

perfectly safe, that they would not return to their summer stands. But, to our surprise, thousands and tens of thousands returned the next day laden with honey, hunting for their hives. It appears that they had flown out without marking their new location properly and had gone off gathering honey from the same locality and bringing it to the hives in Beeton. They seemed to fancy that they ought to go back to the Beeton apiary. A great number entered other hives, many of them to be destroyed. Of course this will depopulate the colonies moved of many of their working force, and will necessarily lessen the quantity of honey gathered by each colony.

This far they are doing a land office business. I mean those that are left in their new homes. They should have been smoked thoroughly and the hives rapped or disturbed in some way so that when they came out they would mark their location which would have prevented them from returning to their old stands. We have frequently moved bees and had none of them return, but the reason these returned was that they had been day after day gathering honey and going direct to Beeton with it from the same flowers.

Has anybody else ever had a similar experience to this, because it would seem that bees which have been gathering in one locality, and after they have become thoroughly acquainted with the route to and from it, after being moved will return to the old stands after they have filled themselves with honey.

In our other apiary they seem to be gathering liberally from snap dragon, bone set, and the various kinds of asters. The honey yield in these flowers was beginning to wane on account of the dry weather within the last day or two. A couple of good showers have changed things very much and I have never seen the bees working so much on asters in this locality. In fact as you walk through and shake the flowers the bees rise from them in swarms. If this state of things continues a short time we shall have several thousand pounds more to extract.

BONT. PHILLIPS.—I believe the Poultry Weekly has got me interested in the bees as well as the bees. I believe I will make a start.
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A Preventive of Foul Brood.

BRITISH bee keepers are still discussing formic acid and acids generally as a remedy for foul brood. In the B. B. J. for August 22nd is an article by Mr. R. A. H. Grimshaw which is worthy of more than a cursory reading. We give a digest of the same though arranging the subject matter in different order to the author.

CAUSE OF FOUL BROOD.

Impaired health, or peculiar condition of the blood of the mother bee, renders it more susceptible to disease than if in a robust vigorous state. Is it not probable that through lack or failure in secreting formic or other acids, in consequence of degeneracy or ill health, the result of some neglect on the part of the bee-keeper, the blood of the bee becomes too alkaline, and is then in this condition a perfect cultivation fluid for the bacilli, for we know that in artificial cultures of most micro-organisms acidity is death to the germ; consequently if such exist in the culture medium it has to be neutralized by the addition of alkalis. If so in the artificial culture it should be so in the natural, an undue proportion of alkali being favorable to germ growth and the converse.

We do know this, that the best working, healthiest bees we can find certainly do not run short of acidity, either in temper or poison; and if we believe in the formic acid cure for foul brood, still further use for the poison bag by the bee apparent; it will carry its own cure about with it, and apply it in brood food and general disinfection ad libitum.

ITS PREVENTION

When foul brood is abroad, or when disease of any kind is about, I think we ought to use the best preventive possible by giving our bees such food as will render them, in all probability, proof against disease; and this it seems to me, can best be done by feeding syrup strongly acidulated, whether such acid be formic, acetic, or what not does it matter?

All our attention should be directed to rendering the life fluid of the bee best fitted to resist the growth of one and all the forms of death-dealing micro-organisms by which it may be attacked, and