

A somewhat startling announcement was made a few months ago by a European Scientist, Dr. Lambotte, of the University of Liege, Belgium, that bacillus alvei, the microbe of foul brood, is identical with bacillus mesentericus vulgaris, one of the most common bacilli, and found in nearly all vegetable matter. The most advanced scientists who have so far, prior to Dr. Lambotte, experimented have established the fact that bacillus alvei is a distinct germ.

The Lambotte theory is rather an alarming one if true; according to it foul brood may break out at any time under certain conditions in a hitherto healthy colony or apiary as the spores of the disease are always present.

Mr. T. W. Cowan, F. L. S., Senior Editor of the British Bee Journal, in an editorial article on the subject refutes Dr. Lambotte's conclusions. He says of "Bacillus mesentericus" that "it is found almost everywhere, and were it the cause of foul brood we should also hear of this disease wherever bees were kept, but there are many districts where foul brood has not been known to exist, and in every case of an outbreak where investigation has been made, it was found that it had existed there before or had been by some means introduced."

"Without going more deeply into the matter it need only be said that we cannot accept Dr. Lambotte's explanation, knowing as we do how rapidly foul brood spreads even when hives are in best condition. On the

other hand we also know that when certain means are employed this disease can be got rid of, so that with the present knowledge available we need only follow out the practices usually advocated in order to obtain the best results."

The British Bee Journal has translated from a Belgium paper a series of articles on foul brood by Prof. Harrison of the Ontario Agricultural College. These the editor speaks of as "a valuable contribution to the permanent and authoritative literature dealing with the question of foul brood among bees." They occupy several issues of the British Bee Journal.

## Notes by the Way

By G. A. DEADMAN.

A HANDY KNIFE—SOMETHING BETTER THAN GLOVES, ETC.

Every now and then we read about handy tools for apiary use, something which one who has accustomed himself to thinks indispensable while others knowing nothing about them go along probably using something else which to them seems as good. Well, I have been using a combination pocket knife, which, had I not seen among a traveller's samples I suppose I would have never known anything about them as they are seldom stocked in small places. The length of this knife when folded is about three inches so that it is even smaller than many in use and not therefore cumbersome to carry, for I am safe in saying that