

colonies that have died for the bees to feed upon are very bad bee-keeping, and may result in all the apiaries in the neighbourhood becoming diseased. Those who keep bees in box hives should be urged to transfer them to hives with movable combs.

TREATMENT OF AMERICAN FOUL BROOD.

The treatment of American foul brood consists in the removal and destruction of all infected matter and compelling the colony to make a fresh start by building new combs and gathering fresh stores.

The bees should be treated, if possible, during the honey flow so that the other bees in the apiary will not be inclined to rob, and also that the treated bees may make a good start. If no honey flow is taking place, the newly treated bees will need feeding with syrup. To further reduce the risk of robbing the work should be done towards evening unless the number of colonies to be treated is great.

Before the operation is begun all appliances that will be required should be in readiness. The hive containing the diseased colony is lifted back two feet or so and a clean hive containing frames fitted with strips of foundation about half an inch wide is set in its place. A spare cover or similar board is placed in front of the clean

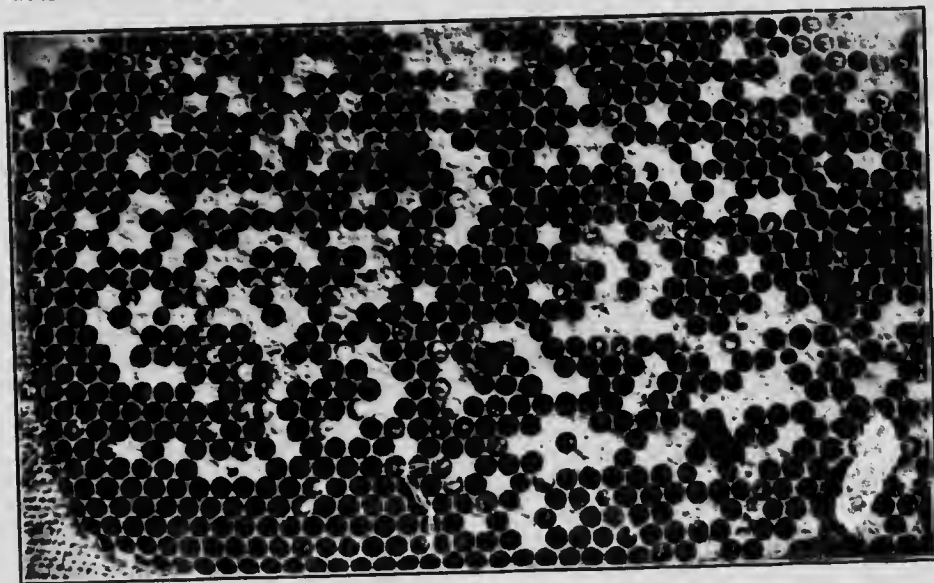


Fig. 40.—European foul brood.

hive to act as a runway. Five frames are lifted out of the clean hive to make a vacant space into which the bees are to be shaken, and the part containing the rest of the frames is covered with a board or sack to prevent the bees crawling out at top. The old hive is now opened and the combs are lifted out one at a time and the bees are shaken off them into the new hive, each comb being put into a spare hive body that has been placed nearby. As soon as the combs have been collected in this they should be covered over. The five frames of foundation are now returned to the clean hive and the cover is put on. If honey drops out of the combs the bees should not be shaken into the hive, but instead, on to sheets of newspaper spread over the runway close to the hive so that the bees will run in. The soiled newspapers are afterwards destroyed.

When most of the bees are in the hive a queen excluder should be placed under the hive between the bottom board and the brood chamber, or a strip of queen exclud-