

ing will not stimulate them to raise brood, but almost any time in January they can be got breeding, which of course, would be proof of the presence of a queen. In all my experience I never yet could, in winter, or through cold weather, keep in a fairly quiescent state a colony without a queen; in summer it makes no difference. I have had colonies without a queen for sixty days, without, to an appreciable extent weakening, but in cold weather it is altogether different.

C. WURSTER.

Kleinburg, Dec. 12th 1888.

For the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPING.

INMATES OF THE HIVE.

THE denizens of the industrial hive and their respective offices and functions have been so clearly and amply set forth in the preceding paper that the task of adding thereto or finding fault therewith is a light one.

VIRGIN QUEENS.

The most important practical point, in my opinion, in the paper is that brought out under the sub-head, "Virgin Queens." The purchase of virgin queens instead of all mated ones by bee-keepers is recommended, and its advantages named. This is a question of great practical utility, and I have wondered how it was that the queen breeders and dealers did so little business in this direction. The introduction into the apiary of virgin queens from a distant, reliable breeder has reasons in its favor so cogent that bee men cannot long fail to appreciate their force. The comparative cheapness of the virgin queens, the introduction of new blood into the yard, and avoidance of "in and in breeding" are very important considerations, and, in themselves, sufficient to command the attention of bee-keepers.

THE QUEEN'S STING AND THE DRONE'S FOOD.

There is a popular notion that the queen never uses her sting except to puncture a rival. Mr. Jones explodes this by giving his own experience of being stung in the hand by a queen while holding her. He does not say whether the offender was a virgin or impregnated queen. The former will I know rarely use her sting profanely, but I have a deep conviction that the stately matron always keeps her weapon sacred to the body of a rival, or possibly some offending or obnoxious workers.

There is also a professional notion that "the drones are continually fed by the workers with the same food as is supplied to the larvæ."

Father Langstroth and Prof. Cook are cited in evidence of this. While I am not able to refute the notion I may safely say I do, not believe it. My experience, observation, and common-sense all point to the fact that Mr. Drone, from the time he leaves his cell to near the end of his life, liberally helps himself to the best honey in the hive whenever he feels hungry and can get at it.

FERTILE WORKERS.

They are a great nuisance, and hard to be dealt with. After they have once got fairly down to business they "hold the fort" with commendable persistence. Many remedies are proposed, most of them ineffectual. The best of them, I think, is the one Mr. Jones gives, but it is a little expensive. In incorrigible cases I sometimes give them a sort of "heroic treatment" in this wise: I hunt up an old or inferior queen, whose "shuffling off" would be no loss, and give her to them—caged till it is safe to release her. Then I extract all the honey every four days and change combs. As this keeps all the false brood and larvæ back they can lay their eggs and work away to their heart's content. After a while the old queen will begin to lay and finally crowd out the laying workers or they will die off. The extracting can then stop and when the season is over the brood and young bees can be given to some colony in need of them.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

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1 Bee-keepers' Guide, Prof. A. J. Cook, edition 1882.....	1 25	50
6 Bee-keepers' Guide, Prof. A. J. Cook, edition 1884.....	1 25	85
1 A.B.C., A. I. Root, edition 1883—a good deal worn.....	1 25	50
1 A.B.C., A. I. Root, edition 1883—good as new.....	1 25	75
1 A.B.C., A. I. Root, edition 1886.....	1 25	75
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