

nooks protected from winds. This may be well in some localities, but here the pollen appears almost as soon as it is safe for bees to fly, as the overflow from the river draws out the frost from the roots of trees before it is out on the highlands.

Some bee-keepers report bushels of food appropriated by bees, but, where there are so many mills and flour-stores, they prefer to fly from home in quest of it. I have seen those white bees entering hives in early spring, but, as soon as pollen appears, there will be no more dusty millers seen.

Mrs. L. HARRISON,

Peoria, Ills.

ALBINOISM AS APPLIED TO BEES.

CAN the term "Albino" be applied to the honey bee? The word in itself means white; when applied to an innate nature it means simply a "sport," to a state of things caused by an insufficient supply of pigment resulting in an unnatural whiteness. We have white Atricans, and they are white too, not the color we find in the Caucasian race, but a degree of whiteness that resembles the color of flour or snow, and characterizes the air, eyebrow and beard. We have two white blackbirds, but such have not yet been decided to be albinos, in the true sense of the term. We find albinos among the caucasian race: they are puny in physique, and weak mentally as a rule. In fact albinism wherever found has always been considered an evidence of weakness. But I need not amplify on this point, the question being are there albino bees? My own answer to the question is no. I have seen many of the so-called Albino bees, as as yet have never found them to be other than light-colored Italian.

Albinism, being a sport of nature, does not reproduce itself in the human.

Once in a while the pure Albino is born, but as yet reproduces not itself, but the traits and color from which it originated.

Now, if the same state of things applied to the apis that applies to the man, if it were possible to produce a race of albino bees, such bees would be of little value, owing to the fact that they must continually grow weaker and weaker and finally play out entirely.

As to the color question, the only test of value we have to purify the Italian bee is the possession of three yellow bands, more or less dark or light, by the workers. The color of the queen herself has little to do with the matter; some very light-colored queens throw dark workers, and vice versa.

I had an imported queen that could not be told on examination from a black, that produced as pretty yellow workers as I ever saw. Again, I once reared a queen from a mother obtained years ago from Mr. Langstroth, more than half of whose workers showed four yellow bands. This queen I sold to Henry Alley, and her queen progeny produced workers that were yellow, the whole length of the abdomen. These workers were as gentle as flies, but never considered anything but handsome Italians.

I have no fault to find with very yellow bees, in fact I like them, but I do find fault with the idea of calling them albinos, and I have never yet seen any that were worthy of the name, when the true test of the application and definition now applied to them.

The very light-colored yellow bee with myself has proved equally as hardy as the darker; and being far more gentle as a rule, I prefer them; but I want them under their true name, and not covered up by a cognomen that neither applies nor belongs to them.

One might as well say that the Carniolans are albinos sports of the common black bees. They are the most gentle of any I have ever seen, and equally as hardy as any also.

—J. E. POND in Bee-Keepers' Advance.

North Attleboro, Mass.

NECTAR.

THE GATHERING OF HONEY AND POLLEN BY BEES.

IN answer to the wishes of Prof. Cook, expressed in his article on page 217, I give here some remarks on the above subject.

Bees are attracted to the nectar by its odor mainly. Then after having unloaded their honey-sacs in the hives, they use their eyes to find more quickly and more surely their way back to the spot where they had completed their last load, and continue, on the same kind of flowers, as long as they find something in them to take.

I have noticed the bees of a colony gathering a kind of honey, while the bees of another colony, placed near by, gathered at the same time, honey different in color and flavor.

I have seen Italian bees, exclusively, working on red clover; while black bees, exclusively so, worked on buckwheat.

Some of our colonies had dark honey-dew in their hives, while others had only white-clover honey; some had fruit-juice, while others had dark honey from the fall blossoms.

As the same kinds of some flowers vary a little, bees are soon accustomed to visit their diversely-tinted varieties. For instance, a bee