of contracting their domicile, enabling the bees to more easily warm up their house, and the consequence is the queen will commence laying earlier by some weeks than if the whole space of eight or ten frames had been given the colony in the fall. Often winter and spring dwindling will be such that two frames will be adequate to the requirements of the colony. It is, then, of the importance that the division boards be used so that the heat may be utilized and by that means a few bees be enabled to do in small, contracted quarters, in the way of rearing brood, what double the number could not do in three or four times the space.

IN SURPLUS CHAMBERS.

In case of extracting, division boards are indispensable, to place over the brood-chamber and grade the number of frames as they are put in from time to time. It is a fact known by all practical bee-keepers that bees in order to build combs, must keep a high temperature where they are working so to keep the wax in a proper consistency to admit of being manipulated into combs. Hence if the surplus room is much larger than the bees can occupy because these conditions of necessary heat are wanting, comb building will often be delayed for the necessary amount of bees to engenger sufficient heat. By the use of division boards, combs or sheets of foundation can be supplied as the bees require them and are able to occupy them.

CONSTRUCTION.

How to properly construct division boards is of some importance. Solid boards answer very well, but such are liable to warp and make their use not quite so handy as those that are true. Those made of thin material and interior filled with chaff, have advantages. Whatever kind are used, it is of importance that the ends have some material of a yielding nature tacked to them, so as to allow the board slight friction to hold it when crowed into place.

BEES--SELECTING BREEDERS.

QUEENS for breeding should be selected with much care. This is overlooked by too many breeders, and the result is inferior stock which will not breed as well as that of better selections. Some breed mainly for color, others for the best workers regardless of color. Some think that an imported queen is the only one fit to breed from, while others are willing to use any queen that produces bees showing the three yellow bands characteristic of the Italian. This is a mistake. While a selected imported queen is doubtless the best to breed from, we have found by experience that not all imported queens are good breeders. We would not by any means discourage breeding from imported queens, but we are certain that by careful selection from home-bred stock as good results have been obtained as from any imported. There is no certainty in selecting a queen by her looks for breeding purposes. An inferior-looking queen may prove to be the best breeder. Neither can we tell to a certainty the superiority of a queen by testing her a single season. Colonies even with not the best of queens often have such advantage in condition as to come out ahead. We have often been greatly disappointed by queens apparently proving superior the first season, and afterwards turning out very poorly. A yearly record should be kept of such queens as are in view for breeders, and, by close observations, in a few years a strain may be found having the desired qualities. It is not necessary to wholly disregard color in order to get working qualities. Those two points can be readily combined. The three golden bands encircling the body of the Italian bee should never be lost sight of.—*Ex.*

Statistics of the Honey Crop.

AT the Chicago Convention Dr. Mason, Prof. Cook, and the editor of the *American Bee Journal* were appointed a committee to correspond with the Department of Agriculture relative to securing reliable statistics concerning honey and beeswax production, the number of colonies of bees, etc., in the United States. Dr. Mason has received the following from the United States Statistician, which will be read with interest:

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 21st, 1888.

Dr. A. B. Mason, President of the North American Bee-Keepers' Society, Auburndale, Toledo, Ohio.

SIR: Your favor of the 15th inst., addressed to the Commissioner of Agriculture, and by him referred to me, is received.

After correspondence with Mr. Eugene Secor, of the Iowa Horticultural Society, Mr. Geo. E. Hilton, President of the Michigan Bee-Keepers' Association, Mr. Franklin Wilcox, Secretary of Wiscousin Bee-Keepers' Society, and other prominent apiculturists, I have decided to make an effort to gather statistics relative to bee-keeping to be published in our regular crop report at least once a year, provided those engaged in the