

FOUL BROOD CURS IN CANADA.

D. M. Macdonald's Criticism in British Bee Journal.

Mr. D. M. Macdonald writes as follows in the British Bee Journal of October 28th, 1909, in reference to our criticism of the disinfection of hives, and the methods of foul brood cure in Great Britain:

"More in sorrow than in anger" I revert to this unsavory subject. Mr. Hurley has devoted a large part of several issues endeavoring to put an extinguisher on me and my plea for disinfecting hives, and sad to say, he has been partially supported by two other editors. It appears to me that they are referring to something else—some other disease than virulent foul brood. In support of my original statement I will quote two or three leading Canadians. Mr. Holterman has put on record that frequent outbreaks follow the orthodox mode of cure, which was just my contention. Mr. McEvoy, in the August issue, (page 294), writes: "My method of treatment is a thorough cleansing process, and where it is fully carried out will cure any apiary of any kind of disease." That phrase **thorough cleansing process**, reads as if he had repeated my very words. Mr. Byer, in the American Bee Journal, reprinted in The Canadian Bee Journal (page 344), lets in some light on the subject, and proves the virulence of the disease I dealt with, and incidentally tears his editor's arguments to tatters. His words are: "Under this disease's insidious methods of attack we are almost entirely helpless. What we knew in the past is a mere bagatelle compared with this disease, which while it yields temporarily, is liable to break out again." Let me quote yet another authority of Mr. Hurley's—viz., Dr. White, of the Apicultural Bureau: "We shall expect that disinfectants will be much more readily effective."

Now, let me deal with another phase of the subject. Mr. Hurley reprints a letter written to our Journal on "Disinfecting Hives," by Mr. S. P. Soal, and in a footnote he jubilantly exclaims: "Our British friends seem hopelessly at sea in the cure of foul brood." Now our system must be misunderstood by some on the other side, because it is even more drastic than the American or Canadian plan. It consists

in a destruction of all internal fittings by fire in a bad case, plus a thorough disinfecting of the hive. For a milder case we advise shaking the bees off combs and restarting them, after a period in quarantine, on new works in a new or clean hive. We take no risks! Yet this Canadian editor claims, "We can teach the British how to cure foul brood"! I hope as he grows in years and experience he will take a broader and more cosmopolitan view of apiculture. I have no desire to say one word against Mr. McEvoy. He has worked strenuously for the good of Canadian apiculture, and I respectfully doff my hat to him. But (and Mr. Hurley's "spread-eagle" footnote leaves me no other alternative) we knew and practiced this method of foul brood cure before the present editor of The Canadian was out of leading-strings as a bee-keeper, and even before the existence of The Journal, and yet we were not its originators. Shirach, a German bee-master about 1760, practised the "shaking" method as a cure, and wrote in favor of it. Again, turn to an American author, writing in 1866, but of experiences extending back to 1836. At page 212 of Quinby's "Mysteries of Bee-keeping" will be found these words: "The only effectual remedy is to drive out the bees into an empty hive." He found to his loss that milder measures cost him dear. Again, Mr. Alexander is recommended as the author of the plan of dequeening until a certain time has elapsed, although our Mr. Simmins has put in a prior claim. Let me supply the name of an earlier claimant. I quote the revered Dzierzon (page 274): "The queen must be kept caged until all honey has been used up. To put a stop to the evil, immediately catch the queen as soon as the foul brood cells have been observed." New-old theories and plans should be sifted, and possibly if the foregoing facts had been known to Editor Hurley he might not have crowed so loudly. When Canada produces anything original really good I for one will gratefully acknowledge it.

As other American editors seem to have hazy notions about the British plan for curing foul brood, I would respectfully refer them to pages 180-181 of the latest edition of the "Guide Book," by Mr. T. W. Cowan. There he advises in a bad case to "burn bees, combs, frames and quilts," plus a "thorough disinfection of the hive." In a milder case "make an artificial swarm, etc." What Canadian system is better? As the editor of Glean-