

FOUL BROOD.

Read at the A. B. K. Convention.

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association has, I believe, two or three accredited representatives at this Convention, though but one with portfolio. But as the present membership of our Society would entitle us to a dozen or more delegates, this communication from me will not, I hope, be any encroachment on the time, business, or patience of the meeting. At any rate the paramount importance of the subject I wish to bring before you must be at once my justification and apology.

On looking over the programme for this International Convention of beekeepers, I am not a little surprised to find that the question most vital to them to-day has no place there. I therefore propose to step it under cover of "Volunteer Contributions," and fill the gap thus left open.

The question I refer to as being the most serious and difficult one confronting the apiarist to-day is the "Foul Brood" question.

The other prime difficulties in bee-culture have been removed—the largest obstacles surmounted. The winter problem has been solved; the "spring-swindling" problem is solved; the evolution of the "best bee" is well under way; while a host of other minor matters have been resolved into a multitude of solutions to suit this bee-keeper, that one, and the other one.

The foul brood problem has stood the longest—a defiance to our heads and a menace to our pockets. But it too, has been practically solved, though still hot in theoretical dispute. But one good fact rightly interpreted, ought to kill a dozen dubious, opposing theories. I remember writing when at school from this copy: "Theory is worth but little unless it can explain its own phenomena"—and the idea has been useful to me. Whatever the theories of foul-brood presented, and whatever the drugopathic remedies proposed and predicated thereon, I undertake to say here, that we in Canada, have practically solved the problem of cure, during the past season.

As soon as I became satisfied of this, I sought to convince our big cousin over there of the important fact, but apparently with poor success—that is so far as the periodicals and professionals are concerned. I wrote to the two leading American bee-periodicals on the subject, sending a copy of our "Foul-Brood Bulletin" to each, and suggesting that they give their readers the benefit of its contents. The contents, however did not appear, though, of course my own letters did.

Our inspector (before his appointment, however), wrote out this method of successfully treating foul-brood, and sent it to another American periodical, that number of which was to be wholly taken up with the foul-brood subject. This communication did not appear, it contained a great truth, and perhaps more valuable information for those scourged with the foul-brood, than all else that appeared in that number.

Now, "brethering," (I mean ye three editors, and doubtless all present), please bear in mind that this is not meant for an attack on you or

your periodicals. I attack brother "Jonathan," for I suspect he is to blame. That tremendously big brother of ours, armed with the McKinley Bill, is just now straightening himself up in our presence, and giving us a withering glance—"on the slant." The "sovereign" citizens of his have no doubt caught the infection, and naturally enough imagine that "no good thing can come of Nazareth," or Canada.

Be that as it may, I repeat and reiterate for the benefit of whom it may concern, that we have practically solved the foul-brood question in Canada—that is, so far as its successful treatment is concerned, and that, of course, is the main point; and we shall charge you nothing for the information of how it was done. Though you may be unwilling to import the "furrin" article without a tariff or McKinley-tax, we shall nevertheless smuggle it in to you by "Her Majesty's mail" and "Uncle Sam's post."

By this little digression we mean nothing amiss. It is only a friendly return of harmless banter which I sometimes observe coming over here, from down there. Nor do we mean to boast over our achievement in apicultural therapeutics. Our determination to give you this information how to cure foul brood does not arise from that motive. On the other hand the motive may not be wholly benevolent or disinterested. There may be a trifle of selfishness about it, but of a kind beneficial to you as well as ourselves.

The matter stands thus: Foul brood has been and is scourging bee-keepers everywhere in the Eastern Continent as well as this, and to an extent not generally known. We, in Ontario, have undertaken to grapple with it, and overcome it. We are successfully accomplishing the task, and we want our nearest neighbors "over there" to do the same, not only for their benefit, but that they may not injure us. You will now perceive that our motive is both egotistic and altruistic, but for the ultimate good of both countries. In view of the fact that there is considerable interchange of bees and honey between the two countries, our solicitude is not unnatural or unreasonable.

We intend to stamp out the pest here, and we offer you the advice to do the same there, and the instructions how to do it. Though the "great guns" and the tribunes may be too high to look toward Nazareth, the poor sufferers are not, of which fact I have had ample evidence lately; and this is the chief reason why I write this letter to the International Convention of bee-keepers. Since my letters, above referred to, appeared in the American Journal and Gleanings, I have had many inquiries from the different States of the Union, and applications for our foul-brood pamphlet. I responded to all though the work was considerable.

To cover this ground, and meet this want, I shall here give in concise form the desired information—how to cure foul-brood among the bees—in a simple hygienic manner, without the aid of drug or druggist, and outside of, as well as during the honey season. Of course, during a honey flow is the best time for operating.

In the evening remove the bees and queen from the deceased colony, and place them in a clean hive, with four days' starters. Four days