

ligent informa-
ning season is
and bees have
m two to four
a honey flow
in about three
diseased colonies
n three in one

and none of these should be destroyed, because all sections with clean dry comb in are perfectly safe to use, no matter if they were all taken off foul brood colonies. If a little honey is found in any of these sections, get the bees in the diseased colonies to clean them out, put a cloth over the brood chamber and turn the corner of the cloth back a little and then put on the super with the sections that has a little honey in, and if no honey is being gathered the bees will rush up and rob these out until they are clean and dry, and after this is done these sections can be used on any colony.

Another question asked in the second letter is: "Could these diseased colonies be utilized by uniting after being freed from disease with queenless colonies, for even a queen here at this time of the year means a colony, for there is more or less superseding going on all the time, and out of eight colonies trying to supersede in January only one made a success?"

Yes, every one of the diseased colonies can be used for any purpose after they have been cleansed of the diseased honey.

WM. McEVOY.

Woodburn, Feb. 17, 1909.

IN WINTER WHY ARE ENTRANCES CONTRACTED?

[Translated by Burton N. Gates, Worcester, Mass.]

During the winter the activity of the bees is decreased. Their condition approaches a state of hibernation, and the longer this lasts the better is their health and condition. One of the greatest problems of the bee-keeper is to keep them undisturbed and in this condition. In an attempt to accomplish this he closes down the entrance with a flap, a shutter, or by a cloth or storm mat hanging before the entrance. Bees prefer a dark chamber and seek to contract a large entrance by propolis (Kittwachs). Their instinct says to them, Where such light penetrates, there also can enter many enemies. Of these disturbers of the peace there are many kinds, as for instance the shrew-mouse (Spitzmäuse), which can crawl through very small cracks. . . The woodpecker and the titmouse peck on the hive, whereupon bees are attracted out, only to be snapped up by the birds. . .

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