

CAPPINGS.

FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Foul Brood.

WE do not remember that we have ever published the article by Mr. Wm. McEvoy, of Woodburn, which appears in the Bulletin relating to the cause and cure of foul brood. This has not been because we did not agree with that gentleman's ideas as to the *cause*, but was merely an oversight. We certainly think with Mr. McEvoy that it is highly desirable that dead or decaying brood should be kept out of all colonies, whether there is danger of foul brood in it or not. It will be seen that the principles of the cure are almost identical with that which we practice, though the way in which the details are carried out, and the extent to which the purification of the hive and surroundings are carried is somewhat different.

"Foul brood is a disease that is caused by the rotting of uncared for brood. It usually originates in spring in weak colonies that have spring-windled so badly that they have not bees enough left to cover or care for all the brood, and if the spring keeps raw and backward the bees will crowd together to keep each other warm, leaving the uncared for brood to die and rot in the cells. The brood covered by the bees in time hatches, which so increases the force of the colony that a wider circle of comb is covered by the bees taking in the space occupied by the decaying brood. Then the brood that is fed in these cells where brood lately rotted down will have to consume their food mixed with the remains of decayed brood; and that is the *real and only cause* of foul brood.

Some will say that many a time they have put combs with decayed brood in colonies and never saw any bad results. Very true, but they do such things in the honey season and put them in the strongest colonies, where the bees will clean them out at once. If we want our colonies to keep in a healthy state we must keep all decayed brood out of them.

Foul brood will almost be a thing of the past when every bee-keeper knows the real cause of it, looks after his bees in the spring, and sees that the brood is well cared for in every hive; and those that are not real strong must be crowded up on a few combs by using division boards. The young bee destroyed by foul brood first turns yellow; as it decays further it becomes brown, rotten, ropy matter, and many of the capped cells will be suaken a little in the capping, with a small hole in each. The disease is spread by the bees robbing foul brood colonies, and they carry the disease just in proportion to the amount of diseased honey they convey to their own hives.

In the honey season, when the bees are gath-

ering honey freely, remove the combs and shake the bees into their own hives in the evening; give them comb foundation starters and let them build comb for four days. In the evening of the fourth day remove the comb and give them foundation to work out, and then the cure will be complete. Fill an empty two-story hive with the combs of foul brood that have been removed from two or more diseased colonies; close them up for two days; after that open the entrance and when most of the sound brood is hatched remove those combs and give the bees starters of foundation in single hive and let them build combs for four days. Then in the evening of the fourth day take out those new combs and give them foundation to work out.

Let it be remembered that all of those operations should be performed in the honey season and done in the evenings, so that bees will become settled down nicely before morning. Before extracting from the diseased combs, all the combs that were not sealed *must be cut out* of the frames or some of the decayed brood will be thrown out with the honey. Then after cutting out the unsealed comb, uncap the sealed honey, extract it, and bring it to a boil. All the foul combs and the new combs that were built in the four days must be made into wax, and the dross from the wax extract *must be buried*, because what runs out with the wax would not be heated enough to kill the spores; and if it was thrown out where the bees could get at it, it would start the disease again. When the diseased brood that we placed in the two-story hive is hatched and the bees are given full sheets of foundation, then they should at once be given a queen cell ready to hatch out, or a young queen. Then everything will be all right."

SALT A REMEDY FOR THE NAMELESS BEE DISEASE.

Mr. Joshua Bull, Seymour, Wis., thus discourses on the subject of the nameless bee disease in a late issue of the A. B. J.

It appears from what we read in the bee-papers from time to time, that the "nameless bee disease" continues to be troublesome in various places, and that information is wanted concerning a remedy. Perhaps it may not be amiss for me to report my little experience with this strange disease; although not very extensive, yet the little experience which I have had therewith has been of such a nature that it has been very conclusive and convincing to me, at least, in the following points:

First, that the disease originates with the queen; second, that it is not contagious; and third, that common salt properly administered will effect a permanent cure.

In support of the foregoing conclusions, I offer the following facts:

In the summer of 1888 I obtained two queens from parties living several hundred miles distant, and I introduced the queens into good, healthy colonies. Previous to this time I had never noticed any signs of the "nameless disease" among my bees, neither did it appear in