

## TO PREVENT THE BUILDING OF DRONE COMB.

W. Z. Hutchinson.—Wished to know the best method of preventing the building of drone comb in the brood nest and suggested the propriety of superceding queens over two or three years old.

R. L. Taylor.—Preferred to leave the drone comb in the hive until spring, then he took it out and melted it up.

W. Z. Hutchinson.—That if the bees had plenty of drone comb in the sections above they would be satisfied and not build below.

After a little discussion on the cheap method of changing the strains in an apiary, the convention adjourned till the evening.

## EVENING SESSION.

The first question taken up at the evening session was that of foul brood, which was introduced by R. L. Taylor, as follows.—

## WHAT I KNOW ABOUT FOUL BROOD.

Some one has lately said that foul brood is a subject discussed in every bee-keepers' convention; and perhaps it would not be well that this convention should be an exception. I choose this subject too because I am greatly interested in it myself just now, and with the hope, first, that I may get from others some information that will be of assistance to me, and secondly, that I may be able to give some hints that will be of value to others, not, indeed, to those who already have experience with the disease, but to those who not having had any practical knowledge of it shall in the near future receive a visit from this insidious enemy. There are undoubtedly some such here.

This, so called, foul brood made its appearance among my bees, so far as I know, during the present season. I first discovered its footprints, here and there a dead larvæ, in two colonies in the month of May, but from obtuseness or incredulousness or from the imperfection of published descriptions of it or from a difference in the type of the disease, I did not recognize it.

Mr. Muth says "foul brood can be rooted out completely and without an extra amount of trouble provided you are sufficiently impressed with its dangerous and insidious character and are prepared to meet it promptly on its first appearance." The great point you perceive, is to be prepared to meet it promptly on its first appearance, but to be that one must know it at sight.

What are the characteristics by which we may certainly recognize it? First: We are told that

the dead larvæ are brown or coffee colored, but brown is of many very different shades; and what is the coffee color? Is it that of the raw coffee bean or of the parched bean, or of the pure decoction of the parched bean, or of the decoction with milk in it? At best I think these terms entirely too indefinite. I should describe the color of the dead larvæ as being at first just like that of coffee as you find it on your breakfast table with a moderate quantity of milk in it ready for consumption. The larvæ gradually becomes darker and drier till they are almost as black as tar and about of the consistency of a piece of dry, dark brood comb. At this stage they lie somewhat spread out on the lower side of the cells, are drawn back a little from the openings of the cells and the ends nearest the openings of the cells have the appearance, at the first glance, of being turned up a little somewhat like the toe of a boot. At this stage in a good colony with dark combs after breeding has ceased in autumn an inexperienced person would scarcely discover the dead larvæ at all. Secondly: The consistency of the dead larvæ is homogeneous, there being no watery matter that may be drawn off leaving more solid parts. And at first and for a considerable time the substance of the larvæ is ropy, tenacious and elastic so that if one end of a splinter is inserted in the matter and withdrawn the matter will draw out in a thread like thick honey but it is so much more elastic than honey that when the thread breaks, which it will do when it is drawn to about a half inch in length, there is no danger of any of it dropping but the one part will spring back into the cell and the other part to the splinter. You will of course understand that the dead larvæ retain their shape more or less perfectly for a considerable length of time on account of their outer skin remaining apparently intact.

(To be Continued.)

Read at the North American Bee-Keepers' Convention.  
**THE COMING BEE.**

**W**HAT encouragement have we to work for the advent of "the coming bee?" Shall we breed bees for color, or for honey-producing qualities? For fancy points, or for pecuniary profit? These are questions that must be fully settled in our minds before we can intelligently discuss the subject of the improvement of the honey-bee. We hear much of our breeders of white-haired bees, and gentle bees, and golden-banded bees, and patent Albino bees, but we hear little of breeders of bees for profit only, i. e., for profit in the production of honey, for, no doubt, breeders of these fancy bees find them very profitable. They sell all the queens they can produce at from three to ten times as much as can be obtained for queens