

Questions and Answers

[Questions to be answered in these columns should be sent to us not later than the 15th of each month in order to insure their answer appearing in the following issue. We wish to make this department as useful to our readers as possible and a reliable source of information. For the present at least, the replies will be procured from various sources.]

A HOUSE APIARY.

QUESTION.—Would it be practical to put up a building that would accommodate 100 colonies of bees for both summer and winter and use one end for a honey house? The writer's idea was to put up a building say 65 feet long and 10 feet wide and use say 15 feet at one end as a honey room and the other 50 feet for the bees, two tiers high on each side. The building to be double walled and packed with sawdust, and with an entrance through the side for each hive. The advantages of such a building are numerous, such as shade for bees and apiarist in summer, practically no walking or carrying honey, no packing and unpacking of hives in spring and fall, every hive perfectly dry and warm at all times and the satisfaction of being able to lock up your hives, bees and all, should you desire to go away for a day or two; no double walled hives to make; no grass to cut and very few, if any, angry bees to bother the apiarist.

Would there be any loss of bees worth speaking of if there was an lighting board, say one foot wide, running along the whole building and the front of building at every third hive painted a different color. Hives, of course, would have to be placed right side by side for economy of space inside.

Would this not give something like the uniform temperature of the

cellar, coupled with the advantages of outdoor wintering?

Would the different colors referred to above be an advantage or not?

A. Greenhorn.

Iowa.

ANSWER.—Condensing the question asked by the one signing himself "A Greenhorn," it is about as follows: Would a house apiary for one hundred colonies, sixty-five feet long by ten feet wide, fifteen feet of one end to be used as a honey house, be a practical success? In reply to this, the writer, another "Greenhorn," so far as house apiaries are concerned, says NO.

The advantages mentioned in the question asked in favor of such an arrangement are:—"shade for bees and apiarist during the summer; practically no walking or carrying of honey; no packing and unpacking in the spring or fall; every hive dry and warm at all times; able to lock up the building and know that nothing will be disturbed; uniform temperature coupled with the advantages of outdoor wintering." Even granting that these might all be advantageous, they still would not necessarily make the proposed plan a success.

In the production of honey as in most other arts, there are certain features which are of primary importance and which cannot be set aside without serious loss or absolute failure. For example, a person may possess a large apiary, have it splendidly equipped, the bees of the best working strain, and the apiarist thoroughly understanding his business; yet unless his location is one which will yield honey in paying quantities, all else counts for nothing. The matter of location, therefore, is of primary importance. It is also doubtful, under present conditions, if a bee-keeper can make honey producing pay and not be at least