

Notes and Comments

(By J. L. Byer)

The Editor of this Journal has asked me to comment on those answers to the questions of H. W. Jones, which appear on page 10 of the January issue. Now I am no scientist, and do not pretend to be an authority on foul brood matters, yet what experience I have had convinces me that the use of disinfectants in the treatment of foul brood is unnecessary. Personal experience can always be depended upon, and in my own case one of our apiaries was quite badly affected by my buying some bees from a widow when the estate had to be closed. These bees, by the way, were known to be diseased, and I took them so as to prevent them being sold all over the country, and while it made me a little trouble for the time being, yet in the long run I believe that the move was a good one on my part, as in case I had not bought them the trouble would have come in a magnified form at a later stage in the game. Well, to make matters short, the bees in the yard referred to were all attended to without any disinfecting of hives or appurtenances, and at the present time would feel like the Editor, when he says that he would give a five-dollar bill for every foul cell found in the yard. At least for the last two years we have not found a cell of foul brood, and the colonies have been thoroughly examined quite a few times in that period. Cases like this can be duplicated in many apiaries in the country, and while it is also true that many apiaries have been treated for foul brood, that yet has the disease lingering more or less, I have always been inclined to think that some source of infection had been present outside of the hives under treatment. Of course, it is always hard to prove the source of these troubles, and for that reason some, no doubt, will continue to think that disinfection is necessary. One thing certain, if a bee-keeper insists on disinfecting the hives, etc., it will do no harm, so personally when on inspection work, if I

meet a man so inclined, I never discourage him too strongly in the matter, else the disease recurring again, he should reproach me with a "There, I told you so!" It is well to remember that some influential men, as for instance the Roots and others, insist on the disinfecting, and in California nearly all the inspectors there say that the disease is much more virulent in their climate than it is in the more northern and eastern sections, and for that reason the simple treatment that works so well in the latter places is not nearly so efficacious with them.

Now as to the starving treatment asked about by Mr. Jones, and to which you reply, I hardly think that a bee that has had an empty stomach so long that it becomes shaky will be such a wreck after being revived again as you picture. In fact, I believe that it would be a good thing if a goodly number of the over-fed human species would be subjected to a treatment of that nature. Jacob Alpaugh is as thorough a bee-keeper as we have in the Province of Ontario, and a man who will not advocate anything unless sure of his ground. True, he is, like other mortals, liable to make mistakes, yet as a rule you will find him "sound as a dollar" on matters apicultural. Knowing that friend Alpaugh had for years made an unqualified success of getting foul colonies in the fall at a nominal figure, and curing them late in the season, the writer made bold to ask him for the method employed. As he never enjoined any secrecy in the matter, I trust he will excuse me when he sees this; as a matter of fact, many bee-keepers are familiar with his system, anyway, as Mr. Alpaugh instructed a number in this late-in-the-fall method of curing the year he was on inspection work. Briefly stated, the infected colonies are left till October, when the brood-rearing has ceased, and then the bees are shook on empty frames and left that way for two days. At the end of that time full sheets of foundation are given, feeders put on and the bees fed as rapidly as possible. This fall a friend of

mine well knows of our A colonies slight and he decided circumstances them earlier i was an unqualified said he would was possible f foundation as tainly the two pear to hurt t appeared after beautiful new cents to insure treatment is no McEvoy plan, a not, in my opinion but for the late unavoidably bee the shaking on It might be thou swarm out of th frames are give case, as it most the season. Th combs in the fall if everything is same in practice great many have One reason is th get combs with recommended, an some failures. In perience, while c referred to in the my knowledge I t on two diseased following May th a few cells in ea do not condemn estly say that I do to carry out instru ter of bees being a starvation, it is not stand wonderful ex earances show litt years ago Mr. Dool weather away l time, the hive bein om board, and al