

DYSENTERY IN BEES.

Translations From German Bee Journals, by Jacob Haberer, Zurich, Ont.

"Praxis Bienenzucht" contains a long article on the subject by Dr. Fellemus of Hamburg. He says that the first cause of this distemper is thirst, the second is poor ventilation, and the third neglect on the part of the bee-keeper. The amount of water in honey varies according to the season. In a dry season it will contain only from sixteen to eighteen per cent. water, in a wet season the average will run from twenty-one to twenty-three per cent. In wintering, honey of the former consistency, will cause thirst much sooner than the latter. If a winter follows with variable temperature the bees will be more restless than in an even temperature, and this restlessness increases thirst. He tells of his experiments along this line and recommends sprinkling the bees with lukewarm water as a remedy. Speaking of poor ventilation as a cause of dysentery, he blames too much packing, and the leaving of too small an entrance, thus shutting out the pure air, which he considers as essential for bees as for any other living creature. Some top or rear ventilation is necessary. About winter flights, the writer says the general belief is that the first cleansing flight will prevent thirst and dysentery, the latter may sometimes be the case but not always the former, if the ground is frozen. On the first bright day they will take flight, cleanse themselves in the air, and then drop down to the ground for a drink, here a great many will find their death; they will get chilled and will not be able to rise again. If the bees were watered in their hive this would not occur. They would not fly, but would fly back directly to their hive again.

Curing Fertile Workers.

"Leipziger Bienenzeltung" — Most bee-keepers know that it does not pay to treat fertile workers, but in certain instances it may be done successfully. Follow their nature as nearly as possible. The fertile worker colony knows that its condition is contrary to nature, they constantly prepare to raise a queen, they build queen cells, supply these cells with royal jelly even if they do not contain larvae, their whole energy is used to produce a queen. If you want to be successful in treating this condition you will have to follow their impulse—never give them a sealed cell, as they want to build their own, nor a queen, they want to raise her themselves, but give them an unsealed cell with a young larvae, and they will accept and attend to it. A young queen will be hatched and your colony saved.

(From the same)—"Expert bee-keepers in Switzerland say that no large apiary should be conducted without a hive on the scale. This will tell you when to add combs or foundation, to feed or to extract, and will keep you informed on many other conditions in the apiary."

(From the Same)—"Black Bees—In German, French, Swiss and Belgium Bee Journals, the old adherence to the black bee is quite noticeable still; whenever a change is wanted it is more to improve the black bee than to introduce new races, and to accomplish this is the aim at the present time, "and this is alright," remarks the British Bee Journal."

(From the Same)—"Produce More Honey:—More honey to sell is what we want. Wherever a grocery is opened we find artificial honey, and in any hotel you will notice artificial honey on the table for breakfast, and the waiter will tell you that the guests like it better than pure honey. It would be well to put the word "honey" under legal protection."