REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

An Index to the Best in Periodical Apicultural Literature

"BRITISH BEE JOURNAL"

The Ancestors of the Bee

In the B.B.J. Mr. D. Wilson computes the number of ancestors of an animal at the tenth step backwards to amount to 1024, or 512 male and 512 female. He says regarding the ancestry of the bee:

A different state of things altogether presents itself when the pedigree of a bee is traced back. Assuming the theory that a drone has no male parent, the following will show the ancestry of a worker or queen-bee to ten generations.

It is most surprising the way the number of missing ancestors mounts up. Until I worked out this little table I had not the least idea that it would amount to so many at the tenth generation back.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Queen	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55	89
Drone	1	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	34	55
Missing	0	1	3	8	19	43	94	201	423	880
Total ancestors for ordinary animal	2	4	8	16	32	64	128	256	512	1024

For my own amusement, I have worked this out to twenty steps, and find that whereas the ordinary animal has 1,052,672 ancestors, half male and half female, the worker or queen-bee has but 17,711, of which 10,946 are female and 6,765 are male, while there is the enormous number of 1,034,961 ancestors missing.

The numbers in the pedigree of a drone are slightly different, there being as many ancestors in the tenth generation as in the ninth of a queen or worker and so on.

It will be seen that the reason for this enormous difference in the number of ancestors between the bee and the ordinary animal is that the ancestry of the bee mounts up by addition, whilst that of the animal mounts up by involution of the number two.

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

Best Bees to Resist Foul Brood

It is generally believed in America that the Italian Bee exhibits a greater degree of immunity to disease than does the black. It is also generally accepted as being beyond doubt that a strong, active, and vigorous colony will more easily resist an attack of foul brood than a weak one. Strong and widely spread as the idea undoubtedly is, yet there are some Thomases that doubt such statements. An editorial in the A.B.J. containing comment on Mr. McEvoy's recent remarks in our pages anent the Italian bee voices the opinion that is current among the best bee-keepers of this continent. Mr. York writes as follows:

Mr. McEvoy's answer is good. No breed of bees is immune to foul brood, but some will resist better than others; and the colony that is most vigorous in gathering stores will use the same vigor in resisting disease. We can not measure directly the disease-resisting strength of each colony, but we can measure the storing strength and be guided thereby.

The editor of the "American" is thus evidently of the opinion that the "storing strength" of a colony is in a measure proportionate to its ability to resist disease.

He continues:

"But it may be asked, 'Why does Mr. McEvoy put the word 'Italian' at all in his answer? Will not the bees which store the most honey be the best to re-