

that the bee indigenous to Italy was the black or brown. He believes that the light-colored races originally came from Palestine and Syria; that coasting traders in honey and wax brought them to Italy, where the dark natives were, to a great extent, crowded out by the hardy and vigorous Syrians. On the cessation of this trade in-and-in breeding was practised for hundreds of years, and this has produced the Italians of today. Mr. Jones looks upon the so-called "Albinos" as merely bright strains of Italians. It has been urged as an objection against the Italians that they do not work so readily in the supers as do the blacks, but with our improved methods, says Mr. Jones, this and other objections are overcome. Speaking of the Syrians, he says: "Their former admirers have, in a great measure, become disgusted with them on account of their exceedingly irritable disposition. They are great breeders, the queens being wonderfully prolific, but they frequently consume all their stores in brood-rearing." On the whole he does not recommend pure Syrians or Cyprians as adapted to the northern part of America. In the South, Texas or Florida, there may be localities to which they are adapted but for more northern localities there are more suitable bees. As yet, Mr. Jones has found no pure race possessing all good qualities with none of the bad. He has tried crosses of the various races, and is convinced hybrids give better results than pure races. He does not consider the Cyprians a desirable bee; but with the Syrio-Italians and the Syrio-Carniolans he has achieved splendid results. He cautions us against deciding that the goal has been reached because a first cross is of extraordinary value, for it seldom duplicates itself. In crossing varieties, he urges that particular attention be given to securing the best of drones, as the male has the most influence on the quality of the progeny. But few persons, if any, have had greater experience with the different varieties of bees than has Mr. Jones, and his views are certainly worthy of attention.

(To be continued.)

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FACING HIVES.

HOW TO PLACE THE HIVES WHEN TAKEN FROM CELLAR.

IN which direction should bee-hives front is a question of great importance. It is also one very little discussed by our ablest apicultural writers, though we have been advised to set out windbreaks, or build a high fence, and behind all this have the location facing in a southerly direction, thus making a warm, cosy place for the bees in early spring, and a very

hot place in the summer. This, in my thinking is very objectionable, as here is liable to occur great mortality in early spring, and an abundance of swarming right in the midst of the white clover harvest, and before they are really strong enough to swarm; where, if the hives had been fronting northerly, with scattering shade trees (not high trees), so as to shade the hives a part of the time, the trouble might not have occurred.

I would not advise having shade trees very thick. It is from personal experience that I write. I have been experimenting in this direction for about ten years, and I think that I have come to a conclusion that is satisfactory to me. I cannot control my bees in a hot or sultry, close place, for they will hang out on the fronts of the hives, and at a loss of honey, or at my expense. The better the honey-flow, the warmer is the inside of the hive, so it would be well for us, even in this latitude, not to choose too hot a place for the hives. If I should have any slope at all, it would be in any direction except south.

On the other hand, early spring is very trying, and at this time of the year we should do all we can to save the old bees, for if we accomplish this, other things being favorable, we will have plenty of brood, and plenty of bees to gather the clover honey. For hours in the spring of 1888 I watched, with much interest, the little bees fly from the cosy and well-protected apiary, on which the direct rays of the sun rested, causing the bees to take wing in great numbers. Over the willows they flew, with the temperature at 45°, though there were clouds at times, and chilly northern breezes. If my bees had been on the north side of the willows, they would not have been out, taking the chances.

I had one row of hives fronting north, and where the cool breezes could strike the entrance; these bees did not dwindle to any extent, while those in the sun, and facing south, though protected from the wind, dwindled down on the average of one-third of the bees. Thus it may be seen that if the white clover had yielded a surplus, I would have been the loser of hundreds of pounds of honey. In short, I think quite positively, that it is not best to carry bees from any repository, and front their hives to the south, in a sunny and close yard.

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