

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper.

Does White Clover Winter-kill?

In a recent issue of "Gleanings," a correspondent advances the theory that white clover never winter-kills; that it is in no way affected by the cold; that in the supposed cases of winter-killing, drouth has really been the cause of death to the plants. Possibly some will remember that at Woodstock, a few years ago, Mr. Hall, in commenting on a paper by Mr. Sibbald, also refuted the idea of clover winter-killing, claiming that drouth was responsible for all mischief done to the plants. While I will not for a moment dispute the statement that drouth does kill white clover plants, on the other hand can give positive evidence that the plants are sometimes killed between December 1st and April 1st; call it winter or spring-killing, as you will. A few of the farmers near me annually raise from five to ten acres of white clover for seed, cultivating it like alsike. Some three years ago, no doubt many bee-keepers will recollect how all the snow left about 1st of February, followed by a spell of Arctic weather which continued till nearly April. Then we had some two or three weeks of warm days, with severe freezing every night. The result was that fields that had a luxuriant show of plants in the fall were as bare as a floor in the spring, the dead plants being literally heaved out of the earth. In our locality this same thing happens about one year in four to the common red clover. Alsike and white clover are more hardy, and I only remember two seasons when these two varieties were killed to any great extent. Before leav-

ing the clover question, would add that some of the farmers mentioned as growing white clover were first induced to do so by the writer paying for half of first lot of seed sown. Rather costly at first, but think investment paid all right.

Foul Brood Treatment.

Mention was made in January C. B. J. of the fact that scientists and practical apiarists cannot agree when it comes to methods of treating foul brood. But just listen what that intensely practical apiarist, E. R. Root, has to say in "Gleanings" in answer to a correspondent who reports failure in combatting the disease: "It is my opinion that in administering the treatment you failed to disinfect the smokers and tools, and possibly your own person. I would advise scorching out all the hives as an additional precaution." It makes me wonder why the operator is not advised to disinfect the bees and clean out their toe nails. Surely the bees, in running over the combs, would be more apt to have disease germs clinging to them than would the clothing of the operator, which has not come in contact with contents of the hive? However, we bow to the inevitable; so, friend McEvoy, take notice that on your next official visit to York county we will have a portable fumigating tank on hand and will give you "treatment" every time you inspect an apiary before we allow you to visit another.

Cleaning Propolis From Separators.

Miss Emma Wilson, in the A. B. J., tells of a handy and effectual way of cleaning propolis from separators, hive tools, etc. It consists in simply immersing them till clean in a kettle full of water, into which a quantity of the common concentrated lye has been dissolved. No exact measures are given as to quantity of lye to use, but the matter can easily be determined by a little experimenting. The plan has