

SUNDRY SELECTIONS.

ANOTHER EARLY SWARM.

A. ROWAND.—Bees in this section of the country have wintered very successfully. I commenced winter with seven colonies and brought them all through in good condition with the exception of one hive's losing their queen. Had mine packed in dry saw-dust. They commenced raising brood in February. Had one swarm come off on the 22nd of May, and all the others are full. How is that for this northern climate?

Walkerton, Ont.

Here's another swarm just three days behind *Brother Clarke*.

BEEES DYING WITH PLENTY OF STORES.

A. S. CROSBY.—I send you my report, although it is not very good. I put fifteen colonies in clump last fall, had six this spring. Three of the colonies died in cluster with plenty of stores. There was not any honey on the side of the frames in which they died. Another colony died scattered through the hive, but with plenty of stores. All were free from mould and were good strong colonies. Would like to know the cause of death, and how to prevent. Three-fourths of the bees have died in this part of the county.

Cold and dampness, we think, were the causes.

CLAY OR GRASS FOR BEE-YARDS.

Which is best? a bee-yard of grass, or plowed, and kept from weeds.

We prefer grass when it is kept mown, at least once a week with the lawn-mower.

DRONES IN APRIL.

SUBSCRIBER.—Say through the C. B. J., what is the cause of drones being in a hive when set out (April 7, 1886)?

In all probability the queen died during the fall or winter, or was superseded by a young one which either failed to become fertile in the fall, or if hatched after drones were destroyed, could not be, and of course laid drone eggs in worker cells which were smaller than ordinary drones. If you lift the combs out of the hives, doubtless you will find a number of conical shaped cells lengthened out more in the capping than worker cells, and looking like little ant hills. Your colony should be doubled up with the next weakest colony. If there are only worker bees left the queen may be destroyed.

Do you think it a good sign?

We do not consider it a good sign, but rather the reverse.

If not, what is the remedy?

The remedy is either to double up or give them a fertile queen.

FOUL BROOD—HOW TO TELL IT.

R. W. McD.—Have read your pamphlet on Foul Brood, but am yet in quest of further information. Would you kindly answer the following:

What are the earliest possible indications of foul brood, which would warrant application of remedial measures. It is of course an object, especially at this season, to be able to know it as early as possible in a yard where it has already been in the past season, and to grapple with it on first sure signs of its presence.

The first sign of foul brood that a novice is likely to detect is the dead brood turned to brown, ropy matter, which is always to be found where there is pure foul brood.

What means do you use to disinfect the hands, knife, smoker, etc., after handling infected colonies?

A knife may be washed in hot water; ordinary washing of the hands is sufficient. The smoker need not be disinfected.

Where impossible to boil hive (for instance chaff hive) how would you disinfect?

It is claimed by some that is not necessary to disinfect the *hive*. Will the winter cushion sacking and sawdust used for packing and covering, carry the disease?

Build a fire and invert the hive over it until it is scorched inside.

SUFFICIENT STORES AND RIGHT TEMPERATURE.

W. H. KIRBY.—The last has been my first winter with bees. Packed four on their summer stands on the "clump and spout" principle, the hives all being in different shapes; one old one on eight long frames, 11½ in. deep; another on six frames, 10½ in. deep, with a triangle in the lower back corners empty; another on eight, 10½ in. deep, with the combs about an inch up from the bottom. Honey harvest gave out here with the raspberry last year, the weather being so cold the bees would not build down, although fed. Another, a third swarm in a little box hive, eight by ten, and fourteen deep, combs down to within four inches of bottom. All have come through in grand shape. I have to thank the JOURNAL for the many valuable suggestions contained therein by its many contributors and