

ices who see old bee-keepers handle them with bare hands try to imitate them—like to appear professional—to go among the bees with a reckless air. Some of the most successful bee-keepers have said that before the first year had passed they had almost decided that there was something about them that antagonized the bees, and that they could do nothing with them. An acquaintance declared in the fall of the first year, "I've had enough of bees. They will not accept me. It is useless to tell me that bees do not sting. They don't do anything else with me." But he decided to struggle through another year, for in spite of many stings, he had a good crop of honey. Before the second year closed he remarked that bees were as harmless as flies. What had brought about this change? He had reached the "confidence point," and the bees knew it, and recognized him as master. He had become so familiar with the work, so much interested in it, that he forgot self, forgot to jump, to jerk hand away when a bee started to explore the back of his hand. Therefore, let every beginner faint not, but keep up courage and keep at the bees. Without knowing when the change takes place, he may reach the stage of perfect confidence, and will make light of the stings implanted earlier in his own faltering hand.—*American Agriculturist.*

#### Native Bees in India.

AS to the tiny bee of Australia, referred to in B. B. J. of July 23rd as *Trigona carbonaria*, I met that bee, or one very like it, in the Central Provinces of India. The manner of our meeting was in this wise: I was leaving my bungalow for a time, and went round to see that its doors and shuttered windows were properly secured before starting. Finding a window with its shutters left open—glass was not used—I hastily slammed it, and a small swarm of *Trigona carbonaria*, or a near relative, flew in my face.

I have never had a shovelful of hot ashes thrown in my face, but the sensation suggested it, and the stings tingled and smarted for a long time. I was much struck by the minute proportions of my assailants, which were, as you say, a little smaller than a house fly, and their Lilliputian comb was elegance itself.—*AMANISHAH, Bideford, in B.B.J.*

#### Foul Brood.—Its Cure.

IN its early stages foul brood may be cured by the use of antiseptics. These are used in weak solution, and are sprayed over the combs and mixed with the honey and syrup which are fed

to the bees. The chief of the antiseptics used are known as salicylic acid, carbolic acid, formic acid and naphthol Beta. Salicylic acid is a powder which does not readily dissolve in water. It must first be dissolved in alcohol, or in a solution of borax and water. It is then diluted and sprayed upon the combs of brood, and mixed with syrup or honey and fed to the bees. In preparing this antiseptic use 16 grains salicylic acid, 16 grains soda borax, and 1oz. of water. One ounce of the mixture is used with 1 liq. of the food, and the mixture is diluted with 50 per cent. of water when used for spraying. When carbolic acid is used, it should be in the pure crystallized form. One oz. may be mixed with 40 lbs. of syrup. It is carefully stirred into the cool syrup until well mixed, but must first be dissolved and diluted by mixing with water. As bees often refuse to take food that contains carbolic acid during the honey season, it must be sprayed over the brood when used at that season. Formic acid, which is nearly odorless and highly antiseptic, is usually purchased as a 25 per cent. solution, as a 100 per cent. solution is somewhat dangerous to handle. A wineglassful of the former is added to each gallon of the syrup which is fed to the bees. Naphthol Beta is a white crystalline substance obtained from the distillation of coal tar. Twenty-three grains are added to one gallon of thin syrup. As the naphthol Beta is insoluble in cold water, it must first be dissolved in a mixture of hot water and alcohol.

#### Another Feeder.

DEAR SIR,—I mailed you a sample of my two-cent feeder, which ought to help the sale of your five and ten pound cans, just fill a ten pound can, say the grooved side on top. Hold it down with left hand and turn it over, it should not leak more than the full of the rim, I used them altogether this year, you will find no bees in them when you want them off. Set one or two in a top story they should be empty next morning. A great many have ten pound cans, which can be filled with honey and sold afterwards. Those boards can be grooved on a section machine. Also grooved end cleats, would keep it up off the frames, and would be easier taken off.

CHAR. MITCHELL,

Molesworth, Oct. 19, 91,

Another feeder presents itself this time from Mr. Mitchell, of Molesworth, and I think we shall have to give him the credit for offering us the cheapest and simplest feeder ever offered. He calls it his two cent feeder. The one