

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.

Full Sheets vs. Starters.

QUERY No. 285.—Opinions differ as to the use of foundation in the brood chamber. (1) Do you advocate the use of full sheets as preferable to "starters"? (2) Will there really be any more time saved in the end?

EUGENE SECOR, FOREST CITY, IOWA.—That's an unsettled question. There are two sides to it.

G. A. DRADMAN, BRUSSELLS, ONT.—All things considered I prefer and use full sheets of foundation.

DR. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—(1) I like full sheets. (2) may be not, but it will be straight (especially if wired) and it will be all worker.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—(1) Yes, when you can afford the money to try it. (2) Yes, certainly.

A. B. MASON, AUBURNDALE, O.—(1) I always use full sheets in wired frames, and if I didn't think there was a saving in it I should not do it.

J. F. DUNN, RIDGEWAY, ONT.—Five years ago I used full sheets, but have been using less every year, and this season I have used a starter 1 inch wide.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I have used full sheets, half sheets, and two inch starters, prefer full sheets, if you have young queens, you can use starters to good advantage.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—Yes, except as I wish to get bees into sections, when it may be better to simply use starters below. Otherwise I think it pays to use full sheets.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—I prefer the starter when hiving swarms, when used to take the place of full frames taken out, use full sheets, and thus avoid drone comb.

JAMES HEDDON, DOWAGIAC, MICH.—I believe all depends on circumstances. Mine have been such that I have always used, and am still using, full sheets of foundation wired, but I can readily imagine such conditions as would lead me to use starters.

J. K. DARLING, ALMONTE, ONT.—I prefer nearly full sheets. I don't know if there is much saved in time, but I get too much drone comb built on starters. I experimented quite largely one

year and was so much dissatisfied with it that I did not repeat it. Some of the colonies would have been ruined if I had not watched them.

J. E. POND NORTH ATTLEBORO', MASS.—(1) I invariably use full sheets instead of single starters. (2) If I did not believe "more time would be saved," I should not do so. Localities, however, differ, and a method that would work well in one section might not in another. The only way for individuals to decide is to test thoroughly, and be governed by the tests made,

G. W. DEMAREE, CHRISTIANBURG, KY.—O, say! I did not know that "opinions differ" on this subject. I do not advocate the use of foundation, I simply use foundation in full sheets because it pays me a good profits in dollars, over the old plan of using starters only. Does this not answer the question? There was a time when I used starters only, because I could not do better then. I then had a distressing surplus of drone comb, I now use full sheets of foundation because I can now get it, and I now have nice all worker comb.

A. PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Yes, I do advocate it and practice it. By using full sheets there will not only be "time saved in the end," but trouble—much trouble. It is only under certain special conditions that you can get worker comb built from starters. Only the few professionals can manage this, and even they fail sometimes, I therefore advise the multitude to use full sheets of foundation. But when the foundation gets low it is well to know how to get worker comb from starters. Never try to do it with old queens. Use those just fertilized. Give bees room above for storing, crowd queen a little for brood combs, and give your starters from time to time as they become drawn out and filled with brood.

BY THE EDITOR.—Full sheets in second stories, starters in brood chamber.

Burr Combs—What Thickness and Width of Top Bar will Prevent Them.

QUERY No. 286.—What thickness of top-bar, and spaced how far apart, do you consider a preventive for burr or brace-combs. The authorities are conflicting. In other words, what thickness top-bars do you use, and are you troubled with brace combs?

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Consider brace comb of a greater advantage than disadvantage, hence do not try to avoid them.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—I use bars $\frac{3}{4}$ and top bars $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, have not noticed any difference in the matter of burr comb.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I use top bar $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, five-sixteenth space above frames am not troubled much with burr comb if I attend to sections.