

a good queen and fewer bees is a vastly better investment than lots of bees and a poor queen. We prefer very much to have a customer satisfied a year or two after his purchase and disappointed just at the time, than have him "pleased to death" when he gets his "big lot of bees" and poor queen, and then hear from him at the end of the season that he is disgusted with his venture. The aim of every dealer in bees should be to satisfy for the future.

GEO. L. CARY.—You will find enclosed one dollar for your valuable paper for one year as my time expires very soon now and I do not want to miss a number. I want to ask two or three questions. 1st. What is the best way of taking hold of a queen? 2nd. How are we to find the queen readily for I have often looked nearly half an hour for one and then failed to find it, when I knew there was one there? What is the best mode of fastening brood foundation to wired frames having six wires running up and down? I have one of the Eureka wires but when the bees of a new swarm first cluster on the foundation they nearly always pull some of it off the wires.

DIVIDING.

Can you tell me if the following method of dividing will work well? You have a colony which is about swarming—one filled with brood and bees and many queen-cells. You then take an empty hive which you place alongside the colony you wish to divide. You take two or three cards of brood from the strong colony and place them in the new hive, taking care to choose a card out of the three having one or two queen-cells, on it; the cards all contain their adhering bees, without the queen. After you have divided in such a way you remove the old colony to a new stand near by, and you put the new hive on the stand of the old colony. What shall be the result?

St. Jacques, Que., July 20th, 1886.

We would prefer to shake out a large number of the bees, letting them pass into the nucleus. By this means the old colony will go on in the ordinary way, storing more honey, as the old bees will all return to the old colony. The young bees on the nucleus would be gathering honey rapidly long before they had any brood.

You are welcome to my report if it is worth anything. I have had more or less to do with bees for six or seven years starting, with one swarm in a box hive and they gradually increased until one year ago this spring I came

out with fourteen alive but some very weak. I increased to 24 and took 350 lbs. comb honey which I think a very poor showing. Put them in a chamber of my dwelling house the latter part of Nov. One side of the room is over our living room with a register in it so that I keep it at a temperature of from forty to fifty. I piled them right up three or four high with their honey boards on, only a little moved toward the front leaving a crack of a half inch at the back end, they all had natural stores and lots of them. The only fault I have with my room is, it gets too warm in warm days in the spring and I cannot keep them in so late as I would like. I set them all out on the tenth of April all alive and strong but two, and one afterward died with their hive half full of honey. Had two swarms on the first day of June and seven others since. We have had a very nice spring for bees and they are working at an amazing rate just now on white clover. I use L. hives.

Please give us some further information for the prevention of second swarms, also your mode of procedure in dividing swarms.

Gansevoort, N. Y. June 19th, 1886.

M. J. L.—Put twenty-three colonies into winter quarters. Nineteen in your D. W. hives, three in boxes packed with chaff, and one in cellar. One in a D. W. hive died in March, I think, from being queenless, and on examination in the spring I found three queenless, which left nineteen, all of which, except two or three, which were robbed out and nearly destroyed, are in good condition. The best one has a capped queen-cell and would have swarmed before this, but when I extracted the sugar syrup that was left over on June 7th, they destroyed the egg then in queen-cell. On examining a colony four days ago I found the queen with the second ring of her abdomen from the hind end so crushed in that it remained concave nearly the whole width of her back, so I at once concluded I had jammed her in lifting out the frame, and that she would soon die; but on examining the hive today I found her with the dent still on her back, but smart and laying away as if nothing had happened. Is it not a singular occurrence? About what per cent. of your untested queens will prove hybrids? Are Carniolans, when crossed with Italians, cross or kind, and are they as good honey gatherers as the pure Italians or Carniolans? Do you prefer Italians or Carniolans? If I send you some of the progeny of the untested queens, can you tell whether or not they are pure? Are Carniolans as much inclined to swarm as Italians?

Central Onslow, June 16th, 1886.