

a time, then in a few days to a few more. Then, after a interval to more, and so on, until all had been treated. The result was the entire cure of each colony treated in the order of their treatment, while not a colony in the yard recovered until a certain time after treatment, showing conclusively that it was the treatment which affected the cure. I have used the same method more or less since then, but not to so great an extent. Out of some 40 or 50 altogether which I have treated, all were cured by one treatment except three, which required a second one each. As many have reported failures in treating diseased colonies with sulphur, it looks as if they must have misapplied the sulphur some way, and I think it will be best to give in detail the way I have used it.

For reasons I will give later on in this, I always go to the colony I am to treat during the day, and take away all the combs that contain brood; or, at least, unsealed brood or eggs, and give to some other colony; then in the evening, as soon as the bees have quit work and are all home, I proceed to dust sulphur over every comb in the hive and, if possible, on every bee in the hive. I never measure the exact amount of sulphur used, but suppose about a teaspoonful to every three or four combs in the hive.

I do the work by taking what sulphur I can hold between my thumb and first two fingers and dusting same over first one side then the other of each comb, bees and all; also over any collection of bees there may be on the combs in any part of the hive. The thinner the dusting the better, so it reaches everything in the hive. I tried using an insect powder gun, but couldn't do as good work as I could with my fingers. The next day, after doing this dusting, I carry back

to the hives the same number of combs and brood as I had taken away.

The reason for taking away the brood before dusting the combs, and returning it again afterwards, is because the dusting of the combs not only kills all the unsealed brood in the combs, but ruins these same combs for brood-rearing. If such combs are left in the hive, all eggs deposited in them will hatch out all right, but the larvæ will die as soon as hatched. By giving these same combs to strong colonies, they will clean them out and use them all right, and no loss of combs or brood will result.

For a week after dusting a diseased colony with sulphur, fully as many or more bees will be dying as before the dusting; and this fact may lead some to think the "cure" is not a cure. It will take a couple of weeks before one can tell whether the treated colony is cured or not.

Diseased colonies are usually very weak in numbers after being cured, and are of very little, if any more, value than a good nucleus. I have doubts whether it really pays to cure them except such as can be treated very early in the season, before nuclei can be profitably made. For the last year I have adopted the plan of curing such colonies as needed it as early as the middle of February, or even earlier; after that I make as many nuclei as is needed for the purpose, and as soon as they have a young laying queen I take away the combs from the diseased colonies, giving the brood to these nuclei, thus building them up into good colonies and destroy all the diseased bees with sulphur fumes.

In changing combs from diseased to other colonies I am very particular to know that each comb is absolutely free from bees, especially of dead ones that may be in some empty cells.

American Bee-Keeper.