

## CAPPINGS.

### CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

NO NECESSITY OF DESTROYING COMBS AFFECTED WITH FOUL BROOD.

**W**E SEE in the Wisconsin Farmer the following notice: "Combs affected with foul brood should be destroyed by fire, cremated. That is the only safe disposal of such combs. The degree of heat necessary to melt beeswax is not high enough to destroy the foul brood spores. Therefore, let us beware of such economy."

There is no necessity to destroy such combs by fire. There might be some worth melting into wax. If placed in a kettle of boiling water and occasionally stirred until all the wax is rendered from the combs, no germs will ever afterwards injure a colony. There is no danger in rendering such combs into wax, provided plenty of water is kept in the vessel surrounding the wax and it is thoroughly boiled. We have rendered many thousands and never in one instance did the disease return, and we have ample proof from the best authority in the world, that all danger of disease from that source is past if the wax is properly handled by the ordinary skillful foundation makers. The American Bee Journal of April 16, page 501, says in reference to this same subject:

That scare is over about foul brood being spread by the use of comb foundation made from the melting of combs which contained the disease. The letters of Messrs. Dadant & Son and M. H. Hunt in last week's Bee Journal are supplemented by one from Ernest R. Root this week. These testimonies settle the matter—proving that we were correct in presuming that the long-continued high temperature, to which the wax is subjected before sheeting is commenced, *does kill the microbes and spores*. Mr. Cornell's fears are therefore groundless, and all may use comb foundation without the least anxiety in that direction. We are glad, however, that the point was raised, so that it may be forever settled by such testimony as we have presented.

#### SPRING DWINDLING AND THE CAUSE.

I think that E. S. Fowler, of Bartlett, O., is partly right about spring dwindling. There is another cause more frequent. It is this: When we have a long cold spell of weather, say two months of downright hard freezing, then, unless the bees are in warm hives, their constitutions are used up in the endeavor to keep up the necessary heat in the hive; and if they don't succeed in it they get cold and go into dysentery, which I call "cold weather dysentery," and very different from that caused by poor honey, but nearly as fatal, as they die off as soon as they begin work in spring, simply being worn out by being obliged to fire up so much in cold weather. —Gleanings.

#### A HUNGRY QUEEN EASILY INTRODUCED.

C. C. Millar, in Gleanings, says:—

A hungry queen, I am somewhat inclined to believe, is more easily introduced. She's so much engaged trying to get something to eat that she doesn't go around trying to raise a row.

#### OUTSIDE CASE TO PROTECT BEES IN SPRING.

This is the time to test the matter. Pack some of your hives carefully and leave others unpacked. Keep them warm and brooding night and day until the clover commences to bloom, then see the difference between the packed and unpacked. In fact, see if one packed colony does not produce nearly as much honey as two unpacked. Keep count of cost of packing, difference in quantity of honey secured, and after the honey season is over let us hear from you, whether the packing is not the best investment in connection with your apiary during the entire season. You cannot expect to get a large crop of honey from a few bees. It is just as important to keep the brood chamber warm and have a uniform heat night and day so that the bees will brood to their utmost capacity, as it is to have honey in the hive. Now, this cannot be accomplished, especially from a light colony if all the heat is not retained in the hive, and we shall not be surprised if we have a considerable amount of cold weather yet. It will retard brood rearing in unprotected colonies very much. The last few warm days has started the brooding rapidly, but this cold weather that is coming on will have the effect of checking it very much unless the necessary precautions are taken to protect them. Hives should be closed up to one bee at night and the entrance blocks may be moved back every morning.

#### THE VALUE OF EMPTY COMBS.

The following experiment showing that bees secrete wax when compelled to build comb, is given in the April number of Gleanings:

"With Prof. Cook, I greatly doubt whether bees have to secrete wax unless there is a great honey flow, and no place provided for them to deposit it. A few years ago this same subject was taken up in the bee journals, and as I had helped some in an apiary for over twenty years, and had read so many different opinions and