

of the five banded bees now put upon the market have Cyprian blood in them.

Some time ago a breeder sent me samples of his bees with a virgin queen with them. I had the virgin queen mated and these bees showed Cyprian blood. The Italian bees are natural, thoroughbred or hybrid, and one of the peculiar marks about them is found on the underside of the abdomen. That part of the bodies of the workers is of dark color, distinctly marked with black veins, and it is impossible to breed out this well fixed characteristics. The color of the underside of the abdomen of the Cyprian worker is yellow or light leather color, without the distinct black veins. When the two races are crossed, the workers will show the characteristics of both races by the color of the underside of the abdomens of the workers.

Mr. D. A. Jones, of Canada, several years ago sent me a queen of his "Jumbo" strain of bees. The workers were large and beautifully marked to the tip, and splendid workers they proved to be. They plainly showed the marks of Italian, Cyprian and Syrian. All these crosses have, as a rule, proven under my method of management, as manageable as straight Italians. It is true that once in a while one will find a colony of these bees as fierce as cross hybrids, or pure Cyprians, but they are exceptions to the rule.

It has occurred to me that the beginners in bee culture must meet with a great deal in our bee literature to confuse them. One man proposes to occupy the brood nest with two queens during the honey harvest, and another man proposes to cage or remove the queen during the honey harvest. The two methods are as opposite as the poles, and neither of them is practicable. I want a system of management that will keep the full working force of the colony together during the entire honey flow, unless I want to increase my colonies by taking a prime swarm in from each colony. If I want no increase I prevent swarming by raising all the sealed brood above the queen excluder and confine the queen below the excluder. If I want the prime swarms, I let them come, hive them on the old stand, remove the parent colony to a new location, after shaking enough bees from the combs to prevent after swarms. There is no use of any fuss about it. After the old hive has set by the side of the new one a few days shake the bees off of all the combs except one that has a good queen cell on it, and move the old hive to a new location and rest easy. There will be no after swarm.

Christiansburg, Kentucky, U. S.

The Vermont State Convention.

The Twentieth Annual Convention of the Vermont Bee-Keepers' Association was held at Middlebury, January 30-31, 1885. The convention was called to order by President W. G. Larabee. After prayer by R. H. Holmes, President Larabee read a letter from Secretary H. W. Scott, saying that he would be unable to attend the convention on account of sickness at his home. C. W. Fisher was chosen secretary pro tem. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There were twenty-five members present at the roll call.

The Secretary reported that he had sent cards to the bee-keepers throughout the State for the purpose of obtaining statistics in regard to the number of colonies, amount of honey secured, method of wintering, etc. As so few responded to the request, nothing definite could be obtained. The treasurer's report was quite flattering.

A very interesting paper was given by A. E. Manum on "How to raise queen in upper stories, and the best time to raise good ones." He chooses his stock colonies the year before and uses the natural method of queen cells. He often had difficulty in introducing virgin queens the same day that the second lot of cells were cut out, but by skipping one day he was almost sure of success, losing not over three per cent. If the virgin queens were a few days old he had to use much more care in their introduction. Sometimes the colony would build queen cells after the queen had been removed eight days. He thought that he had one instance of a nucleus carrying eggs into the hive and starting queen cells.

J. E. Crane had a case of bees moving eggs from one comb to another. O. J. Lowrey gave an instance of eggs being found and cells started when there was no possible source in the hive from which the eggs could come. Mr. Crane had had trouble in introducing virgin queens into mixed colonies; could easier introduce older ones into black than Italian colonies.

"How to cleanse wax and make foundations," R. H. Holmes. "Put nothing in take everything out," was his rule. He melts the wax in a steamer, not allowing it to boil; in a second can it is kept warm and allowed to settle, then it is strained through cheese cloth into the dipping can. He uses the Given press. J. Crane thinks the wax is better if water is in the dipping can.

W. G. Larabee had used Solar wax ex-