

hive which would not induce me to take it, unless at a price below that for which the manufacturer could produce it. No, I think it a step in the right direction to draw attention to this careless and risky method of wintering, or some spring the bee journals will be coming out with crape covers. The risk run by putting insufficient stores in the hive is also a great one, from which cause, more bees will perish than any other. Bees had but little fall flow this year and they should be looked after very carefully, and as early as possible this spring. Candy should be fed when there is any doubt and no further risk run. It is lamentable to see a good strong colony perish in March or April for want of stores, when a few more would bring them through. I like feeding bee candy; it does not excite the bees, and can be fed quickly without even smoking the bees. By running my hand over the quilts I can tell if they have plenty or not. If I find it all consumed or carried below I feed more. If there is still some above the frames I know there is probably no danger of starving. I say probably, for in some instances if the honey is all consumed and bees cannot fly out for water, they may starve through being unable to liquify the candy, but these instances are rare and in my estimation the advantages are greater than the disadvantages. Of course I do not argue that the better way is to be sure the bees have enough the previous fall. Generally, I think this is better.

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The Best Bees.

WITH bee-keepers, there is about as much difference of opinion as to the best bees, as between stock raisers as to the most profitable breed of cattle. In judging from my own experience, it can of course, be only from those races or strains that I have had. The first colony I purchased was the well known Black bees, and with others that were bought later on, I learned all I wished regarding this race. I found them good workers, capping the cells with snowy whiteness, easily shaken from the combs when extracting, but as easily over-run by millers and robber bees. It is not easy to forget the difficulty with which we found the queen, how fortunate we thought ourselves if she was found at all. In these days of caging, or confining the queens to a few frames, it is essential that

they be easily found; this objection alone shall rule out the Blacks. One could not read bee literature without knowing something about the Italians, much less to remain long without them. Accordingly I ordered a dozen or more from one breeder, and occasionally one or so from others. The change was not such an improvement as I expected. Too frequently they would swarm with empty frames of comb in the hive. I can excuse bees swarming when crowded for room, but I will not tolerate a bee whose chief evil seems to be to swarm. Two or three queens only, proved to be of sufficient worth as to justify my keeping them, the others being replaced by what is known as the Heddon strain. I read of the many good qualities of the Brown German bee, and of the superior strain which Heddon claimed to have produced by a judicious cross of these with the Italians. I therefore ordered a dozen or more from Mr. Heddon. As swarmers and as honey gatherers they were certainly an improvement on any that I had tried. Those of them that retained the markings of the Italians were gentle, and would stay quiet on the combs while being handled. I cannot say this of all, many showed a spirit of restlessness and an inclination to leave the frame. Some of these queens which were purchased direct, were dark, and produced hybrid bees. It is unnecessary to say that these were cross, but by all odds the best honey gatherers. In breeding I continually selected these that showed the Italian markings, but occasionally, even now, bright queens will produce some dark ones, although the bees would be all fine colored. In selling tested queens of this strain, we, of course, sold those that produced bees others than hybrids. The demand has been for Italians, and knowing the uncertainty in breeding of the Heddon strain, I was anxious to try again. So many reported large yields from Italians that I concluded there must be a difference and that I had not had the best, especially when Mr. Doolittle (whose writings all must appreciate) comes forward and says in substance that he has tried most all races and strains and finds none equal to the Italians. I accordingly ordered from him one of his best \$10 queens. The difference was very noticeable. The queens from this mother are uniformly fine colored, and their offspring, with few exceptions, good workers, gentle and stick well to the frames when handled. I have purchased others since, but none equal these. I have a few from Henry Alley's \$1.00 queens, but I have not had them long enough to be able to report. As regards Holylands I cannot say much; I only purchased one queen. This