

bottom board, leaving the bottom of the hive entirely open, served largely the same purpose as a loose cover, though not to quite the same extent. In some of the larger hives, having a bottom board, as well as sealed covers, the combs outside the cluster were very wet and mouldy. In the case of the weaker colonies sealed covers were comparatively detrimental. Of course all this is in a cellar where the temperature was maintained during the entire winter at 45° and over, and it can readily be believed that the class of colonies that would fail to cope with the conditions induced by sealed covers out of doors would be very considerably enlarged; not, I think, because the moisture would induce the disease known as dysentery, but because it would require stronger colonies to ward off encroaching chilliness caused by constant excessive evaporation, so that the health and vigor of a large number would be undermined and finally destroyed.

Of course so far it does not appear that sealed covers have any advantage in any case but inasmuch as they cause wet and mouldy combs it would be well worth the while to loosen all covers when the bees are put into the cellar and certainly so unless the bottom boards are entirely removed.

The losses I have incurred speak plainly of the importance of giving strict heed to the old rule: Keep old colonies strong. By doubling up about one-third of my colonies in September I should have escaped with practically no loss.

Lapeer, Mich. April 23, 1894.

OLLA PODRIDA, NO. 9.

[By O. Fitzalwyn Wilkins.]

Another year has passed into eternity and No. 12 of the Canadian Phoenix (C. B. J.) has passed into the hands of its numerous subscribers, showing continuous improvement in every number since it arose from its ashes in Beeton.

Brother L(ive) B. intimates that "*live men*" are to be credited for the improvement. Now while I quite agree with Bro. B. as to the spirited sprightliness, vigorous vivacity, and *live liveliness* (?) embodied in the *New Series* of our own CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, yet it should be borne in mind that the traits above mentioned are not sufficient in themselves to carry an enterprise to a successful completion.

"Money makes the mare go" is a trite and true saying, therefore, without desiring to disparage the energy and business ability

of the new firm I would respectfully suggest to the L(ive) B. that had the former proprietor of the JOURNAL been possessed of a "plentiful sufficiency" of worldly wealth, it might still be as it formerly was (and I hope may again become) the first as well as the most progressive WEEKLY Bee Journal in America.

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Some of the American bee journals have lately published several letters concerning the wide spread prevalence of the "nameless disease" or bee paralysis in the southern States and California. One writer states that he had tried all the remedies he had heard of, but with no beneficial result. Several years since I had several colonies which were afflicted in like manner; I also tried everything that I could find recommended but without success. Then I killed the queens of the affected colonies, and permitted them to raise young queens from the eggs of those decapitated—the strength of the paralytic colonies being kept up by frames of hatching brood drawn from strong, healthy colonies. The worker brood from these young queens showed in the course of a few days, the same symptoms as did the progeny of their mothers. Being still hopeful of saving my colonies, I again killed the queens of the paralytic colonies and this time introduced queens from unmistakably healthy hybrid colonies, which proved successful, the hatching brood being all healthy, and the colonies becoming eventually strong enough to winter.

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The cause of this "nameless bee-disease," or "bee paralysis" seems to be involved in obscurity, up to the present time. I may be wrong, but I think it is caused by inbreeding too closely. Those queens which I destroyed were the grand-daughters and great-grand-daughters of a thorough-bred Italian queen procured from the U. S., and were mated with drones of the same stock, (I allowed no drone brood in the other hives). None of the progeny of my other queens showed any symptoms whatever of the disease, which entirely disappeared after I substituted hybrid queens for the thorough-breeds.

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If any of your correspondents have had any experience in this matter, I hope they will favor your subscribers with their opinions as to the cause of the disease, and its cure.

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"Prevention of Swarming" by A. G. Willows is a very interesting as well as timely article. I was successful last season in prevent-