

Thoughts andComments ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

BRUSHED OR "SHOOK" SWARMS.

September C. B. J. has fallen into line with its American cotemporaries and is giving considerable prominence to this NEW (?) method of controlling swarming.

Expect there are a number of apiarists right here in Ontario who have been practicing this method for some time, never thinking that they were doing anything out of the ordinary. Personally, have followed this plan ever since starting outyards and find it to work equally well in running for extracted honey as for comb.

In conversation with a bee-keeping friend a short time ago, was told that quite often, when shook on starters, the bees would swarm out. As none of the advocates of the system have said anything about this, it would be interesting to know if it is a question of locality, or if enthusiasm forbids them to mention it. While the matter is under discussion, by all means let us hear all the different phases of the question.

In my own experience in producing extracted honey, have always "shook" the bees on full sheets of foundation with one or two drawn combs; have had the bees to swarm a few times, but in each instance a comb of unsealed larvae had been left, which was, no doubt, the cause of their "skipping" out.

Quite a problem in connection with

this system is what to do with the combs of brood, provided no increase is wanted.

CATNIP SEED WANTED.

On Sept. 15th "Gleanings," among the special notices by A. I. Root there appears the following: Wanted—Catnip seed. Of course, after that "buster" of a report sent in by the Gandy, this could be expected.

Three years ago I took the trouble to gather up a lot of ripe catnip and threshed out the seed with a "stick of poverty." After getting a good sweat, also a sore throat, caused by the acrid dust, I cleaned up about a bushel and a half of seed. Not having any use for it at the time, it was stored in the garret till wanted, when that would be, had no idea at the time. A few weeks ago, in anticipation of the boom, I thought I would look after it, and would you believe it, I found the mice had appropriated every bit of it for themselves or their babies, am not able to determine which. Imagine my chagrin, to say nothing of my financial loss, all my dreams of "cornering the market" to be thus rudely shattered.

HONEY CROP CANARDS.

No doubt if certain wholesale firms should happen to see September C B J. they would come to the conclusion that they had stirred up a nest of hornets instead of bees—keepers. The worst of it is, the wholesale men and general public do not, as a rule, read the bee journals, and I think the best way to meet false reports is in the columns of the papers where said reports appear. If one of our bee keepers would take the trouble to contradict exaggerated reports in our local or other papers, much of the evil would be counteracted. Glad to note the letter of our Editor in the columns