

FOUL BROOD

BY MISS TREVORROW

I received a letter from our Secretary, Mr. Hodgetts, asking me to write a paper for this Convention, to which I replied that, as I had contributed to the programme last year, I thought a new name would be a greater attraction this year, and as there were so many members of this Association, who, by their larger experience, were better qualified to write, I would rather he would appeal to them. A second letter from Mr. Hodgetts set aside my objections, and hoped that I would re-consider my decision, which I interpreted to mean that he would not take "no" for an answer, and being naturally disposed to obey the behests of my superior officers, I concluded, though someone had blundered, 'Twas mine but to write—or try.

I have not chosen the subject of "Foul Brood" because I am an authority upon it, for I have had no practical experience with the disease, but because it is a subject in which I am very much interested, and one that I believe every bee-keeper should be interested in and acquainted with, if not practically, then, theoretically, with such a sound preventative theory, that its execution shall keep his colonies impervious to disease.

It would be impossible for me to write a treatise of foul brood that would be interesting or instructive to experienced bee-keepers, but if the statement of what I am doing to keep my colonies free from disease, shall lead to a discussion in criticism of my plan, a discussion which will be full of good points for the use of those who, like myself, have very little experience in

the matter, I shall not have written in vain.

I believe I received my first lesson on "Foul Brood" when I had only five colonies, and only new hives to work with. When the bees swarmed, I used full sheets of foundation, in brood chamber and super, and fresh supers of foundation as each one was filled with honey, till I had turned up enough supers to give me the largest surplus per colony I have ever had. I said to a bee-keeper who visited my yard at that time, and who was acquainted with its condition: "I hope I have no foul brood in my hives"—I always had a dread of this disease. He replied: "There is no danger of that, they were good, healthy colonies when you got them, and you have been treating them for foul brood ever since, by giving them so much new foundation and new hives. I hardly appreciated the lesson at its true value at the time, but it has recurred to me many times since, and has almost reconciled me to the use of the—still objectionable—wax press, that makes a frequent change into clean, new quarters practicable, and assists very materially in avoiding disease.

In the Spring of 1905, my queens were clipped by two experienced bee-keepers, one of whom gave me a hint in regard to the effect of strong colonies on foul brood, although he only said, as he contemplated the strong force of bees in the hives, "It is a sign there is no disease in them, when you see colonies as strong as these." The other, finding a hive with a large proportion of drone combs in it, asked for worker combs to replace them. When I brought him combs

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