

CAPPINGS.

FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Erroneous Ideas Concerning the cure of Foul Brood.

AT a convention held in Michigan a discussion was held on Foul Brood and in the report which appears in the *American Bee Journal* we find the following.

Secretary Smith gave a description of the disease and the effect of the different acid treatments recommended as palliative remedies, the McLain plan almost curing infected colonies. He concluded by recommending what is known as Jones' process, but given by Father Langstroth in his work on the "Honey Bee," as the cure recommended by a German apiarist. The success is described as follows:

"Drive out the bees into a clean hive, and shut them in a dark place without food for 24 or 48 hours. Prepare a clean hive properly fitted with comb (preferably clean frames with foundation) from healthy colonies. Transfer the bees into it, and confine them two days longer with pure honey."

There are one or two inaccuracies in the paragraphs which should be corrected, else any who try to cure by the method here given will fail miserably. We have never recommended that bees should be fasted only 24 hours that we know of, at least any such statement from our pen has not been one of intention; nor can we find any such cure in the copy of Langstroth (1859) which we have by us. Fasting the bees from 25 hours to 48 hours simply means (with a possible exception) continuing the disease in the apiary, if not for the present time then for a future one. There are conditions when starvation for 36 or 48 hours would accomplish the desired end, but the cases are exceptional. We have known instances where the honey sacs of the bees have been well filled, where after starvation of six or eight days honey has still been retained by some of the bees in the cluster, or been found in comb which they had built in the box or hive wherein they were placed for fanishment. It is a common occurrence to have colonies commence building comb in the fasting box; we have on occasions found as much as a square foot of comb in the heart of the cluster, and a good deal of honey in the cells too—after four days of fasting.

We have taken the honey so found and fed it to clean nuclei, which became diseased almost immediately, proving conclusively to our mind the mode of transmission of the disease. The condition to which we alluded above, when a short period of fasting might be sufficient is consequent upon the care which is taken in the removal of the bees to the place of confinement. If the work of shaking the bees off into the combs be done in the evening or in the cool of the morning, without disturbing them previously in any way—by smoke or otherwise—so that they may not gorge themselves with honey, therefore going into confinement with but little honey in their sacs, a shorter time will be required to enable them to dispose of the honey they take with them, and the sooner will they be ready for the next stage of the treatment. It will be seen from this that without explanations the statements as made at this convention might be conducive of a good deal of harm.

UNITING BROOD INSTEAD OF BEES.

G. M. Doolittle explains the system of uniting bees which he prefers in the last *Review* as follows.

The latter part of August select as many colonies as you wish to winter, making this selection according to those having the best queens, best combs, hives you wish them in, or from and preference whatever, when you are to go to the ones you do not care to keep and take all but a very little brood away from them, dividing this brood among those selected for winter. In doing this I take the bees along which adhere to the combs of brood, being sure I do not have the queen. If the queen is of no value to me she is killed, and the bees left to store fall honey if there is any. In ten days the queen cells on the little brood left are destroyed, and when the honey season is over the few old bees remaining are killed, when we have the combs ready to store away, after the honey is fed to the bees, should they require it. In our hives selected for winter we have plenty of bees hatching for the next twenty-one days, which bees are the ones to go over winter, and with me prove of a better use to stand the winter than those hatched either earlier or later. After practicing this way of uniting for several years, I must say that I like this uniting in the brood form much better than in the bee form."

OUT APIARIES, HOW FAR APART.

The subject for treatment in the October *Review* will be "Out-apiaries,"