

## Bee-Keeping in Sweden.

Johan Forssell.

To the Editor of the Canadian Bee Journal.

DEAR SIR,—On account of the wet weather which we are having here at present, work in apiary is at a standstill, and I therefore take this opportunity of writing you a few lines about bee-keeping in Sweden.

I cannot give a better description of the method used here, however, than that given in the American Bee Journal for this year, No. 13, page 206, with the heading: "Shall we go back to box hives?" The only remark I have to make about this article, is that sections are very little used here, most of the honey used being extracted.

With very few exceptions bee-keeping in Sweden is only a side issue. Queen rearing is of course, very little practised here, queenrearing being done by taking queens from after-swarms, which are then put back into the original hive. When the comb in the box hive,—here made of straw, and in England called a straw skep—becomes old, the bees are driven in a new empty straw skep or transferred to a frame hive.

During the last three years, I have been experimenting with foul brood in my apiary, and have tested several statements and opinions on this subject. I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Howard and Mr. McEvoy for the description of their methods of curing this disease, which are the only ones I have found successful. But for eradication of the disease I have an idea which I have not seen mentioned before, by other writers on this subject, and it would be interesting to hear the result if some scientific bee-keepers would give it a trial.

As I have noticed that even in very bad cases of foul brood, some larvae—sometimes very few—are developed normal or agreeable with nature, it struck me that it would be a great advantage if I could rear queens and drones in such diseased stock, and breed bees from these queens and drones which had thus successfully resisted the disease. This I accomplished successfully, but have not yet had an opportunity of testing if such bees have become proof against foul brood, as I cannot get drones from the diseased hive only, on account of the presence of a number of small apiaries in the neighbourhood. However, I have killed up pieces of very bad combs—at present I have very little foul brood in my

apiary—and if I have an opportunity next year I shall isolate some suitable hive with foul brood, and place it on a lonely spot.

If foul brood cannot be completely eradicated in this manner—which I am doubtful about, as my opinion concern the origin of this disease, is that it belong to the kind of epizootics, as we call miasmatic; contagious, and develops both internally ("endogent" and "exogent")—I think it will at least become less dangerous than it was before. This I infer from the fact that it was very common in Germany in the later part of the century and the beginning of the present—in 1818, Dzierzon lost his entire apiary of 500 colonies by this disease—whilst it is now seldom so bad there as in England and Scandinavia. It should be very interesting to know if foul brood now is to be found in Cuba, Berlepsch says in "Die Biene," in Volume. 1873, page 202, that foul brood was nearly unknown in Cuba, ("so gut wie unbekant") but that feeder honey, after taken from that place caused foul brood in North America and Germany. I know a large apiary where they have had foul brood for many years, but it is diminishing and becoming less severe every year. When a colony from this apiary has been sent to an apiary where they have not had the disease before, the bees there become very severely affected. I think this seems to show that bees can become proof against foul brood by heredity. My idea is, therefore, to breed from bees reared in hives affected by foul brood on the principle of "the survival of the fittest."

At last I beg you to send to me with the next number of your journal, one copy of Mr. McEvoy's newest pamphlet: "Foul Brood, its Causes and Cure," published by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture. Kolbach Sweden, July 26th 1895.

## Robbing.

SIR,—Would you please tell me through your journal if there is any way of stopping bees from robbing. I had a large hive well filled, and it was all taken out but some combs about half filled with dead bees, and not one might of honey.

I started with three hives last spring, and put away ten in cellar for winter. I am using the Langstroth hive that I got from you last spring, and I think that I will need more the coming spring. I will increase as I succeed.

You will please find enclosed \$1 for Bee Journal.

JAS. BAILLIE.