

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Ashes as Packing—Drugs as Ingesta—and the Weather.

At the late St. Catherine's meeting of the O.B.K.A., during the discussion on the best packing material, Mr. D. Chalmers, of Poole, stated that he was trying wood ashes as winter packing. I am informed by Mr. Chalmers that the result is favorable. He says the bees so packed came out all right, but that there was a little more mould in the hives than in the chaff-packed hives, but this, he thinks, was due to the fact that he put too much of the ashes on top—six or seven inches above a very light cushion of chaff—when two or three probably would have been sufficient. He thinks ashes will make a good packing for bottom and sides, but if used on top care should be taken not to use too much.

DRUGS TO THE "BOTTOMLESS PIT."

There is where they ought to go. So says Professor Cook. In my last letter I was disagreeing with friend Cook somewhat; this time I am glad to be able to most cordially agree with him. In discussing the "Adulteration of Honey" in a late "Review" he says:—"I fully believe that we were all better off if fraudulent or even secret compounds like patent medicines were all hurled into the bottomless pit, which would be a very fit receptacle for them."

Now I say amen! to this. I go further. Not the patent medicines alone, but the orthodox drugs—all ought to be hurled into the "bottomless pit, which would be a very fit receptacle for them."

Some of the doctors themselves think so, for we have their word for it. One of the most eminent in the profession has given it as his opinion that, "if the whole of the contents of the apothecaries' shops were emptied out into the sea mankind would be better off, but it would be a sorry time for the fishes."

Dr. Good, Fellow of the Royal Society, and author of several medical works, says:—"The science of medicine is a barbarous jargon, and the effects of our medicines on the human system in the highest degree uncertain; except, indeed, that they have destroyed more lives than wars, pestilence and famine combined."

Dr. Johnson, another F.R.S., and editor of the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, is equally outspoken and explicit. He says:—"I declare as my conscientious conviction, founded on long experience and reflection, that if there were not a single

physician, surgeon, man-midwife, chemist, druggist, apothecary, nor drug on the face of the earth there would be less sickness and less mortality than now prevail."

Dr. Ramage, Fellow of the Royal College, London, says:—"I fearlessly assert, that in most cases the sufferer would be safer without a physician than with one."

Prof. St. John, of the New York Medical College says:—"All medicines are poisonous." Prof. Cox, M. D., says:—"The fewer remedies you employ in any disease, the better for your patients." Prof. Clark, M. D., says:—"All of our curative agents are poisonous, and as a consequence, every dose diminishes the patient's vitality."

Dr. Barker says:—"The drugs which are administered for the cure of measles and scarlet fever kill far more than those diseases do."

Prof. Smith, M.D., of the New York College of Physicians and Surgeons, declares that "drugs do not cure disease; disease is always cured by the *vis medicatrix nature*"—that is the remedial powers of nature, or the vitality of the patient. In this same line Prof. Stevens, M. D., says:—"The older physicians grow the more sceptical they become of the virtues of medicine, and the more disposed they are to trust to the powers of Nature." Prof. Parker says:—"Hygiene is of far more value in the treatment of disease than drugs." Prof. Clark, M.D., says:—"In their zeal to do good, physicians have done much harm. They have hurried thousands to the grave who would have recovered if left to Nature." One more quotation out of hundreds I might make. The celebrated Dr. Bailey, of London, declared:—"I have no faith whatever in medicine."

Now, the reader will please bear in mind that I have not been quoting quacks above, but men eminent in the profession of medicine—distinguished authors and professors—most of them venerable in age and ripe in experience, and, better than all, with that candor and conscientiousness which impel them to proclaim the honest truth as they believe it whether against their profession and business or not.

But what has all this to do with bees and honey and hives and all that? Hold on! Bee-keepers, unfortunately, have to die as well as other people not so good, and my desire is that none of them shall die, or be killed before their time. I feel like strengthening Prof. Cook's position, and convert him over to the Allopathic drugs for the "bottomless pit," as well as the patent medicines.

I think, too, that Brother Root, of *Gleanings*, ought to get a word of encouragement here, for