

bee, he wonders if any people in America will be induced to mix the blood, with our present stocks, and advises us to go very slowly and thinks we will lose nothing, by letting some body else try the experiments. There could be no harm done, in allowing Prof. Cook and some of our other colleges, test these bees a little in their apiaries, but would advise them to be exceedingly careful, not to rear any drones until some further confirmation of their valuable points can be brought out.

#### BLACK SHINY BEES.

B. W. Peck, writing in the American Bee Journal, says:

Bees in this vicinity are doing quite well, but the weather is very cold. On May 16 ice formed half an inch thick, but still there is considerable fruit unhurt. My loss was 3 colonies out of 61; two colonies starved and the other one was queenless. On pages 677 and 678 of the Bee Journal, I notice questions by J. T. Wilson and William Craig, about black, shiny bees, and like Mr. Craig, I think it is disease. About two years ago some colonies in my apiary, that I knew had lots of old bees, had no black, shiny ones among them, while other colonies had from a few to a good many. This spring I have 8 or 10 colonies affected, out of 58, and 2 colonies that wintered well are almost ruined with it. These colonies have plenty of brood, yet they die off faster than the young ones hatch, although the young are hatching quite fast, and the bees are piled up in front of the hives by the hundred. I examined them yesterday, and if I could see straight there were young bees affected in the same way. I examined them with a microscope, and they are hairless, or nearly so. As I have had 11 years experience with bees, and have studied their nature quite thoroughly, I have been considerably worried about the disease (if such it is), and would like to hear from others on this subject. We are having a splendid rain to day.

Richmond Centre, O., May 21, 1891.

The above is very much like a number of letters we have had to answer this spring, in reference to Black Shiny bees, which are very common in the spring and fall, when there is plenty of robbing going on, or when they have been soaked with dripping honey in the hive. There are some colonies, apparently like human beings, they prefer to steal for a living and are always wanting to rob some other hive. Nearly all the old bees in such colonies will have a black, shiny appearance. We once heard a party say they believed these bees scraped the hairs off themselves, so that they would be so slippery that when they went into a hive to rob, that the

bees of the hive could not hold on them to sting; or in other words, that they could slip in and out so easily, that they could carry on their work with perfect ease and impunity. One thing is certain, that wherever we find hives addicted to robbing, we find a great many of these bees having the black appearance. Of course they do not live long, because many of them are despatched in the hive, when they go in to steal honey. They slip in by the guards, and as soon as noticed, a lot of bees pounce on them and they are very frequently stung to death, before they can get out. It is not an unusual occurrence in a time of scarcity of honey, if you look in front of the hives, you will find these black shiny bees lying dead in front of those colonies that they have been operating on. The bee that has a black shiny appearance, we consider carries a sign of dishonesty. You will find few, if any, at the end of a good honey flow, as there is an innate principle in bees to gather honey from flowers when it may be found, and the old thieves usually die off before the end of the honey season, if it lasts from four to six weeks as it should.

#### PURITY OF BEESWAX.

The quantity of adulterated wax on the market, is astonishing. Some large dealers seem to fancy, that almost anything will do, to sell for pure beeswax. We have been forced to refuse a large number of consignments of wax, on account of adulteration. To customers that have not received their foundation the day it was promised, we wish to state here, that it is on account of the delay in getting shipments of pure wax. We expected, to be able to fill all orders, but there has been so much of it, turn out to be adulterated, that it had to be returned, hence has kept us back very much with orders. We were determined, this year, if possible, to ship out every order, for foundation, by the next train. We are several day's behind yet but hope to catch up, unless some of the wax that is on the way is adulterated, and we will be able to close out all orders by the 18th.

We have just secured about 40 Combination Honey Boards, 9 frame, and 23 combination honey boards 8 frame, as good as new, perforated metal queen excluding, which we will sell at two thirds-regular price.