

from his apiary. I said we hoped to, but I was afraid not. He said, "My advice would be, I would double your number and Italianize every colony." These were the very first ones diseased, and they were very badly diseased. We sent an inspector into that section, and about four miles from his yard we found an apiary where all the bees were diseased, and we found this colony of Italians were in every diseased colony. I question whether a honey bee ever comes out from a colony that is diseased that there are no germs that may drop into any convenient colony it finds. It has been suggested that the seeds of disease may be left in the hive, and that is verified by some experiments. It is quite important to remember, and I would like to make it very emphatic, that you ought to Italianize your bees. This gentleman that I mentioned to you whose apiary we saw last year sold his crop for \$500. His idea was to Italianize, but the Italians do not mix so much as the black bees, so that in a mixed yard you may find plenty of Italians among the blacks and not many blacks among the Italians. Of this we may be positive, that the Italians clean up better than any other race we know of. In fact, they are almost too busy perhaps. I have known of colonies where disease existed and before the caretaker found the cause of the trouble the Italians had found it and removed it.

I can take you to apiaries in New York State that have stood all through this disease for fourteen years and have never yet had a colony develop it. This man was not a very good bee-keeper, but he did have one thing, he was a great lover of the beautiful Italians, and he had gathered bees from all over and he certainly did have a vigorous strain of bees. I recollect going there, and he insisted on showing me his sweetheart queen, as he called her, and as he opened the hive four or five of them hit him right in the face. This

yard stood all through the trouble without shaking the colonies, because they were Italians, and I think they discovered only one or two very slightly diseased.

I would like to make that matter of Italianizing emphatic; you cannot afford to neglect it.

It is necessary to procure a strain of Italians that are vigorous. Italians very greatly; but if you have a good strain they will give you a pretty clear idea of what is happening in the yard.

Now we come to the matter of foul brood, and you have no doubt had this experience, that if the bees are small, inferior, like the blacks, the yard will run down very rapidly. If they were hybrids the chances were pretty good for saving a lot of them. If they were Italians, the chances were still better; you can have an apiary of Italians and move them right into the diseased territory. The system that we rely on is shaking and Italianizing. I have watched this thing very carefully; I have had some for ten years, and perhaps longer, and during that time there were only four or five very slightly diseased, and I think you can clean up that disease. With our system of wax-making, you can, if you are very careful to work it out, get wax enough to replace.

If you have not got bees enough, so that you make them stand first, it is a good thing for you if you will get enough so that they constitute your chief interest. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also, and if you have enough interest and enough money invested in bees, you will find that you will place them first among the necessary things, and you will find in time that it will become a specialty with you. It lends a zest to everything else. It is a vocation, while everything else is an avocation.

This Italianizing and shaking of the bees has been the salvation of the New York State bee-keepers. I wish I could draw a picture for you of how matters

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