

them; while we think their methods very queer if not ridiculous—proceeding as they do to treat the disease deductively, *secundum artem*. The only reason that our people don't try their methods is that by their own methods they cure successfully and what more do they want? Were it otherwise they would be glad to receive suggestions from any quarter. The difference between us seems to be just this: they adopt plans of treatment to fit the theories, right or wrong, which they hold about the disease, while our foul brood doctors pay but little attention to the theory or science of the matter, but adopt the treatment that cures. As to which is the wiser course of the two, people who are not bothered themselves with foul brood will differ in opinion; but I fancy there will be but little difference of opinion on the subject among those who are afflicted with the pest and wish to get rid of it with all the speed possible. Meanwhile, we cannot study the whole subject too deeply or too attentively in order to get to the bottom of it in both theory and practice.

At the last annual meeting of this association I was instructed by resolution to communicate with the director of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa and the president of the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, and ask them, on behalf of this association, to have the necessary experiments made to determine whether the disease of foul-brood may be spread by the use of comb foundation from wax made of combs contaminated with the disease. In accordance with this, I first placed the matter before Prof. Saunders, and Prof. Shutt the chemist, of the Experimental Farm showing them what we desired done in the premises—the main point of which was to determine by experiment the degree of heat necessary to destroy the vitality of the spores of *bacillus alvei*, the foul brood microbe—and whether the degree adequate to the rendering of wax was sufficient. Both gentlemen professed their willingness to render us this service were it in their power, but unfortunately they had not at their command the special scientific apparatus necessary for the work.

I then applied to President Mills, of the O. A. C. at Guelph, and here is his reply:

"DEAR SIR,—In answer to your letter re Foul Brood in bee-hives, I beg to state that our Professor of natural history would be very glad indeed, to conduct the experiments necessary to determine the degree of heat required to destroy *bacillus alvei*; but we are like our friends at Ottawa, we have not the special apparatus necessary for such work.

I think the most likely place to get the test

"properly made is Prof. Ramsay Wright's Biological Laboratory, Toronto. I would suggest that you write to Prof. Wright.

Regretting our inability to do the work, I am
Very truly yours,
JAS. MILLS."

ALLEN PRINGLE,
Selby P. O., Ont.

In accordance with President Mills suggestion, I wrote Prof. Ramsay Wright, of the University, Toronto, laying the whole matter before him, and asking his friendly services in the matter, I am glad to say, with success, as the following letter from the Professor will show:

University of Toronto,
Dec. 31st., 1891.

ALLEN PRINGLE, Esq.
Selby, Ont.

"DEAR SIR,—Referring to your letter of the 29th inst., I take pleasure in saying that I shall be glad to be of assistance to the Association you represent in settling the point in question.

I should require first to know the method adopted for converting the old combs into comb foundation, so as to get at the temperature employed. 2nd, to have some foul brood material from which to prepare cultures, and to test the vitality of the spores. Mr. Cheyne makes no remarks in his original paper on the subject on the resistance of the spores.

Awaiting your further communications on the subject,

I am, yours faithfully,
R. RAMSAY WRIGHT."

In response to this, I have advised Prof. Wright that as soon in the spring as a sample of the foul brood material can be procured, it, with the information he requires, will be sent him. This association will, therefore, no doubt, in due time be in possession of the desired information on this important point.

"The President, vice-President and James E. Frith were appointed a committee a year ago at St. Catharines to consider the danger of the introduction of foul brood into Canada from the importation of bees, and if found desirable, to take such steps as will insure the protection of bee-keepers through quarantining, imported when deemed necessary."

After communicating with the other two members of the committee I proceeded to carry out the intention of the above. I put myself in communication with the Dominion Minister of Agriculture in reference to the matter, but for some reason or other could get nothing more in response than an acknowledgement of the receipt of my letters. This was probably owing to the topsy-turvy turmoil and confusion which reigned in official and parliamentary circles at Ottawa during nearly the whole of the last session, and especially at the time in the early summer when I addressed the Department of Agriculture. Under the circumstances the only