

It should always be put up in that form, or in oblong pieces of about a pound each.

Such are the main requisites of the skilful manufacture of good butter, without which we venture to assert with great confidence, that the best of butter cannot be made.

Does any good house-wif, when she has read this report, say "I knew all that before?" If she does, then we ask her with no small degree of assurance, Madam, do you practice all these rules for making good butter? If you do, why is it that so large a proportion of the butter that is sent to our markets is so very poor?

HENRY W. CUSHMAN, Chairman.

The Apiary.

The following remarks on *Foulbrood*, a not uncommon, and often fatal disease among Bees, are taken from "Western Editorial Notices," in the last number of the *Rural New Yorker*.

Bee-keepers, and among them the most eminent, unite in regarding and characterizing Foulbrood as the most grievous evil that affects the apiary. It is doubtless the case that most of your readers—especially such as keep bees, know the character of this dreaded disease among bees, but there may be some who do not.

Dzierzon says there are two kinds of Foulbrood. One is curable and rather innocuous; the other is pestilential and incurable. Both are contagious. The curable kind has this character. The unsealed larvæ die while yet lying coiled on the bottom of the cell, become putrid, and dry up on the bottom into a crust-like substance, which may be easily removed. Such of the brood in the cells intermixed with those diseased, as does not perish before capping, for the most part remains healthy and matures in due time; though it is a fact that exceptional instances of putrid nymphs in such capped cells are found.

The incurable foulbrood is said to be the converse of that described above. The brood does not perish until after it has been capped and begun to undergo its metamorphosis. The putrid mass is not then found at the bottom of the cell, but on the horizontal portion of the cell walls. It is brownish and viscid; and in consequence of the heat of the hive and the admission of the air through a small orifice in the sunken cap, it dries up as a hard black crust which the bees cannot detach, and which they can only remove by totally destroying the cell.

INDICATIONS OF ITS PRESENCE.

The author quoted above says, when among a healthy brood a few cells are found here and there, containing a smeary, viscid matter, or a grayish-brown or black, crust-like substance—the dried remains of larvæ or nymphs—it may be regarded as the unmistakable evidence of

the existence of foulbrood. If the larger number of cells are in this condition, this disease must have prevailed in the hive for some time and have attained an aggravated stage. An agreeable foetid odor issues from the entrance of the hive, where this is the case.

Colonies affected with this disease do not make a new comb in the spring, when other colonies are engaged in such labor, or do so only if they are populous, and pasturage is abundant. If the combs be pressed asunder we shall see that the brood is not placed regularly and uniformly; on cutting out a piece of such comb, or on proof of the existence of the disease will be found in the putrid matter contained in the

IT IS CONTAGIOUS.

Herein lies its danger; therefore this caution. And I give this caution regardless of the interest of any one who may have long-bitten any other kinds of bees to sell, and whose apiary may have been, or may be affected by this disease; or who may be near an apiary that has been affected. This caution is given with especial reference to such cases. For all men know that this disease is contagious—it spreads from hive to hive, and from apiary to apiary; that, once having a foothold, it reaches it and extends its influence, if effectual measures are not properly taken to eradicate it. The brood is not only destroyed by this disease, the cells are contaminated and the contagion spreads rapidly thereafter. This disease is known to exist in the Eastern States—is known to have destroyed many large and profitable apiaries—is known to have increased the risk and diminished the number engaged in bee-keeping. In some localities this husbandry has been abandoned because of this disease.

The point is, then, that the bee-keepers of the West are in danger of importing it with their importations of Italian bee. For it is known that these bees, with formidable force, continue to be sent hither in large numbers at the rate of five to eight dollars per queen. With each shipment is usually more or less honey; and with the honey, if it happens from infected colonies, comes this foulbrood sure as fate. Is it not a pretty large price? When it is asserted that the bee-keeper may prevent it from hive to hive, it after performing some operation on a diseased stock he pretends to work at a healthy one, without first carefully washing his hands and such instrument may have been using, it is safe to distrust him, ever comes from apiaries that have been afflicted with this disease.

It is proper for me to say, that I do not give this caution for the purpose of injuring any business, nor with a view to build up any class of men dealing in the long-billed bee, but simply to urge that the most care be taken to prevent the introduction of disease among the apiaries of the West.