

were dark bees in Italy; and to me this is the explanation of the great diversity of the markings of imported bees and queens. Let me briefly note some of the principal points of excellence as compared with the black or Italian bee. The workers have longer tongues, and work on blossoms that the natives do not, and often store white honey when they are working on buckwheat, also quite frequently gather a little honey when the natives are consuming their stores, and towards the close of the honey flow, as the workers emerge, they gradually fill the cells in the brood chamber, and in consequence no race is so well prepared for winter. This sometimes accounts for results in a less number of finished boxes; but where a bee-keeper has a large number of colonies to look after, and when you take into consideration the valuable time required in fixing and feeding the others up to get them in shape to stand our rigorous winters, I consider it a desirable characteristic. They work earlier and later—are more active—less inclined to sting, and protect their stores better. The queens are more prolific, this combined with the greater activity of the workers, cause them to breed up quicker in the spring, and in consequence they are in better shape to take advantage of the honey flow.

This has been my experience with dark or leather-colored Italians, while with the very handsome four and five banded strains it has always been the reverse.

In answering the next question—to which qualities should we give the preference—a great deal depends upon the bee-keeper and the circumstances. If the apiary is run exclusively for profit, but little attention need be paid to any thing except working, wintering and comb building qualities; while in the apiary carried on for pleasure as well as the dollars and cents, due attention should be given to gentleness and color; and again, if a few colonies are kept just for pleasure and recreation, then docility and color could be the qualities largely allowed to predominate.

That it would be desirable to have a scale of markings that would be universally accepted as a standard for the American-Italian bee, I think will be admitted by nearly all who are present at this meeting; and it seems to me that some action can be taken at this time as well as at any subsequent meeting, by which a standard can be established so that queen breeders will have something to guide them in the selection of their breeding stock as well as the breeders of domestic animals, who have a standard by which to judge every breed and race. By way of illustration, let us imagine that the breeders of the

black faced varieties of sheep had no model to breed from, and did not continually reject these animals that did not come up to the standard, in both form and markings—if, after a few years of such haphazard breeding, Mr. A, who breeds Shropshires, Mr. B. Hampshiredowns, Mr. C, Oxforddowns, and Mr. D Southdowns, were to turn their flocks together what would be the result? You would not find a man who would be able to select out every sheep and put it in its place. Are we not, as breeders of Italian bees, in this same predicament? Is there any reason why we should not have some standard by which the average bee keeper would be able to determine whether or not his bees with this yellow band contained an admixture of Cyprian or Syrian blood? Is it not an indisputable fact that these races and crosses have many times been sent out for pure Italians, and that many of the so called pure Italians show at least a trace of Cyprian or Syrian?

As to a scale of markings I have nothing to offer that I consider anywhere near perfect; but as a suggestion I offer the following as a scale of 100 points. I would divide them as follows;

Honey gathering and comb building.....	40
Wintering.....	15
Breeding.....	15
Temper.....	10
Color.....	4
a bands.....	4
bqueens.....	3
cdrones.....	3

I hope on the discussion which is to follow, that a Committee be appointed, and fix upon a scale for the American-Italian bee.

#### To Whom It may Concern.

**I** HIS is to certify that I had 42 colonies of bees more or less diseased with Foul Brood, in the year 1888, and with the help and instruction of Mr. McEvoy, I made a complete and successful cure.

Dec. 15, 1891.

We readily publish the above, but we do not think there are many bee-keepers among our readers who are not convinced of the value of the McEvoy method when properly carried out.

#### Chance to Learn Bee-Keeping.

**S** HOULD this meet the eye of a smart, pushing young man, or lad who is not afraid of work, and who would like to spend a year or two in farming and learning bee-keeping, and then get started in the business, let him address for further particulars—**ALLEN PRINGLE, Selby P.O., Lennox Co., Ont.**