

Letters to the Editor

MR. McEWEN GIVES HIS PLAN

I have read with great interest the many articles I have seen in your Journal. I have often desired to write in regard to some of these, but have felt somewhat backward in doing so. However, as my name has been mentioned in the March number in reference to foul brood, I will attempt to give my plan of dealing with it. In the month of August, or early in September, pick out healthy colonies and put on supers of foundation (or drawn comb preferred) that has never had brood in, and which are perfectly dry. Feed sugar syrup till all is capped. About the middle of October choose an evening that is not too cool, so that the bees can get safely into the hive. Take the diseased combs and put them in a boiling vat. Put a sugar sack or anything that is large enough over the hive you intend to winter them in, and put on the cover. Next day raise the cloth to find where they are clustered. Now look at those bees every day, for they will starve if you neglect them too long. As soon as you see a dozen or two drop from the cluster, give them six or seven combs of sealed honey. Go also to one of your healthy colonies, and take out a card that has a good supply of pollen in it, so that they will have pollen to start some brood in the spring. The card that has the pollen in will do for the seventh card. Six days is the longest I ever had a colony to hang and stand the fast, and I have yet to experience my first failure by this plan. I have never found that starving bees in October has any bad effect on their wintering well. Should I have the misfortune of ever having foul brood in my yard again, I will do all my curing in the fall by the starvation plan. Mr. McEvoy's plan of putting them on the combs at once is a sure cure, but it must be understood that what Mr. McEvoy means by sealed combs is combs sealed to perfection—not one single cell

is to be left where they can unload their honey. I have found it easier to starve the diseased honey out of them than to get a lot of combs built to perfection. There is another subject I want to mention. Mr. Chalmers and Mr. Alpaugh recommend destroying all combs that have been used for surplus honey above foul brood colonies. I will have to take sides with Mr. McEvoy, as I do not hesitate to use such combs anywhere in the yard. Let the colony that put the honey in them clean them after being extracted. I boiled hundreds of nice dry super combs about twenty years ago. Had I asked Mr. McEvoy about those super combs, it is quite likely he would have saved me that loss.

On April 1st bees had a good fly. I lost three out of 209. Balance seem to be in grand shape.

[We grasp your hand, Mr. McEwen, and welcome you as one of the contributors of the C.B.J. We trust you will no longer hesitate to let us hear from you on any topic that is being discussed. Your plan of dealing with foul brood appears to be a very good one. It seems to be a combination of Mr. Alpaugh's plan and Mr. McEvoy's fall treatment. We are not surprised at your success with such a combination. While we would hesitate to recommend the starvation plan, as we do not like it, yet we will admit that, if conducted in the cool weather of October, it is not nearly so objectionable as in warmer weather, and when we condemned the plan we had specially in mind the period of July and August. We are quite satisfied that your plan would be an excellent one—if carried out strictly as you have described. Your spring report is an excellent one. We are glad to have this introduction to so successful a bee-keeper. Let us hear from you again.—Ed.]

THE BEES ARE NOT STUPID

Varnish stolen from new coffins at funerals in the village.—C.B.J., page 107.

Very likely, but the bees did not build either round cells or six-sided cells with it, as Rudyard Kipling charges them with doing. The grafting wax, also, that Bro. Columban, O.S.B., saw the bees

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[Right you are to be congratulating report. Let—Ed.]

A BEGINNER

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