

combs into a clean hive, where they were obliged to build comb before brood could be reared.

The plain inference is, that the contagion, whatever its nature, is contained in the honey, and that it is destroyed when the honey is digested. Possibly the digestion of the last particle of honey does away with the bacilli so numerous in the vitals of bees and queen; but many will be inclined to doubt.

All attempts to get rid of foul brood without boiling, or equivalent treatment for everything except the bees, have proven tedious, uncertain and unsafe. By equivalent treatment, I mean a thorough washing or admixture with carbolic or salicylic acid. To spray the outside of an infected comb is useless. While it is possible that the fumes of sulphur may be a sufficient disinfectant—though I do not believe it—the process must be more thorough than that recommended in a previous number. To put infected hives and frames out of doors in the summer—exposed to the bees—as there recommended, and then depend upon scraping and sulphuring, is simply to invite destruction.

The correspondent in the previous number, has very evidently had little experience with foul brood, or he would not venture so wild an opinion as, that it is caused by the larva getting reversed in the cell, and that the puncture in the cap of the cell is made by its sharp end in the effort to get out.

The fact is that foul brood nearly always attacks the larva before it is old enough to be sealed up. Even when it is attacked after it is sealed, the cap is by no means invariably punctured nor perceptibly sunken.

#### ROPYNES THE TEST OF FOUL BROOD.

The best test of foul brood is the ropy, tenacious, slightly elastic condition that the diseased larva assumes. Do not expect, though, that it will "snap back into the cell like a piece of India rubber when you pull it out with a stick," as some have said. I was not in favor of this test once, simply because too much stress was laid on the elasticity of the diseased matter. Remembering that its elasticity is but slight, this feature becomes our best criterion.

JAMES A. GREEN.

Dayton, Ill.

From Gleanings.

Does Odor or Color Attract Bees?

DO BEES PREFER CERTAIN KINDS OF HONEY?

**E**DITOR *Gleanings*.—I wish to comment upon the answers to the query in July 11th CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL: "Do bees show a preference for certain kinds of honey? If so, why?" Let me say that I prize these queries

and answers. If they seem "hashy," it is a very palatable kind of hash. You will notice that I give the answer that odor and color of the flowers explains the preference. Without doubt I am correct. It is probable that odor is the chief attraction. Several say that it is quantity, and instance the linden. Few flowers secrete so abundantly as our grand lindens, hence the volatile element which gives the fragrance is very abundant, and we readily see why the bees are so eager to get to the bloom when it secretes. Mr. Doolittle's answer is interesting and suggestive. He says the teasel attracts the bees way from the linden, and adds that this is unfortunate, as the teasel furnishes thinner, and so less desirable, nectar. This, again, explains why the linden has less odor. The thicker nectar would volatilize less rapidly, hence the bees would be drawn to the thinner and more fragrant teasel nectar. Has any one ever known the linden to be very fragrant and yet not be visited by bees, unless, forsooth, a more fragrant plant took the precedence? Our lindens are just out; but as yet they are void of fragrance, and unvisited by the bees.

A. J. COOK.

Agricultural College, Michigan, July 15.

## SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

### NO YIELD FROM THISTLE.

E. T. MARTIN.—In pursuing the C. B. J. I find that some complain of the drouth as the cause of no surplus and in other localities the wet weather; but here in the east end of Elgin we have neither to grumble about, but till the buckwheat came the bees scarcely got enough to live on. They have not worked on Canadian thistles here for the last five years. We had a heavy drouth last year, which is the cause of the failure this season. The alsike clover is dead and the white very thin and no honey in it. Hope for better things next year and trust in the all wise Ruler.

Griffin's Corners.

Something must be wrong with your thistles, and why they should fail to secrete for five successive years is a mystery. With us the ubiquitous thistle has yielded more or less every year, some seasons almost in showers. A few years ago when basswood had nearly ceased we had thundershowers and warm rains, and as the honey came in more rapidly than before the students thought the linden had taken a fresh start. But seed pods and fruit secrete no nectar and it did not take long to convince them that the curse of the farmers—the thistle—was a blessing to beekeepers.