

through this new book. I have made a few notes intending to base a few remarks on them, but must do when I have finished the book, meanwhile I have only to thank the O.B.K.A. for their kind and thoughtful present.

EXCLUDER ZINC.

The editor of this JOURNAL has based a conclusion that British bee-keepers are returning to excluder zinc again on the strength of some remarks he saw in the British Bee Journal. But that is not so. Most of us are proud of our own offspring even if it is a *nom de plume* and we are being offered a new kind of queen excluder zinc, but the class of bee-keepers who follow their own judgment after giving a thing a good trial are not likely to go back to excluder zinc again.

PAINTING HIVE ROOFS BLACK.

We have a mixture advertised here as "Carson's black varnish," it is, I believe, made from coal gas tar and turpentine. It is excellent for iron fencing, etc., but if laid on, thick in cool weather is liable to get very unpleasant on hot summer days. We were seriously advised to paint our hive roofs with this, the other day. Shades of Hamlet! who came to England because we were more mad than his own people in Denmark!! The Editor of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL reviews this seriously, quoting the skin of the nigger and the color of the parson's coat and all the rest of it. If I did not know him well I should have thought he did it to make us seem ridiculous. No! I will not even, discuss it. If you wish to ripen honey put it into a thin boarded building that stands in the open where the sun can blaze on it and paint your building black, or if you wish to keep marauding bees out of your foundation, making room give it a coat of Carson's paint outside or coal gas tar and draw your moral before you use it about your hive roofs.

WINTERING BEES.

The mortality amongst bees kept in the old style has been very great, fully 90 per cent. I should think many of them are bee-less for the first time in their lives. The advanced bee-keepers have suffered also but not so severely. Shortness of food and queenlessness have been the chief causes, but some have perished with plenty of stores. I am come to the conclusion that feeding too rapidly in late autumn has something to do with it.

DR. MASON AGAIN.

The irrepressible Doctor is on the war path again. I must not follow him in all his perambulations or I shall be trespassing on the patience of your readers, but I should like to say

a word or two in reply if you are not utterly weary of our play. The Doctor says I have stated on page 889 what is not true. Perhaps he will again read his contributions on page 86 and 786 where he mentions my name, while on page 686, last line, he says distinctly: "Don't you dare talk back." I have gone into this point because he calls my veracity in question.

The Doctor does not read the British Bee Journal I guess. Some time ago its readers puzzled as to where he got his *Mel Sanit* from, not finding it in a Latin dictionary they put it down as an American (B) invention.

I saw what Mr. Hutchinson said about people who use a *nom de plume* of course, but that did not in any way intimidate me. If I did not think the readers of this or any other journal cared to read what I have to say I should never trouble them a second time. While they give me to think they do I am their humble servant. If I can only gain admission to these or any other columns by using my own proper name then I refuse to do so. It would be a great bore to me to see my name in print as often as I see "A.E." The fame would not be worth it. I read "Mark Twain" for years before I knew his proper name. I thought no better of him when I did learn it, but of course there is a right and a wrong use of *nom de plumes*. I never but once put my name to a letter of mine in a bee-paper and then it was a personal and pointed attack on a person who did not know I was "A.E." so I did it in fairness to him, consequently I am well known by my fictitious name and it has as much weight and authority as my own would ever have, which would of course be destroyed if I wrote under both a fictitious and my proper name as it suited my purpose. Probably it would be as with the countryman when the late B. Disraeli was raised to the peerage. "Who is this Beaconsfield that is making such a muddle with the Eastern question, where is old Ben Dizzy?" Nearly all our scientific and agricultural papers have a well known writer in each who uses a *nom de plume*, they are usually people who are in no way interested in any trade transactions dealt with in those papers. If I was a dealer it would suit my purpose to keep my name well before the public, but as I never sell even a bee and have a private trade that takes all my honey I have no object in posing before the fierce gaze of public opinion.

In England one is not considered a sneak or a coward if he uses a *nom de plume* to promulgate information on any subject. In discussing public policy, or religion, or politics it is altogether another affair and to make a charge