

That is why so many of our bright Italians are sluggish and slow though beautiful to look at.

The months of August and September are good months in which to change queens, because queens are plentiful and cheap at that time. We have also been able to discover the poorest and the best colonies.

Those who have produced neither honey nor swarms can probably be made to give a good harvest the following year by changing the queen.

If we expect to rear our queens ourselves, we must be sure and have the queen cells from the most prolific, and at the same time the gentlest colonies in the apiary, if these two qualities can be found united in the same colony. If we breed from the best honey producers we will be sure to make no mistakes. But let the queens be reared and laying before we attempt to change our breeders. Better have a queen of mediocre value in a hive than an interrogation point.

As a matter of course if we buy, we must know the man of whom we buy our queens, and we must get young queens from an apiary where foul-brood is unknown, for there is but little doubt that this disease may be transmitted by the queens, though it is probably only in exceptional cases. Honey, being used in the larval food is much more likely to spread the contagion than any other thing. But there is too much danger in foul brood for us to risk anything from a foul-broody apiary. There are plenty of good reliable breeders, and the business of queen-rearing has become so much of a specialty that it is hardly worth our while to rear queens. I never realized the truth of this as vividly as I did when at the St. Louis convention. Mr. Gill, of Colorado, one of the most practical honey-producers in the United States, said that it did not pay him to rear his queens; that he preferred buy-

ing them, although he needs several hundred every year. Scientific queen-rearing requires a special outfit, and daily care, and is better conducted as a specialty.

Let us bear in mind that the best time to introduce a queen is during a flow of honey; that robbing is the greatest incentive to the killing of strange queens by the bees, and that after we introduce the queen it is best to let the colony alone for several days. Queen-introducing is always more or less risky. Some apiarists will tell you that there is nothing difficult about it, that they have always succeeded. You can just rest assured that the man who has always succeeded is the one who has done the least of it. We practiced introducing in former days when we imported some 40 queens from Italy every season. The best method in my opinion is the one now generally used by breeders; Cage the queen in the hive, just after removing the old one, and let the bees liberate her by eating their way to her. — American Bee Journal.

"LEBKUCHEN" OR SPICE CAKE

It's German, and called by the Germans "Lebkuchen," taken from Praktischer Wegweiser. Boil a quart of honey in water to which has been added the rind of a lemon. When cooled to milkwarm, add a quart of rye flour, and one of wheat flour, besides two ounces of cinnamon and cloves, then a handful of preserved orange peel cut fine, a heaping tablespoonful of soda, the whole thoroughly mixed.

Knead this dough well upon the board, roll out as thick as the little finger, cut into cakes, glaze with the white of an egg, put almond meats on top, and bake in tins in a tolerably hot oven. While still hot glaze with powdered sugar stirred thick into water, which immediately dries into a glass-white glazing.

These cakes keep well in tin cans, and are excellent.—Emma M. Wilson, in American Bee Journal.