



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

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OUR OWN APIARY.

SOMETHING LIKE FOUL BROOD.

A FEW weeks ago a neighbor about eight miles from here called to say that he was ruined. His entire apiary (quite a large one by the way) was being destroyed with foul brood. He described the appearance of the disease. After listening to his description for a short time we surprised him by saying that his bees had not foul brood, yet there was no use trying to persuade him as he was convinced that his entire apiary was doomed in a short time. We explained to him that foul brood never existed in a hive without the appearance of a brown ropy matter after it had remained there for a sufficient length of time. Then he stated that the dead brood found in such large quantities in his hives had not been removed from the cells. Although the capping of the cells contained a little pin-hole—as it is called—when the cap was removed he found the larva or dead bee retaining its shape with the exception of its being dried up and much smaller. After seeing what we had written in reference to the matter in our little book on Foul Brood, he decided to bring up some of the dead brood with him for us to examine. Yesterday he arrived with a lot of his "foul brood," as he called it, but his face bore a more cheerful aspect. He said that he had called to say that he believed now that we were right, and that it was not foul brood, but the mystery to him was what constituted it. Perhaps a description of it would not be out of place.

In the sample brought there were a large number of cells containing dead brood. In some samples not more than one larva in ten was dead, in others, one quarter of the cells contained dead brood. The larva dying before it was capped over, it seemed to dry up

and form a blackish mass of shrivelled up larva but where it first dried it seemed to contain a black watery substance which evaporated in a few days leaving the larva dry. The capped over cells were perforated, many of them contained small holes from about the size of a pin point to the size of a pin head. Where the capping was removed the bees seemed all dried up. Many of them fell to the ground. Some were nearly ready to gnaw out, so fully were they developed. Others apparently had just died, while others appeared to have been dead for some weeks. Some cells contained larvae just capped, some just dead, others quite dry. He could not account for the difficulty but supposed that it it were not a contagious disease that it might have been caused by the kind of food that the bees had eaten and fed to the larvae. We made inquiry as to the sources from which pollen and honey were collected in his locality. He could not learn of any having been gathered that would account for the mortality. Many of the colonies that during fruit bloom were very bad with the disease have almost wholly recovered. Has any person ever had a similar experience? It was not chilled, for the mortality was greatest in the strongest colonies. It is much like the disease described as dead-brood in our little 10c. pamphlet on foul brood, but we have never known a whole apiary to be so affected. It seems as if the food must have had something to do with it.

We almost forgot to mention that the colonies consisting of queens raised late last fall were affected much worse than the others. Whether it is on account of their prolificness or the age of the latter queens he does not know.

MICHIGAN STATE BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.
—The next annual convention of this association will be held in Ypsilanti, Mich., Dec. 1st and 2nd, 1886. H. D. CUTTING, Sec., Clinton Mich.