

have to dynamite his hives to get the gum out.

Or, mayhap, one prefers a thing of beauty, the glitter of gold, and therefore picks the sparkling goldens. Nice, playful fellows, these, and one needs a fine quality of sheet steel armor with them, for they are prone to be very rough in their play. But they are mighty nice to use when there are other bee-keepers around you, for as sneak thieves they are far and away ahead of anything yet invented, and will pack their hives while those of the neighbors grow beautifully light.

If none of these suit, take some of the old standby, leather-colored Italians. Nice, steady fellows, who mind their own business and do not consort with the festive bee-moth. And if you get the right strain, you will have good, heavy supers and a lame back. We will not mention the sprained fingers and wrists from trying to shake these fellows from the combs, nor will we say a word about the way they perforate cappings when we try to take off the sections.

You, who would specialize on comb honey can pick out the good old blacks, the bee that gran'ther used to keep. They shake off so easily; in fact, they fairly tumble over each other and you, in their anxiety to get off of the combs. It is real sport to find their queen, when one has not another blessed thing to do for a whole long week.

And yet there are those who assert that the honey-bee is not variable, that she is unchanged and unchangeable. There rises to the mind's eye two apiaries which it might profit the persons who hold that view to visit. Both lots are Italians, and beauties, too, well cared for and well handled. The first lot can be handled at any season in any weather, flow or no flow, with scarcely a vestige of smoke. An ideal lot, assuredly.

The bees of the second lot are most excellent workers, but the Old Nick

himself couldn't stand their heat. They meet you far from home, and escort you most attentively. Blow smoke in at the entrance and there rush forth myriads of the ugliest stingers man ever met, and no skill, no method, serves to subdue them. And in the face of this some persons would still have you believe that the honey-bee is not variable.

In color, in habit, and in behavior, the honey-bees vary as much as most kinds of animals and plants. Some of the traits of some races, and other traits of other races, are of advantage to us. If, by crossing and selecting, we can combine and fix the desirable characters, and eliminate the undesirable, we "improve the bee." And there is just as much possibility of doing this with bees as with other animals.

It is not a question of creating a new organ, or of radically changing the size or shape of the bee, but a question of combining all the good traits and leaving out the bad.

We speak of good honey-gatherers as if such bees possessed physical characteristics which were responsible for their work. It is more probable that the good results are due rather to a nervous energy. That some races are better honey-producers than others is pretty well known, and is evidenced by the widespread use of the Italians instead of blacks, Carniolans, etc.

That some strains of the same race are superior to others in honey-getting is disputed, and superior results are attributed to "manipulation" or "management." In the opinion of the writer this view is erroneous, and his opinion is based on many years of careful observation and comparison. In support of this contention, I would cite my system of bee-keeping and the results. With few exceptions, all colonies are re-queened in August of each year with queens which have just begun to lay. This ensures uniformity of colonies the following season. The occasional col-

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