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FEBRUARY, 1981

4-H ESSAY CONTEST

The American Beekeeping Federation will be sponsoring its annual 4-H Club essay contest which is open to all active 4-H Club members in the United States. The subject is "The Use Of Honey Bee Products In Medicine". **Entries and a brief resume about the writer should be sent to the State 4-H Club Office in your state.** The address can be obtained through your 4-H County Agricultural Agent's office in each state. (Rules below)

1981 4-H CLUB ESSAY CONTEST

Sponsored by

THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION, INC.

136 N.W. 39th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601

AWARDS: A \$250.00 cash prize to the winning essayist.

A copy of an appropriate book about honey bees or beekeeping will be presented to each state winner.

SUBJECT: "THE USE OF HONEY BEE PRODUCTS IN MEDICINE"

1. Essays must be 750-1000 words long on the designated subject only
2. Essays may be typed or handwritten, and **MUST** include a **BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** of the writer, **INCLUDING THE COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS** and telephone number. **THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE 750-1000 WORD LIMIT.**
3. Essays **will be judged** on the basis of neatness, originality and completeness and accuracy of ideas expressed.
4. **ALL REFERENCES CONSULTED MUST BE LISTED.**
5. Each state may submit only one entry.
6. The state 4-H Club Office will be responsible for selecting that state's winner and forwarding it to the American Beekeeping Federation Secretary's office, at the above address, **before the deadline of May 1, 1981.** **Any entry received postmarked later than May 1 will be returned.**
7. Final judging and selection of the national winner will be made by the American Beekeeping Federation's Essay Committee.
8. All entries become the property of the American Beekeeping Federation and may be published or used as they see fit. **NO ESSAYS WILL BE RETURNED.**
9. The winner will be announced by June 1 of each year.

Malcolm T. Sandford, Chairman
4-H Essay Contest Committee
Frank A. Robinson
Secretary-Treasurer
American Beekeeping Federation, Inc.

CONFLICTING THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PERSISTENCE OF TERRAMYCIN

Have you noticed the conflicting ideas about Terramycin as you read about the disease control for honey bees? On the one hand, you are warned about contaminating honey with the antibiotic. On the other, you are told that terramycin breaks down so rapidly in sugar syrup that it is best fed in a dry mix with powered sugar. G.G. Stephenson, Jr., of Crestview, Florida asked for clarification. With help from Dr. T.A. Gochmamer of Agriculture Canada, I can offer you some ideas about the activity of Terramycin.

When Terramycin (oxytetracycline hydrochloride) was fed in the fall, it retained its activity in the combs for up to 3½ months during experiments in southern British Columbia. However, when it was fed in the late spring in other areas of Canada, its activity only lasted from 2 days to 2 weeks. In studies in the United States with caged bees not in regular hives, Terramycin lost its activity in 3 to 6 weeks, depending on how long it was fed to the bees. The loss of potency was the same in stored sugar syrup and in stored honey.

Sunlight rapidly inactivates Terramycin, and the loss may be accentuated as the surrounding temperature increases. Warnings that it is better to feed Terramycin as a dust probably relate to the fact that dusting is done within the hive, whereas syrup feeding is often done with the containers exposed to the sun. For the best results, feeding within the hive, or at least in opaque containers, is essential.

The danger of honey contamination from the use of Terramycin is greatly reduced by its tendency to break down from exposure to light and to increased temperatures. By not feeding it later than 4 weeks before a nectar flow, we can make certain that extracted honey will never be contaminated. The warnings about contamination are valid; and we must consider that breakdown products, even without antibiotic activity, are unwanted. In this case, the nature of the material involved makes the warnings less crucial than in some other.

Beekeepers can use this information about Terramycin to gain the best possible disease control. If you use the antibiotic, feed it within the hive as early in the season as possible and use fresh syrup or dust made from Terramycin stored in the refrigerator. Feed as late in the fall as good management permits, especially in areas with mild winters.

From BEES & HONEY, Nov. 1980

AND INTO 1981

Hopeful our winter losses will not be a repeat of a couple of years ago when losses were extensive. The light fall flow in the eastern sections has resulted in some fairly weak colonies at the start of the winter season. Sugar prices are high and beekeepers are reluctant to feed extensively when costs are so high.

Gasoline costs are going to inch upward again after a few stable months making it more expensive to get to the colonies for adequate spring manipulations. Some beekeeping equipment will increase in costs as manufacturers attempt to make their living. Generally bee equipment still remains a good buy. The ethylene oxide fumigation chamber helps maintain older equipment and recycle some equipment that might otherwise be destroyed. It should be real important for beekeepers to fumigate for wax moth at the high cost of comb today.

I trust your bees survive the winter in good shape and next year proves to be better than the last.

From The pollen Basket - prepared by Dewey M. Caron, Univ. of MD

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EXTRACTED HONEY

Beginners should never remove any honey from the hive until it is completely capped over. The bees are experts in their trade and generally, if the honey is not capped, it is thin and requires additional evaporation and processing. Green honey, as uncapped honey is called, usually has a high water content and will sour and ferment if removed from the hive. As you gain experience, you will learn under what conditions you can remove honey that is not thoroughly capped.

The first step in extracting honey is to remove the caps. There are many types of uncapping equipment designed for all sizes of operations. Originally, uncapping was in some cases, done by dipping sharp knives in boiling water to absorb heat and then cutting the caps. A special cap scratcher or fork is used to scratch open the caps that were not extended enough to be cut with the knife. This is an acceptable method for a small number of colonies. Use two knives, so that one is always in the water absorbing heat. To uncap comb of honey, start at the top or bottom and with a back and forth sawing movement, cut off the caps. Use the top and bottom bar as a guide. This will normally get all the caps in one pass. It is normally easier to start at the top and the knife will stay hotter. Larger beekeepers usually use special heated uncapping knives or machines that are available through the supply firms.

Cappings usually contain 50 percent honey by weight. They should be thoroughly drained by placing them over a screen covered with cheesecloth for at least a full day. The cappings will drain better if they are in a very warm room and spread out very thin. After they are thoroughly drained, remove, strain and bottle the honey and wash the cappings in warm water to remove the remaining honey. The cappings should be placed in a pot that contains about ½ to ¾ water and heated to about 190 degrees. Never boil cappings, because they will become discolored and reduce their value. Boiling will also create a fire hazard. Wax melts at 147 degrees, so excessive heat is not necessary. As the cappings melt, the wax will rise to the top of the water. When completely melted, pour and strain the wax into casting containers. When these castings cool, they may be stored until they are sold. Processing extracted honey should be done under completely sanitary conditions. It is a clean wholesome food when stored in the capped cells by the bees and should be kept in the same condition throughout the packing process.

When honey is extracted, small pieces of caps drip into it as well as small pieces of the frames

which may be cut or broken off. A few bees somehow manage to drop in, if great care is not exercised. As a result, all honey should be strained. Strain honey through at least two thicknesses of nylon cloth which has been wrung out as dry as possible. The honey can now be bottled and sold or kept for home use if it is not a large amount. Large crops of honey should be heated to approximately 140 to 150 degrees to prevent granulation while in storage or on the shelf. Packing honey in thin jars makes it appear to be lighter in color. Round, thick jars give it a darker color.

From Okla. State Apiary Newsletter
June, 1980

REPORT YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you have moved, are planning to move, or the Post Office has changed your mailing address, please report your change of address to the EAS Secretary as soon as possible. I have had a lot of problems with this the past year.

The EAS Journal is mailed 3rd class bulk at a very reasonable mailing rate. But, even with first class mail, the Post Office does not forward any mail after the one-year forwarding time has expired. All too frequently, when a person has moved without forwarding their new address to me, with the next mailing of the EAS Journal, the Post Office returns the Journal to me with a notation, "not forwardable as addressed", charge me a 25 cent penalty fee, but do not provide me with the new address. It is your Post Office (hometown) that is responsible for this lack of information.

Other times, the Post Office will forward the persons mail up to the one-year period, with no indication to me that there has been a change of address; but after the one-year forwarding time has expired, only then will they notify me the forwarding time has expired, and I still don't get the new address, but have to pay the 25 cent charge anyhow. It gets very frustrating to pay the Post Office 25 cents per person for this information, which is no information at all because I still don't know the individuals new address. During the year of 1980 over \$50 was spent in these penalty fees. I regret that because of this lack of information, I had to remove all of the "unforwardables" of the EAS Journal's general mailing list.

If you know of any EAS member who has moved, but who is not now receiving their EAS Journal, please ask them to forward their new address to me.

Liz Rodrigues, EAS Secretary

REPLACING QUEENS — SPRING OR FALL?

Beekeepers usually have the choice of introducing new queens to their colonies in the spring or the fall. Of course, if a queen is failing or is lost at other times of the year, she should be replaced as soon as possible to avoid losing the colony as productive unit. Mike Weinrich of Kansas City asked for a discussion comparing requeening at the two main periods.

Newcomers to beekeeping may ask why we requeen early or late in the season. The primary matter involved is the labor. During the summer, the colonies usually have honey supers in place and the bees occupy many boxes. At such times, it is difficult to locate the old queens quickly, and handling the supers is hard work.

One basis for a comparison of requeening in spring or fall is the quality of the queens available in terms of nutrition and mating. In this discussion, I am assuming that most beekeepers purchase and receive queens through the mail. Potentially, the quality of a queen is better when she is reared during the summer months when the weather is warm, drones are plentiful, and nectar and pollen are usually in good supply. In the spring, queen breeders must be especially careful to see that their queen-rearing colonies never run short of pollen and honey or syrup. Also, breeders must be certain that fertile drones of the right strain are plentiful around each mating yard. Even with these precautions, queens produced during poor spring weather may be undernourished. In addition, they may fail to mate or may mate with too few drones for complete insemination.

Queens and package bees often are injured or killed during shipment. They are particularly susceptible to overheating. The warm weather of the summer and fall in most areas where queens are reared makes it more dangerous to ship queens than during the cooler months in the spring.

The cost of queens is lower in the fall than in the spring. The difference is a matter of demand, demonstrating that most beekeepers buy their queens early in the year. At that time, there is also a heavy demand for queens to accompany package bees. You may save much by making your purchase after the spring rush is over.

Some of the items discussed so far, although important, are out of the hands of the beekeeper. Also, they may not relate directly to the management and success of his colonies. Now, let us consider the relative ease of requeening colonies in spring or fall — an important aspect of managing

bees. In the spring, the colonies are smaller than in fall; it is easier to examine them and to find the old queens. The supers weigh less, too. At least in central Illinois, problems with robbing are generally fewer in the spring than in the fall. Finally, it seems as if queens are usually where they are "supposed" to be, on the brood combs, early in the active season. It is not unusual to find them on the outer combs, side wall, or on the bottom of the hive in the fall.

It is one thing to put in new queens and another to get them accepted well. Several research workers have studied the relative acceptance of queens during the different months of the active season. Butler and Simpson in England found that acceptance was good (94 to 100%) in April, May, August and September. The figure was only slightly lower in July, about 89 percent. But in June, the acceptance of queens dropped to about 65 percent. The scientists related the lower acceptance to the fact that the presence of queen cells when queens were being introduced, or even a month before, reduces queen acceptance. June is the month when colonies most often build queen cells in anticipation of swarming in southern England, where the study was made. Free and Spencer-Booth analyzed the records of some commercial beekeepers in England and also found that the introduction of queens was less successful in June and July than during May, August or September. Fall and spring requeening appear about equally successful as long as the colonies are not making queen cells.

A final consideration in deciding when to requeen concerns the relative effect on the warming urge and on honey production. Ivor Forster of New Zealand has given us some good information about these important subjects. He found that colonies with spring queens averaged 20 pounds more honey than those with fall queens. Colonies with autumn queens also tended to swarm, or at least to raise queen cells, more often than those with spring queens. Such activity reduced the average honey yield by 25 pounds. Forster concluded that the absolute ideal is a young spring queen.

All the evidence seems to point to spring as the best time to requeen colonies of bees. Just don't wait until the colonies become too large and are "thinking" about swarming. The acceptance rate should be above 90 percent with proper timing, the old queen just removed, a good queen cage, and no attendants with the new queen.

From: Bee & Honey, Nov. 1980, Elbert R. Jaycox

PRE-SPRING MANAGEMENT

by Walt Wilson

Management - If you left a full super of honey on your hives last fall (about 60 pounds), your bees should be in good shape. You should have had mouse guards on, your colonies should be facing South or East for best results, and a windbreak is helpful.

Make a visual check of your hives each month. You don't have to go into the hives each time because over-checking them disturbs them too much and defeats the purpose. The further your bees are from your house, the better they'll be. Bees do like some privacy.

To indicate that a hive is weak - put 2 bricks on top of it. To indicate that a hive is strong - put one brick on top of it and hope nobody removes them.

You can pretty much tell by looking at the activity around a hive, without opening it, pretty much of what is going on inside of it. It is best to do this when the temperature is over 40 degrees or more.

You can lift your hive from behind to check the weight for stores. If it's light, you will have to feed them. If it's heavy, you probably won't have to. Everytime you go into a hive to check it out, you bother the bees, and they eat more!

Feeding - You can feed bees in a number of ways: (1) Feed with a top reservoir feeder with a raft. It holds 2 to 3 gallons of syrup. Make the syrup just as thick as you can mix it. (2) You can feed Fuller Candy but you need a candy thermometer to make it. The directions for making it are in the ABC & XYZ of Bee Culture book by the A. I. Root Co. (3) You can feed with a gallon jug of syrup inverted over the inner cover hole, but you'll need a deep super to put around it. (4) You can feed dry sugar during cold weather by removing the inner cover, putting a piece of newspaper over the frames (leaving an opening in the front area for them to crawl up) and put about 1 pound of dry sugar on the newspaper, invert the inner cover to give the bees more crawling room over the sugar.

Dead hives - If you have a colony, or colonies of bees that died out in the winter, and you are not sure what the cause was, or that they didn't die from starving out, isolate the hive or hives, by taking them away from the others. This is to prevent the spreading of disease.

After you have taken it away from the area of the others, open it up and check it out. Call the bee inspector if you suspect that it died from reasons other than starvation. Be sure to store it away from the other colonies, in a garage, or some other closed-in place where the other bees can't get to them and

rob them out.

Pollen Substitutes - If you are thinking of feeding your bees a pollen substitute, be sure the your bees have enough honey stores, or they'll starve out. When you feed pollen substitutes, you encourage the Queen to start laying more heavily, so be careful that they have enough stores. Most bee suppliers have pollen substitutes.

Hive Management - Reverse your hives in the Spring to give the bees more room. Bees work up and the bottom super probably will be empty, or just about empty. The Queen needs the extra room for brood rearing. You can do this anytime between April 1-15th. After reversing, add your home shallows on. This encourages the bees to bring in the nectar. In this area, the main honey flow is around May 20th — Apple Blossom time.

When you inspect your frames, start with the second one on the left, from the outside, and return them back in, in the order from which you took them out. Your end hives will be the strongest one: due to drifting. You can equalize your colonies by putting the weaker ones (exchanging them) where your stronger ones are. This gives them a boost in field workers.

SPARKS OF HUMOR

One danger of overheating, it may cause you to live beyond your seams.

It's what we learn after we think we know it a that counts.

Don't criticize your wife's judgment — See whom she married.

Everybody knows how to express a complaint but few can utter a graceful compliment.

Blessed is the man who can sit as long on hard pew in church, as he can on a hard bleacher on a ball game.

It isn't so important about our ability, or our inability, as it is about our availability.

A successful beekeepers association is a hive full of workers, and not too many drones.

When the word of God is as sweet as honey, the vanities of the world will be bitter as aloes. — From Uncle Ben's Quote Book

Consider the postage stamp. It's usefulness lies in the ability to stick to one think until completed.

Be like the watch; have an open face, but hands, full of good works, pure gold and well regulated.

From: The Bee Buzzer, Nov. 198

DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE BEEKEEPING S.C.

SPRING: Saturday, April 4, 11 and 25, 1981
SUMMER: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, June 26, 27, and 28, 1981

Delaware Valley College will again be offering its Spring and Summer Beekeeping Short Courses. The Courses are offered under the direction of Dr. Robert Berthold (Associate Professor, Biology) in cooperation with Mr. Jack Matthenius, New Jersey State Apiarist.

Over 200 persons attended the 1980 courses, included in this group were experienced beekeepers, novices, and those considering taking up beekeeping as a hobby. There were also quite a few educators who were planning to use the information presented in their own classroom situation. Also, a number of people incorporated the course in their vacations.

Total cost for the three days of instruction is \$25.00. For those persons 62 years or older, there is no charge. Further information may be obtained by writing to Dr. Berthold, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, PA 18901, or by calling him at Area Code 215-345-1500. Registration deadline for the Spring Course is March 26th, and the Summer Course June 15. Send application for registration and check to: Continuing Education, Delaware Valley College, Rt. 202, Doylestown, PA 18901.

The classes will be in Room 114, Mandell Science Bldg., Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture, Rte. 202, about 1 mile south of Doylestown, PA 18901. The college apiary and honey house will be utilized.

Registration first day is at 8:30 to 9:10 a.m.

EAS MEETING SCHEDULE

1981 MEETING

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. - August 5-8.

1982 MEETING

West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia - August 4-7.

1983 MEETING

Main (if approved)

1984 MEETING

Rhode Island (if approved)

1985 MEETING

Pennsylvania (if approved)

1986 MEETING

Delaware (if approved)

Other days course starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m.

All those having their own bee veils should bring them. It is also suggested that you bring a 3-ring looseleaf binder to hold various prepared materials which will be distributed.

Participants must be 13 years of age or older, unless accompanied by an adult.

For those wanting overnight accommodations, we suggest the Court House Motor Inn, 625 N. Main St., Doylestown, PA 18901, telephone, (215) 348-9222.

USDA NAMES FEDERAL EXTENSION-RESEARCHER

Basil Furgala has been named to the new position as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's specialist on bees and pollination.

The position was created as a joint research-extension post for a six month's basis. The various industry organizations have been seeking the establishment of a federal extension beekeeper position. That will be half of Dr. Furgala's job. The other half of his time will be devoted to research as National Research Program Leader for Crop Pollination and Bees. This is the position vacated by the resignation of E.C. Martin 18 months ago. Dr. Martin and his predecessor on the program staff, Dr. Marshall Levin, both recommended the establishment of the new post.

Dr. Furgala is on leave from his regular position in research and teaching at the University of Minnesota, where he has been 13 years.

In his second ay on the job, Dr. Furgala told the (SPEEDY) BEE his primary goal is to evaluate the validity of the joint research-extension appointment. That evaluation will help determine the fate of the post at the end of the six months. He said he feels he is "fresh as a daisy" in the job, without any preconceived notions to detract from his perception of the new role.

Dr. Furgala plans to take in the Apiary Inspectors and Honey Producers conventions in Las Vegas and the Federation convention in Seattle the following week. He said he will be widening his grasp of the national beekeeping industry, its needs and problems and charting his course for the remainder of his term.

Dr. Furgala's office is at the USDA's Beltsville Agriculture Research Center in Maryland. The address is USDA-BARC-West, Bldg. 005, Rm. 301, Beltsville, MD 20705, ph. 301-344-2710.

By The Speedy Bee, Jan. 1981

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

Honey bees are like people in many ways, one of them is temperament. Some will come out of their hive and sting you at the drop of a hat without provocation, while another hive nearby will allow you to literally tear their house to pieces without too much resistance. The best rule to follow, however, when handling bees is to do it gently, without jerking or jarring. Before going into the hive, give them a few puffs of smoke. This will make them think their house is on fire and start them guzzling honey which makes them gentle. Some think that bees learn to know their owner. No one knows this for sure, but it is a fact that some men can handle bees with their shirt sleeves rolled up and no veil, and the bees pay attention to him, while others have difficulty even with a veil and gloves on.

Some say bees think, while others say it is instinct. The cells are so uniform in size that they once were proposed as a unit of measurement. They find their way home from a source of nectar a mile away and inform their sisters just where these flowers are. Without fuss, they divide their chores like cleaning and air-conditioning their house, caring for their brood, bringing in nectar and pollen, guarding their front door and creating new queens.

Does the old queen tell them what do do? No, she's just an egg laying machine depositing hundreds of eggs a day in Spring and Summer. Her sisters, the workers, feed her, groom her, keep her warm and will protect her with their lives.

"Her sisters? Isn't she a different kind of insect altogether?" "Yes and no. She has a different kind of stinger and mature sexual organs instead of atrophied ones." But she was hatched from the same kind of an egg as the workers. The egg was fertilized, the same kind as produced the worker, only the egg that produced the queen is fed royal jelly, while the worker larvae was fed a little royal jelly to start with, then fed honey and pollen."

TIMELY TIPS FOR BEEKEEPERS

CLEAN HIVE TOOL: Place it in the oven for 1 to 2 hours at 350 degrees, or put hive tool into the bottom of a hot fire in a smoker.

CLEAN GLOVES: Clean in the laundry in detergent. Boil in Container - Not leather gloves.

CLEAN HANDS: Soap and water will wash off most diseases. Use Crisco or Gooop to remove propolis.

Don't use hive tool to examine suspected disease comb cells. Use a stick and after using, burn the stick in the bottom of the smoker. You can spread disease from colony to colony with the contaminated hive tool.

From The Bee Buzzer, Oct., 1980

You ask, "Why is a swarm of bees usually to handle?" Before swarming, those who decided to go with the swarm, gorge them with honey and, bees full of honey are good nats. Their instinct tells them that when they lan their, they will have to build comb, and wax seal from the bee's abdomen as a result of the eating honey."

Regarding drones, they are the male special the honey bee world. They do no work. They go honey and roam from one hive to the other way for a young virgin queen to come out to be fertil. About one drone in 10,000 ever has a chance mate with a virgin queen and then he dies in act. The old saying, that "All good things come to an end" is no exception with Mr. Drone. In the Fall sisters drive him from the hive and he is forgotten the workers until Spring when they again proceed to raise themselves more drones.

From: The Bee Buzzer, Dec. 1

MILKING BEES

People supersensitive to insect stings have to dread these days because of a new vaccine "A New Vaccine Fights Insect Stings", July 19 Elements of venom from several types of insects be injected over a period of weeks to build up immunity. The insects belong to the Hymenoptera, which includes honeybees, horn yellow jackets and other wasps. Unfortunately although the vaccine has proved effective, the spent collecting venom makes the vaccine costly Honeybees provide a practical venom so because they obligingly grow and reproduce colonies and hives that are set up by beekeepers Collection is accomplished by delivering a electric shock to the honeybee, which react furiously stinging the electrical device depositing its venom into a plastic container.

Wasps are not nearly so obliging. Their must be collected from the wild and the w captured and frozen before their venom can be extracted.

One type of stinging insect, however - yellow jacket - has turned out to be a candidate for laboratory living. Coaxed with mo of cat food, tuna and honey, yellow jackets for first time are nesting in captivity in laboratory Cornell University. So far, Dr. Roger A. Morse graduate assistant, Kenneth G. Ross have led species to cooperate. If all goes well, the next will be to harvest their venom, which event could take some of the sting out of the prick protection.

"In Science", Changing Times, Feb.

EAS JOURNAL

Advertisements and material for publication should be received by the 15th of the month previous to publication: Feb., April, June, July, October, December.

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BEEKEEPING EDUCATION SERVICE

Has relocated in Central Connecticut to establish full time consulting service in beekeeping programs and materials.

Since late 1975, I have offered full color 35mm slides and slide/tape set for sale. This service will continue, with plans to dramatically increase our listings. For example, sets on queen production and bees and pesticides will be released in 1981.

But, our newest service will be BEEKEEPER UPDATE SEMINARS. If you want to learn the latest information about specific topics — we can present them, or will find someone who can. We will work with association officers or other individuals to meet the needs of each group for a one or two day program. We invite your letter or call. The only limits are those on our collective imaginations.

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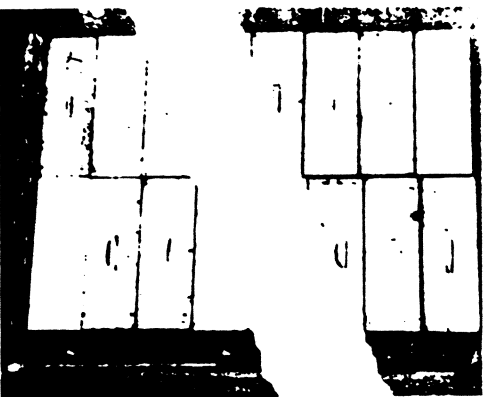
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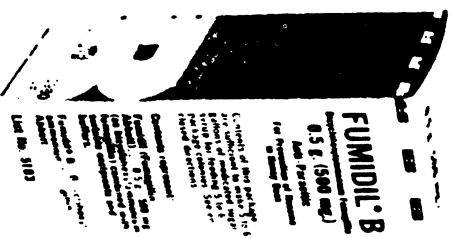
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