

### Mysterious Bee Disease

London, March 16.—It is announced that a mysterious disease among bees which has ruined thousands of apiaries on the Continent and in England since 1904, and which has been especially virulent in this country within the last few months, may prove to be a form of the bubonic plague, which has wrought such devastation among human beings.

Dr. Walden, one of the investigators of the Board of Trade, asserts "that he has discovered that the bacillus taken from dead bees is similar to that of the bubonic plague, but that efforts to cultivate have thus far failed."

This paragraph, of course, refers to the epidemic of the "Isle of Wight" disease which is sweeping through England at the present time, and illustrates the methods of the modern journalist who fixes upon anything and everything that is likely to create sensation.

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There is probably not the slightest connection between the Isle of Wight disease and the bubonic plague beyond the fact that the bacillus supposed to be the cause of the new disease closely resembles *B. pestis*, the plague bacillus, in general appearance.

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The British Bee Journal furnishes and reading nowadays, and our sympathies go out to our brother bee-keepers in the Old Country. The ravages of Foul Brood are stated to sink into insignificance beside those which follow the attacks of this new foe. Unfortunately, no satisfactory information is forthcoming as to the real causes of the disease. Dr. Malden is of opinion that the Isle of Wight disease is infectious, but he has not hitherto been successful in transmitting it by means of the pestiform bacillus to healthy bees. It is suggested by some that the disease is merely a food trouble, whilst others believe it to be due to poisoning from artificial manures or materials used for spraying,

especially sulphate and Paris green. An instance of the manner in which the disease wipes out an apiary is given by Dr. Malden. A Cambridgeshire bee-keeper of some twenty-eight years' experience, in June 1910 possessed 160 colonies, all apparently strong and ready for the harvest. About the middle of June he noticed that the bees from one of his strongest hives were dropping on the grass in front of it, and were unable to fly off the ground. On opening the hive the brood was plentiful and seemed healthy, and there were plenty of stores. The bees continued to die off rapidly and were all dead by September. In the middle of July, the next hive to the first one affected showed signs of disease; there had been no robbing that he could detect from the first hive. All these bees were dead by September. At the latter end of July, a third hive, situated some distance from the first two, began to be affected, and in a few days a fourth, not very far off. From the middle of August the disease spread rapidly, first affecting the hives nearest to those that were originally infected, and a good deal of robbing now went on, and was impossible to prevent. By the end of October fifty hives were gone, and the disease continued to spread all through the winter, so that now he has less than thirty remaining, and several of these show signs of being affected.

Dr. Malden describes the symptoms of the disease as follows: First, the Brood as well as the queen do not appear to be affected in any way, the disease being confined to the adult worker and drone bees. These show a disinclination to work, and fly about in an aimless way, or sits on the combs or alighting board. The ability to fly soon becomes less and less marked until the insect is unable to fly at all. The abdomen of an affected bee frequently looks swollen and pendulous in consequence of the enor-

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mous distension of the matter. The forager earliest to become infected has thought that the infected hives are attacked.

### HOW TO DISPOSE THE HONEY R CAPPI

Indexed

W. "A. CH

In the February Canadian Bee Journal, Ramsey recommends the honey from capping my paper read at the Toronto on "The Dis I might say that I clear that the honey pings is good, saleal of a flavor that tak public and fetches a

I have had some ex vinegar, and also of don't wish to go into iness unless I am o bee-keeping, nor do body can make vineg other business pay u a proper way, requir proper knowledge of stead of taking 1½ o make a gallon of vi pounds for a gallon call good vinegar. If from reliable informat time ago, it will take pounds of honey to n vinegar that will sta test.

Keeping a place at ture for six months, September, would cost value of several bar Vinegar should not be a honey house.