

A. B. DURHAM:—No. 1 is a valuable honey plant, *Eupatorium foliatum*, called also Boneset and thoroughwort. It is extensively used as a medicine by "herb doctors."

No. 2 is also one of the Bonesets, *Eupatorium purpureum*, and like No. 1 is found in all our swamps, growing sometimes to the height of ten feet. It is scarcely so valuable to the apiarist as *E. perfoliatum*.

No. 3, one of the Compositas *Solidago Canadensis*, (Golden Rod). Found everywhere in this country and is one of our most valuable honey producing plants. It blossoms from July till frost. Of this plant there are some forty species, all more or less frequented by bees.

C. MACPHERSON,

Prescott, Sept. 2nd, 1885.

QUERIES AND REPLIES

UNDER THIS HEAD will appear each week, Queries and Replies; the former may be propounded by any subscriber, and will be replied to by prominent bee-keepers, throughout Canada and the United States who can answer from experience, as well as by the Editor. This Department will be reserved for the more important questions, others will be answered in another place. We hope to make this one of the most interesting departments of the JOURNAL.

BEES BUILDING QUEEN CELLS.

QUERY No. 31.—Bees have been building queen cells for three weeks, looked as if ready to seal over. On examination nothing but bare eggs were found in them, often entirely empty. Hives were full of bees and brood, and apparently ought to have swarmed. Is this usual?—A. B. C.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—No.

DR. A. B. MASON, WAGON WORKS, O.—No.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Not with me.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Not usual.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—Never met with a case of the kind.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Rudimentary queen cells are to be found, and sometimes the bees work at them quite a while before eggs are deposited in them. Yes, it is usual.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—This is not usual. I have never seen such a case. I am afraid there is not harmony in the hive. The queen wishes to migrate and so lays in queen cells, the workers like the old home and so withhold the royal jelly. The bees should have a

good lecture on domestic unity.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—It seems natural for bees to build queen cells at certain seasons or stages. Cold weather or scant honey flow might cause them to change their minds.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—Yes, this is a common occurrence, frequently noted by experienced bee-keepers. It happens, I trow, in this wise:—During a brief season of abundant honey-flow the bees (like some humans) get unduly inflated by a little success and forthwith begin to invest in embryo queen cells. This laudable ambition and enterprise is presently chilled by a cold "Nor'-Easter," and the royal work is stopped; and this may be repeated several times before the work is gone thro'.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—This is owing to the peculiar weather in some localities during June. Here we had it warm the latter part of each week for a day or two, while all the first of each week was cold, cloudy and windy. The result was preparation for swarming the latter part of each week, with an abandonment of the same the fore part. I had several fine lots of queen cells destroyed after they were sealed, others had the larvæ taken out of them.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—No, it is not usual for bees to have queen cells in their hives for three weeks, that "looks as if ready to seal over," other conditions being as stated. The questioner is probably mistaken in saying the cells looked as if ready to seal over.

BY THE EDITOR.—It is usual in some seasons. We have known queen cells to be built, have larvæ in them and every indication of swarming, sometimes even capped over, when a slight change in the honey flow, cold nights, or removal of brood from the hives, in fact the slightest change in the atmosphere has frequently caused them to remove the larva. We have even known the cells to be torn down. A sudden flow of honey has caused them to be replaced, and the bees have swarmed before the last cells were capped over.

W. H. SANFORD, TOTTENHAM. — Commenced in Spring with 29 colonies, increased to 75 by natural swarming. Have extracted 1,260 pounds and taken 1,000 of comb honey in two and three pound boxes, making 2,260 pounds of honey for the season. A rather good showing, isn't it?