

bees to buckwheat, and I am wondering if my experience is the usual one. Bro. Holtermann and Bro. Pettit have had an extended experience with buckwheat and I wish they would be kind enough to tell us through the columns of the C.B.J. what their experience would warrant expecting from, say 75 hives of bees in the immediate vicinity of 100 acres of buckwheat, taking one year with another. I personally would like to hear from several on this subject, giving straight facts and figures, and also stating whether the buckwheat will produce more honey when grown on one soil than another.

I now wish to refer to an interesting experience a friend of mine has been having for the last three or four years with foul brood. About four or five years ago he was melting up combs of diseased brood and I examined it and thought it was foul brood all right, and from that time until this fall my friend has been fighting this thing, thinking sometimes he was entirely free of it and then having it break out again. This fall I was in his yard and he was talking of melting up all his combs and putting his bees on foundation and feeding up for winter. Well, I looked at what he called his worst hive, and I found one cell that looked very much like foul brood, but the rest did not look like it, and I told him I did not think it was foul brood, and he had better send for the inspector before destroying his combs. So the inspector came and pronounced it, I understand, starved brood. Now, I do not think for a moment that the inspector's judgment is absolutely infallible, but in this case I think it is more than likely that he is correct, but whether he be right or wrong, one thing I am absolutely convinced of in my own mind, and that is this, that there is a stage in connection with foul brood when no man can tell with the

naked eye whether it is genuine foul brood or some other kind of diseased brood, and I am also as firmly convinced that if you will leave it alone for a few weeks, if it is genuine foul brood it will make itself known beyond doubt, and one need not incur any risk in waiting if you have a fair colony and keep your entrance well narrowed down. I think it quite possible that many colonies have been treated for foul brood that never had it and just mention this incident as a caution. We have enough real difficulties to contend with in this world without wrestling with imaginary ones. Let us be guided by the old saying: "Be sure you are right, then go ahead."

Ash, Ont, Sept. 23, 1906.

NATURAL DISINFECTANTS.

In Le Rucher Beige, M. Reidenbach propounds new ideas with respect to disinfection of hives. He says it is well known that bacteria are the cause of a great deal of mischief in hives, but these are in a measure protected from the depredations of these microbes by the formic acid, tartaric acid, and ethereal oils in the nectar. Formic acid in small quantity is found in the poison of bees, but exists in much larger quantities in the larvae, and in combs that have been bred in. He was able to extract from a piece of comb weighing 41 grains about 36 milligrams of formic acid. He found none in virgin comb. He concludes that the object of this acid is to preserve the nitrogenous food of the larvae, and consequently to prevent fermentation and resulting disease. Damp prevents the evaporation of this disinfectant, and predisposes colonies to disease; therefore, it is important to secure good ventilation, so as not to deprive the hive of its weapon against bacilli.

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