

better" than the best. Mr. Webster once said, "There must be Carniolans and Carniolans!" I echo it.

Ligurians are the most boomed in certain quarters at present. Unanimity by no means prevails. Virgil wrote of it as the "better bee." Our senior editor has been very successful with well-bred Ligurian queens." Our junior editor places it a step lower than the ancient poet; his comparisons are, Ligurian good, Carniolan better, Black best. In answer to a query, "Do you prefer Carniolan to Ligurian?" he replies, "Yes." While in another place he writes: "In common with most in this country who have had experience of both varieties, we personally prefer natives to foreigners." Here is another interesting crumb: "From some cause or other Italian queens frequently disappear after a season's work." Another "editor" states that Ligurians are more prolific, their progeny swarm earlier, they work harder, and both earlier and later in the day and season, they work on flowers inaccessible to the common bee." The highest authority on Ligurians, who has written reams in their praise, characterizes this last statement as an "exploded myth." One highly capable of knowing says: "Ligurians (or any trace of Ligurian blood) are strongly objected to by honey producers in Scotland and Wales." This, of course, arises from the well-known fact that they are bad cappers of comb-honey. Mr. Grimshaw supplies the following significant statement: We have it (F.B) since we began importing; we had it not before that time." Here are two other important statements:—"I, (W. B. Webster) assert that they will show in many cases a 25 per cent. increase in the honey yield." A dealer in queens says: "Italians are not subject to spring dwindling. Intense energy

and longevity are their essential points of excellence, which overcome all obstacles." Heigo! What a see-saw of conflicting opinions. There must be Ligurians and Ligurians. The last sentence is not a quotation, but a reflection of my own.

Hybrids in all their varieties provide a wide field for speculation and varied experience. Here are a few choice opinions of men who are prominent in the profession, and classed by yourselves as "Eminent Bee-keepers":—

1. "An objection to hybridisation is the tendency of hybrids to prove vicious."

2. I would sooner far manipulate a colony having a mother-bee of the first cross Ligurian-English, than any black colony that could be produced.

3. Vicious "bees sent are hybrid Carniolians."

4. "Quiet half-bred Ligurians—a cross difficult to beat both for quietness and industry."

5. "Hybrid bees often develop a bad temperament, resenting interference."

6. "The only cross that did not make matters worse instead of better is the one between Ligurian and native bees."

7. "By crossing even irritable Black bees with Carniolans, we secure some of the finest and best tempered workers that can be desired.

8. "Personally we prefer a good strain of the Black native bee to any other."

9. "Personally I may say that no pure race of bees have ever given me satisfaction."—F. E. I. S. in British Bee Journal.

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