

numbers of workers from the duties of fanning during the hot weather. In extreme cases it may be necessary to elevate the hive-body by placing 1 in. blocks between it and the bottom-board. This should be sufficient to meet all requirements.

SUPERING.

Preparations should be well in hand for enlarging the hives. This may be done when the brood-chamber is getting full of bees, and the operation should be carried out in mild weather. Do not wait until the bees are cramped for room, but anticipate their wants and add supers when they are required. Where drawn-out combs are used no trouble will be experienced in inducing the bees to enter the supers. It often happens that no combs are available, in which case sheets of foundation must be used; but the bees will not always take readily to these unless there is a good flow of honey coming in, and a little encouragement will have to be given to induce them to enter the supers when only foundation is used. Should the bees fail to start work in the supers, elevate one or two frames of honey from the brood-chambers, at the same time inserting in their place sheets of foundation from the super. Do not bring excluders into use at this season, as the bees will rarely work foundation in the supers when they are used. Much time is lost by this practice, and very little honey will be gathered.

TREATMENT OF FOUL-BROOD.

As advised last month, beekeepers should not fail to treat all cases of foul-brood as soon as settled weather conditions prevail. Nothing is to be gained by postponing treatment, and the earlier the infected colonies are dealt with the more likelihood there is of their working up to strength for the main crop. Generally the weather is settled enough in the latter part of November for undertaking treatment in all parts of the Dominion, and usually the clover is yielding sufficiently to enable the beekeeper to carry out the work with a minimum amount of feeding.

At every inspection of the hives the condition of the brood should be noted. If any of the capped cells appear to be different from the rest an examination of the cells should be made to ascertain the cause. The cappings of healthy brood are bright, fresh, and convex in form, whereas those attacked by foul-brood are darker, flat, and easily distinguishable from healthy brood by their blackish-brown colour. In the early stages of the disease on opening the cells a glue-like coffee-coloured mass will be noticed, and on the insertion of a splinter of wood the rotten mass will rope out some little distance from the cell. This ropiness is a true test for foul-brood. In the more advanced stage the disease is not so readily detected, because the rotten mass has dried upon the bottom of the cell in the form of a black scale. Generally, Italian bees will open the cells more readily than Blacks and remove the cappings, rendering it much more difficult for the beginner to detect the disease; but even though the cappings have been entirely removed the scale is easily detected on the base of the cell by holding the comb so that the light will pass over the shoulder into the cell.

Other indications of the disease in the advanced form are ragged perforations and a characteristic bad odour which is emitted. When the odour can be detected on opening up the hive the latter should be destroyed at once, remembering that the treatment of such colonies is only a waste of time, and it is by far the best policy to use drastic measures. When the disease has reduced the condition of the colonies until there are only a few bees left it is useless and dangerous to undertake treatment, and much the safest plan is to destroy the hive and contents as it stands.

Many new systems of treatment have been put forward, but with little success, and the beginner would be wise to discard any but the McEvoy treatment, which has been successfully used the world over. If it is properly carried out failure to eradicate foul-brood is almost unknown. When treatment has to be undertaken it should be carried out, if possible, in the evening, when the bees are quiet, there being then less risk of spreading the infection to other clean hives in the apiary. In cases where the hives are close together it is safer to close the entrances of the immediately adjoining hives.

To carry out the treatment prepare a set of frames fitted with narrow strips of foundation, and put these into a clean hive. Shift the diseased hive to one side, and place the hive fitted with these "starters" in its place. Remove the combs one by one, and shake and brush the bees into the prepared hive. When