

actual observation that it has been largely practised. In my Bulletin I have advised disinfection, but there is no question of compulsion; bee-keepers are as free as I am to follow their own judgment, or inclination.

If I have erred, I have done so in good company, and I respect the opinions of practical men like Mr. McEvoy, and others, who hold different views, as they are doing the same as myself—acting on their judgment.

I need only further remark, that among many others whose opinions on the advisability of disinfecting are worthy of consideration are Dr. G. F. White, expert in bacteriology, who has specially studied the bacteria of the apiary; Prof. Imms, B.A., M.Sc., who investigated the Isle of Wight disease; Dr. E. F. Phillips, in charge of apiculture United States of America; the Department of Agriculture, Ireland; T. W. Cowan, author British Bee-Keepers' Guide Book; Root, Cheshire, and in fact all authors of standard works recommending doing so. Finally, I may observe that in tackling D. M. Macdonald, he (your correspondent), is up against something tough.

I shall not take notice of any further anonymous correspondence on the matter, and with apologies for the length of my letter,

I am, yours, etc.,

J. HOPKINS.

Auckland, New Zealand, Dec. 14, '10.

A Question of Veracity.

When I wrote about disinfection in New Zealand I had before me: (1) A communication from the Chief Apiarist, (2) a report from an Inspector, (3) the latest official "Bulletin," (4) the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, a work of 600 pages—all official documents. These you can balance against your Mr. Nemo's contribution, which came to hand only the other day.

In above Report, page 71, I read: "The bees from 72 hives were shaken off their frames, the combs being taken away altogether. Five days after the bees were again shaken on to full sheets of comb foundation. At the same time **all the floor boards had been scraped and disinfected as were also the hives.**" Yet your nameless correspondent says "disinfection is unnecessary and superfluous, and almost unknown in New Zealand."

The "Bulletin" mentions "disinfection" four times on page 53 alone.

Mr. Hopkins says, "The McEvoy treatment when **properly carried out** is an effective cure." He advises "thorough disinfection" or "singeing the inside by fire."

D. M. MACDONALD.

SOME OF MY EXPERIENCE.

Indexed

William McEvoy.

In the spring of 1864, I bought two old box hives of bees, and started into bee-keeping in a small way. I found that box hives were not the thing, and in 1866 I changed from box to frame hives. Through natural swarming I got my increase during the early years in the business, and as we had no foundation at that time, the bees had to make all the combs, and as no buckwheat was grown in my locality, all the comb making had to be done in the clover season, and finished before basswood ended. I had some ups and downs in wintering for a few years after I started, but was fairly successful through seeing that every colony had abundance of stores in the fall to last them until clover began to yield. For several years before 1887 I had been very successful at wintering bees packed on the summer stands. But hearing of many bee-keepers booming the celars at that time (1887) caused me to experiment on a large scale and prove for myself which system would pay me best. I arranged for the use of a good cellar

and put half of the the 20th of November half of the colonies the summer stands tober with forest ones that were with all that were pa stands came thro condition, and it any difference early between the colonies tered in the cellar



PARTI.

The hive m

packed on the sun going through the that were packed gained on those th in the cellar, and b almost double the The honey season o poorest we ever ha I got about half a from the colonies t