

I will close this matter by describing my present method for treating foul brood. I disinfect my old hives and frames thus: I place them in a warm midday sunlight, long enough to soften the coating of wax on them: then I remove it thoroughly with a knife; when cleaned thus, I place upon the ground a small whisp of straw or hay, not to exceed two ounces, upon which I place a small pinch of sulphur, upheld by a cotton rag. I ignite this with a match. When in a full blaze I invert the hive over it. When I fumigate the frames I support them in a barrel or box by a moveable slat. When properly treated thus, they are as good as new. I remove all the brood from a diseased hive and transfer to a new or disinfected hive. But as I transfer each frame, I sprinkle it, bees and all, with a solution of salicylic acid, one ounce dissolved in three pints of hot water and applied with a whisk broom. I disinfect old hives, after scraping them clean, by igniting a small handful of straw or hay upon which is placed a half teaspoonful of sulphur; then I invert the hive over it. I fumigate the frames in a special box in like manner.

The colonies which I have treated thus, are doing well, gathering an abundance of honey, and the brood seems sound and good.

V. DEVINNEY.

Denver, Colo.

Read the grand array of premiums offered on page 435 of this issue.

From the Bee-Keepers' Record.

WHITE WAX.

WE were no little surprised to find the able editor of the *British Bee Journal*, on page 307, make the sweeping statement: "*Pure white beeswax is an unknown substance: beeswax is not white, nor can it, without a foreign admixture, be made that color*" and quote "the highest authority on the *Materia Medica*" to that effect, or rather that he had never met with it. Were the discussion of this matter simply an affair of opinion or of science we should not care to take up our pages with it. But it is introduced by way of guarding bee-keepers against the use of white foundation in supers and more than hints that all such is adulterated. We have therefore a practical matter of high importance before us. We have made and used foundation practically white for many years, and do not hesitate to recommend it as infinitely the best for supers. The general use of yellow super foundation has done more than anything else to bring modern comb honey into disrepute, and to our certain knowledge to create

a decided prejudice against it in many quarters. We by no means question the opinion expressed by the *B. B. J.* in regard to the particular sample referred to, that it was mainly composed of Japan wax, and smelt of composite candles. We have no means of doing so. But we seriously question the statement that follows to the effect that "a large quantity of spurious foundation is being sold"—a statement evidently deduced from the erroneous view held as to the color of beeswax.

Referring to the same, Mr. Otto Hehner, analyst, says on page 315, "*Pure white beeswax is not an unknown substance.*" He then goes on to show how it may be obtained, viz.: by bleaching and the action of certain chemicals. To which statement we distinctly adhere; but we go further. We unhesitatingly assert that *white is the natural color of beeswax* and by no means an evidence either of adulteration or of bleaching, which is also objectionable.

Mr. G. J. Buller, of Welwyn, taking up the same ground on page 325, expresses our mind so well that we quote his words. He says, after reading that wax in its natural state is not white but yellow, "Now, after reading this, I was sorely puzzled to know whether he or I was color-blind, for I felt sure in my own mind that the wax-scales one finds dropped on the floor of a newly-hived swarm were always white, and on several occasions when bought swarms have arrived at my home after having been in a straw skep some hours, there have been pieces of comb built in the skep that have been pure white. I have also worked bees in sections without any guide-comb or starters, and the comb in these before any honey has been stored has always been pure white; and I trust to be able to send you a little cake of naturally pure white wax soon. On one occasion a swarm settled on a tree while I was away from home, and remained there forty-eight hours, during which time they built three pieces of comb four inches long, all of which were pure white.

After reading this letter I turned to several books to see what other writers had to say on the matter, and I find that Huber, in his "*Natural History of the Honey Bee*," says that "Wax is originally white, but the cells soon become yellow; they grow brown, in time and the combs of very old hives have a blackish hue." Cook, in his "*Manual of the Apiary*," says, "Wax is a secretion formed in pellets, the shape of an irregular pentagon underneath the abdomen. The pellets are light-colored, very thin and fragile." Cheshire, in his work on "*Bees and Bee-keeping*," says, "Pure wax is perfectly white, the propolis added as a varnish is the usual, though by no means invariable, source of