

QUEENS.

N. H. SMITH.

In the Northern States, to my mind, July is the best month in which to discard your old and worn out queens, or if you still have black or hybrid bees, to introduce the *Golden Italian*, I mean the so-called five-banded queen.

I have tried a great many of the different races of bees but have found none to compare with them in all respects. They are as much superior to the three-banded as the latter are superior to the blacks.

The following are some of their characteristics which to my mind recommend themselves to the consideration of the advanced bee keeper:

1. They are larger bees and better honey gatherers, and easy to handle.
2. They will work well in cold weather when other bees do nothing.
3. They cap the honey very white, work well in the sections, breed up early in the spring and do not swarm much.

When I find anything better I will get them.

I always winter young queens unless I have some extra breeders, in which case I keep them just as long as they are o. k. I wintered one hundred swarms last season and did not lose one of them. I may be accused of partiality in this matter because I rear queens for sale, but I beg to assure the reader that from the time I bought four Italian queens and found in the fall that these four had the best colonies in the apiary, with plenty of winter stores and some to spare, while other colonies standing alongside of them required feeding, I changed my whole apiary to Italian as soon as possible and would advise others to "go and do likewise."

Buy two or three queens as I did, place them side by side with your hybrids or blacks and compare results. These are the days of improvement in stock. The progressive farmer thinks little of pay-

ing a high price for a thoroughbred calf or pig in order to raise the standard of his stock, and he finds in every case it pays him to do so. In like way the progressive bee keeper is always on the lookout for improvement in everything connected with the apiary. The queen bees as well as the modern appliances in bee-keeping supplies and in this way he keeps abreast of the times.

Full Sheets of foundation given to bees in brood-frames having no combs, will greatly encourage the bees to work.

NOTES FROM LINDEN APIARY.

How many bee keepers are looking forward to a good honey flow? Every bee keeper should be busy at this season of the year. I have been unusually busy running a queen yard of over two hundred nuclei, "out apiaries," and the other necessary work in the apiary, besides I am just finishing picking a large crop of strawberries. Now I will have more time to devote to the bees; we are having the best honey flow we have had for several years. Tulip poplar yielded well and clover is in its height now.

About the first of May I bought an apiary of forty hives of black bees in box hives about twenty miles from my home yard. It was too late in the season to transfer them and I could not bring them home on account of the black drones, so I bought them with the privilege to let them remain where they were until fall. I made artificial swarms from them as fast as they were strong enough, and paid twenty-five cents each for every natural swarm the parties would hive for me. I will get a nice lot of bees and some surplus honey.

The Solar wax extractor has been a source of pleasure to me this year. It is something that no one who keeps a dozen or more hives can afford to do without, and if any bee-keeper is trying to get along without one they had better