

## KIND OF BEES TO KEEP.

The bee that is recognized as possessing the best all-round qualities is the leather-coloured Italian, and it is recommended that these be kept and bred as pure as possible. They have yellow stripes across the abdomen, and are very attractive in appearance. The predominant race is known as "blacks," but they do not possess the good qualities attributed to the former kind, and are not so docile. Italians, as a rule, also gather a larger crop of honey. The black bees are superior comb-honey builders, and cap their combs with an air-space between the honey and the wax cap, which imparts a beautiful white appearance to the comb.

## PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

In the first instance it is advisable to purchase a colony from some reliable apiarist, and gather from him at the same time as much information as possible. There is nothing like practical knowledge, so proceed with caution to build up your apiary from this hive, and thus gain experience as time advances.

It is impracticable for a novice to manage a large apiary without previous experience, and I warn all those who intend keeping bees to always bear this in mind. Read plenty of bee literature and gain the experience of others, and experiment to find what methods are most suitable to your location.

## PROFITS OF THE APIARY.

The chief source of revenue derived from the farming of bees is honey. From individual colonies as much as several hundreds of pounds are sometimes taken. As an instance of good management I may mention an average crop of 179 lb. of honey which was secured by an apiarist in Canterbury. A crop like this, however, is exceptional, and an average of between 50 lb. and 100 lb., taking one season with another, is considered profitable. Some years a very poor crop is secured, while at other times the yield is phenomenal. These erratic changes are due almost entirely to climatic conditions. The careful and watchful apiarist seldom falls below the 50 lb. mark, which, at the price of 4d. per lb. net, works out at 16s. 8d. per colony. One man, with a little help in the busy season, could look after four hundred or five hundred colonies, which under favourable circumstances would net him a very fair income.

## WAX.

In every apiary, no matter how carefully managed, there is an accumulation of wax. Cappings as a rule furnish the most, but old