

"About what proportion do you find with unclipped wings?"

"That depends somewhat on years. Some years the bees do not allow their queens to rear as much brood as others, and in cases of the maximum amount of brood not being reared, not so many are accepted. But generally I find that from one-half to two-thirds of these cells are accepted and a young queen from my best mother is reigning the next spring in place of the old one of the summer before."

"And in this way your stock is growing better with each year?"

"Exactly. And herein a gain is made also. Try it next August, and see if you are not pleased with the idea."—Conversation with Doolittle in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*.

Foul Brood--Its Cause and Cure

A member—Is comb foundation made from diseased comb safe to use?

Mr. France—yes, sir. Three years ago I experimented with 82 colonies in 15 of the best apiaries I could find in the State of Wisconsin, where they had never seen foul brood. They took a good deal of coaxing to get me go into their apiaries, but with the confidence that I had gained with my brother and sister bee-keepers, he said, "Go ahead." I told him if there was a sign of disease I would pay him well for it. To this day they wish they had tried more of it, because those colonies experimented were the best they had.

A Member—Would you recommend this for other people also?

Mr. France—I would in this way: that no one need be afraid of getting

disease through comb foundation. Any process which will make comb foundation will kill the germs of disease in wax. I recommend the use of the foundation regardless of where it comes from.

A Member—Suppose you had diseased combs, would you melt them and use the wax for foundation?

Mr. France—Most certainly, I would.

A Member—Would you not destroy the diseased combs?

Mr. France—No. About a year ago, in a certain apiary where there were 108 good, strong colonies of bees, I found disease in four of them, and he said he would do it. I then went on, and came back a year afterwards, and there were no live bees left, but there were 2400 combs in the cellar, all diseased. Now Mr. France, this is pretty hard; I am going to put a match under the whole thing and burn it up," he said. I told him not to get discouraged with that, because that beeswax, if nothing else, is worth saving; and I had him send for one of those German wax-presses to test its merits, and rather than burn it up I ran 2000 combs through that wax-press the first day, and the balance the next day, and shipped the wax to one of our Wisconsin comb foundation men and he sent me a check for—well, for the wax, and said, "I want more."

Mr. France—If you have not a good press you would better get a good wax-press.

A Member—What is a good one?

Mr. France—The German wax-press. That is the only one I know of that is worth recommending at the present time, because you can do so much in such a short time with it. I have something at home that does about as well, that is, a large boiler that I had made. It holds about three barrels; put it down on