

APICULTURE

My Experience with Foul Brood

R. F. Whiteside, Victoria Co., Ont.

On learning that foul brood was spreading among bees throughout our county in the fall of 1898, I secured the services of our inspector, Mr. Wm. McEvoy, of Woodburn. He brought a diseased comb with him, and we visited several bee men in this section. Mr. McEvoy showing the sample

comb and explaining how to cure the disease.

A few years after, one of these bee men found a number of his colonies were diseased before he was fully aware of it. He then burned and buried 20 or 30 of the combs, taking his own way to cure it. But after a while he was led to adopt Mr. McEvoy's plan of treating all the hives at once when several are round to have foul brood. As he was an intelligent, long-experienced hand with bees, in a few years he succeeded in curing it.

About this time I noticed that a whole face of brood, in two combs in a weak hive that was sealed, looked rather yellow. On examination the next week I felt sure it was foul brood, so brimstoned the bees and melted or burned the combs. The sample sent at this time was pronounced foul.

In October two years after this, on taking off a super in this same yard situated about two miles west of the badly-diseased yard of my neighbor, the bees looked somewhat dainty and on looking into the brood nest I found

the dire disease. After taking out three combs having no brood in them, and all the bees had gathered below, I placed an old saucer containing brimstone the size of an egg on the bottom board and set it on fire, covered up tight and stopped the fly hole close. This was the last of the disease in that yard.

Some two years later, at my Segog Lake yard, Mr. James set a colony of black bees he had found a mile east on a fence, in the same yard near my 35 colonies. The next summer he died them, using a queen that he secured from the States. The next spring his son placed supers on and in the fall I bought them for thinking I would find them well filled with buckwheat above and below, but to my chagrin I found them badly diseased, with few bees and little honey. I took all combs away and placed them on four sealed honey combs. Of course, they died in the winter, as others have with combs soiled and diseased.

In the spring I found one of my colonies dead and diseased. Inspector Beyer on visiting this yard found about half of my hives diseased, and some very badly.

I placed 30 of the clean sealed brood combs on each of five stock and shook the rest on starters, then in three days on full sheets, all queens being clipped. Unfortunately I had no wax press then, and so melted some of the combs over exhaust stoves a mile from my home yard. Some old bees came flying in, it being hot July weather, though honey was coming freely. As this failed I melted the balance at the house yard on a stove with two wash boilers. Of course, some bees came in, though I had screen windows and doors.

MORE TROUBLE

Being very busy extracting, I did not get back to Mr. James' place till one of those immense colonies had swarmed with a young queen. As other swarms that young Mr. James had hived decamped on being moved a few rods. Then these five hives were treated, but the next June a few had some diseased cells and were treated again. The next spring one dead one had the disease and a month later another was found after careful search of every single comb in the yard, and next fall one more was found and removed.

A weak colony from Brock township in my home yard was found dead and robbed, and the next June six or eight more were found; in the fall and next spring a few more, but in the meantime no diseased ones were robbed.

So, like the sword after David, the disease will never depart from my house, and if the "European strikes" I might as well throw up my cap. My advice would be to go through the yard about the first of April, before snow is off, and if any are very weak or dead stop them up tight. If at disease is within a mile or in the same yard, then examine the hives some mid day a month later.

When we decided to have our Woodstock herd tuberculin tested and made absolutely free from tuberculosis, I put up a set of buildings, we my Bontekoe Farm, the best of any I have, to take care of all reactions. After two years of work with the reacting cattle we have yet to get a reacting calf from the bunch. In the we have been very much encouraged, since all told about 140 calves have passed this test and have been authorities as W. Waggoner are highly gratified at the success of our work and what we have accomplished with our reacting herd at our Bontekoe Farm.—J. W. Dimick, Ulster Co., N.Y.

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