

MISTAKES MADE IN TREATING FOUL BROOD APIARIES

(By Wm. McEwen)

In the C.B.J. for April (page 140), Mr. Byer says that I taught that "a first swarm issuing during a honey flow rarely carries the disease, while a second swarm nearly always will be foul." Mr. Byer is greatly mistaken, and has misunderstood me. I know for a positive fact that both first and second swarms issuing from foul brood colonies always carry diseased honey with them, and this was one of my reasons for going in for a thorough cleansing process, shaking the bees on foundation starters and leaving them in the hives for four full days, and then taking away the little combs made out of the starters and giving full sheets of foundation.

After a colony casts a first swarm it becomes weaker in bees, and then they store more honey in the brood-nest, and as soon as the foul brood matter dries down more of these cells will be filled with honey, and when the colony casts a second swarm the bees carry more diseased honey away with them than the first swarm did, because they have more diseased cells with honey in to fill up on.

H. A. SMITH. Mr. Byer says that it is his opinion that

we should not recommend any kind of fall treatment except under very exceptional conditions. On this point I cannot agree with Mr. Byer, because where many colonies are found to be diseased at the close of the honey season it would be better to go into winter with such colonies not cured, and to destroy these if it will stand. Your idea of shaking the bees on sound, solid, sealed stores in October makes sure and perfect cures in every case when properly done, and they always come into spring in the very best condition. I never failed in the case, and no man in the world ever treated as many diseased colonies in the fall as I have done with sound and solid sealed stores. Mr. Gemmill, Mr. Chalmer and Mr. McEwen, three of our best

you, Mr. Smith, doubt appreciate fall treatment except under very exceptional conditions. As he expected on the matter at the close of the season, say nothing when prepared to differ to the with. A wooden box, if it will stand, rub! Your idea, with special ashions, is a very good one, it would be so, are are many of us the cushion with fine shavings, ver been trouble and your arrangement have tried it before. We find the best arrangement easily worked —Ed.]

bee-keepers, and men whose word is just as good as their bond, all say that my fall treatment with solid, sealed stores makes sure cures.

Mr. McEwen fits up for fall curing by feeding up sound colonies in August or early in September, so as to have combs in October to give to the bees he starves the diseased honey clean out of. He then gives a comb with plenty of pollen in, so that these treated colonies can brood up well in early spring. This is the same as my plan in every respect, with the exception of one thing: Mr. McEwen finds it easier to starve the diseased honey clean out of the bees than to get his combs sealed right down to the bottom. I find it an easy thing to feed in August until the bees seal every cell in the outside combs right down to the bottom bar of the frames, and when this is done, take these outside combs of solid, sealed stores and during an evening in October shake the bees off the diseased combs and place six of these all-sealed combs in the hive, and with division-boards crowd the bees up among these solid sealed combs. This will not only make perfect cures in every case, but it will put the bees into the best condition to winter well of any plan ever tried. Feeding bees up on foundation in October is too costly, and it sends the colonies into winter short of pollen, and for the want of it these colonies fall behind at breeding in early spring.

Mr. Alpaugh says that Mr. Jones, who lives a short distance out of Port Elgin, shook a number of colonies on starters in 1906, and he (Mr. Alpaugh) found them cured in 1907 when he examined them. Where colonies have little or no unsealed honey in the brood-nest when the bees are shaken off the combs, and honey is coming in slowly, it takes the bees longer to make the foundation starters into comb, and by the time the bees have the starters made into combs they have no diseased honey left to store in them. But, given a number of badly-