

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Finding Queen Cells Without Opening Hives.

Some time ago Editor Hutchinson, in the "Bee-keepers' Review," stated that a bee-keeper in New York state had a plan of detecting when queen cells were started in a hive without going to the trouble of opening the hive or moving frames. The discoverer of the plan refused to give the secret to the fraternity without remuneration, and Editor Hutchinson asked for a number of bee-keepers to forward a dollar each and if enough money was raised, the plan would be published in the "Review." Nothing further has been heard of the plan, and we have been wondering if the hive-tipping clamp written of in May "Review" is the plan before referred to. Clamps are so constructed as to hold supers fast to the hive body, then a lever is attached and the hive is tipped up from the bottom board, allowing the apiarist to "squint" up among the combs and see if any queen cells are started. Suppose it would work all right with small hives ran for comb honey, but with my "barns," with extracting supers on, block and tackle would have to accompany the outfit.

Unripe Honey—A Dealer's Opinion.

Glad to note that that extensive honey handler of Chicago, Mr. R. A. Barnett, in no uncertain tones condemns the practice of putting unripe honey on the markets. In an interesting article in "Gleanings in Bee Culture," among other things, he says that the green stuff has done more than all other things combined to kill the extracted honey market. Surely it is

time for the "green goods" man to call a halt.

Jottings From the Apiary.

Having just finished clipping over 200 queens, a few remarks as to how to do it may not be out of place. Previous to this season have been used to catching queens with right hand, transferring to left and then clipping the wings with the scissors. This plan has the objection of sometimes causing the bees to ball the queen, as I found out last year with at least two good queens. During the winter I read of some one who clipped the queen on the comb without touching her with the fingers at all. When I first tried the plan, I thought it simply impossible but after a little practice came to the conclusion that it is the plan par excellence. Hold the comb with the left hand and with a small pair of scissors in the right catch the wing or wings, and the job is done without the queen or bees hardly being aware of the fact. Re the advisability of clipping, believe it would pay some bee-keepers if they were forced to practice clipping; at least one thorough examination of the brood chamber is made each year, and foul brood is not likely to make such headway as it does in some cases I have known where the hives were hardly ever opened.

Shall We Kill Off Queens When Two Years Old?

A difficult question to answer. At one yard queens of all ages were left and nearly all are in first-class condition. At the other two yards, in like condition last fall, just 12 per cent of the queens failed this spring. Some one says "Spring dwindling." No; the bees are mostly in good condition. A goodly number, although in big hives are storing in supers from apple blossoms. As to ages of queens, am reminded that I have a Carniolan queen that is six years old this summer, and is now at the head of a rousing colony. A year ago, when clipping, the hiv-