

them in the top stories. They have only had one set of brood in, and they are good and tough for extracting combs.

The President: I do not think using old comb for extracting is so bad as Mr. Fixter says.

Mr. Fixter: As long as there is no brood raised in the combs I would have no objection, but I compare a comb where brood has been raised to an egg out of which a chicken has been hatched.

Mr. Miller: If Mr. Fixter will take his old comb, and with a watering pot will fill the cells with water and let them stand for a time, and then reverse them and throw the water out he will be surprised at the color that will come out of them; then after that his honey is clean. There is no necessity for destroying the old combs.

Mr. Dickenson: I tested that. I was prejudiced against those old combs, I had an idea they affected the color of the honey, but I was really surprised in testing the honey that came out of the dark comb and the honey that came out of the drawn foundation. Really it was just as light as the light combs; that is after it has been cleaned up.

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If a large stock of honey, kept in the hive for future use, is the normal condition of a colony of bees, it necessarily follows that the hive that will allow the beekeeper a reasonable share of the surplus will be the safest and best hive to use in localities in which foul brood is likely to prevail.

Driven bees frequently winter safely on syrup, and sometimes they do better the first year than they do afterwards—they are not troubled to any extent during the first year by the microbes. All attempts, however, to winter bees satisfactorily on syrup after robbing them of nearly all their honey have failed. It seems that a little honey is dangerous to the bees, as a little learning is dangerous to the bee-keeper, and that bees do best when their stock of honey is large. The risk of bees contracting disease from robbing infected colonies diminishes as their stock of honey increases, and their resistance to infection increases.

When the bees in a colony afflicted with foul brood are shaken or brushed off their combs and forced to build new combs the disease often disappears, and yet we know that the bees must carry numbers of pathogenic microbes with them. But, as Woodhead states in his work on the Bacteria, "The elements of quantity can never be ignored in dealing with bacteria of any kind."

Cold is the greatest evil that bees have to contend with. An abundance of honey will save them from famine, but numbers alone can save them from cold. As their numbers cubed the quantity of honey consumed to keep up the temperature of the hive is only squared, and numbers therefore have the advantage. Strong colonies only can resist cold and trying to maintain strong colonies in small hives is merely a waste of labor and a loss of time—the normal proportion of bees and honey cannot be maintained, and disease is the inevitable result.

Most assuredly "Nature does no work for an object and against it at the same time," but some beekeepers, who imagine they can teach nature, do it every day—In that