

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Packed Hives vs. Single-walled Hives Wrapped With Tarred Paper, For Out-of-door Wintering.

The leading article for the November "Review" is contributed by Mr. A. C. Miller, who writes, to quote the heading of the article, on "The Philosophy of Protecting Bees With Tarred Paper." While space will not permit for the quoting of the different arguments advanced, suffice it to say that, as is always the case with Mr. Miller's writings, they are very convincing from a theoretical standpoint. Mr. Miller regards a packed hive as "virtually an ice-house to the bees. They cannot warm it, nor can the sun help them in the few hours it is up in the winter." Relative to the paper-wrapped, single-walled hive, he says: "In a single-walled hive wrapped in material which is wind and waterproof, black in color, and a poor conductor of heat, we have a domicile for the bees which will absorb heat in goodly volume, with considerable rapidity, and give it up slowly. It embodies the good points of both the single-walled and the chaff hive, and avoids their bad ones." He recommends a hive made in New York State, called the air-spaced hive. It has two half-inch walls, separated by an inch space, and the space face of each wall is covered with a sheet of heavy building paper. Mr. Miller lays special emphasis on the necessity of leaving entrances wide open, 14 inches wide by half-inch deep, on the single-walled hives wrapped with tarred paper, "then, when bees are roused by the wormth, they are less likely to

leave the hive when the outer air is dangerously cold. They come down close to the entrance and stop." I might say that, two years ago, partly by some experimenting during the two previous mild winters, but more particularly through reading Mr. Miller's articles on wintering, the writer became quite enthusiastic over the tarred paper idea. However, I will just say that experiments conducted the past two severe winters have quite effectually cooled off all the enthusiasm along that line. No, siree, as before stated, Mr. Miller's arguments appear quite plausible in print, and likely are practical as well in Rhode Island and similar climates, but in Ontario feel safe in saying that the papered hives are "not in it" when placed beside a well-packed hive. I feel sure that all who take the trouble to test the matter will quite agree with me. Regarding the air-spaced hive referred to, Mr. D. W. Heise for a number of years wintered quite successfully with a hive similar in construction, but in the past two severe winters referred to the bees in these hives nearly all perished, while a yard of mine only a few miles distant from them—all packed hives—came through in splendid condition. All who are acquainted with Mr. Heise will know that the bees would be put into winter quarters in first-class condition; in fact, I have no hesitation in saying they were in much better condition than those in my yard referred to. Yet two years hand-running results were as I have stated. If the packed hives had nothing to do with the matter, what was the prevailing factor that caused the difference?

Defects in Methods of Wax-rendering

After having our appetites whetted on this subject by the hints thrown out by Mr. Hershiser of Buffalo at our convention, our interest was still further stirred up in reading the concluding

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