

Notes and Comments

By J. L. BYER

J. E. Crane, in "Gleanings," recommends a mixture of equal parts of arsenic, flour and sugar for poisoning mice. I have tried it and the mice touch it but very little; is it "locality," or have I not followed directions properly. The three ingredients were simply mixed dry and placed in shallow tins. If some other method of preparation is advisable, perhaps friend Crane will advise us of the same.

The editor of "Gleanings," in Oct. 15th issue, gives some twenty commonly asked questions and appends an answer to each one. Question No. 3 is: "Which are better—sealed covers or absorbent cushions laid on the top of the frames?" and it is answered as follows:

"Sealed covers. There was a time when it was considered best to place cushions directly over the frames; but since they often get wet from water of condensation, and freeze, flat covers sealed down by the bees are now recommended."

Pretty drastic advice that. Yes. I know that a number of beekeepers recommend the sealed covers, but if observation serves me right, I believe it no exaggeration to say that fully ninety per cent of out-door winterers will still prefer to use the absorbent over the brood nest instead of the sealed cover. Personally, I am not prejudiced in the matter, but experience has taught me that either locality, management or some other factor makes the sealed

cover a decidedly risky proposition.

I wonder if the advice given will not be the means of causing much loss among bee-keepers who try the method on an extensive scale; who are perhaps confronted with conditions and methods of management similar to the writer of these notes.

A few days ago, the son of a neighbor called on me and asked me to come to their place and see what was wrong with their bees, which had lately been moved home. He said the bees were all in top of hive and they wanted them put down. Of course, I surmised that the super was still on the hive and that the bees were up in there. However, such was not the case. The hive had a gable cover with a quilt over the frames and in moving the bees came up into the gable roof (through a hole in the quilt) and clustered there; more than that for some reason they decided to stay there and constructed beautiful combs and carried up honey from below. The combs were taken out and with the use of a little smoke, the bees were PERSUADED to go back into their normal quarters. Taking into consideration the cool weather and lateness of season (Oct. 21), I regard their comb building as a somewhat remarkable feat, and as to what induced them to stay in the roof can only be conjectured. I presume they were warmed up by the excitement caused by moving, and then the cool weather following, put them in a mood of disinclination towards moving any more than necessary.

As to know ve ing. Th about thi of a frien miles fro five of the on Oct. 28 they had maining c and as ar be moved cellar wit flight. Th fairly dry the part w put. Of c board part ace and the or ventilat be by mean opens to th afraid of t than anyth intend to t at least sure ence, and I may be able treatise on wintering.

"There ar Dominion c which will crop than on Simpson, of Recently he alsike clover nine-acre fie \$740.00 to M Peterboro. Th zation from o Simpson's far no known equ It is equal to o — Family H Star.