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ony which may be below normal size in August is brought up to the average when the queen is put in, so that all start evenly. The following spring, save for a cursory examination at the entrance and across the tops of frames, the bees are not manipulated—they don't have to be. Supers are put on before fruit bloom, and the bees left to go it alone, save for getting honey off and putting on more supers.

With such a uniform start, and such a "let-alone" management, every colony shows what it is good for. To be sure, whenever the hives are close together considerable mixing of bees occurs during a good flow, but not enough to materially affect the results. Under the above conditions, when all colonies of a certain strain, regularly on every flow, show greater amount stored than any other strain, we must assume that they are superior workers to the rest. And when this occurs, season after season, the assumption becomes a certainty.

I chance to have in one apiary three strains of bees, and several colonies headed by daughters of one of these strains mated to still another strain. One strain is especially commended for vigor and hardiness, another for gentleness, and the third for wonderful work, and the daughters referred to are from this latter. Every colony of this strain, and of these daughters also, has kept well ahead of the others. Is it not right to consider them superior honey-gatherers?

Granting that bees can be "improved," the objection is made that few bee-keepers are so located that they can get pure matings, and, furthermore, that because the individual male cannot be selected, progress is impossible, or, at best, uncertain. Results belie this. Some bee-keepers have achieved marked results in the work of their bees, others in gentleness, and others in color.

It was the settled conviction of the late Henry Alley that queens mate

within a very few rods of their hive, and that it is the drones that wander afar. My own experience supports this view, and, furthermore, I believe that the flight of the drones is largely controlled by the prevailing winds and the contour of the country.

One apiary which I maintained for over 20 years lay close to the west shore of a large sheet of water. The prevailing winds were southwest. Black bees were abundant one-half mile north. No bees west or southwest, and a few a mile due south. Year after year I reared queens there, and mismating was so exceedingly rare that when it did occur it was a genuine surprise.

So mobile is the bee in my hands that I have gone about the work of building up a series of apiaries of different strains with as much confidence as if I were handling cattle.

It may be asked why I care for several strains? I want pure stock for crossing, and also I want to try out pure stock of my own rearing on the different fields, as I have a notion that some strains are better than others on certain flowers. I may be wrong, but I propose to find out.

I have no bees or queens to sell, for if I produce any "infant prodigies" in the bee line, I do not want them to cause worry and loss of sleep to those who doubt. But it's well to be "from Missouri" sometimes.—*American Bee Journal*.

EXPERIENCES AND MISTAKES OF BEGINNERS

J. L. BYER IN GLEANINGS.

While not a beginner any more in the strict sense of the word (yet, after all, it seems but a short time since I was struggling to get enough bees to make a living), there are as yet no veteran feelings in my own mind; and as for experiences, naturally I have had the usual amount that come to the lot of anybody