

Queries —AND— Answers

[Department conducted by Mr. R. H. Smith, St. Thomas, Ontario. Queries may be sent direct to Mr. R. H. Smith or to the office of the Canadian Bee Journal.]

(1) What is the best method of wintering bees? (2) How may the cellar be properly ventilated? (3) Will dampness affect bees in the cellar if it is well ventilated?

FRONTENAC.

Answer.—(1) In most parts of Canada a good underground cellar where the light and temperature may be controlled is the best repository I know of for wintering bees. Where a good cellar cannot be obtained I would pack them in forest leaves, as described in the September number of The Canadian Bee Journal. (2) If the cellar is under a dwelling, it may be ventilated by a pipe running from near the cellar floor to the kitchen stove pipe or chimney. Some bee-keepers have a pipe running some distance underground to convey the fresh air to the opposite side of the cellar to the outlet. I would not think this was necessary unless the cellar was very tight and a large number of colonies were placed in it. (3) I have never known dampness to injure bees in a cellar that was well ventilated, and the temperature not lower than 45 degrees.

(1) Do you think it would pay to plant basswood for honey in New Brunswick? (2) Where can I get small basswood trees, and how much would they cost per dozen? (3) My bees in the latter part of the season began tearing out young brood. Most of them were nearly ready to hatch. In the mornings there would be from two to three dozen at the front of the hive. Do you think it is black brood, or what is the trouble? They have

made no honey this season. They have been robbing some.

A.R.A., New Brunswick.

Answer.—(1) I do not think it would pay to plant basswood trees for honey alone. The basswood grows very quickly, and if a number were grown together on good land they would soon become valuable for lumber, and would yield more or less honey in favorable seasons. A former bee-keeper in this district planted out about 300 basswood trees this season around his farm for shade and bee pasture. (2) Your local nurseryman could probably supply you. The price would be in proportion to the size of the tree. Small trees cost from \$8 to \$10 per 1,000.

(3) From the description given, I would suspect it was the work of the larvae of the wax moth, and not from disease. If the bees are black it often occurs. Your colony is evidently weak and that may be one reason they have stored no honey and are being robbed.

My little boy, 5 years old, has been stung three times, and each time it goes through his blood like prickly heat and makes him very ill for two or three hours. Would like to know if there is anything serious in such a case?

DOVERCOURT.

Answer—It sometimes happens when a child is stung it will become frightened and overheated, and this will cause the symptoms mentioned, but I cannot recall a case where anything more serious resulted. The effect of bee stings on some people is to make them swell and feel sick at the stomach. In each case an emetic will give speedy relief.

I had a swarm of bees yesterday. They had a queen, but they went back. I went through and found them all right. They are very strong. What caused them to swarm at this, October 18th?

J. C. Calder P. O.

Answer—When a queen is superseded in the fall it is not uncommon for the bees to go out with the young queen when she flies out to mate, and they will return with her, as in the case given.

St. Thomas, Ont.

R.H.S.