

## Thoughts and ...Comments

ON CURRENT TOPICS

*by a York County Bee Keeper.*

"Severe weather will rule the rest of the winter, if it is a winter of average severity, for thus far it has been mild," quotes Dr. Miller in a "Stray Straw" in *Gleanings*, Jan. 15 issue. While the weather up to date (Feb. 14) in this locality might not properly be called "mild" yet I feel quite sure that it has been exceptionally favorable to bees wintering outdoors. Very few cold snaps, and none of them of any duration to speak of, a fairly equable temperature prevailing most of the time with very little high wind.

Of course we may get plenty of severe weather yet, but then it don't do to borrow trouble, and again I have an idea (it may be a foolish one) that a long continued cold snap early in the winter is more trying on bees than if the same should occur later in the season, say the latter part of February.

To be sure, the bees have not had a cleansing flight as yet, but as these 'cleansing flights' have been so few and far between for the last few years, have little anxiety on that score. Anyhow if I had "my own way" about bees flying in the winter, the best I would ask for would be for a flight late in November and then another in the latter part of February or thereabouts. With such favorable weather for outdoor wintering, have been almost wishing that the hundred colonies in the cellar were outside too. As this is my first venture in cellar wintering naturally I feel dubious as to results.

### BEE-KEEPING: NORTH AND SOUTH

Under this heading H. E. Hill, a former pupil of J. B. Hall, now editor of the *American Beekeeper*, contributes an interesting article to the December Review. Mr. Hill contrasts the advantages and disadvantages of the north and south from an agricultural point of view. Among other things he says: "The winter problem (in Florida) is necessarily indifferent; though neglect and carelessness are hardly less fatal in Florida than in the north. Weak and queenless colonies readily fall a prey to ants and the wax-moth. Indeed the strongest sometimes do. Mr. Hill can store quantities of comb honey in the fall without fear of deterioration. In the humid atmosphere of South Florida it would most likely become worthless as a merchantable product within a week after being taken from the hive. Mr. Hill can store his extracted combs in an open shed from season to season. In South Florida they would be destroyed within a very few days by the moth larvae. Here the webs of the destroyer may always be seen during the summer in combs that have remained off the hive over night, as they sometimes do during the extracting season. Mr. Hill also claims that the bees consume vastly more stores in Florida than here in the north, by reason of the continued activity; the same cause being also the means of reducing the longevity of the queens, a queen in Florida rarely retaining her prolificacy beyond the second season. It would seem by the foregoing that the south is not altogether a land of sunshine, from a bee-keeper's standpoint.

### DEATH OF J. A. MARTIN

Speaking of the south brings to mind the death of that popular contributor