

Thoughts andComments ON CURRENT TOPICS

By a York County Bee Keeper.

ADVANTAGES? OF CHAFF PACKED HIVES.

Mr. A. C. Miller, in "April Review" says that he has come to the conclusion that bees winter in chaff hives in spite of the packing and not on account of it, and thinks that the ideal hive for out door wintering is the ordinary single walled hive covered with a wind and water proof cover of black. He states that such a hive warms through quickly and retains the heat a long time. In testing the different kinds of hives, he has found that the bees winter well prepared in that manner. Editor Root, commenting article in "Gleanings," on Mr. Miller's thinks that such a hive will not show up as well in practice as in theory. He says that some years ago they experimented along this line and in nearly every case, while the bees wintered well in the chaff hives, those in the hives protected with paper suffered severely. On the other hand, Mr. D. W. Heise, one of Ontario's most careful and successful bee-keepers, after seven or eight years experimenting, has discarded the packed hive, and is to-day using almost exclusively a hive made of half inch siding nailed together with board between. From observation as to Mr. Heise's success, have no doubt but that it is a splendid hive for out door wintering in our locality, and it is my intention to give them quite an extensive trial this coming winter. They have

the advantage of being light to handle and of taking up but little more room than the single walled hive; something that cannot be said of the packed hives, which by the way, is one of my chief objections to the latter, to say nothing of them being a harboring place for ants etc.

FORMALIN AS A CURE FOR FOUL BROOD

While a bit dubious when reading the glowing accounts of some who think this drug is destined to be a universal panacea for all foul brood troubles, am nevertheless open to conviction and have a slight hope that it will at least prove effective in disinfecting "doubtfully clean" super combs. However must confess to a feeling akin to disgust; when I see some advocating its use in treating combs reeking with foul brood matter. Granted that the remedy would be effective in destroying the germs, pray who would wish to use the foul combs with the filthy stain marks and dried up larvae adhering to the cells? They would be nice for having surplus honey stored in, wouldn't they? Am reminded of an eccentric friend who often said "he didn't mind a bit of 'clean' dirt" "but he did object to nastiness," if the case in question does not come under the head of nastiness, I give up. In my opinion the only reasonable methods of treating combs containing foul brood filth, is either by the wax-press or fire. Certainly, I for one do not wish to use or sell, honey that has been stored in cells containing corpses which have been victims of foul brood.

THE "OTHER SIDE" OF BEE-KEEPING IN CUBA.

Mr. Harry House, of Cuba, formerly one of Coggs' "lightning" operators in N. Y. State, in May "Review" objects to the rose colored views of Cuba being given, without