

judice against inbreeding. I can do no better on this point than to quote from Mr. N. W. Gentry, who is well known as an extensive breeder of Berkshire hogs. Mr. Gentry has for years practised inbreeding, and before the Champaign meeting of the American Breeders' Association, in February, 1905, he said:

"From father to son for generations has been handed down the common belief that inbreeding of animals produces offspring of less vigor, less vitality, less constitution in proportion to the extent to which it is carried on continuously, and this belief seems to have been accepted as true without any proving by the very great majority. My experience has led me to believe otherwise, or rather that such results need not necessarily be true.

"Neither inbreeding nor the reverse will be a success unless matings are made with animals suited to each other; that is, having no weakness in common, if possible, and as much good in common as possible. This, in my opinion, is the key to success in all breeding operations and success will come in no other way. In my opinion inbreeding as a rule is very good or very bad.

"I have watched results of inbreeding in my herd for years, and until I can discover some evil effects from it—and I have not yet—I shall continue to practice it."

In breeding it is generally believed that inbreeding is detrimental or fatal, but, fortunately, breeders are now seeing that the idea is usually without foundation. Of course, inbreeding accentuates common weaknesses, but we should use it in accentuating strength, as it will when properly directed. Think what it would have meant to bee-keeping if the blood of the Cyprian queen whose bees produced one thousand pounds of honey had been preserved by inbreeding, and what it will

mean if some of the present good queens are kept by this method. I do not advocate universal inbreeding, for it is well known that inbreeding is, generally speaking, not natural, but, even in nature, it is frequent, and it is by no means universally true that it is detrimental. Therefore, if there is reason to think that it is best, it should be fearlessly practised. How this prejudice against inbreeding arose I do not know, but we all know how general it is. Nevertheless, it is true that the breeders of stock who now practice it are the ones who are getting results of lasting value. On one or two points I do not wish to be misunderstood. I do not wish to condemn the breeding for color or for long tongues. I really consider color selection a fad, but there are those who prefer the lighter colored bees, and as long as there is a market it will pay to select them. Long tongues would be an advantage doubtless, but in whatever way we are breeding, let us not forget that increased honey production is the essential. If these bees have longer tongues all right and well, but the selection should be made by the scales.

I notice that in Belgium, Switzerland, France and Germany bee-papers are now lauding their old love. When change is desiderated it is more in the form of improving the blacks than the introduction of new races that perfection is now being generally sought. And that is well.—D. M. M., in "Beekeepers' Record" (British).

HIVES—Do not be led into buying secondhand hives, however cheap. They may contain the germs of disease. Get them from some reliable firm. Endeavor to get the advice of an experienced bee-keeper before setting up the business.—Irish Bee Journal.

There is certainly something wrong

in our social system, compelled to give the "bread-and-

TWO KINDS

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