



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Does Comb Foundation Ever Contain Live Spores of Foul Brood?

IN MY paper, on foul brood among bees, read at the recent meeting of O. B. K. A., at St. Catharines, I could not, for the want of space, give the reasons in full for the opinion that the disease may be spread by the use of comb foundation, made from wax from infected hives. The degree of heat required to kill the spores of some other bacteria has been ascertained, but, as far as I can learn, the heat necessary to kill the spores of bacillus alive has never yet been made out. If we knew the heat required all we would have to do would be to make sure of heating the wax up to this point when all would be safe; hence the adoption of the resolution by the association, asking for the assistance of the authorities of the agricultural institutions at Ottawa and Guelph. From what is known to be required for killing the spores of other bacteria, and from a consideration of the process used in the manufacture of foundation, the statement so often made, that these processes are sufficient to destroy the germs of disease in infected wax, may well be doubted. If there is danger of spreading the disease in this way, as

I believe there is, it is not good economy to spend public money for the purpose of stamping it out, while we are unconsciously scattering the seeds of contagion by the use of infected comb foundation. That the question is a disputed one will appear from the following expressions of opinion, both for and against, by prominent beekeepers in Europe and America.

"Now, if combs from hives reeking with foul brood, are put into those (wax) extractors, and the wax extracted from same, we know that the temperature at which wax melts would not be high enough to destroy the germs of bacilli, and consequently the foundation made from infected wax must carry the germs with it, wherever it goes."—"Woodleigh," in *British Bee Journal*.

Mr. F. M. Curry, a member of the committee of the Irish Bee-keepers Association, in a letter to the *British Bee Journal*, says: "There is so much trouble about, from this foul brood disease, and its rapid spread—probably largely due to the use of bought foundation, a quantity of wax from diseased hives finding its way into the market."

In reply to a correspondent who makes enquires about this matter, the editor of the *British Bee Journal* says: "We should think that the long process of heating the crude wax undergoes, before it is transformed into foundation, is quite enough to remove the taint of disease it might have."

In the *American Bee Journal* Dr. S. S. Butler, an extensive bee-keeper in California, writes as follows: "Foul brood may be carried in foundation made of wax, from foul-broody hives. A friend of mine in this valley, with about 60 colonies found so many of them with foul brood