

where I could get of hives. This one and is giving me," and to the will no doubt be"; yet if placed gain, I no doubt before, with some by hard experience, is, under great mistake to different sizes of tional conditions anything, and called for radical to keep on top. s buying up bees more colonies than is now the ed that I could arms, when they about \$1.00 each. iven six or eight 's work on the e home two or e man to whom s earlier in the particular a far- ned bitterly be- so many after- out I told him ms on the old l after six days distant corner week or two he ne and get the me; and imag- he said swarms vn out, and the he entrance in arked, "I fixed that they would ime." He had the matter all pect that I was e time. As the ried to get any conscience did I took the bees pounds of clo- This little epi-

sode gave me "experience" all right, and even up to the present I cannot admit that there was any mistake so far as I was concerned.

About this time I contracted a disease that I am afraid has become chronic—namely, a desire to talk in the journals as well as face to face with people. Accordingly an article was sent to *Gleanings*, in which I told of the advantages of big hives, incidentally mixing in some other twaddle as well. Being more bashful than at the present time, my name was signed "Jack Canuck, Hoodstown, Ont." Hoodstown was the name of a postoffice in the north that I visited once, but which I knew was closed up at the time of writing. I was rather surprised to see the article printed, and to note that friend E. R. had appended a nice friendly footnote to the same. This made me bolder, and I immediately sent another article, and received the surprise of my life when I got a letter from the publishers with a "credit note" enclosed. Doubtless poor Jack Canuck, of Hoodstown, had received a "credit note" also, and this on my part was a "mistake," and I have never since signed any name but my own, for fear some "credit note" might go astray.

To beginners in bee-keeping, let me say that the habit of getting mixed up in the journals is very hard to "get cured of" when once contracted; so my advice is, never start it if you want to be saved a lot of work and the trouble of answering a pile of correspondence. Of course, if you have no objections to the things mentioned, go ahead, and probably you will get a lot of fun for your trouble, to say nothing of the bit of "pin money" that comes with it as a consoling reward.

The question will naturally be asked how foul brood was avoided when I bought bees in so many places. I was fully alive to the danger of this pest, and as I had never seen a case of foul brood I got in touch with friend Mc-

Evoy, and he sent me word when he was going to visit an infected apiary about twenty-five miles from my home. I made the journey of some fifty-odd miles all told, and I think it paid me well, for from that time it has been no trouble for me to tell the disease at a glance—a cell of foul brood looking much like a blot of ink on a sheet of paper, if I dare make such a comparison. American foul brood has distinctive characteristics that cannot be mistaken to the practised eye, and I have often wondered at hearing some say that they could not learn to detect it. One thing is certain: the beginner today must learn to know bee diseases if he wishes to stay on the job. The trip I have mentioned was worth much to me, for shortly after that time I bought some bees at a sale and found they were diseased. They were promptly cleaned up, and although I have twice since that time bought it again (once knowingly, so as to avoid the bees being scattered all over the country), never have I had any difficulty in cleaning up, and at the present, insofar as I know, there is none in any of my yards.

After getting about 100 colonies in two yards, I had rather severe winter losses, and I came to the conclusion that this matter had to be solved if I wished to make a living out of bees. Diagnosing the dead colonies in the spring, I always found that the bees had either starved outright or else part of the cluster had run out of stores, the rest of the bees usually perishing later on in the spring from dysentery. I used to read about giving twenty-five or thirty pounds of stores for wintering, but gradually I learned that, for outdoor wintering, at least in our climate, it is necessary to have more than that amount, and that, generally speaking, it is a mistake to have a lot of unsealed pollen in the centre of the brood-nest for the bees to cluster on.

I visited some of our most successful winterers, and came away with the idea