

rain or hail storms, which so frequently happens in summer-time; besides, the more drones raised the less chance of her fertilization by her own son, which would bring about the degeneration of the race. And I may mention here that the queen is never fertilized in or near the hive, so as to avoid as much as possible this in-and-in breeding. Nature has ordained it thus so as to keep up the stamina of the race. Should the queen have to absent herself long from the hive, on account of scarcity of drones, the chances of her loss are much increased, and should this unfortunate loss happen, the colony would be ruined, as there are no eggs remaining wherewith to raise another. However, the bees provide against

this calamity by raising several queens preparatory to the swarm leaving the hive. Under normal conditions the young queen returns to the hive, fertilized for life, in about a quarter of an hour. This mating but once during her life, so as to reduce the chances of her loss to a minimum, and that this fecundation shall be just sufficient to last during her youthful vigor, all hews a wisely-adjusted economy, and surely this wise and careful preservation of the bee must point to an importance far beyond mere honey gathering.

The drone is only raised normally during the swarming season, or in the time of plenty. As soon as the flowers cease to yield nectar they are tolerated no

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