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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Vol. 4,

JUNE, 1893,

No. 6.

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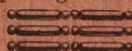
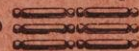


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THE NEBRASKA BEE-KEEPER.

YORK, NEBRASKA.

Vol. 4,

JUNE, 1893,

No. 6.

The Real Cause of Foul Brood among Bees.

Written for the Am. Bee Journal,

BY WM. McVOY.

Have the scientists been of any value to bee-keepers on foul brood? I must, for the public good, answer this question with a most positive *No*, and declare that they have not been of any benefit, but often their opinions, when heeded, have done great damage. And now I go in for ruling out the whole lock, stock and barrel of scientists, and Mr. Larrabee along with them. When the bee-keepers have failed to agree on some things about foul brood, and got the scientists to help to solve the problem so as to settle, if possible, all disputes for all time to come, it has ended only in greater confusion than ever, because the scientists have not only disputed the discoveries of practical bee-keepers, but they have actually contradicted each other. What is such evidence worth?

I have discovered the real cause of foul brood, and *from experimental testing of my own* I discovered the simplest and most practical, with the least work of curing that disease; and I have had more experience with foul brood than any other man on earth.

In the A. B. J. of Feb. 16th, page 215 I see that Mr. Larrabee doesn't agree with me on anything. All right: he has a perfect right to his opinions, but I must remind him that mere guess-work or opinions like his won't count against discoveries.

I will now give you evidence that would count in any court of law, and that any judge on the bench would accept, and charge a jury to believe, as they are solid facts. The following is part of the evidence which no Mr. Larrabee on earth can get over, and is enough "dictum," I should think, to convince any man; but if he wants more, I shall give him plenty more along the same line:

One fine day in April, 1865, when my bees were flying freely, the bees of one colony all came out, and about two-thirds of them got into another before I got the hive closed. I then took the remaining third of the bees and the queen and returned them to their own hive.

Then about sundown, when the bees had settled for the day, I examined the colony that swarmed out and lost two-thirds of its bees, I found plenty of honey, a nice lot of brood in all stages, but too small a cluster of bees to cover

to care for the amount of brood. That colony having lost most of its bees, the uncared for brood died and rotted in the cells. Then by the middle of June that colony had developed into a genuine case of pure foul brood, which gave me many a day's very bitter experience before I got rid of it.

In the summer of 1882, Mr. C. J. Robinson, of Richfield, N. Y., originated foul in his own apiary, by forcing brood to consume their food mixed with rotten larvae. Mr. Robinson had some combs with brood in that were taken out of the hives at extracting time, and were not returned to the hives through mistake. The weather being warm at the time, and the combs of brood being piled on top of each other in a building the brood heated and soon became very rotten. Mr. Robinson then went to a colony of bees, took out a comb of brood, brushed the bees off, and then put the matter from the rotten combs into the cells that had brood in, and to force the brood to consume it, he put a screen on each side of the comb, and then put it back into the hive of bees again. The comb of brood was kept warm by the heat of the colony, and the screen kept the bees from feeding the brood. Then the larvae was forced to consume the rotten matter, and then it became foul brood.

In 1888, the Rev. Mr. Graetzner, of New Dundee, Ont., had foul brood originate in his apiary. In a letter I received from him, Mr. Gruetzner says;

"In the spring I placed entirely healthy combs of brood from other colonies into a weak but healthy colony; very soon the young brood died, intense heat set in, and the whole colony became full of foul brood. In Germany the opinion seems to be universal that deceased brood is the cause of foul brood."

In June, 1889, Mr. Wm. Burkholder, of Ottirville, Ont., had foul brood originate in his apiary, from starved brood.

Mr. Burkholder had a very strong colony of well bred Italians, which consumed all their honey just a little before the honey season opened, and which he found in a dying state one morning. He fed them at once, and the majority of the bees came out all right. All the brood in the colony had died at that time from starvation, and rotted in the combs. Then warm weather set in, and the whole colony became full of pure foul brood.

In June, 1890, Mr. Chas. Urlocker, of Thorold, Ont., had 30 colonies of bees turned into foul brood from drowned brood. In June, 1890, Mr. Urlocker had 40 good colonies with a top story on each, and a queen-excluder on every brood chamber. Just then a sudden storm came up, and a big cloud bursted over Thorold, and for a time caused a terrible flood. Mr. Urlocker's apiary was in low land, the water rose very rapidly, and soon 10 brood chambers were under water, and as the queens could not get up through the queen-excluders, they were drowned, as well as the brood. The water did not get up quite to the tops of the brood chambers of the other 30 colonies, so the queens did not drown in them. The bees in nearly all went up into the top stories at the time. These colonies were very strong, and some had swarmed before that, and were full of brood when the flood overflowed the apiary. The water soon went down, extreme heat set in, and the brood chambers full of drowned brood went into a great mass of corruption, and turned Mr. Urlocker's apiary into foul brood with a vengeance.

In the Foul Brood Bulletin, page 14, Mr. D. A. Jones of Beeton, Ontario, says:

"A man once had 100 colonies in an isolated locality, with no other apiary within miles of it, and no bees in the woods, as far as known; there were no signs of foul brood in his apiary all summer, though the colonies were ex-

amined carefully once or twice each week. In August or September, a flood came and drowned a large portion of the brood in some of the hives; 10 or 15 of them were so much injured by the flood that the bees did not remove the dead brood, and in most of these colonies nearly all the combs were full of brood. The weather, after the flood, was very warm and muggy, the atmosphere very oppressive for days, with frequent showers. All the colonies from which the dead brood were removed came out all right, while the 10 or 15 from which it was not removed became very badly diseased; they attempted to rear brood, but some of it was affected, so much so that the odor arising from the brood dying was very unpleasant. When all the dead brood was removed, the disease continued, and it appeared that the spores of the disease were in the honey, as many of the larvae were found dead. Each time brood was reared the disease continued to increase, in spite of salicylic acid and other treatments then in vogue. Honey from the combs when given to a healthy colony produced the disease. It appeared in every respect like foul brood, and I feel satisfied that it was. Now, if it did not emanate from the decaying brood, which was a mass of corruption, where *did* it come from?"

Mr. John F. Gates, of Ovid, Frie Co., Pa., had foul brood originate in his apiary from his bees dwindling so badly one very backward spring that the bees could not cover or care for and keep warm the brood they had started during the early warm spell. When weather came in earnest, Mr. Gates examined his colonies and discovered that the rotting of the uncared-for brood had developed into foul brood.

Foul brood is a disease that is caused by the rotting of uncared-for brood. It usually originates in spring in weak colonies that have spring-dwindled so badly that they have not bees enough left

to cover or care for all the brood, and if the spring keeps raw and backward the bees will crowd together to keep each other warm, leaving the uncared-for brood to die and rot in the cells. The brood covered by the bees in time, hatches, which so increases the force of the colony that a wider circle of comb is covered by the bees taking in the space occupied by the decaying brood. Then the brood that is fed in these cells where brood lately rotted down, will have to consume their food mixed with the remains of decayed brood, and that is the *whole, sole, real, and only cause* of foul brood.

In the bee-yards of begingers, overworked farmers, and business men (whose time was fully occupied in other things) is where I found many a foul brood nursery. When brood has rotted and advanced to the brown-rotten matter stage it is then a very dangerous thing, and if a large quantity of that is put in a weak colony *it will start foul brood at once*. The so-called scientists have done a terrible lot of damage by saying that the rotting of uncared-for brood could not cause foul brood; that sort of teaching has caused bee-keepers to be very careless, and when foul brood has broken out in their apiaries, it makes rapid headway because the owners did not take proper care of their colonies, but depended too much upon the so-called scientists who are not practical bee-keepers.

In the summer of 1890, Mr. John F. Gates wrote up the cause of foul brood and had it published in the Canadian Bee Journal. When I read it, I was greatly pleased to see that Mr. Gates had discovered in his own apiary that foul brood was caused by the rotting of uncared-for brood. I wrote him a letter at the time, thanking him very much for his valuable article on the cause of foul brood. He is just right on both the cause and the cure of foul brood, and it will be a good thing for all bee-

keepers, that have foul brood in their apiaries, if they will follow his instructions how to cure that disease, and let the professional guessers carefully alone until they find out.

In the fall of 1890, I was very much pleased with an article that Mr. C. J. Robinson, of Richfield, N. Y., had published in the American Bee-Journal, on the cause of foul brood, and as that was a real test case of his, proving that foul brood was caused by the rotting of uncared-for brood, I prized his article very much, as that was in the same line of my discovery. I wrote him at the time I read his article, and also thanked him for it.

Some bee-keepers believe that the empty hives that had foul brood in, will cause foul brood if not boiled, scalded, or disinfected, which is the greatest of nonsense. An empty hive never, no never, gave the disease, and never will, I always tell the owners not to waste their time in disinfecting or doing anything with the old hive, but cure the disease right in the same hive, which they always do.

Some think that the queens in very badly diseased colonies will cause foul brood, which I know is anything but a fact. I often have to put two, three, and sometimes four weak colonies into one, that have been so used up from foul brood, in order to get a fair colony to make it pay to cure them of foul brood. In such cases, if the queens suit me, I get them for nothing, and bring them some and do away with some poor queens, putting these queens from the foul colonies into my own, I have proved it in every possible way, and I know for a fact that queens never did cause foul brood.

Comb foundation has been blamed for helping to spread foul brood, which is not a fact. I defy any man to cause foul brood from foundation made from wax rendered out of the worst of foul broody combs. The disease is spread

by the bees robbing foul broody colonies, and they carry the disease just in proportion to the amount of the diseased honey they convey to their own hives.

In my next article I will give all my methods of curing foul brood. I don't use any drugs, nor starve any bees at any time, and any man can cure the worst cases of foul brood by my methods, from May to November. I am getting many letters on this business all the time, and hope that my articles in the A. B. J. will serve as an answer to many of them.

Woodburn, Ont., Apr. 24, 1893.

We gladly give space for the above article, as the writer gives good testimony of the real cause of foul brood from actual cases, and not from theory. Something like a year ago, we asserted that we believed "that it was possible for any man to originate foul brood in his own apiary, and that the real cause was at first only chilled brood decaying and becoming mixed with the food caused the disease." We were given a serious lecture, and told that such talk was "unscientific" and utterly *impossible*. We, however, kept on looking for the cause of foul brood, and if friend M'Evoe cannot hold his own end of the controversy on this line we are prepared to help him out a little.

In fighting the disease, too little has been known as to the real cause and while combatting it at one point, conditions have been left, such as to favor the outbreak of the disease again, worse than at the first. What Mr. M'Evoe's treatment for a cure is, we do not know but will watch with interest his next article.

Report Unfavorable in Kentucky.

A. T. McKibben.

Flag Springs, Ky., May 17, 1893. It is now past the middle of May, and my bees are housed up in their hives because it is so cold and wet. This is the

sixth week of cool, wet weather in this northern part of Kentucky. Bees generally, are in poor condition in this part because they got little or no good from fruit blossoms, it was so cool and wet, they could not work on them, so some colonies are nearly on the point of starvation, but I am in hopes the weather will turn warm and stop raining soon for locusts are just coming into bloom, that is a good honey source, and as nice as any white clover honey I ever saw. This is the year locusts yield honey, for last year they didn't bloom. If it gets warm, we may get some honey this year. Some white clover has commenced to bloom, and some red clover, too. The red clover here doesn't do us much good, however, as the heads are so large that none but Italians, or good hybrids can reach the nectar, it is down so deep. I am hoping for the best and getting a good ready to receive the honey flow if it should come this year. I hope others are more favorably located than myself. Bees, like the farmer, have to be governed by the weather to a more or less extent. We, as farmers have done nothing of any account for over five weeks; pretty discouraging isn't it? I would like to know through the columns of the N. B.-K. how bees do in Minnesota and New Mexico; that is, do bees do well there.

Madison, Neb., May 13, 1893.—Your correspondent, S. A. Smith, Blue Springs Neb., says his bees consumed only 8½ lbs. of honey per colony last winter. No wonder that they consumed no more, in view of the fact that he lost three bushels of bees from only 48 colonies—a terrible mortality.

There must be something wrong with his bee-cellar, or in his putting his bees in the cellar so late in the season (Dec. 13,) and taking them out too early in the spring (Mar. 30.)

I put 54 colonies in the cellar Nov. 25 and placed them on the summer stands

Apr. 16. I lost but one weak colony and carried out but four pails full of dead bees, dirt and all litter included. Loss is never greater. Had I lost three bushels, I would expect no honey this season.

I keep no vegetables in my cellar, exclude all light, leave the inner door open, close only the outer doors, which are not air tight or frost proof, and never allow the bees to be disturbed by carrying a lighted lamp into the cellar, or in any manner whatever.

Not once during a confinement of four months and eleven days, did they make the least noise that would indicate to one in the room above that they were alive. There is no danger in cellar wintering if one understands the laws of their being.

Alsike clover is in splendid condition it is the forage plant for Nebraska.

A. C. Tyrrel.

The Beatrice Chautauqua Assembly will hold its annual meeting June 13 to 23 inclusive. They are sending out "comp's" to the press as usual, and are going to have a grand time; great men are going to be there. We are sorry not to be able to give them a more extended notice, but should our readers wish to know more about it they can send to S. S. Green, Sec'y, Beatrice, Neb. for full information.

Nebraska State Fairs and Expositions have established a reputation for returning "value received" to its exhibitors of all classes. The management will continue its efforts to accommodate and please all, so far as in its power. The Fair and Exposition for the year 1893 will be held at Lincoln, on the same grounds where held for the past nine years, Sept. 8 to 15.

This being Columbian year, ex-

traordinary inducements are held out to exhibitors, and no pains will be spared to make the fair far in excess of any of its predecessors.

All show rings well arranged with seated and covered amphitheatres. All shipments unloaded and reloaded immediately at the main entrance gate to the fair grounds; railroad passenger and street motor trains run into the grounds; railroad freight rates in Nebraska, to and from the fair, as heretofore, substantially free; outside the state, half rates—paying full rates to go, and return free. By express, all pet stock paying full rates to the fair will be returned free. Hotel accommodations at Lincoln, ample and all that could be desired. Arrangements are made to run special trains from Iowa State Fair, Omaha and others held the preceeding week to ours, to reach Lincoln in time for our fair. In short all requisites and facilities unsurpassed. For full particulars, address R. W. Furnas, Secretary Neb. State Board of Agriculture, Brownville, Neb.

More bees have starved to death in the past month of May in Nebraska, than have died from foul brood in the state for a year; and if you don't watch out right sharp, a good many more colonies will starve before full bloom comes.

On the evening and night of May 30 we had a fine rain that did a great deal of good, and will help greatly toward bringing on the clover bloom.

→ The Nebraska Bee-Keeper ←

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York, Nebraska.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

Stilson & Sons, Editors and Publishers.

From the letters received from queen raisers we judge that either there is an increased demand for queens or else the facilities for rearing in this cool windy weather are not adequate to the occasion. So far, we have been unable to get enough queens from the south and none from the north, to anywhere near fill our orders.

Early honey from Nebraska will cut no figure on the markets this year. The season so far has been so cool, dry and windy that little or no honey has been gathered. Bees in our own yard at this writing, May 30, have built up slowly. All have been fed to keep brood rearing progressing. A few queen cells have been started as though swarming had been thought of, if honey should be found to warrant moving.

The year, so far with us, has been one of forced activity, to a greater degree than for many years past. During January two sons on whose shoulders we were letting the heaviest of the work fall were taken sick, and for several weeks neither were out of doors, and from which neither have fully recovered. Later the wife, and for the past month the aged father have been sick, bringing increased cares to us, to such an extent that it has seemed almost impossible to keep all things running on time. And if our readers find our paper more out of tune than common, or our customers for supplies, think we are negligent. Don't criticise us too harshly, but tell us of our mistakes and we will gladly rectify the one and make up the other.

For the past few years we have received several letters from the Pope Manufacturing Co., asking us to print them. These have generally been a gratuitous advertisement for Columbia Bicycles—and have gone into the scrap basket. The past month we received another, which contrary to our custom we make some extracts. The entire letter will probably be seen in some papers calling themselves *news papers*, and receiving the endorsment of the editor:

"There has recently appeared in the newspapers a statement that the assessors of Lowell, Massachusetts, and Paris, France, have expressed their intention of placing a tax on bicycles. In behalf of thousands of riders, I beg leave to submit a protest against the taxation of bicycles."

Bicycles are used by people, as a class, who pay very little tax. The farmers of this country represent but one fourth of the nations wealth, but they are forced to pay three fourths of all the taxes. They produce nine-tenths of the wealth, but only retain one tenth. Now if bicycles were a machine to help the farmers we would gladly second the efforts of this bicycle company to keep their machines from being taxed.

"Bicycles are merely machines by means of which muscular power can be used in locomotion to better advantage than in walking and persons using their muscles in this way are, as the word velocipede expresses, swift footed."

We use a press in our office so get the use of muscular power to increase the amount of work. The gardener uses a wheel hoe as he can use his muscular power to better advantage and do a greater amount of work. The farmer uses machines of various kinds to aid him in his work and thus get greater results. Every dollar invested in these are taxed, why should not the bicycle

as well?

"A tax on bicycles would be a burden placed directly upon thousands of the better class of mechanics to whom the machine has become a necessity, as much so as their tools or household effects, which are exempt from taxation.

If the bicycle, which increases the amount of work that may be performed by the body is a fit object to be specially taxed, then every other machine, device, or tool that increases the amount of work that may be performed by muscular effort is a fit subject for taxation."

The tools and household effects of the mechanic and farmer are well taxed in Nebraska, and every effort made to release from taxation the property of any person, only increases the amount to be paid by the balance, and as our state is dependent upon the farmer producer, we say that when \$150 is put into a bicycle it should bear its just proportion of taxation just the same as when a farmer puts \$150 into a good horse.

Equal rights for all and special privileges to none, benefits all alike and injures no one. We do not advocate the exemption of property of any kind from taxation, so long as it receives the protection of our government; therefore we shall decline with thanks the invitation to help in the movement asked, and further, no paper interested in the farmer will advocate the measure.

The Poultry Keeper, and the Neb. Bee-Keeper, each one year for only 85cts.

ITALIAN & ALBINO QUEENS.

Headquarters for the Albino bee. If you desire pleasure in working among bees, and wish for large yields of honey then buy those beautiful Albino queens from my one hundred dollar queen. Untested Albino queens from same queen in season. Also tested and untested Italian queens in season. For particulars address

D. A. PIKE, Smithburg, Md.



The Philosophy of Hoeing,

We should like to write a book upon the philosophy of hoeing! This desire is stimulated by the fact that not one workman out of ten knows how to hoe; and perhaps this statement would fit gardeners themselves as well. The very first requisite to good hoeing is an adequate knowledge of why we hoe. Over in the pumpkin field a man is hoeing now—or chopping rather—who has thrown off his hat, unbuttoned his shirt, rolled up his sleeves and who is sweating like a water-cooler in a “muggy” day. At every clip he raises his hoe to the top of his head, and he brings it down with a whiz, regardless of stones and almost regardless of place. The first half day he shivered up his hoe blade. This man believes in muscle in hoeing, if he believes in anything at all. He chops here and there, and leaves the ground lumpy and uneven. He always winds up his day’s work with the feeling that he has earned his money because he has sweat so much! No use to show him a different way; as soon as you are out of sight he is hammering away again! His forte is a grub hoe and a thistle patch.

There in the berry patch is another man with a hoe. He has

weeds in his eye, and his hoe never touches the ground where there are no weeds. This is the most fatal of all mistakes, for it indicates that the man has not conceived of the very first principles of hoeing. However ignorant our ancestors may have been—and our neighbors still are!—a man should know that that wherever good work is expected hoeing means cultivating, not only weed-killing. So, after every weed is taken out of our berry patch we shall still need to hoe it.

Among the egg-plants is still another man with a hoe. He works easily and appears to do his work well. But watch him an instant! He skims the surface just as our mothers used to skim milk. He catches every weed and tickles the entire surface of the ground, but he is not hoeing—he is simply scraping. That clay is just as hard as it was before he touched it with his scraper.

So there are three types of hoe-users—the chopper, the weed hunter and the scraper. They all work faithfully and do not earn fifty cents a day. What is hoeing? That is easier asked than answered. Let a man get a deep conception of that hoeing means pulverization, with such incidental advantages as weed-killing, leveling, smoothing and the like, and let him come into the feeling that it is not mere drudgery, and he soon learns how to hoe. Nor do we think this latter attribute an unimportant one. Just in proportion as a man looks upon

his work as a drudgery, does it deteriorate in value. It lacks spirit and intelligence. What a pleasure it is to loosen up the soil! How the plants love it! How the air penetrates the loose mold! How all nature smiles upon you as a helpmeet and gives you a double reward! And the fields and the winds and the loves of plants and birds are yours!

Lugubrious, our neighbor across the way, to whom we made this last burst of emotion, shrugged his shoulders and said: "That's all very well for you fine chaps, but by the time you peg away all day I guess you would think otherwise. I can't see any fun in hoeing." To this astute remark we could only reply by saying that we get tired of picnics and fire-crackers, and that the man who can see some fun in hoeing has the advantage. "That will do very well to talk about," he retorted, "but if you had to keep up your row all day, I guess you'd be tired at night." Now this is just the remark which we wanted him to make. Have we not been obliged to keep up our row in many hot and dusty days when every clod burned our bare feet? And do we not remember how the boss used to call out, "Come, Bub, come along; keep up your row?" And have we not gone home at noon or night too tired to eat, too tired even to throw stones at the squirrels in the old log fence? But why should a man become a pessimist simply because he has to labor and gets tired

It does one good to get tired. The man who never gets tired never accomplishes enough to pay for living. It is not the tiresomeness but the thoughtlessness which snatches away the happiness.—*From American Gardening, Vol. 11, No. 8.*

◆ ◆ ◆
You Push the Slide, Nature does the Rest.

The first perfect and practical NON-SWARMING plan that ever was brought to completion is found at last. Nothing like it ever done. I worked this plan on 100 colonies last year (1892) and I do not make my statements at random in my circular, as each point has been fully tested.

Tells you all about it. No hunting or caging queens, cutting cells, moving hives or even opening the brood chamber at all during the honey season, etc., etc., and more honey with no swarming. Get into line and "keep up with the procession" or you'll get left. The device will be put on the market within the reach of all, or if your dealer does not supply them yet, they may be ordered of me by express or freight at the following prices, complete. \$.75 each. \$.50 per 10. \$.40 per 100. By mail \$.35 each extra. As one device works two hives, at tens rates the cost is only \$.25 per hive. Be sure and send for circular, as this plan is almost too good to believe its being true.

H. P. Langdon,
East Constable, N. Y.

Theodore Bender,

No. 18 Fulton St. Canton, Ohio,
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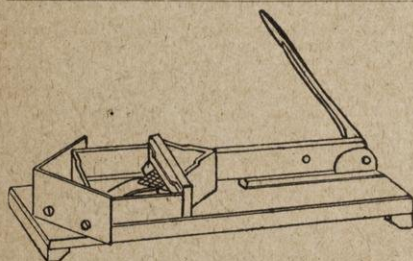
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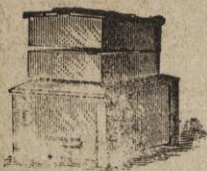
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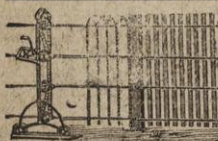
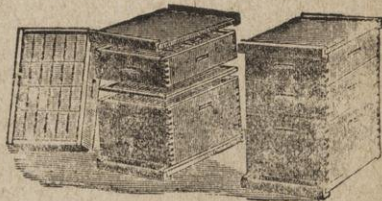
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