

altogether and liberate her at once. This method has proved entirely successful with me at any time of the year, except in one instance when the stopple was removed from the cage the queen arose and flew away and did not return. During the honey flow I have had good success in introducing fertile queens by taking a comb of honey with queen and adhering bees and place it in the colony where desired, (the Simmins method) and generally all goes on well if there are no queens nor queen cells in the hive. I have often introduced virgin queens into colonies which have capped queen cells in the hive, by simply placing her on top of the frames and let her crawl down among the combs. The bees having built queen cells are expecting a new queen, and the appearance of one among them is accepted as the fulfilment of their expectations. When I wish to introduce a laying queen into a colony having a virgin queen I remove the young queen, and immediately run the fertile queen in at the entrance. The changed condition of the new queen is in accordance with the regular development of the natural law of the hive, and the bees do not seem to suspect any trick about it, but receive her with demonstrations of joy as though it were the crowning event in the consummation of their fondest hopes. I believe this latter method to be new and original, yet so far in my experience it has worked like a charm every time.

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

WM. COLEMAN.—There is a good prospect of abundant honey harvest this year. The basswood trees, big and small, are loaded with blossoms. The late rains have brought on the white clover; it is beginning to blossom. My bees are just booming on the raspberry and alsike clover. The strong colonies are storing honey in the top storeys.
Devizes, Ont. ■

HYBRIDS FAR AHEAD FOR CUBA.

A. W. OSBORN.—I am rather late with my winter report, but sickness in my family and too much work have kept me from reporting sooner. Last summer being the poorest season for bees I have seen since I came here, it was impossible for us to get more than 80 colonies in condition to store honey when the winter flow began. From the 80 we took 30,000 lbs. of extracted honey, and have now increased to 500 colonies. The above amount of honey was stored by hybrids, a cross between pure Holy Land and Italian queens, mated with black drones. My little son twelve years of age, and myself took every pound of honey and made the increase, and we have not had a hat or a bee-veil on during the time. We got some stings but not enough to pay for wearing a hat and veil. Now, Mr. Editor, you know there is much said about hybrid bees being cross, but here in

Cuba I do not find them so bad to handle as the pure Italians, nor did I find it any different in California, and as for honey gathering the hybrid is *far* ahead. I have the best success breeding from pure Holy Land and Italian queens, about equal numbers, and let the young queens mate with whom they please, and I am never troubled about getting honey when there is any to get. There are many things I would say, but time is precious, you see. I handle bees (almost) 365 days in the year (now and then there is a Sunday they do not swarm) so I have no rest summer or winter. I am amused by many answers in your JOURNAL. I shall return to California next spring; 365 days in the year is too much bee keeping for me.

Havana, Cuba, W. I.

ITALIAN AND BLACK BEES.

A. B. BRAY.—Last week I transferred a colony of bees for an old gentleman who has kept them for years in box gums, and he knows very little more about them now than he did when he bought them. When I finished the work he asked me if I found the cell where the queen stayed. At first I thought he was making light of me, as I am a young man (not of age), but I found that he was not, as he declared to me that she had a cell and could be found in it at any time. I found the bees very much mixed. There were pure Italians along with the blacks, and, what makes it more curious is that there are no other Italians within four miles of him. He had placed a 20 pound box on the gum and the bees were working in it and I found on removing it that they had put brood in it (which he thought was honey) and they had not in all stored a pound of honey. There were no bees in the lower gums which were filled with nice straight combs. My bees are on movable frame hives which I like very much. One colony gave me a surplus of 194 pounds and two large swarms. The queen of this colony is a hybrid and purchased from J. Nebel & Son, Missouri. I fear that the bees will destroy her this season as it is her third year. I would suggest to those who have not tried hybrids to do so as they can be had very cheap, and I find they are the bee for me.

Bois D'Arc.

The little story you tell about the old gentleman of whom you write is not a strange one to us. We have had some even more ridiculous questions asked of us in one way or another in connection with the bee business. One man who thought he would like to try bees wrote us and wished to know the prices of our skeps and queens. He said he wanted to start an apiary and he believed that was the way to do it. We have had other questions which seem to us just as silly by those who are ignorant of bee-keeping, but we must remember there are many businesses of which we know probably as little about as do the ones who ask these questions about bees, so that we must exercise the