

## THE SYRIAN BEE.

The Syrian bee is slightly smaller than the Italian and of lighter color. This race has four distinct gold bands and when they are well-filled with honey and sporting in the summer sunshine, have not unfrequently been termed "golden beauties." I have had them show two more smaller bands—six in all. The former admirers of the Syrian bee have, in a great measure, become disgusted with them on account of their exceedingly irritable disposition. They are great breeders, the queens being wonderfully prolific, but they frequently consume all their stores in brood rearing.

Their bodies are apparently more telescopic than those of the Blacks or Italians, and when not filled with honey appear very small. The Syrian drones are not so bright as the Italians or Cyprians and in looking down over a comb covered with them, the sunshine gives their wings a bluish bronze appearance, and many of their abdomens have a dark bluish cast similar to Black drones. The queens have the half-moon gold rings and, unlike the Cyprians, are not so black at point of abdomen. The underside of the abdomen is very light. On the thorax, immediately between the wings, is a slightly raised speck, about the size of a hayseed, termed a gold shield. The drones are very fine and vigorous and have long grey and bluish tinged hair on their abdomens.

## CYPRIANS.

The Cyprian bee is about the same size as the Italian and slightly larger than the Syrian. Like the latter they have the gold shield between the wings which is one distinctive feature of the race. Yet I have had well bred Italians without a suspicion of Cyprian blood in them, other than was introduced into Italy possibly a thousand years ago, which showed this same gold shield. The Cyprians have four or more yellow bands, a very black tipped abdomen and are brighter on the underside of abdomen than the Italians, are more irritable, greater brood rearers and consequently consume more stores.

On the whole I do not recommend the pure Syrian or Cyprian as bees adapted to the northern portion of America. In

the South, Texas or Florida, there may be localities to which they are suitable, but for more northern latitudes we have far more suitable bees.

## CARNIOLANS.

For the description of Carniolans I copy from "Bees," a leaflet by Frank Benton, than whom none other is better able to speak authoritatively:

The bees of Carniola are noted for their great gentleness. They only rarely resent manipulation, and need very little smoke to subjugate them. It might be thought that they were lacking in pronounced qualities, but on the other hand, they showed decided traits peculiar to themselves and accompanied by distinctive markings, and are therefore as justly entitled as any bees found in Europe to be called an established race.

The typical, select Carniolan queen has a deep copper or bronze-colored abdomen, thorax thickly set with gray fuzz, large, strong wings and a large, stout-looking body. Carniolan queens are larger, on the average, than those of any other race, having especially large abdomens. Some queens are quite dark, even attaining with age a shining jet color. Such queens, though themselves resembling queens of the common race, do not produce bees in any way inferior to other Carniolan queens. Also pure Carniolan queens are occasionally met with which are as yellow as Italians; yet they invariably produce workers and drones which are distinctively Carniolan.

In all parts of Carniola some queens are found which produce bees having the first, segment of the abdomen somewhat rusty-red in color, and they are as often seen among the finest and prolific queens as among those of any other grade. Nevertheless, variation in color and quality is less with Carniolans in their native land than with Italians in Italy. Yellow workers are not found in Carniola, while black bees—natives too, and not imported—exist in Italy. The remarkable size and general bronze color of Carniolan queens, in contrast with the grayness of their progeny, makes it easy to find them on the combs. They are exceedingly prolific, and herein lies one of the very valuable qualities of this race.

The drones are veritable "gray-coats," and stout, active fellows, having especially large wings.

Carniolan workers are silver-gray in color, large-bodied and strong-winged. The thick fuzz of the abdomen is disposed in light-colored bands; and as dark drab is the ground color of