

are not as good comb builders, are slow to enter supers and quite useless for queen rearing purposes. That Carniolans, of all pure races, are the best "all purpose bee" although not quite equal to Cyprians as honey gatherers. Are the most gentle of all and best for beginners. He thinks they were at one time a cross between Cyprian and Germans, and the color reverted back to that of the majority. That Cyprians are destined to take the lead among the yellow races, though not suitable for the production of comb honey they are very active honey gatherers, of great beauty and (with him) extremely docile. Their body is smaller than the native variety and unlike the Italian workers opens to a fine point.

In chapter 6, how to obtain good working stock we find the following: "the secret of successful honey production consists in always maintaining the proper proportion of adult working bees in relation to the quantity of brood and young bees." That in our working stocks we should always have young queens and retain none who have seen their second summer. That queens can not be too prolific but must do their best before the season opens, after which they will simply keep pace with the wear and tear upon the life of the workers. To provide that the best powers of the queen shall be used up before actual storage commences we are to have young queens in very strong colonies the fall before.

There is much valuable advice given in the chapter on planting for bees and we are assured that *systematic planting makes profits certain.*

We were interested in feeding and feeders, buying, packing and moving bees, and especially in the production of wax and non-use of foundation and management for heather honey.

It gave me great pleasure to see the following under queen rearing: "It has been observed that a young queen feeds upon pollen extensively until she has met the drone, from which time she is fed by the bees entirely upon digested food. Now just here I wish to show the folly of keeping young queens confined in the frame nurseries for a number of days after hatching, as is done extensively in several American queen rearing apiaries. Without the nitrogenous food at this time when the constitution should be established, they are dragging out their existence upon sugar alone at the most important period of their growth."

Mr. Simmins believes as does Mr. Alley that better queens can be reared by proper artificial means than under the swarming impulse. In justice to the author we refrain from giving more of this book but assure the readers that we have given but a small part of its good points. This work is now for sale in this country. It contains nearly 200 pages and is well illustrated. We advise all progressive beekeepers (especially those who make it a business) to thoroughly study this book.

Pawtucket, R.I.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN.

The Eastern Townshie Bee-keepers' Association will hold a meeting on Monday Jan. 16th, 1888, at Cowansville, in the Good Templars' hall, over printing house, at 10 a.m. All Beekeepers are requested to be present as there is important business to attend to. Bring report of the past season. R. P. Small, Sec., Dunham, P.Q.

From Gleanings.

## THE COMBINATION SYSTEM.

SHOULD EXTRACTED HONEY BE SECURED FROM COMBS HAVING ONLY A MODERATE DEPTH OF CELL?

WHEN writing the article on page 852, I expected somebody to take me up on the point you make in your comments thereon. I agree with you that it does not look like good policy to take away the set of extracting combs before the bees have made a start in the sections. The only reason why I did not advocate raising them up and leaving them on awhile as you suggest, was that I had never tried it, and without trying it I could not be certain just how it would work. I know it will seem strange that I should have neglected to thoroughly test so important a point in the system I am advocating, but I must admit that such is the fact. The plan always worked well as I gave it, and so I never thought it worth while to experiment further until two years ago. In 1886 I was so busy that, before I realized it, all my bees that were in shape for a trial were at work in the upper storey, in the midst of a honey-flow, and it was too late for a fair trial. Any bee-keeper in this part of Illinois will readily see why I did not test it last season. You can't make experiments in honey production when there is no honey.

I never like to recommend anything I have never tried, so I kept silent on that point. Since it has come up, though, I will say that it is my opinion that it will pay, under some circumstances at least, to leave the extracting combs on until a start has been made in the sections. This will be some more labor, and will increase the proportion of extracted honey produced, but there will not be such a break in the work of the colony, and not so much liability to swarm.

By the way, my bees do not swarm nearly so much as most others' seem to. I do not know whether the difference is in management, locality or bees; but it seems to me there is a difference.

### SECTIONS FILLED WITH COMB.

I am heartily glad to see so many testify to the worthlessness of old combs in sections. It will probably be hard work to get it into the heads of some that it is anything else than wicked waste to melt up nice combs, but I think we can persuade the majority that all section combs not in the best possible condition had better be made over. It is not likely that many very soon will grasp the whole truth that it will not pay to save any such sections at all.

Judging from the comment the subject has received, it is a new idea to many that sections