

The secret of the disease seems to lie in the fact that something is given to the brood which causes it to sicken and die. The second method is to kill the queen or remove her, and leave the colony queenless for twenty-seven days, then giving the colony a queen cell or a virgin queen. The philosophy of this seems to lie in the fact that in order to clean out the disease, brood rearing must stop until all the unhatched brood has hatched out, and the bees given time to clean house before they have a chance of feeding new larvæ. In this way the bees can remove the disease themselves. It was thought that the difficulty lay with the queen; she was killed. The secret of the cure lay in the fact that all brood rearing was stopped until the bees had a chance to clean out all the cells. I would, therefore not advise you to destroy your queens. You can save your queens by the following method. Take a frame of capped brood with adhering bees and introduce your queen to this frame, which, of course, must be clean. The bees from which the queen has been taken are to be left queenless. Examine them in six or seven days and break down all queen cells that they may make. This will prevent their raising a queen too soon. Leave the hive queenless until about the 20th day, when give them a queen cell. You will find that during the period of queenlessness they will have cleaned up everything. By this method you will not need to sacrifice any of your combs. This is known as the Alexander method of curing black brood. You say that after shaking an Italian colony on to clean frames and stacking supers of diseased combs above with a queen excluder between, the disease will show on the new brood in the clean frames. This is true. Now if you had not put those supers on top of those clean frames, your new brood chamber would have gone on O. K.; while if the diseased combs and

bees had been left without a queen and all brood rearing had stopped, they would have removed all the disease before the new queen started laying. There is no chance of cleaning up a diseased colony while brood rearing is going on, even though they may be separated by an excluder. The statement that you have made proves what I have said in the foregoing, that by shaking you can start a new nucleus and save the life of your queen. The hive will be ready to receive the old bees after they have been queenless long enough to clean house. You can double up the old bees after the lapse of twenty-seven days with the old queens in their new quarters; or you can give the bees new queens, thus saving all your combs, and making considerable increase. This is about all the assistance I can give you, as it is the only known method of treating the disease successfully. I wish to say, however, that the writer has had no practical experience with the disease, and his knowledge of it is gathered only from a close reading of the writings of others who have had it. The experience of Dr. Miller last year is entirely in accord with the above directions—at least I think so. He modified the Alexander system somewhat, and, I believe, proved conclusively that the cure lay not in destroying the old queen and getting a new one, but in the entire stoppage of brood rearing until the bees had cleaned it all out and polished up their cells. If you would write Mr. McEvoy at Woodburn, Ont., or Mr. Pettit at the Guelph Agricultural College, they would give you valuable advice. Mr. Pettit, I believe, has had some experience with it, and he may be able to give you valuable assistance; and I know that he would cheerfully do it. If, however, you follow the above plan, I have no doubt you can effect a cure. I deeply regret that I could not answer your letter sooner, as every day now counts as very

August, 1910

valuable in the v
fore you. If you
cure that owing
season the bees are
honey, you can
by feeding them f
day or say a qu
other day. The
and made of equ
water.

Dear Sir,—I have
are yours, of the 2
deed much obliged
interest you have
about which I wro
to say that my son
ting the better of
satisfactory manner
lines as you recom
away, however, with
the introduction of
(recently mated) at
into clean hives co
out combs or full
One point which may
That two of our Ital
able to keep brood r
12 frames out of 1
cluder above and the
filled with hatching
less diseased conditio
hive. This diseased
the two hives early i
sult of so much hatch
addition to that of p
the hives got remark
during the whole of
clover, raspberry and
terday decided to in
found every frame al
and nearly the whole
honey mostly capped
be extracted. I sh
two hives will give c
honey. In neither h