

axe and begins to chop away at the tree the bees seem to be demoralized. Severe smoking is liable to induce robbing.

SPRING DWINDLING AND THE REMEDY.

"Is spring dwindling a disease? If so, what is the remedy?"

W. Z. Hutchinson, of Michigan—My idea of spring dwindling is imperfect wintering. They need to have good food. Good food is the pivot of successful wintering. If you have good food and protect the bees you will not have spring dwindling. I think spring dwindling is the result of poor wintering. I would not call it a disease, unless an overloading of the system from confinement constitutes a disease.

Mr. Abbott—Doesn't a cold spring have something to do with it?

Mr. Hutchinson—I think it would have something to do with it.

Mr. Abbott—I would like to suggest that spring dwindling is frequently the result of foolish feeding.

I have known a great many people kill off their bees with feeding. Like the average farm bee-keeper he is just as likely to cause spring dwindling by feeding his bees to do them any good, if he feeds them late in the fall. A great many

bees are provoked to fly out in the spring by foolish feeding, when, if they were left alone, and not fed at all, would not break the cluster, and the result is they wear themselves out before it is time for the queen to lay any eggs. Some people wonder

why it is, and say they followed the books, but the man who isn't depending to use brains in connection with bee-books would be better off about them, especially when it comes to feeding. Farmers come to me and say, "I thought my bees were short, and I fixed them up with syrup and put it under the hive,

and I have been feeding them for a long time," when the mercury was standing down below freezing all the time, and a man who feeds bees when the mercury is in that condition is simply producing spring dwindling; and if you should define disease as an abnormal condition, I should say it was a disease.

Pres. Root—As I understand Mr. Abbott, feeding in the spring has a tendency to cause the bees to fly out, and they become chilled and do not get back.

Mr. Abbott—Not only that, but the over-activity of the bee exhausts its vitality.

Mr. Hutchinson—Mr. McEvoy, in Canada, has very good success in wintering his bees, and he crowds them down on five or six combs of solid honey, and does that so that they can not breed towards spring, and if those combs are not full of honey he feeds them till they are full, and will not take any more food. He feeds that in the fall.

Dr. Miller—I confess, to begin with, that I do not know what is the cause of spring dwindling. It is a matter of exceeding consequence sometimes to all of us, and I would like very much if we could get at what is the cause of it. In the first place, I think we all would be very likely to agree that it is not a disease. It is a condition. Not such a condition as would be called a disease, however, and the facts that have been stated are all in the line with the observation of anyone who takes pains to make any observation about it at all. It would be worth something to us if we could get down to find out what is the condition that is produced. Now, it may be true, for instance, that food of a certain kind brings about that condition, but what is that condition? Will feeding and making them fly out at inopportu-