


FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### Prevention is Better Than Cure.

 HAVE examined several of the back volumes of the Druggist's Circular and Chemical Gazette, also the files of several Medical Journals, to ascertain the opinions of chemists, and of the medical profession as to the antiseptic as well as the poisonous properties of beta-naphthol, the remedy for foul brood recommended by Dr. Lortet and T. W. Cowan, in the article from the B. B. J. re-published in another column. *The Therapeutic Gazette* says; "Dr. Bouchard, of the Paris Academy of Science, recommends naphthol for the following principal reasons:

1. It is only slightly soluble, and insoluble antiseptics are preferable to those that are soluble, as they are not absorbed, and do not affect the general organism, but still make any fermentation or growth of micro-organisms locally impossible.

2. It is five times as active as carbolic acid, three times as active as creosote, and is superior to sublimate, which is ten times as active as naphthol, because it is 187 times less poisonous." I might quote to the same effect from the *London Pharmaceutical Journal*, the *Medical Register* and other publications, but space will not permit. In regard to its poisonous properties, the dose which is sufficient as an antiseptic for a man, is twenty-five times less than that which marks the limit of danger.

Beta-naphthol is a comparatively new drug. Only one of the four drug stores in Lindsay keep it in stock. There is an impure kind which may be purchased at about one-fifth the price of the pure article. This unrefined sort is in lumps and is of about the color of dirty beeswax. The pure kind consists of white crystals and resembles granulated sugar. A quarter of an ounce measures about three desert spoonfuls. Anyone sending twenty-five cents to E. Gregory, Chemist, Lindsay, Ont., will receive by return mail one quarter of an ounce of the purest kind of Beta-naphthol, with directions for dissolving it, or an ounce for seventy-five cents. It may be dissolved in alcohol, chloroform, ether, or glycerine.

Dr. Lortet's dose is 1.8000. A convenient way to make a solution in this proportion is to first dissolve one-quarter of an ounce avordupois in glycerine, and add water sufficient to make one pint. As there are twenty ounces in one pint this will make a solution of about 1.80. Then measure out one table spoonful of this solution, which is half an ounce, and add hot syrup to make one pint. This solution will con-

tain a little less than 1.3200, but if the measures have not been quite filled, it will be nearly right. One quarter of an ounce is sufficient for 37½ pints of syrup. For a larger quantity dissolve one ounce of beta-naphthol in half a gallon of water, and add two table spoonfuls of this solution to each quart of syrup. An ounce of beta-naphthol is sufficient for eighteen and three quarter gallons of syrup.

It is admitted on all hands that foul brood is frequently spread in spring and fall by the bees from healthy hives robbing diseased stocks, and sometimes by gathering from contaminated combs thrown in the yard by ignorant or culpably careless bee-keepers. Some of the bee-keepers in the vicinity of a certain town in Western Ont. have had undesirable experience from this latter cause. Had they fed regularly with a good antiseptic, while the bees were working on the infected combs, the microbes could not have developed, and the trouble of effecting a cure would have been avoided.

If beta-naphthol is as good an antiseptic as it is represented to be, and from what I have gathered, I have no doubts about it, we should be able to mix the brown ropy matter from an infected comb with medicated syrup and feed it to a healthy stock without starting the disease. And if enough of this infected syrup (but without the beta naphthol) be fed to a healthy stock until the disease is fairly well started this stock may be cured by doubling the dose and compelling the bees to use the medicated syrup. If in the interests of the industry, Inspector McEvoy will agree to make these experiments I will cheerfully furnish the beta-naphthol.

By feeding salicylic acid in spring Hon. R. L. Taylor of Lapeer, Mich., kept the disease so much in check that he secured almost an average yield of honey from his diseased stocks. Although I am not aware that there is any foul brood within reach of my bees, last spring I fed salicylic acid and this spring I shall feed beta-naphthol, because for anything I know to the contrary, some neighbor may have unconsciously introduced the disease with a queen perhaps, or in some other way, or it may be lurking in some hollow tree and "prevention is better than a cure."

S. CORNELL.

Lindsay, 12th April, 1892.

### Reports from Bee Keepers.



HIELMANN, of Thielmannon, Mich, says: "On the whole we had rather a mild winter here except a cold spell with but very little snow at any time during the whole winter. No sleighing to speak of which