

am not sure whether they are the victims or the victimizers, but am inclined to believe they are the latter, as it does not seem to be their object to sting the former.

I wish somebody of large experience could see them, as I am not much good at diagnosing such cases as this, but have tried to give you an accurate account of their habits or performances. I am also afraid that it can be spread or transferred, and that simply by giving other bees the empty combs out of the infected hive, as I now have another colony almost as severely tormented as the one I spoke of in my last. The former one was a double story one during a part of June and July, but after extracting from them I did not return the empty combs, but set them aside along with others for the purpose of hiving new swarms or should any issue, which of course these did, and I would not be surprised if the recently affected one is not the one that received those combs, as they came from a colony that is not affected at all. I am debating in my own mind as to the advisability of destroying the bees and melting up the combs, or to try and keep them through the winter to see what effect that will have on them, but have not as yet decided what to do with them. I am afraid that this communication is too long to print, but am very anxious to get some information as to the probable cause of the disturbance, and its possible remedy. I forgot to mention that sometime ago I sprayed them with a weak solution of salicylic acid, which did no good, except to kill a lot of the poor things, such I think being an accident, caused by the sprayer becoming choked and then breaking out in a stream throwing the acid on them too thick at times.

Yours truly,

A. H. BENNETT,

Barrie, Sep. 10th, 91.

May it not be caused by some peculiar kind of honey the bees are eating? We have had bees that killed their fellows late and early, and we would find plenty of dead ones lying in front of the hive. Robbers, when they get to robbing very often show few, if any, dead bees in front of the hive during the day, but during the night the dead ones are carried out, and some that lurk about the hive seem not to be molested until morning, when they are slaughtered and dragged out. We find them late in the evening and early in the morning frequently moving their limbs in the agony of death, not being able to crawl. A gentleman who spoke to us the other

day at the exhibition, said he had a similar case. We think it was Mr. Alpaugh, and if it was we wish he would relate his experience in reference to the matter. He said they had sometimes killed each other until there were only a very few left in the hive, and he termed it a "A war among the bees." He referred to the fact that families would live harmoniously together as a usual practice, but there were occasional instances when they would quarrel, slaughter and drive one another out. He did not see why the bees should not sometimes do likewise. We would like to have some further information in reference to this matter, for it certainly seems aside from the ordinary course of things.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A Puzzled Bee-Keeper.

I HAVE been puzzled by the actions of a hive of bees which I wish to tell you about. On the 17th of July they cast a swarm, on the 8th of August I looked over them expecting to find the young queen laying, but I could see nothing of her, nor any traces of her work. I therefore gave the colony a frame containing uncapped larvæ and eggs. Twenty-four hours afterwards preparations for queen cells were visible, I therefore felt assured their queen was lost. On the 20th of August I again took a look at them, and to my astonishment found eggs and very young larvæ, I also found a queen, but to me she appeared newly hatched. The circumstance puzzled me. Next day the thought struck me that perhaps they had two queens one of them laying. I therefore made another visit to the hive, and sure enough, found two queens, one of them well developed, and more puzzling still, I found queen cells in all stages of development, two at least even capped. The ripest looking I opened and out came a honey queen and tumbled down among the bees, so that possibly at this time the hive has three honey queens. By those circumstances I am put beyond my depth in *beeology*. Can you kindly offer solution of those circumstances? In the meantime I shall leave the hive to work out its own destiny.

Yours truly,

D. BEATTIE.

Campbellford, Aug. 28th.

In answer to the above, would say, that if the queens in the hive were young queens at the time of the swarm