

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper.

### Does Bee-keeping Pay?

While this is a question quite frequently asked, it is, nevertheless, one of the hardest to answer. So much depends upon location, the man, and other factors, as Editor Hill says in June "Bee-keeper." "As well ask, Does store-keeping pay? Under the same conditions either is profitable to certain persons; under the same conditions neither is profitable to others. It is the same in all branches of industry and commerce."

Believe it was at Philadelphia some three or four years ago, while the National was in session there, that Mr. Abbott of Mo. challenged anyone to stand up who made their living exclusively from keeping bees. Of course this was only a bluff and like, in the majority of cases, it was successful; no one accepted the challenge. However, it seems to me that there can be no doubt that quite a number of apiarists are making their living (a good one too) depending upon nothing but the income from their bees.

### "Strained Honey": A Misnomer.

Editor Hill copies from "Printers' Ink" a model advertisement for extracted honey. While the "ad." in question is undoubtedly worded in catchy form, yet I would emphatically object to the use of the word "strained honey." It savors too much of the vile compound obtained by squeezing bees brood, honey, pollen, etc., together. By all means let us drop the ob-

solete "strained," and always use the word "extracted" when speaking of honey in the liquid form.

### Shallow vs. Deep Extracting Combs.

A recent talk by Doolittle in "Gleanings" gives me courage to speak of something I have noticed for some time, but could give no reason for the "why and wherefore."

Mr. D. says that shallow extracting combs encourage swarming. Have some dozen or so extracting supers, (about five inches deep) and for some reason colonies that these are placed on two and three deep, will swarm every time when other colonies given the same super room with a large, deep super, will not swarm. Can't explain why this should be the case, but I do know that the same thing has happened every year since I have had them.

### Does Old Comb Produce Small Bees?

Dr. Miller says that he has combs bought from Adam Grimm some years before his death, which appear to be as serviceable as ever. As Mr. Grimm died twenty-eight years ago, it would seem that there is nothing in the contention of those who think that the cell walls become lined with cocoons to such an extent as to dwarf the size of the workers. As Editor Root says "it hardly seems creditable that nature would make such a fearful mistake."

### Sanfoin as a Honey Plant.

Mr. W. K. Morrison, in an instructive article in "Gleanings" on the subject of cultivation of honey-producing plants, speaks enthusiastically of sanfoin. He says "It produces honey in quantity and quality equal if not superior, to alfalfa, and that too, in cold wet countries—something that alfalfa never does." He states also that it is an important European crop, grown almost everywhere. Mr. M. thinks it advisable to get the seed