

After the basswood harvest is gathered by the bees, extract it closely, for it will not taint any other honey, even though it be from fall flowers, and somewhat darker, with its aromatic flavor. For retail packages, tin-pails with close-fitting covers are the best. Purchased by the gross or in lots of one thousand or more, the price is so inconsiderate that no consumer will object to paying what they cost in addition to the price of the honey, for they are so handy to have in the house that not one in a hundred would return the pail. A neatly printed label should be gummed or pasted on each pail, stating the amount and kind of honey, name of the apiarist by whom put up, and giving in a foot-note directions for liquifying the honey in case it granulates.

Saug Run, Garret Co., Md.

From British Bee Journal.

#### Carrier Bees.

**W**HERE will the imagination of inquiring thinkers ever stop? We already had carrier pigeons, swallows as harbiners, now we have bees and waeps as messengers. A bee-keeper of the Gironde, M. Teynac, formed the idea of ascertaining whether insects might not be capable of performing, within a small radius, what birds do at a great distance, namely, carry messages. Experiments are always interesting.

Numerous observations have established the fact that if a swarm of bees is enclosed in a box, or other receptacle, and carried to a distance of from two to three miles from the hive, any of the bees which have regained their liberty will soon take flight in the direction of their hive. Those more rapid than the rest will traverse the intervening space in twenty or twenty-five minutes, which corresponds to a speed of about eight miles an hour.

Starting from this fact, M. Teynac has led the way in the introduction of carrier bees. Suppose the owner of a swarm wishes to initiate intercommunication with a person several miles off. He will first of all send him a small hive for conveying the bees. It is a box with a cover of wire netting, provided on one side with small holes that can be closed with a hinged lid. The bees are put in through these holes. The little box is so light that it can be sent by post. On reaching their destination, the insects are set free in a room provided with honey for their use. Whilst the bees are regaling itself, a minute dispatch, prepared beforehand, is fixed on its thorax. This dispatch is a light and short leaf of paper, split with a chisel, so as to form two feet, which are coated with isinglass.

The bee is seized, and the paper applied quickly so that the glue touches neither the head nor the wings. After this the insect is set at liberty, and it unhesitatingly sets off in a direct line towards its former domicile. There it meets with an unexpected obstacle. In front of the doorway of each hive a small tin box has been placed, which is pierced on one side with holes just large enough to allow a single bee to pass through. But the latter embarrassed by the dispatch which it bears on its back, like a rigid wing, makes unavailing efforts to pass through. It is obliged to wait until it is relieved of its burden. In this way M. Teynac has several times successfully experimented.

From American Bee Journal.

#### Qualities of Black Bees Defended.

A. D. ELLINGWOOD.

**I** BELIEVE I was the first person to take up the cudgel in defence of the German black bee, and I feel gratified to see others coming out courageously and taking their stand along with me. I am thoroughly convinced that the black race of bees is a very valuable one, and that with the same care and attention that is given the Italians, they will give just as good results.

I have been making a careful canvass of the Eastern States and I find that the black bees are decidedly popular. I have received a great many letters, complimenting me on my courage in defending them, and many of the writers say that they by all means prefer them to the Italians.

In my own yard the blacks have excelled the Italians every time. One year I took 500 pounds of honey from 6 black colonies and from 30 colonies of Italians in the same yard I took only about 100 pounds. They did scarcely anything but swarm.

I do not say that the Italians are an inferior race, but I do claim that the blacks are just as good, and I prefer them to all others. I have had six years' experience with bees, and have usually had from 75 to 100 colonies, so I am fully prepared to substantiate any claim I make regarding my favorite bee.

To prove to any of the intelligent bee-keepers that the black bees are a very fine race of bees, I should like to have them experiment with a nice, large colony and give them a fair trial, getting them from any reliable man in Maine, New Hampshire or Vermont. Let the bee-men who have the German or black bees, and know and appreciate their worth, come forward and defend them. They are valuable bees. Let us prove it.