

## TREATMENT FOR BEE DISEASES

Discussion by U.S. Inspectors of Apiaries  
at their Meeting, San Antonio, Tx.

In discussing the methods of treatment it would be a good plan to call on each of the inspectors present and get each one to tell what method he employs. We should hear first from Mr. N. E. France, inspector from Wisconsin. He is the oldest inspector in the United States in point of service.

MR. FRANCE, Referring to the paper which was just read, I have tried some of the methods of using drugs in the apiaries of competent bee-keepers and invariably all these methods are failures in Wisconsin. The fumigating with formalin seemed for a time to check the disease, as did also some of the other drugs, but in the end they all are failures. The one method that has given universal satisfaction we owe to the oldest inspector in America, Mr. William McEvoy, of Ontario, and it has often been termed the "McEvoy method." The plan is to remove the bees from the infection and keep them away long enough to use up whatever infected honey there is in the stomach of the bee.

I am not satisfied to stop with finding disease in a yard and immediately prescribing treatment. In fact, I seldom, after looking over the yard and finding the disease, begin to prescribe treatment, for I feel that we are not yet ready for it. What is the use of treating when some neighbors might have diseased colonies? Take a wide circuit; then treat at once all colonies having disease. This has sometimes vexed the bee-keepers, for they want me to stay and show them what to do at once, but I tell them that I see no good in treating colonies while leaving another source of infection.

I try first to instruct the owner of the bees to be careful in his management. If, in my judgment, he is one who keeps the apiary clean, and if I can depend upon him I sit down and go over the "McEvoy" plan with him very carefully, asking him from time to time if he understands it. If he says that he does, I say: "Now, I am your student; tell me what to do. When you can tell me what you are going to do, I will trust it to you." In nearly all such cases they have treated it without my assistance, and cured it. I can not recommend anything better than the "McEvoy" plan.

Doctor Phillips. There is just one thing I should wish to add to that. The treatment of taking bees from the infected combs was originated in 1769 by Schirach, as nearly as I can find out, and if we are going back to give credit to the originator of this plan, Mr. McEvoy is not the man to get that credit.

Mr. G. W. York (Illinois). Was not the plan original with Mr. McEvoy?

Doctor Phillips. It was probably original with him, but it was advocated long before in many European works.

Mr. Smith. The ground has been thoroughly covered by Mr. France. Two years ago Mr. France said to me: Now, Smith, I have tried almost everything, but I find the "McEvoy" plan the best. My advice is to use the "McEvoy" treatment, as I have done." I have only had one case this year where I have had to make a second transfer, and I found that to be due to infection from a neighbor's colony that I did not get to treat the first time, but which subsequently was treated, and the bees were all right. I have no trouble, and I have great confidence in shaking. I don't alarm the bees. I shall give my method. In treating a diseased colony I use an extra hive, to which the bees are to be transferred, and an additional empty hive, in which I place the infested frames after the bees are shaken from them. The last mentioned is covered with a cloth to prevent other bees from robbing. First I move the old infected hive back, and in its place put a clean hive containing clean frames, with strips of foundation. The frames are lifted from the old hive, shaken in front of the new hive, and then covered up in the third hive, which is used to store infected frames. This is all done in the middle of the day. If there is no honey in the field the colony should be fed well at night.

Mr. J. Q. Stone (Illinois). How do you treat the old hive?

Mr. Smith, I either burn out the hive, paint it with kerosene oil and have it burned out, or wash it in strong salt water.

Mr. Fred Muth (Ohio). When you shake the bees they carry over honey, do they not?

Mr. Smith. I set the hive right on the ground. I do not jar the frames hard enough to jar out the honey.

Mr. Muth. You shake them off during the middle of the day. Is it not better along toward evening?

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