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Brood Diseases of Bees

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Discussion

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DISCUSSION

DR. GUY MORISON (Aberdeen) spoke of the samples which he had been called upon to examine in Aberdeen, and mentioned cases of a hitherto unknown brood disease which had occurred.

MR. JOSEPH TINSLEY (Ayr).—Emphasized the debt which beekeepers owe to Mr. A. H. E. Wood of Glassel, who made the investigation of the Isle of Wight Disease at Aberdeen possible.

DR. F. THOMPSON (Epsom) called attention to the danger of introducing bee disease by purchase of stocks of bees.

MR. LESLIE HAGUE (Warwick) suggested that the viability of spores of American foul brood in honey was an important point which should be investigated.

A BEEKEEPER referred to the problem of control of derelict hives.

MR. J. HERROD HEMPSALL (Ed. "British Bee Journal") mentioned a case where infection had been traced to the use of old quilts, which had been laid by for a number of years.

MR. JUDGE (Kent) recalled the serious extent of foul brood in pre Isle-of-Wight days. He outlined the organization of the bee disease service in Kent. He advocated the destruction of stocks until more is known on the subject, but expressed himself hopeful of the outcome of the present investigation.

MR. W. HERROD HEMPSALL (Ministry of Agriculture) stated that foul brood is spreading at an alarming rate: and said that reports received in reply to the questionnaire gave no idea of the present extent of the disease. He thanked Sir John Russell and the staff of Rothamsted for the part they were playing in this campaign.

MR. GAUNTLETT THOMAS (Newmarket) suggested that the faeces of the queen were an important source of infection in the hive. He offered to submit his own remedy against foul brood to be tested and reported on by Rothamsted.

MR. B. C. BERKELEY (Berkshire) advocated compulsory notification of brood diseases, and said that the sale of apiaries by the executors and widows of deceased beekeepers was a very frequent cause of the dissemination of brood disease.

MR. MORLAND (Rothamsted) mentioned a case of the dispersal of infected appliances at an auction sale.

MR. J. HERROD HEMPSALL spoke of the ignorance often displayed by beekeepers as to the precautions necessary when dealing with bee diseases.

DR. THOMPSON asked whether a low lying locality were favourable to brood diseases.

BROOD DISEASES OF BEES

DR. ANDERSON (Aberdeen) was gratified that this investigation was now being undertaken and hoped it would prove the wisdom of taking action in time. He gave instances of the rapid spread of foul brood in New Zealand and in the United States of America. He agreed as to the importance of educating beekeepers.

MR. ACASON (Pinner) gave particulars of the scheme in force in the Pinner Beekeepers Association for the replacement of cottagers' stocks of bees, which have had to be destroyed owing to bee diseases.

A CHESHIRE MEMBER said that a scheme was in force in his county to recompense poorer beekeepers who have suffered from Foul Brood.

DR. THOMPSON and another suggested that the possible vitamin-content of honey, pollen or royal jelly might have some bearing on the preparation of media for the laboratory culture of foul brood organisms.

MR. W. HERROD HEMPSALL spoke on the subject of legislation.

DR. MORISON raised the question of the packing of samples sent for diagnosis.

DR. TARR replied that he was sending out a special box and grease-proof envelope to be used for the purpose. He also said that the greater number of the samples so far received were of the so-called American foul brood.

MR. J. HERROD HEMPSALL said that in 1909, 75 per cent. of both apiaries and colonies in Great Britain were affected with foul brood.

MR. GILBERT BARRATT (Queen breeder, Hampshire) pointed out that disease was frequently spread by dealers in bees and said that every dealer should give a guarantee of freedom from disease.

A MEMBER thought that an investigation should be made into the viability of spores of American foul brood in respect to heat, and expressed the opinion that boiling was not effective for sterilizing wax.

MR. HAMLIN (Surrey) and Mrs. HOOVER (Glamorgan) also contributed to the discussion.