

NOTES AND COMMENTS

By a York County Bee-Keeper

Bisulphide of Carbon—Why Such Different Results?

It has been our practice for three years past to store all the super-combs in moth-proof boxes at one of our yards where there is practically nothing comes in after clover. This has always been done during the latter part of July or first week in August, and up to this year have never had the slightest damage done to the combs. Being busy in the extracting house the day the combs were stored away, we trusted to an assistant to close a large box which stands outside under an apple tree. Just a day or so after penning that note re bisulphide of carbon, which appeared in September "C. B. J.", we had occasion to visit the yard in question, and were surprised to find the cover of the box open enough at one end to allow bees to get in, which they were doing at a lively rate. One of the screw-nails with which the cover is fastened had not been driven home. On examination we found that the moths had gotten into the box as well as the bees. Considerable webs were in evidence, eggs were plentiful, and quite a few grubs had already developed. Clearly there was a case where something must be done at once if I wished to save the combs, which were packed tight together. The box referred to is made of matched pine, is 10 feet long, 44 inches wide and 4 feet high. When full it holds something over 600 Quinby combs. With nothing definite in mind as to what quantity of the drug I would need, I purchased five ounces and poured it into two old plates, one at each end of the box, on top of the

combs; closed the lid, screwed it down and hardly gave the matter another thought. About the 10th of October an article appeared in the "American Bee Journal" from the pen of that well-known apiarist, Mr. F. Greiner of New York, in which he stated his preference for sulphur instead of the bisulphide, on the grounds that such large quantities of the latter had to be bought to be effective. Mr. Greiner said that it was estimated that one ounce of the drug was necessary for every cubic foot to be fumigated. According to that, the big box of combs should have had more pounds than I had used ounces, so it was with some trepidation that I hastened to have a look for (possibly) moths and grubs galore. However, an examination showed everything to be in splendid condition; not an egg had developed since I had last looked at the combs in August, and the grubs that were then present were all dead and as black as tar. Surely the bisulphide on the other side of the line must be adulterated nearly as badly as those bass-wood hams we used to hear of. No, thank you, as long as five ounces of bisulphide of carbon will effectually fumigate 600 combs, I have no use for sulphur and its sickening fumes.

[We think that our friend Greiner cannot have used the drug properly, else he would have had better results. We must remember that the fumes of the bisulphide of carbon are heavier than the air, and therefore their tendency will be to descend or fall. The drug must, on that account, be placed above the combs, and in a broad shallow vessel of some sort giving as much surface as possible for rapid evaporation. Then, again, the fumigating box should be air-tight as possible to prevent the fumes escaping, although we have had very satisfactory results from simply piling the extracting supers, with combs, one above another,