

I have made the mistake of raising some very poor queens by giving the bees no unsealed brood whatever, except some just hatched, or eggs alone, and then supposing they could not raise queens from anything but very young larvae. As a matter of fact, they are very likely in such a case to raise some queens from larvae entirely too old. First they start some that are all right from part of the young larvae, and the remainder of the young larvae are continued as workers. In two or three days more they take a notion to start some more queen cells, and they may take that notion every day as long as they have anything unsealed. The remedy is to destroy all unsealed larvae after 24 or 48 hours that have not already been started as queens—at least that's one way of remedying it.

The idea that I could easily fill up a whole number with mistakes must have been a mistake.

C. C. MILLER.

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Newcastle Daily Chronicle, Feb. 5.

Bee Stings as a Cure for Rheumatism.

IT is Dr. Terc's cure as explained in the current *Wiener Medicinische Presse*. To have the rheumatic patient well stung by bees—that is the cure. Dr. Tere declares to have applied his method in 173 cases, giving in all 39,000 stings. He claims to have been successful, especially in chronic cases of rheumatism, where the patients, subject to cachexia, had despaired of all remedy. On reading this, the rheumatism patient will be disposed to exclaim: "Rather the disease than the cure!" But Herr Terc avows that to be stung by a bee is nothing like so painful for the rheumatic patient as for other people. To bring the latter point to the proof it only requires a rheumatic patient courageous enough to get possession of a bee and experiment upon his own person. Apropos of the foregoing, it is to be remarked that men and other animals become less and less susceptible to the venom of insects, the oftener they are stung or bitten by these. He who arrives in a region where mosquitoes swarm suffers most at first. The swelling is great and the pain often grievous. After a few days he begins to get easier under the bites; and at the end of a week or so he thinks little about them. So it is the country cousin whose wrists and ankles are swollen in the morning after the first night in town. The habitually bug-bitten rarely swell, feel no pain, and yield nightly nutriment to the tenants behind the wall-paper without giving the matter a thought. The same immunity, says Dr. Terc, comes from being repeatedly stung by bees. He says moreover, that rheu-

matic patients, being less susceptible than others to begin with, require to be stung several times before there is any tumefaction or swelling. Let the stinging be continued, and a moment will arrive—so says Dr. Terc—when no more swelling is produced thereby. At that moment, also, the patient is delivered from the pains of rheumatism. *Ipsæ dixit.*

From the American Bee Journal.

IN-BREEDING.

NEW BLOOD IN THE APIARY AN ESSENTIAL MATTER.

ON page 60, in answer to the question, "How long will bees prosper without new stock from a distance?" I notice this reply: "For an unlimited time." Now I doubt the correctness of that doctrine; and, as I am not a queen-breeder, I ought to be allowed an opinion without prejudice.

With such "free commoners" as bees, it is quite a difficult matter to prove to what extent in-breeding is practiced, or with what effect; but if we reason by analogy—from the known to the unknown—it is very conclusive to my mind that nature abhors incestuous alliances.

We know the effect on the human race, of the marriage of near relatives. Any one who has experimented in that direction with our domestic animals, knows its baneful effects. I am aware of the claim in certain quarters, that some of the most valuable characteristics of our domestic animals have been developed by in-breeding, but even admitting that to be true in exceptional cases when done intelligently, every breeder knows it is safe to avoid it as a general rule.

The experiments of Darwin in self and cross fertilization of plants, carried on for many years with a patience and persistence that only a lover of the truth could have shown, proved that the same law governed, too, in the vegetable kingdom. He reasoned that the chief end of bees and other pollen-gathering insects was to fertilize and cross-fertilize the flowers, thereby causing not only greater beauty and perfection of flowers and fruit, but vigor and longevity as well.

Corn grown on one farm for a series of years without the introduction of new seeds, deteriorates. The same is true of other farm crops. Now if such beneficial results accrue to both the animate and inanimate creations (where experiments have been carried on), who shall say that these highly organized insects, bees, that perform such an important part in developing plant-life by cross-fertilization, are not amenable to the same general law of nature, that seems to govern the reproduction of plant-life itself? Or if both