

## CAPPINGS.

FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

## The Foul Brood Bulletin.

THE last issue of *Gleanings* contains an article from Mr. Pringle, regarding the working of the foul brood bill. The editor of *Gleanings* in referring to the respective errors as given in the bulletin by Mr. D. A. Jones and Mr. Wm. McEvoy, the inspector, agrees with the former in every point, as will be seen by the paragraph which follows:

In another part of the bulletin, before discussing the method of cure, the cause of the disease is assigned to rotten or decaying brood, either from chilling or other wise. In fact, the inspector, Mr. McEvoy, lays particular stress on this. We can not believe that foul brood starts without at least the germs of that disease. We have had a great many colonies in the apiary during the spring that had more or less chilled brood; but they never developed into anything serious. Rotten brood may be a favorable medium for the growth of the germs if they are already present in the hives; but we can not think that this is of itself a cause. We have the very best of land in which to grow corn; but corn will not grow unless there is the first seed. Further on in the bulletin we notice that there is a difference of opinion as to whether it is necessary to scald or disinfect diseased hives. We have tested that matter very thoroughly in our apiary. At one time we took twenty that had contained diseased bees, and put in healthy bees on frames of foundation. In every one of the twenty, foul brood broke out in from one to two months. At the same time we tried another lot of about an equal number, putting diseased bees on frames of foundation in hives that have been scalded, and a complete and permanent cure was effected in every one. Where hives had not been scalded long enough the disease reappeared. We are very certain that Mr. McEvoy is wrong in thinking or advocating that diseased hives taken from diseased colonies are harmless; and we are equally sure that Mr. Jones is right in advocating that all such should be disinfected. If the bee-keepers of Ontario get the impression that hives from foul brood colonies will not again transmit the disease, they will find sooner or later, that they are making a most fearful blunder. As Mr. Pringle says, it is better to be on the safe side, for "if the disease might in one case in a hundred be so propagated, the precaution of disinfection would be amply justified." We are glad to notice that the act itself directs that all hives and appurtenances in contact with foul brood shall be disinfected.

## CLOSED END FRAMES.

Earnest Rort has been visiting a

number of the leading bee-keepers of New York State for the purpose principally of learning something more of the advantages of closed-end frames at fixed distances. He says he found that they can be handled in actual work just as rapidly as the hanging frames and with no more danger of killing bees. Going on in his article he says:

"I am well aware that this is a heavy testimonial for the closed end frames on the Quinby plan, but I deem it but just to give it, because I know the bee-keepers of the West, and those who have been using the hanging frames have somehow got the idea into their heads that the closed-end frames were simply intolerable, and that the bee-keepers who were using them were either very much behind the times, or so stubborn as not to be open to conviction that there might be something better. Indeed, when we consider the fact that nine-tenths of the bee-keepers of that section of New York, where I visited are using fixed frames, and are intelligent and progressive men; and when we consider the other fact, that they make bees pay, we must admit that their system is not so clumsy and awkward after all. Captain Heatherton, years ago, used hanging frames faithfully, and finally discarded them for the closed-end Quinby. Heatherington, with his three or four thousand colonies; Elwood, with his 1800, and a great many others owning from 300 to 400 colonies in this part of New York, use only fixed frames, some Quinby and some Hoffman.

## NO BURR-COMBS.

While Mr. Elwood was examining the hives I was pleased to note that there were no burr-combs on the tops of the frames. No, I do not believe I saw a single small spur. When I came to inquire into the matter I found he used top bars fully an inch wide and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch thick—perhaps in some cases  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick with fixed distances. I emphasize this purposely because I believe that this is one of the secrets. I could not discover that any of the bee-keepers who had used fixed distances with top bars  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch thick and an inch wide, in this section of the country had used honey-boards. No, a honey-board was a thing that none of them had ever tried. With no burr-combs, what need have they of them? Now, if I am able to judge correctly, with fixed distances we can have thinner top bars, but with hanging frames add no arrangement for automatic spacing, in order to do away with burr-combs there must be thicker top bars. I examined into this matter very carefully all through this trip, and since my return home I feel confirmed in what I have said above in regard to the presence or absence of burr-combs, their cause and prevention.

## ASAFETIDA TO STOP ROBBER BEES.

What next. A correspondent in the last issue of *Gleanings* used it with good results. No wonder, the smell from it would almost stop a clock. But why not try bone-dust? It is bad