

cannot be too prolific if her progeny are kept at home. If they are allowed to swarm at their own sweet will the profit may be secured in bees instead of honey.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I have never had any too prolific to suit me. Very prolific queens, however, require proper manipulation and management at certain seasons when you do not desire much brood rearing.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I have sometimes thought that such might be the case. Two years ago one of our stocks, having a strain of Cyprian blood, produced a very large quantity of brood but gave no very little surplus honey. Of course there might be another explanation. The bees might be poor honey gatherers.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Yes, if she, or the bees, for her, doesn't know when the proper time comes for her to cease excessive egg laying. In localities like my own, where the surplus honey season is of very short duration, those colonies give the most honey whose queens are very prolific during medium or very light flows of honey, but almost cease breeding during very heavy flows.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—No, not if that prolificness comes before the honey harvest. If not prolific at the right time then, yes. The Syrian race with me allow their queens to lay only sparingly except when the honey harvest arrives, so that much of the honey gathered by the bees raised before is consumed by the brood, thus giving little for the apiarist. Such prolificness I consider a damage so have discarded them in their purity.

BY THE EDITOR.—Not with proper management. We have had queens which, if given plenty of room, would lay an immense number of eggs, and in a small hive, would occupy every comb; but by the use of perforated metal, we can get grander results from prolific queens than from unprolific ones.

QUEEN'S FERTILITY.

QUERY No. 78.—Would like to ask whether a queen that has proved a partial failure the first season, is always such, or does she sometimes become a good layer the second season, or perhaps longer?—I. O.

S. CORNEIL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I have never made any observations on this matter.

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—I never give such a queen a trial the second season.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I should

not expect much of her if she failed on the first test.

O. O. POPPLETON, WILLIAMSTOWN, IOWA.—Such a queen sometimes does well the second and third seasons.

ALLEN PRINGLE, SELBY, ONT.—I have had such variable queens and that before the age was such as to naturally impair fertility.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N.Y.—With me such queens never gain any ground, and the sooner suspended the better.

R. MCKNIGHT, OWEN SOUND, ONT.—Not always so; her after history may be more creditable to her than was her work in the days of her youth.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—I would not keep such a queen over till second season unless she was otherwise valuable or unless she could not be replaced.

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Only for experimental purpose can you afford to carry over such a queen. It would be best to replace with a good layer.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—The prolificness of the queen does not go beyond the capacity of the bees to rear brood. Is the trouble not caused by the over desire of certain races of bees, such as Cyprians, to rear brood and having a lesser desire for gathering honey? Cyprians generally seem to be satisfied if they can get enough honey to keep up brood rearing.

BY THE EDITOR.—We have frequently known queens to lay sparingly the first season, but the second season, by changing them into another hive, they would become very prolific. We attribute this to the fact that some colonies feed their queens better, and give them more attention than others. For instance, a black queen, introduced to a strong Cyprian or Syrian colony, would lay a third more than she would in her own hive, while a Cyprian or Syrian, introduced to a colony of black bees, would not lay nearly as many as with her own colony.

HOW TO RE-FILL THE WINTER FEEDERS.

THOS. COLLINS.—A thought strikes me concerning the winter feeder. When it is empty how are we to know the fact, and how are we to re-fill without taking to pieces?

The feeder will hold enough to do a colony all winter, and if well filled we do not think they could eat more than two-thirds of it; however, there might be a little hole in the top, corked up, so you could peep in occasionally to see what was going on.