

CHALMER'S OBSERVATIONS

Inspection of Apiaries

Let me ask, is the most being done (with the funds at our disposal) that could be done in the way of eradicating foul brood? My experience would not justify me in giving an affirmative answer, but it may be that the fault is within myself. I have studied, practised and taught the foul brood treatment, known as the McEvoy system, and have every confidence in its efficiency. I have studied the bee-owners, too, and it strikes me forcibly that we are making a great mistake in depending on one-half of them doing as advised. I really don't believe that we shall ever be rid of foul brood, while the work of curing is to be left in the hands of the majority of those amongst whose bees we find the disease.

Allow me just to give a few illustrations. Beginning right at home, my next door neighbour owned two colonies of bees last year, one of which I found had foul brood when inspected in June. Instructions were given as to how those bees were to be treated, but instead of following my advice, said neighbour divided this diseased colony. This is a yard where both Messrs. McEvoy and Alpaugh have found foul brood, and, of course, both advised this party how to proceed to cure them, and I feel certain neither of those gentlemen would recommend dividing a foul broody colony unless the colony were strong enough to swarm. Now this neighbour in August, 1910, when nectar was scarce, exposed the combs of these diseased bees by lifting them out of the hives at mid-day, shaking the bees off, extracting the honey, and returning the combs. He had generally to stand and examine the combs for a time after shaking the bees off, when robbers could be seen flocking on to them. This was going on under my own eyes, and he was prosecuted for it, but an inspector's eyes are not in every apiary in

his territory at all times. The result of this man's operations was this:—The divided colony died during the winter and the colony which was in my judgment sound last year, I found on June 10th of the present year diseased, contracted, no doubt, through robbing from the exposed foul broody combs, and besides this, foul brood showed up in six of my own colonies, originating, I expect in the same manner as the other.

Another case is about one mile from my apiary where foul brood was found some years ago by both the above mentioned inspectors, and which I partly inspected July 6th, 1911, examining three colonies out of fifteen. Finding the three diseased, I went no further, as their owner was from home, my purpose being to go over them all later on, in his presence. But I received orders to "do no more inspecting this season." Both the above cases are men who have kept bees for many years, and a person would naturally think that an inspector would have no need of calling on men of their experience.

I can cite the case of a man who had his bees burned up for foul brood by Mr. McEvoy some years ago, and whose apiary I inspected June 3rd of the present year, and found half of them so bad with foul brood that it was evident they were diseased last year. He was also from home, but his wife, who accompanied me to the yard, was ignorant of the presence of disease. In another case in which a party had two weakish colonies in 1910 standing within a few inches of each other, one of them being diseased, instructions were given to shake them both into one, and make a good colony. Contrary to this, however, the diseased one was "shook" and cured, and the other was left alone; and when I called there on June 2nd it was cast in my teeth that I had said that the weak colony wouldn't live over winter. On examination, however, I found matters just reversed from last year; the formerly

eder, but three of them
virgins instead of mated
posed them to be. I
e, and one mated here
drone. I obtained nine
eder, and these proved
queens. Now, I believe
ant is a good queen-
io; then we could be
t what we paid for and
e, instead of having to
as I did for some. I am
good price for good
ood price for poor ones
altogether. Now, why
y be formed in the pro-
keepers for the purpose
breeding the very best
a be had anywhere?
s good a chance here as
S., and there are plenty
We shall be wanting
xt spring before June
to weed out every black
d, even though some of
nes. They have, how-
sitting down too hard
sant to handle in many
e hive that has not at-
m once in three years.
given us a good supply
this year it gave 120
and 60 pounds of buck-
gets any feeding. But
to fight! Yours truly,

dent's letter raises sev-
erest that we should be
discussed in these col-
our readers will forward
n the matter.—Ed.]

he Leipziger Bienenzeit-
being made in Germany
, practical means of de-
m of honey, and a sum
about \$400) has been
t for the discovery.