

male, while the other qualities come from the female. These seem just as quiet to handle as pure Italians. But take the Italian queen and cross her with a black Drone, and you have the crossiest bees, unless it is the Italian queen crossed with the Cyprian drone. I think, as a rule, it will prove to be so that the mating of a-quiet race on the drone side will produce quiet bees.

Albert B. Mellen—Will Dr. Miller please tell us what he would do about breeding from a hybrid queen that excels all others in his apiary?

Dr. Miller—To get even with Mr. McIntyre, I would better say, I won't tell. I will tell you what I have done. The colony that produces the largest yield of honey this year will be marked, and most likely be bred from next year without any regard to stripes or color.

Frank Benton—The question is, How to make money producing extracted honey? Now, of course, all of these points, as to the use of the hot or cold knife, the super with shallow combs, or deep combs, and so on, all come into consideration; also the question of bee-escapes. All these are mechanical points, you may say, things that will settle themselves for each man. But I do not think Mr. McIntyre brought forward strong enough some large points—vital points—as compared with these. The question is how to get a large quantity of honey. Now, I believe we are losing tons and tons of honey by prejudice against certain strains or types of bees. A man that produces 20 tons of honey might produce 30 if he had the right kind of bees to gather it; and where he is producing 20 tons of honey he can increase that by half by care in the selection of his bees. The right bees for the locality, and the right queens, might enable him to gather an added 50 percent.

Now, I will come down to the particular point I wish to bring forward. The Cyprian bees possess more energy than any other race of bees I know of. I handled them for years in the Island of Cyprus, extensively there and also in other countries. They have a disagreeable stinging trait. Their tongues have been measured by a great many different people. I have done something in that direction which has been confirmed by others. Their tongues are the longest of any bees—at least, as long as any of the Eastern races, and longer than any other European types. They can fly farther, have greater wing-power in proportion to the size of the bodies. There is large wing-spread that has come through centuries of dwelling in the Island of Cyprus. I think it wrong to reject that type of bees, because they possess more power in transmitting their race or progeny than any other race I know of. With this element we should not ignore a strong wing quality, and the fact that they are among the most prolific of European races, or beyond any type whatever. Of course, we want a bee that we can handle, and that brings the difficulty.

We have in Austria a type extremely gentle. Another type in southeastern Russia is an extremely gentle bee. Both of these bees are prolific; both of them good honey gatherers.

Now, Confining myself more particularly to the Carniolan—the bee of Europe—this is the hardiest bee that I know anything about. If we can eliminate some of its poor qualities and unite it with the Cyprians, we would have the ideal bee. I have conceived that notion some 15 years ago, that we might, by crossing these bees, get the good qualities of each combined. While I was in Munich,

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