

hard-working, good-tempered, disease-resisting and excellent winterers, storing honey and breeding after the black bee has shut up shop for the season; but they swarm more than the Blacks. I don't say pure Blacks, because there is an unsurmountable difficulty in obtaining Black bees without more or less either of the Carniolan or Ligurian element in them, the Carniolan so largely dominating as to give them an inherent desire to swarm almost equally with pure Carniolans. Black bees, when only slightly tinged with foreign blood and and properly managed, are very satisfactory to keep—equal to any other bee that has come under my notice. Having arrived at this conclusion, I tried several crosses, and the best result obtained was from a hybrid composed of two parts Ligurian and one part Black, which produces a bee possessing all the good qualities of the former without the desire to swarm and spread out all over the ground in swarming, as the pure Ligurian so often does.

From a known pure strain of Ligurian bees the first queens were raised; these were crossed with as nearly pure Black drones as I could get, and from the resultant bees were reared the final queens. Great care, however, must be taken to get them mated to pure Italian drones, strangers in blood to those that raised the first queens. This done, I venture to say you will have bees eminently satisfactory on all points—in fact, a bee that will make the heart of the honey-producer rejoice. Of course, the desire to swarm cannot be bred out entirely, but excessive swarming is certainly eliminated, and in my experience, they seldom raise more than two or three queen-cells at the best of times, and often not more than one.

As tending to show the vitality of the larve, after they have passed into the final stage—viz., after the cell is sealed and the cocoon has been spun—I removed one cool evening three queen-cells and placed them beneath my vest in a small padded box, to allow them the warmth from my body. They were taken a two and a half hours' journey by road and rail to the house of a friend and placed on the combs of the nuclei which he had ready to receive them. On examining a comb in one of the nuclei I found a capped queen-cell. I cut this out and placed it in the position lately occupied by the three-cells I had brought, and on arriving home three hours later I slipped it in between the top bars of a queenless stock. All four of these queens hatched out, were duly mated, and are at the heads of stocks now doing well. I merely mention this to show what can be done by studying a few

elementary principles and exercising care.

I must now bring my long story to a close; I have encroached largely on your valuable space, and, perhaps, on the patience of my readers, although the subject is by no means exhausted. I feel that enough has been said for one sitting. I say this, and reserve something for the future, because I know how easy it is—even with the most carefully-conducted experiments—for one to become impressed with a wrong conclusion, especially when appearances seem to favor the wishes of the experimentalist. This seems to be the case in bee-keeping more than in any other avocation or hobby with which I have had to do. It is easy enough to correct a mistake; but where is the one who, after having stated a thing as a fact, cares to climb down and admit he is wrong? We all have to do something in this line at times, and a man or woman who does this gracefully and admits an error without equivocation, is the one I should think most highly of. "To err is human; perfection is for the gods;" but our "facts" should be carefully verified by repeated proof before stating them as such in print, and thus causing perhaps much inconvenience and disappointment to others by our carelessness in not making doubly sure that "things are what they seem." Anyway, I have endeavored to speak of things as I found them, and have tried to avoid the belief that "all my own geese are swans." Practical experience is what I attach value to. Theory is often very pretty, but solid facts are incontrovertible, and to my mind one of these facts is that the raising of queens by scientific methods is the keystone to successful apiculture in the future.—HENRY W. BRICE.
Thornton Heath, Surrey, in British Bee Journal.

Worth Repeating.

Victoria Colonist: The only way, then, to prevent the spread of plausible but mischievous theories, is to educate the people better. They must be taught to think, to distinguish sound argument from specious fallacy, and they must know enough to discern between fact and falsehood. Young people must learn to distrust hasty judgments in themselves and others. They must be taught that jumping at conclusions is always a foolish and often a dangerous pastime. But this is slow work, it will be objected. So it is, but people must be content in this world to do some things slowly. What is done in a hurry is seldom done well. The process of true education is slow.