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NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Size of Hive Entrances for Outdoor Wintering.

In this season of the year anything in the line of wintering is pretty sure to appeal to the average bee-keeper, especially to we chaps who winter outdoors. An editorial in "Gleanings" of September 15th issue advises bee-keepers to contract entrances to all hives early in September to not larger than 6 inches by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep, and adds: "Of course, all entrances should be contracted during cold weather." Where large entrances are used during hot weather—say two inches deep by full width of hive—of course there is no question that contraction is necessary during cold weather, but as to wisdom of contracting to as small dimensions as advised by friend Root, I for one would take issue. After experimenting with different sizes of entrances, am thoroughly convinced that for our latitude, in outdoor wintering, a fair-sized entrance is necessary for best results, and this winter nearly every one of my colonies will go into winter quarters with entrances equivalent to five square inches.

One of the disadvantages of small

entrances, especially for out-yards, is the liability of them getting clogged with dead bees, and when this happens with a strong colony for any length of time, mischief is pretty sure to follow. Aside from this, for reasons I cannot explain, the colonies with large entrances invariably winter best with me, provided, of course, they go into winter quarters strong in numbers.

[Last season we made some experiments with small entrances for outside wintering, and we do not wish to repeat them. In our experience, small winter entrances are regular death-traps to populous colonies. Our best results have been with full width entrances, 12x%, bridged over to meet the outer case. Probably a deeper entrance contracted in width correspondingly, might be better.—Ed.]

Most Important Things for Association Work.

Among some two dozen answers to Editor York's query in "American Bee Journal," as to most important work for the National Association to undertake, our own Mr. McEvoy is the only one who touches on the idea of instilling into bee-keepers the need of producing a better quality of extracted honey. If one had not been reading some recent articles by extensive apiarists over the line, would be led to think that no unripe honey was produced in "Uncle Sam's" domains, and that they therefore knew nothing of the evil. As intimated in a former issue of the "Can-