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FOUL BROOD

(Paper by H. G. Sibbald, Claude, Ont.)

Foul brood is a disease that attacks the larvae or brood of bees. The most dangerous and destructive of any of the diseases that bees are subject to. This disease had made such headway in the Province of Ontario that the Ontario government a number of years ago passed a law and appointed an inspector for its suppression. Credit for obtaining this excellent law is largely due, I believe, to our Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association.

Since the inception of the law and regular inspection of apiaries has been established the disease has been checked, and is better understood by the mass of expert bee-keepers. Still, on account of the contagious nature of the disease, and the ignorance of a few in regard to it, the expert is constantly in danger as long as it exists and bees are in the hands of these few.

It is therefore a subject worthy of a place on our program and of a full discussion by those who, like myself have had to their sorrow more experience than is desirable or profitable.

The larvae or brood, in its early stages is attacked by the F.B. germs, which decomposes and settles in a shapeless

mass to the bottom and lower side of the cell, becomes yellowish brown in color at first, later assumes a brown or coffee color, gives off a very offensive odor, and if pricked by a pin or toothpick will be foundropy and will draw or string out a half-inch or so.

If the cell has been capped the capping recedes, presents a sunken appearance. In time the matter dries down, and is of such a sticky, gluey nature that it adheres strongly to the side and bottom of the cell, thus leaving what we call the scale or stain mark of foul brood.

Other forms of dead brood, such as chilled, starved, pickled, poisoned are different, and may be described as follows: The larva dies, but holds its form better, that is, shrinks and dries from the outside, gives off very little odor and less offensive, does not adhere so tightly to the cell side, and may be removed by a pin or toothpick, and when pricked will not string out, but appears watery, this class of dead brood will be removed by the bees themselves.

Not so with foul brood, however, for soon after the death of the larva, it becomes so foul that I verily believe the bees will not attempt to clean it out. The cells are apparently avoided until it becomes dried down, and the odor has become less noticeable. The bees then accept these cells again, and after polishing them fill them with nectar. The moisture thus applied softens