

Now, just what should make this difference in honey gathered from the same fields at one time, by the same race of bees, I do not fully understand. I have often noticed the difference in honey gathered by weak and by strong colonies other seasons, but I never had it occur in such a large way as it did the last two seasons. But this I can easily account for, because I never had so many weak colonies before, and never before in my time was there such cool, wet seasons as the past two were.

The way I account for the matter is this: In a wet, cool season these weak colonies are not able to generate heat and thoroughly ripen honey as it should be.

And now, while on this subject, I should like to say that, in my opinion, no extracted honey ever was, or ever can be, produced in commercial quantities that is equal in flavor to first-class comb honey. I believe that where bees are provided with ready drawn comb to store in, they fill and seal these combs before the honey is as well ripened and flavored as would be the case if they had to build their own comb and store more slowly. But there is a great deal I don't know, but what I would be safe in saying is, that the largest part of the comb honey that is marketed is far from being first-class.

Another thing that might be considered against the production of extracted honey, is that here a large per cent. of these colonies, especially if there is much black or German blood in the yard, will have to be fed heavily for winter. I have a large and growing trade worked up in extracted honey among a class of people who are not able to use much comb honey, and, anyway, at the relative market prices I can make more money from a large yard, by producing both comb and extracted

than I could from either one alone so, unless there is some radical change I shall continue to produce both kinds—about "alf and alf," as the Englishman said. — American Bee Journal.

Black Bees

Some Good Traits

When Italian-blind bee-keepers are able to see the good qualities which blacks possess credit will be given where credit is due.

Why is it that blacks have a reputation for idleness, crossness and general unprofitableness? It seems scarcely likely that it is a baseless reputation for the reason that it is general. It is hardly logical to ascribe it to an instinctive feeling that a black race must persevere inferior. I do not assert that I know the cause, but will offer a suggestion as to a possible cause.

Before the Italians were introduced and for some years later, it was a custom to "take up bees" in the fall. I never have seen this practiced, but have gathered from various sources that it was a general rule to "take up" the heaviest colonies. If this is true, it must follow that the lighter colonies were left to perpetuate the race. It is reasonable to suppose that the lighter colonies had queens inferior to the queens of the colonies "taken up." This custom prevailed for many years and must probably have tended to deteriorate the race. There may have been some thoughtful farmers who prac-