

readily than some other races. What does all this mean? Is it possible that so many people called apiarists, have neglected the study of that branch of bee-culture, that might properly be called the Botony of bee-culture? Or is it possible that climate makes all this difference?

I have mentioned heretofore a case in point. How that one of my neighbors kept some bees and on a certain occasion met me and said "it is time to put on the honey boxes aint it? My reply was, it is not worth while this year. I have already secured my honey crop for this season. He looked at me with amazement. He had lost the whole year.

G. W. DEMAREE.

Christiansburg, Ky.

It afforded us a great deal of pleasure to meet with Mr. Demaree in fact as soon as we heard he was at the Convention, we made it a point to find him. The article which is *friendly criticism*, which we desire, has much of value in it. We like a short method to arrive at the description of honey in buying and selling especially wholesale. The proposed standard is nothing more or less than this. There are a few other points of difference but it may be some one else will give their views. The questions might be discussed with profit.—ED.

### Color of Drones of a Golden Italian Queen.

(From the American Bee Journal.)

QUERY 900.—What color should the drones be, of a purely mated golden Italian queen?—L. H.

I don't know.—E. FRANCE.

Brown.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

"Golden."—WILL M. BARNUM.

Yellow and black.—A. B. MAYON.

Bright golden.—MRS. J. N. HEATER.

Drones vary in color.—P. H. ELWOOD.

I am not acquainted with that breed.—

R. L. TAYLOR.

Yellow on top and underside of abdomen.

—H. D. CUTTING.

Similar to the workers only somewhat darker.—C. H. DIMBEN.

They vary so much that it is not possible to give definite color.—A. J. COOK.

Generally speaking they bear similar markings to their sisters.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

Of a ruddy bronze varying to dark leather color, upon the abdomen.—J. H. LARRABEE.

I am not a queen breeder and my observation along that line is limited.—EUGENE SECOR.

Yellow or nearly so. But drones do not seem to be as fixed as the workers every time.—MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

The same as if not purely mated, as the mating of the queen does not affect the color of the drones. G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I know what they look like, but it isn't so easy to describe. Nor with bands like workers, but more like blotches.—C. C. MILLER.

They vary greatly. I have seen them nearly black from apparently pure stock, and again very light from hybrids.—S. I. FREEBORN.

The only test of purity and pure mating is found in the workers. They should all show three distinct bands varying in color from dark to light yellow. The three yellow bands on the workers is the test. There is no test by which purity of drones or queens can be known, except as shown in their worker sisters.—J. E. POND.

I do not know. I prefer those that are evenly marked, and are not too yellow. Exceedingly yellow drones generally indicate Cyprian blood, and if you want pure Italians of course this is not desirable.—EMERSON T. ABBOTT.

Drones vary greatly in color, according to the strain of bees. Those which I prefer are of a deep orange color. More attention should be paid to the markings and characteristics of the drones in breeding.—JAMES A. GREEN.

The drone progeny of a purely mated Italian queen vary much in marking. Instead of the dorsal part of the abdominal segment being uniformly marked as in the worker, it is mottled with yellow and this varies very much.—J. P. H. BROWN.

The color of drones varies more than is seen in the workers. Some may be quite yellow and others nearly black, or of a ripe buckeye color. I don't think the "mating" affects the color of the drones, only the *potency* of the drone is assured by the mating of the mother.—G. W. DEMAREE.

The color of the drones is a minor consideration. It often happens that light colored queens, purely mated, produce light colored and well marked workers, and dark and irregularly marked drones. The drones from imported Italian queens are usually dark. The lightest colored and most beautifully marked drones I have ever seen, were from a queen descended on the mother's side from a pure black queen. Some of the lightest colored workers I have ever had. I knew to have in them a dash of black blood and I give it as my opinion that all of the very light colored bees are a little bit mixed.—M. MAHIN.