

### Notes and Pickings.

—D. W. HEISE.

In Progressive Bee-Keeper, 82, G. M. Doolittle flatly tells us that no man could buy the privilege at \$1.00 a piece, to paint his single walled hives, even though the man furnished his own paint and brushes. Mr. D. says there is not even one single good reason that can be advanced in favor of the practice. He goes so far as to say it is a detriment to the extent of \$2.00 per hive, to the bee-keeper, in honey. That would mean a loss to some of Mr. Doolittle's brother bee-keepers in his own state of over \$1,000 in one season. Pretty big loss, eh? And yet I am chuckle-headed enough to go right on and slash on the paint; but of course I do not run single-walled hives, and Mr. D. says that is another case entirely. I keep a few colonies both for profit and pleasure, but for the life of me I cannot tell which of the two takes first place; I need the profit badly enough dear knows, nevertheless I do take a vast amount of pleasure in seeing everything about my bee yard in good order, and especially do I like to see a well-constructed and well painted hive. But I am willing to admit, that from a dollar and cent point of view I am too proud to realize on profits to the fullest extent.

Last October I read a paper before the York Bee-Keepers convention, on my method of wintering bees, in which I mentioned, and advised, the waking up of colonies when the temperature is warm enough for a flight and the bees apparently not being conscious of the fact. The practice at that time was original with me, and several who were present very much questioned the advisability of such management. Since that time I have noticed several of the big guns in bee-culture recommend the same thing under certain circumstances. From the experience of the past winter, again my faith in the practice has received encouragement. Every bee-keeper who is at all observant has noticed when wintering bees on the summer stands, that two colonies may be sitting side by side, domiciled in the same kind of hive, and equal in every respect, yet, for some unaccountable reason (on my part at least) when the temperature rises to about 50°, the one will rush out and have a good cleansing flight, while

the other remains dormant. That is the time when I would do the arousing, but not by kicking or thumping the hive, but simply by removing the cap and top packing, and let the sun shine right in on the quilt. Of course the apiarist must use his good judgment in the premises.

The Boiler in Bee-Doom desires to know where the truth lies in reference to forcing bees on to full combs of sealed honey, or allowing sufficient empty comb space to cluster on for winter. I will venture the guess, that under certain circumstances the truth may lie in either or both. I once offered a premium for anyone who would give me a plan by which bees could be made to cluster, or forced to cluster on full combs; but since making that offer, which bee-keepers were considerate enough to wrest from me, I have seen them so wintered with the highest possible success.

In The South Land Queen, Mr. Madley is reported as saying (so Editor York says) "You don't need comb foundation to secure straight combs, if your hives front south, but if they front north or east, foundation must be used to prevent crooked combs. I never saw a bee-tree that bees went in on the north or east sides. In this country bees don't appear to make any choice in the matter as to what side of a tree the entrance is on. I just now call to memory ten trees at which I assisted in the locating and cutting. Seven of those had the entrance to the north or north east, one to the south, and two to the west." Wonder if there is anything in Mr. Madley's theory after all.

G. M. Doolittle says there is no one thing about the apiary which he considers of more profit to the apiarist than a division board. He uses one, two, three four or five, or none at all, according to the requirements of the colony, and he says if division boards are not to be used according to the requirements of the colony, they are no use at all, according to his way of thinking.—Progressive 43.

During the last year I have personally experienced the marked difference in the longevity of queens. During the honey flow of 1896 I introduced successfully eleven grey Carniolan Queens, purchased from a U. S. Breeder. Six out of the eleven were superseded in 1897, while I have queens in their fourth year doing excellent service.

After quoting Mr. White's citation of a man who actually boasted of working for quantity rather than quality, Somnam-