

duced in the first generation of a cross between two distinct breeds. When a bee-keeper introduces a new race or breed into his apiary he has two, not one, new bees to study, the pure breed and the half-breed, and in addition the host of varieties that follow in the second and later generations. The generality of bee-keepers do not sufficiently distinguish between pure breeds and half-breeds. The term "Italian," for instance, is often applied indiscriminately to the young of an imported Italian queen, and the young of her daughters, reared and mated in Britain, and even sometimes to the later generations—in fact, to any bee that shows yellow bands. In this way many observations that have been made about Italians have failed to be of value, and have even been in conflict, one bee-keeper blaming them for lacking the very qualities that another bee-keeper praises them for possessing. Italians are a very fine race, easily first in the opinion of the majority, taking the world all over, but in this country, owing to our cool summer climate, they seldom show themselves to the best advantage; Italian-English half-breeds, however, behave differently, and usually produce excellent results. One of the best qualities of Italians is their undoubted power of resistance to the disease that, in the land that is about to adopt me, is known as "European Foul Brood," and I may now call "melting foul brood" to distinguish it from the rosy form. Whether this most useful quality is shared by the Italian-English half-breeds, and, if so, to what degree, it would be well worth while to try to discover. If so, bee-breeders might succeed, with the aid of Mendelian methods, in separating a highly resistant strain, just as Professor Biffen, of Cambridge, has by this means been enabled to bring out a rust-resisting variety of wheat. We might, perhaps, breed a strain to resist that still greater

scourge, the "Isle of Wight" disease.

The fixed types of bees that occur in Nature in different localities should always be named after the localities from which they come, for variation in appearance is so limited that it often fails to enable one to separate one type from another. For instance, we have no right to suppose that the British black bee is the same as the American black bee, which seems, indeed, to have had a Spanish origin. We have seen how closely the golden and black hybrid may resemble the Italian in appearance, and there are several different kinds of Italians in the Alps of Northern Italy and Switzerland.

To those who wish to know more about Mendelism I can heartily recommend Punnett's book, entitled "Mendelism."

An account of the work of breeding the British golden bee in Ripple Court Apiary was published in the *British Bee Journal* two years ago.

MIDDLESEX B.K. CONVENTION

The annual meeting of the M.B.K.A. was held the last Saturday in October instead of the first Saturday in November, as formerly, in the County Council chambers, London. The President, Mr. Robert Wallace, being absent, Mr. H. Gibson of Lucan occupied the chair. The election of officers was the first item of business and resulted as follows: President, E. T. Barnard, Lambeth; Vice-President, H. Gibson, Lucan; Secretary-Treasurer, E. Robson, Hilderton. The committee appointed to arrange for a honey exhibit at the Horticultural Show reported that they had found difficulty in securing honey, but promised to put up an exhibit if they had the approval of the meeting, which was heartily given.

Mr. Jacob Haberer of Zurich gave an address on "Preparing Bees for Winter." Mr. Haberer has rather unusual conditions in his locality, the fall flow of buckwheat, aster and goldenrod inducing a good deal of swarming, especially the last season. There was considerable discussion as to the best feeder to use, the general opinion being that for late feeding nothing equalled the glass jars or 10-lb. honey pail. Mr. Barnard preferred to feed after his bees were packed, as he thought it least trouble.

Mr. Pettit, the Provincial Apiarist, was present and gave an address on "Re-queening." Although he had always been an advocate of keeping down swarming, yet he was of the opinion that for many bee-keepers natural swarming was the surest and easiest method of re-queening. Of course, discretion had to be used in getting the queens from the best colonies.—Ethel Robson, Secretary.