

Notes and Pickings.

—D. W. HEISE.

"Most certainly introducing a young queen in place of an older one before harvest, lessens the chance of swarming; and more than that, if the young queen is not introduced, but reared in the hive there is no danger of swarming. Why a queen reared in the hive is better to prevent swarming, than one of the same age introduced, I don't know."—Stray Straw, Gleanings.

Perhaps Doctor, it is from a desire on the part of the introduced queen, to set up house-keeping on her own responsibility; rather than be ushered into an established and furnished homestead.

According to "Sterrog." E. T. Abbott, is now thoroughly convinced that a cluster of bees with "full honey sacks," will not freeze. The past winter he deprived a colony of all its stores, and placed a sugar cake directly over the cluster. Said colony was in fine condition when last reported. This Picker is with Mr. Abbott and his "pet" theory, that if a colony is given plenty of good stores "in the right place" (easy of access) they will not freeze. But Dr. Miller thinks this may be so with a large cluster, but entirely different with a small one. But, Doctor, if the space were contracted in proportion to the size of the cluster, would you not expect the results pretty much the same, as far as freezing is concerned?

Gleanings, P. 300, An American Tramp tells some things about bee-keeping in Cuba, and in so doing he hopes to save money for those who go there and more for those who "stay away." Pretty strong hint to stay away. Says it is a fair honey country but such large crops as are reported from California and Florida are unknown there. Crop will generally pay a bee-keeper fair wages; has known 375 colonies in the hands of an expert bee-keeper to pay him less than \$300 dollars for his season's labour. Surplus honey flow is from November to the first of March. Railway fare costs 13 cents per mile for third-class; what the first-class rate was, the tramp was afraid to ask. Honey this year brought forty-eight cents per gallon (an exceptional year). Has known it to be only twenty-four cents,

and cost two dollars to draw a barrel of ninety gallons a distance of eight miles. There are almost no houses on the island, what are left are filled with "fleas." The tramp found it necessary in order to get a little rest at night, to first bathe himself in kerosene, and it at a cost of from fifty cents to one dollar per gallon. Flour is eight dollars per barrel; beef thirty cents per pound, and everything in proportion. I have concluded with editor Root not to start for the Isle of Cuba just yet. Will wait until Uncle Sam has taught the fleas in his newly acquired territory better manners.

J. A. Green, Gleanings page 303, says: Having combs built so thick that the queen will not lay in them, looks plausible. He admits that it is somewhat of a deterrent, yet from his experience, it cannot be depended on as a complete preventive. He has extracting combs with cells seven-eight inches deep, yet when the bees desire to extend the brood nest, they simply cut those deep cells down to the proper depth. This I would readily believe. But when he says, "I have some times thought they prefer those extracting combs to the regular brood combs," I think he would find not a few who would disagree with him on that point. According to my observations the bees always, but more particularly in the spring season, show a decided preference to old darkened brood comb for brood rearing and I think the reason is very simple, the brood is not so suddenly affected by fluctuations of temperature.

Elias Fox seems to have a super abundance of proof that bees have a decided dislike for "black." Has known them, when angry, to strike at black spots and knots on boards, and, when very angry, he has seen them strike and restrike the auger-holes in the ends of covers on empty hives. Those must have been very, very, angry bees, or were they trying to get away from the "Fox?"

Henry Alley gives in Gleanings, page 307, an experiment. He tried to force a colony to rear some drones, by filling a hive with nearly all drone comb, and the queen was obliged to lay her eggs in drone cells. He watched the experiment with much interest. In due time the cells were capped over, but not as drone brood is usually capped, and when the bees emerged from those cells they were no larger than those reared in ordinary worker cells. Mr. Alley thinks this demonstrates conclusively that when it