

### Chalmers' Observations

**Foul Brood.**—For March C.B.J. we will tackle the foul brood question. There has, I understand, been a difference in the teachings of some of the inspectors, and it is not well that such should be the case. Mr. Hodgetts informs me privately that there is not much likelihood of a meeting of the inspectors being called before the season opens, but I believe the course he is pursuing in revising the circular issued by the Department of Agriculture in 1907, of which Mr. Wm. McEvoy is the author, will answer the same purpose.

Mr. J. L. Byer, in his "Notes," rightly eulogizes Mr. Jacob Alpaugh's abilities as a bee-keeper, but when he gets to supporting the latter's two-day starving plan for curing foul brood we must call a halt. When on duty last season as a foul brood inspector I advised having the bees build their own comb for three days, taking for a theory the fact that nearly everything about the bees and their work goes by three, or is divisible by three. Mr. McEvoy, as all are aware, advises four days, but it may be that he calculates according to the old school. For instance, anything happening on a Friday, and they wanted to count how many days it would be on the following Monday, they would count thus: Friday, one; Saturday, two; Sunday, three; and Monday, four, when it is in reality only three days.

I would just ask Mr. McEvoy, if he shook bees off diseased combs on a Friday evening, which evening by the day of the week would he give them their second shaking? By "the evening of the fourth day," I would understand it to be Tuesday evening, but if you will follow his article on "How to Examine Apiaries and Cure Them of Foul Brood," which has already been alluded to and published in January C.B.J., you will notice on page 13 of said journal, second column, nearly half-way down, that he says: "In the fourth evening we are to remove the

new combs made out of the starters." Now, if the bees were shook off the foul broody combs on a Friday evening, and shook again "on the fourth evening," that would be Monday evening, which would only be three days, so it will lie with Mr. McEvoy to clear this up for us, as there is one day of difference between "the evening of the fourth day" and "on the fourth evening," and if he maintains that four days is meant and is necessary, I will certainly fall in line, as it will not be any loss to me (in the event of being an inspector again) to have bees build their own comb for that period.

But to return to the Alpaugh two-day system. I might just say that Mr. Alpaugh was inspector for this locality in 1907 and taught the two-day system. A party who had treated his bees according to the plan he told me last winter that his bees were never cured. There was another case last spring, where I found four colonies of eight diseased. They had been treated in 1907 under Mr. Alpaugh. But this is not a test case, as I know from observation that the bee-keeper did not follow the instructions given. I want, however, to cite a case which happened in my own yard last summer. There was a splendid swarm issued from a three-storey, foul broody colony on a Wednesday, and the following day a swarm of about equal proportions was cast from another three-storey diseased colony. They were both put on starters, and on Saturday evening according to the three-day theory, the Wednesday swarm was due to be put on full sheets of comb foundation, which it did, and when at it I just thought I would shake the Thursday swarm too (as Mr. Alpaugh), as it was then fully three days hived, reasoning in my own mind that if left till Monday it would be four days; but it was later demonstrated that it would have been "better to be sorry than sorry." The incident was forgotten until I was getting some queens in the fall, when this colony was selected for having a queen which had better be