

BUZZINGS.

By Mrs. Chas. Lee.

If you have black or hybrid queens and wish to Italianize or to requeen with young queens, this is a good time to do it, at least we have always found it so.

If you have a colony of bees that are uncommon cross requeen them, and, as a usual thing, you will be surprised at the toneing-down effect she will have upon the bees, although they are not her daughters.

Try having a hook fastened on the back of your smoker in such a way that the smoker can be caught on the edge of the hive while not in use. It is a waste of time, besides very annoying to find your smoker when wanted, to have tumbled over and the fire nearly, if not quite out.

There seems to be quite a discussion amongst the fraternity just at present as to what material makes the best smoker fuel, some advocating saw dust, others corn cobs, small chips, old rags, burlap sacks, and now John Craycraft, of Florida, says that corn husks "cant be beat." Bee keepers living in a corn country might give them a trial.

Hybrid bees, as a rule, are not so pleasant to handle as pure Italians. Give the Italians a few whiffs of smoke and you can handle them immediately. The hybrids are not subdued so easily. Give them a few whiffs of smoke, wait a little while, then smoke again, in fact, "try, try again," then wait some more before opening the hive. But when once subdued, they are as easily handled as their yellow banded sisters.

Bee Crank says in Southland queen that he saves money by using extra thin foundation in brood frames. He fastens the foundation in frames, hangs two or three frames in each rather light colony that are building comb, and, as soon as they draw out the foundation, it is safe to hive swarms on. I do not doubt but that Bee Crank's plan will work all right, but it would be too much trouble when one is handling a good many colonies.

C. P. Dadant basing his belief on 25 years' experience with a number of out apiaries, is emphatic that bees do not work to any advantage more than two miles from home. They travel farther where the country is smooth—Gleanings. My limited experience goes to show that Dadant is right. When forage is plenty our bees do not go more than a mile from home, but when forage is scarce and at long range they will necessarily take longer flights.

Apiarists have always claimed that bees were absolutely essential to the best results in fruit growing. A new proof of the truthfulness of their claim is just related by the Florida Trades Union, as follows: At one of the experiment stations it was decided to try an experiment to determine the value of bees to fruit trees. Two peach trees were removed to a green house, and a colony of bees was moved in and the trees were forced to bloom at midwinter. One of the trees was so protected as to prevent the bees from getting to it, while they were allowed free access to the other. During the time of bloom the bees worked industriously on the flowers of the tree to which access was had. As the season advanced, the fruit on both trees set and grew without appreciable difference until stoning period, when the fruit dropped from the tree that the bees had been kept away from, while that on which they had fed held its fruit until ripe.

The discussion of Messrs. Brown and Palmer on the subject of pruning apple trees is just the question we want discussed by our able fruit growers. We have always held the opinion that to lop the limbs back much was a damage to the tree, but I am open to conviction. Let's hear more on that subject.—H. B. Parker, North Yakima.

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