

on the quilt with the cover removed, and that the conditions are just the same in the spring in one case as the other I have seen hundreds of them winter in that way. I don't make any particular difference at all as to where the cover is now, whether down on the brood frames or on top of the packing; I put it just where it will accommodate me. If there is room enough above the hive I leave the cover on the top, and the size of the entrance is always three-eighths by five inches. I have had that for this last fifteen years, and I am on the shores of Lake Erie.

Mr. Dickenson; There is so much difference of opinion among those outside gentlemen that I don't believe I will adopt outside wintering. I advise them to winter in the cellar.

(Continued next month.)

## Thoughts and ....Comments

ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

### GIVING CELLAR WINTERED BEES A CLEANSING FLIGHT.

I note Mr. Deadman in February C. B. J. thinks it pays to give the bees a flight in the early spring and then return them to the cellar for a few weeks. The Ed. of Gleanings also endorsed the plan. Don't know anything about the advisability of so doing, but I do know that there would be a lot of hard work involved. When I think of a back breaking half day last fall, (when all by myself I put the bees in the cellar) it gives me a "tired" feeling when I see it recommended to handle the hives twice in

the spring. Doubtless the same objection will influence other bee-keepers as well. When we recollect that the majority of cellar winterers including Doolittle and others, claim that nothing is gained by returning the bees to the cellar, methinks for this reason the one previously mentioned (hard work) the plan will never become very popular.

### DYSENTRY, OLD BEES, ETC.

There are some things peculiar to the bees that we cannot always explain "for sure".

One of these is as to what causes dysentery. To be sure we can very often assign a reason, but this is not always the case. At the home apiary of over 100 colonies wintered outdoors, three colonies in perfect condition to all appearances last fall, with every ounce of stores consisting of sealed clover honey, early in Feb. showed signs of the disease. One had perished outright and the other two are "sick unto death". I suppose there are in each hive about twenty pounds of honey. The bees were clustered right on the honey, there were no signs of broodrearing, the hives were dry, in fact every condition perfect. At least two of the queens in affected colonies were old. Some one may say that the queens stopped laying early in the season, consequently all the bees were aged and not capable of standing the winter. Such may be the case, although I very much doubt it, as I believe bees sometimes live longer than we are apt to give them credit for. About the middle of last July a strong colony in a 12-frame Quinby hive cast a swarm. The swarm was hived on the old stand and the parent colonies with all the brood carried to a new location. By an oversight the parent colony was not examined till late in August when it was found to be queenless. The combs were filled