

tion, and also so as to make sure that no bees can get into the cap. This leaves the larger share of the chaff walls uncovered except by the cap so that whatever moisture escapes through the walls of the inner hive into the chaff can at once pass up into the cap, and out through the cracks of the same, in all mild weather, which it also does to a certain extent on very cold days; yet in zero weather where the same lasts for several days, I will find the inside of the cap all frosted over, which shows what an amount of moisture is continually passing from the bees. I think that, from this passing off of the moisture as given above, comes the reason, largely, why bees winter so much better in chaff packed hives, rather than that the extra protection has anything to do with it, as some claim. Bees can endure any amount of cold which we ever experience in the U. S., provided they are kept dry; but dampness and wet they are not able to stand, where cold is added to it. From this comes the reason that bees winter tolerably well in a warm damp cellar, while with the same degree of dampness outdoors they generally perish; or if in such surroundings in any place where the mercury stays below the freezing point for any length of time as it necessarily must in our Northern clime. In this we get a little clew to add to the others, which, as a whole, causes our wintering troubles, for I believe these troubles do not rest on any one thing entirely. In accordance with my belief as expressed in this article, I paint all of my double-walled or chaff hives, and leave all the rest unpainted, considering that in doing so I am as nearly right as possible, taking all things into consideration. If any of the readers of the *Gleanings* think that I am wrong, a trial of a few hives in each way will convince them which is right.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, in *Gleanings*.
Borodino, N. Y., March 18th.

From the Bee-Keepers Review.

THE BEST BEES.

JUDGING from the reports in this number, we were entirely correct when intimating that we Northern bee-keepers had no use for Syrian or Cyprian bees. Italians, Germans and Carniolans are the three varieties from which to choose. Before attempting to make a decision, let the bee-keeper well consider his honey resources together with all the accompanying conditions. Let him also decide whether he is to produce comb or extracted honey. Let no bee-keeper be caught by that phrase, "general purpose" bee. The bee-keeper who thoroughly understands his resources, knows *exactly* what he wishes to accomplish, and chooses the best hive, the best bee and the best methods, to secure the desired ends will far outstrip the "general purpose" bee-keeper, with his "general purpose" hive, "general purpose bees" and "general purpose" methods. For the production of extracted honey, the Italian bee stands without a superior. Were it not for the difficulty of dislodging them from the

combs, they would, for this purpose be well nigh perfect. In search of honey, they will fly far and wide. Though the recompense be slight, they toil on. If the yield of honey is abundant, and the source of supply near by, the Blacks will bring in as much honey as any bees—some say more—and, once the nectar is in the hive, they handle it in a manner that is truly artistic. The Italians are the better *field workers*; the Blacks the better *house-keepers*. In this respect the Italians are like man; while the Germans resemble woman to carry the simile still farther, they *ought to marry*. In plain English the best results will be secured, especially in raising comb honey, by uniting these two varieties. Don't let the union be brought about in a haphazard way, but understandingly, according to the plan given by us last month, and mentioned again by a correspondent this month. For raising extracted honey, we would use Italians or hybrids; in the production of comb honey, we would employ Blacks or hybrids. Now then, after we have thus conclusively shown, that a judicious cross between the Italians and Germans is the best "bee for business," upstep the Carniolans, claiming to possess all the good qualities of both the Blacks and Italians, with one or two additional virtues thrown in. It is asserted that they are the most gentle bees known; that they remain quietly on the combs when handled, but *are easily shaken off*; that they are industrious; good comb builders, capping the honey very white, and using but little propolis; that they are industrious; prolific; and just perfection itself. But we must not forget the disposition to praise new things. The Carniolans have been here only a few years; still it is a significant fact, that *all* who have tried them are pleased with them. So far, no word or fault has been uttered against them. But we are by no means ready to advise every bee-keeper to discard his Italians or Germans, or their crosses, for Carniolans. We have done our level best in securing testimony upon this subject, and we take pleasure in laying it before our readers, but, at the same time, we advise caution, investigation, and the laying aside of all prejudice.

From the Bee-Keeper's Review.

"PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPING."

M R. JONES favors the traffic in virgin queens. That they can be furnished very cheaply there is no question, but that they are difficult to introduce we know from experience. A newly hatched queen is easily introduced. As the hours go by the probabilities of acceptance are lessened. With us, the percentage