

Foundation and Foul Brood, Again ; Is There Danger of Infection ?

IN the American Bee Journal, page 713, Mr. S. Corneil, of Canada, a gentleman for whom we have a very high personal regard, both as a scholar, scientist, and bee-keeper, still insists that foul brood may be spread by foundation, although the whole bee-keeping fraternity seems to be against him. Prof. Cook has often said that, when science is at variance with practice and experience, we should reject science and accept practice; but experience says, "No, no!" If we understand the matter, science is not at variance with practice in the case in question. The long continued heat to which the wax is subjected in the process of clarifying in making foundation is sufficient to sterilize the most resistant germs, as Mr. Newman shows. Mr. Corneil, however in commenting on this point, thinks we are liable to dip out infected wax that has been put in as a supply, that may have been subjected to a high temperature for only a short time. In reply to this we would say that this contingency is exceedingly improbable. All the wax, before we receive it, is supposed to be sterilized; and the chances that it should be diseased in the first place are not as one to a thousand. Another thing, the fresh supplies of wax are usually put in the night before, and there kept at a temperature of 180 all night. Seldom is wax added during the day to our large melting-vats, unless it be foundation clippings that are already clarified from dirt and impurities, and these clippings are certainly sterilized. The reason we put the wax in at night is to allow the dirt that may be in the cake to settle, and not because we fear the germs of foul brood. Mr. Corneil also thinks that the disease originated in our apiary, not from purchased honey, but from foundation which we had put in the apiary, said foundation having been previously made from infected combs. Friend C. misunderstands us. We never put foundation made from known diseased combs in the apiary until after we had had foul brood; so it is improbable that the disease could have originated in the way he suggests, in our apiary. The foundation under discussion was put in another portion of the apiary, in clean hives; and to-day those hives—every one of them—are perfectly healthy.

Mr. Corneil further argues that, inasmuch as the disease starts up in different parts of the country, and for which the source of infection is unknown, therefore the disease might come from foundation. We know of quite a number

of apiaries where the foul brood originally started where foundation was unknown. It started in the apiaries of Moses Quinby and G. M. Doolittle before the days of foundation.

Again, foundation is being used more and more, and yet, in the United States at least foul brood is becoming less and less frequent. If foundation carries infection, the disease would be on the increase; but, on the contrary it is on the decrease.—Gleanings.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

How to Destroy Mice In a Bee House.

WE do not believe in advocating cruelty to animals, but we are forced from last years experience to advocate most strongly the use of any and every means to rid and keep rid the hives from mice. It is very important indeed that this should be closely looked after—equal quantities of arsenic, white granulated sugar and flower mixed dry, put on little pieces of paper about the hives or apiary, where it can remain for some time without being exposed to dampness, is a very sure way of ridding the place of mice, yet in some instances where they can feed on bees in hives they seem to care little for the poison. Another plan we have adopted, which frequently gave us very good satisfaction, take a tin pail, half-full of water; scatter a little wheat chaff on the top to make it look like a chaff bin. A board from two to four feet long, with one end on the floor and the other on the side of the pail, in fact better one on each side of the pail, then scatter a little bran, meal or flour, dust it lightly on the board, the mice will run up and look down upon the chaff where you may have the meal scattered, they will jump down off the board on the chaff in the pail to get the meal, the chaff will sink around them, and the mice drown. We have caught five or six in a pail in one night this way. We recollect once, that in one of our out apiaries having several deer-mice and a chip-monk, which had gone into the bee-house from a neighboring wood about twenty rods away, they were so anxious to investigate the pail business that they all got into it, perhaps rats might be caught in the same way.

"W. F."

A rumor is afloat that Mr. Frank Benton, now in the employ of the government at Washington, D. C., is about to start on another expedition under the auspices of Uncle Sam, to hunt up the *Apis dorsata* and other races of bees. If experience in this line of work is any requisite, Benton is the man.—Gleanings,