

Bulletin No. 11

"Spring Management", which is what I had in mind for this particular bulletin, is covered by the Beekeeping Course Classes, so, perhaps I ought to write about something specific. As the warmer weather approaches, you will, each of you, be thinking of the usefulness of your existing Queens and their capacity to survive this year's HONEY FLOW. I, therefore, could not do better, at this period, than quote you, in toto, an editorial from the Canadian Bee Journal on QUEENS, by J. Atkinson.

"I am not an expert on QUEENS. I do not change QUEENS each year or even every two years, yet I advocate a new queen every two years, either bought or home raised. If you have one or two hives only, and they are in the back yard handy, you might get three to five years out of them. When your yards are a ways from home and not convenient to check closely, a wise choice may be to re-queen at regular intervals, say half your colonies every other year. Your queen is the barometer of your hive. The hive can only be truly happy when the queen is functioning to their satisfaction, laying the right kind of eggs and the right amount. The eggs the queen lays determines the disposition of the hive, the work force and the number of drones. The queen lays only at the bidding of the workers. They determine when she lays, but she how much. By feeding and grooming the queen, the workers stimulate the queen to lay. When she does not respond to this care and feeding, they then begin to get ideas to replace her. As a queen ages, her egg production decreases. When she cannot satisfy the worker population, they begin to build queen cells. Briefly stated, with exceptions, when the queen cell has developed to a certain stage, often the old queen will leave the hive with a swarm. The first emerging queen will usually kill the other emerging queens right in the cells. There seems to be a swarming impulse built into the bees. Even bees bred to reduce this impulse require good management to avoid unwanted swarming. A hive that swarms, usually will not make a surplus, nor the swarm either. They should generally make their stores for winter but not enough honey for you. As always, exceptions to the rule, yet I have picked up swarms in the spring that have made a nice surplus. It is believed that the queen mates only on her nuptial flight and then with more than one drone. This mating lasts her for life. I have talked to beekeepers who claim their queens have flown and mated after one or two years. I could accept this as an exception rather than the rule".

The drone bee is the only male, and only a male, for his obvious duty is to mate with the queen, hand over his precious sac of spermatozoa to her keeping, and promptly die. The poor fellow actually goes to his funeral on his honeymoon. Who wants to be a drone anyway !!

Have you tried a "Honey Tube Cake" ? Why not.

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| 2 cups flour | $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk | $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp rum | 3 tsp B.P. | $1\frac{1}{2}$ tsp vanilla |
| 1 tsp salt | 3 eggs | $\frac{3}{4}$ cup HONEY |
| 1 cup chopped walnuts; 1 cup shortening; 1 cup glazed cherries | | |

Measure flour into bowl, add sugar, baking powder and salt and stir. Beat shortening, milk honey and flavouring and add to dry ingredients and beat for two minutes. Add eggs and beat again until batter becomes creamy and smooth. Add fruit and nuts, spread in greased tube pan and bake at 375 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes. Walnut halves and cherries are used to decorate.

BEST of LUCK.