

TREATMENT OF COMBS CONTAINING DEAD BROOD IN SPRING.

QUERY No. 52.—In the spring it sometimes happens that the combs of deceased colonies—or even weak living ones—contain dead brood, and upon removing the capping the contents of the cells are found to be a brown colored, thick, liquid substance. How is this to be distinguished from foul brood? And (2nd) how should combs containing such be treated?

M. EMIGH, HOLBROOK, ONT.—Never had any. Don't know.

S. CORNELL, LINDSAY, ONT.—I never saw anything like this. I have had no experience with foul brood.

G. M. DOOLITTLE, BORODINO, N. Y.—Foul brood is scattered throughout the combs, while this dead brood would be only in small patches in one or two of the combs. (2) Give to strong colonies one at a time in May and June.

PROF. A. J. COOK, LANSING, MICH.—I have never seen such, and should suppose it might be foul brood. Except for foul brood, I should expect all larvæ to show form and not rotten as must be the case as described above.

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.—(1) By reading carefully the descriptions of foul brood given by Mr. Jones and others. (2) Give them one at a time to a strong colony. Possibly it might be well to keep the combs first in some place where they could dry out.

JUDGE ANDREWS.—(1) I have no knowledge of the "brown colored, thick, liquid substance," but, knowing foul brood, I would distinguish the liquid substance from foul brood by the absence of the characteristics of foul brood. (2) Such combs should go to the wax extractor, thence to the foundation mill.

H. COUSE, THE GRANGE, ONT.—In answer to this I would refer the writer to Mr. D. A. Jones' pamphlet on foul brood, which can be had for the small sum of eleven cents. It fully describes the various kinds of dead brood. Think you will find your case under the heading "chilled brood."

H. D. CUTTING, CLINTON, MICH.—Unless you are very positive it is not foul brood I would burn them up. If you are positive it is not foul brood then make a solution of carbolic acid and water and put the comb into it all over and let stand for a short time, shake out, let dry and you can use them again.

DR. DUNCAN, EMBRO.—Any one finding cells in their hives of that description the safest plan would be to destroy your comb at once or melt it all for beeswax and put your bees into a clean hive. If you have only one or two with cells of that description it is better to burn the whole kit, bees and all.

P. H. ELWOOD, STARKVILLE, N. Y.—If you don't know foul brood send a piece to some one who does. I have always succeeded in curing foul brood by running to extracted honey and brimstoning such combs occasionally. Have had several hundred foul brood combs at a time.

DR. J. C. THOM, STREETSVILLE, ONT.—(1) Chilled brood is not so ropy as foul brood nor has it the extremely disgusting fetor. (2) Uncap the dead brood, and if no living brood is in the combs most of it may be jarred out by a sharp knock, while holding the comb horizontally. I have dislodged it by using a stream of water forced from a common rubber enema syringe.

G. W. DEMAREE, ESQ.—I have a few times seen something similar to what you describe. If brood is chilled immediately after it is sealed over, the soft undeveloped larvæ will sink down into a dark mass instead of drying up as it does when the larvæ is more fully developed. I know nothing of "foul brood" except what I have read. Foul combs caused by chilled brood should be uncapped and hung up in a dry place where they will soon dry, after which the bees will clean them to suit themselves.

J. E. POND, JR.—I have never seen a comb or set of combs in the condition described in this query. Foul brood ought to be distinguished long before preparations are made for wintering; and if not discovered then, it would be positive proof that it does not exist under the conditions stated by the querist. If I found such combs, I should give one each to strong colonies and allow them to clean them out, as they can do so more easily, more economically and in far better shape than can be done in any other way or manner.

S. T. PETTIT, BELMONT, ONT.—Not being well educated in foul brood may be I don't know. Had you not better send for D. A. Jones' pamphlet and study the subject up? If there be no very bad odor and the cells not punctured I should not feel uneasy about foul brood. (2) If the combs are dirty I spread them out on the grass during a wet day when bees are not flying and turn them over once (first uncapping all sealed brood), then pour water with a dipper