

might be dipped up, each swarm by itself, and hived, but is it not possible that the bees of several swarms being all mixed up that the queens receive no harm? (Of course I mean these swarms all to be prime swarms with laying queens.) (3). Or is it necessary or best to divide them immediately, making as many divisions as swarms settled together, and giving the queens, one to each division. I have in practice this latter plan, but it is not very convenient to practice in the middle of the day and I am afraid to postpone the operation till evening.—C. W.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—I think it best to divide as soon as possible, giving a queen to each divided swarm.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Have had no experience of this kind, never having had two or more swarms settle together.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I have always kept my queens clipped, and rarely have second swarms. Consequently I have had no experience in the difficulties described.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—(1) Have the queen's wings clipped so that you can control them; then you can handle the bees as you please. (2) Never saw them so separate. (3) Yes. Don't postpone till evening, for the queens are usually killed in a few hours.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—I have often thought of trying the box method but have not yet done so, therefore would not hazard an opinion. The plan I follow is to search for the queens, cage them and divide the bees as evenly as may be, placing them in as many hives as you have swarms out. The bees are not apt to consult any one's convenience.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—(1) Put into different hives what you think the proper amount. (2) I am not sure that I understand the question, but I should expect damage to one or more of the queens if left to themselves. (3) It is doubtful if you can take a better plan. Would it not be a good plan to have the queen's wings clipped so two could not get in the same cluster?

M. ENIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Not wanting increase, I don't divide such swarms; if the queens are valuable, I try and pick one up as they run in. If a piece of perforated metal, or an Alley drone trap, is placed in front of the hive, the bees may be divided and put in front of hives

and brushed up a little to make them run in. Queens can be easily found when the bees are nearly all in, and put where required.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—If the queen's wing is clipped, all is easy. We have only to cage and place the separate queens in the respective hives that we wish them to occupy, and allow the bees to go back, which they always do with us. If we prefer, we can divide the bees after they cluster, giving as many as we desire to each queen. This alone is sufficient argument in my opinion in favor of clipping.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—If you have control of your queens, which you will have if they are clipped, the process is simple enough. If your queens are not clipped, you will of course have more trouble—a great deal more trouble. How I proceed in such cases where the queens are not clipped, you will find on page 484, C. B. J., Vol. 1. How to proceed in such cases where the queens are unclipped, and out with the bees, let the non-clipping apiarist elucidate.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—If only two swarms unite, cage one queen and divide the bees about equal and hive them. In a very short time one hive will manifest uneasiness, then just let the queen run in at the entrance and all will be lovely in half a minute. (2) Don't think that plan could be depended upon. (3) If you are anxious for increase of course divide them; if not, two swarms may be hived together, giving lots of room, air and shade, but two or three swarms are more apt to go west, when hived together, than one swarm is.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—I believe every bee-keeper has had this trouble to contend with. A man of ordinary experience in bee keeping will, under such circumstances, follow his own judgment rather than written wills. Prepare as many hives as there are swarms in the cluster; spread a sheet on the grass or on a table, place your empty hives upon this cloth, take down the cluster and shake it on the cloth, separate the queens if you can find them and direct each queen with a fair proportion of the bees to a separate hive which they will generally enter, and then all is well. If the queens cannot be found, separate the bees into as many divisions as there were swarms, and drive each division into a separate hive; the chances are nearly equal that you will have a queen in each hive; if not, the queenless crowd will leave and join their more fortunate companions.

BY THE EDITOR.—(1) When two swarms issue at the same time and settle together,