

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By J. L. Byer.

Warming a Bee-cellar.

In January "Review" Editor Hutchinson cites the case of a farmer who kept his potatoes from freezing during a protracted cold spell by burning charcoal in an old kettle in the cellar. He thinks the plan would work O.K. in warming up a bee-cellar, providing there was no danger of asphyxiating the bees, a point on which he is in doubt. Methinks the most of cellar-winterers are not worrying much this winter how to warm their cellars, but if Friend Hutchinson, or any one else, can tell how to cool the cellars when the outside temperature is above the normal for cellar-wintering, they will confer a favor on a good many apiarists, judging from reports to hand.

Personally, we only have 20 four-frame nuclei inside; not in a cellar exactly, but where they get abundance of air at all times, providing it is necessary. Yet at date of this writing (February 21st), with a muggy atmosphere and temperature of 45 outside, the bees are doing a lot of "squawking." As to how they come through finally, after their peculiar method of wintering, hope to tell "C. B. J." readers in the near future.

[Why not use ice for cooling the overheated cellar? Don't you think it would be just about as practical as charcoal for heating?—Ed.]

Maeterlinck's "Life of the Bee."

Dr. Miller, in a "Straw," calls attention to the fact that recently Dr. Felix Adler, in addressing the Chicago Ethical Culture Society, condemned in no uncertain tones the

books and plays of Maeterlinck. Dr. Miller says, in reference to the "Life of the Bee," that in this work there is some of the "rotteness" referred to by Dr. Adler. Personally, and, no doubt, in common with nearly all who have read the book, I was at first captivated by the beautiful composition and brilliant style of the writer, but after more mature thought, am forced to agree with Dr. Miller, who says that the work is the more dangerous "because insidious, so beautifully clothed that good men have read the book and praised it without stint, without ever noticing the evil that was in it." The greatest apologist of Maeterlinck's will have to admit, at least, that the standard of moral ethics he holds up are not of the highest.

Selling Sections by Piece Instead of Weight.

In Christmas "Gleanings" that excellent authority on comb honey production, Mr. Crane of Vermont, has a strong article in favor of selling comb honey by the section instead of by weight, and, incidentally, at the same time, putting in a strong plea for the use of plain sections and fence separators.

In fact, Mr. Crane intimates that his conscience would not allow him to sell by the piece if he was using the old-style sections and separators, owing to lack of uniformity in weight of sections of honey thus produced. He does not, like some, claim that he gets more honey by using plain sections, but he is positive that he gets better-finished sections and much more uniformity in the matter of weight, and says that it is a surprise to him that others have not seen their value and adopted them. While not a comb honey producer, yet if I was going into the business, don't know of any other single authority that would be apt to influence me

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