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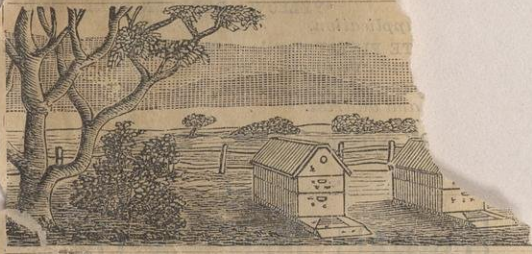
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BEE



No. 1. Vol. 1.] AUCKLAND,

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AUSTRALASIAN

THE BEE JOURNAL

No. 1. Vol. I.]

AUCKLAND, N.Z., JULY, 1887.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY
SIXPENCE.

The Australasian Bee Journal.

Editorial.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

INTRODUCTION.

I. HOPKINS * EDITOR.
HOPKINS, HAYR & CO.,
Proprietors and Publishers.

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All correspondence for publication and business communications to be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 296, Auckland, New Zealand.

It is just four years since we had the pleasure of introducing to public notice the *New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal*, the first periodical of the kind published in Australasia. Though scientific apiculture had made considerable headway in these colonies during the previous four years, it was not till the establishment of the journal that it came to the front and farmers began to look at beekeeping as something more than a hobby.

Contents.

That our remarks in the introductory article with regard to the results expected to follow the establishment of the journal were not miscalculated, is shown by the very rapid progress the industry has made since. There is probably not a district in any part of Australasia at the present time, where the advanced system of bee management has not been introduced, and although from one cause or another the industry of apiculture, like every other industry just now, is somewhat languishing, we have as much faith as ever in the ultimate success of it.

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Two years ago, as many of our readers are aware, the *New Zealand and Australian Bee Journal* was incorporated with the *New Zealand Farmer, Bee and Poultry Journal*, which has since done excellent service in all branches of farming. It has, however, been our intention ever since, that as soon as we found ourselves conveniently situated to start another journal devoted exclusively to apiculture, to do so.

In introducing the *Australasian Bee Journal*, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we have no thought of running in opposition to any bee journal now or that may be hereafter established in Australasia; we earnestly believe there is still ample room to do good, and to promote the interests of the industry we have at heart, and this is our only excuse for bringing out this journal.

RETURNING THANKS.

We take this opportunity to express our feelings of gratitude to those who have so ably and willingly come forward to assist us in our undertaking. Such encouragement as is shown by all our contributors in this issue cannot fail to have a beneficial influence, not only directly upon ourselves in making us try to deserve it, but indirectly upon the financial success of the Journal.

The *Australasian Bee Journal*, as its name implies, will be devoted exclusively to the interests of beekeepers and beekeeping throughout Australasia, and will fearlessly denounce everything opposed to them. We shall keep our readers posted on every matter of importance to the beekeeping interests taking place in all parts of the

If we shall do our best to bring our produce, more prominently into notice and the public as to its manifold uses and its value as an article of food. Our columns will be for the discussion of all subjects tending to the benefit of any department of apiculture, and we will gladly invite our readers to use them for that purpose. We shall also be glad to receive original articles, communications, or clippings of interest for publication, and one department of the Journal will be devoted to answering all questions connected with beekeeping asked by our subscribers, which we hope they will avail themselves of. Our facilities for obtaining the latest information from all parts of Australasia are better than ever they were, so that after we get fairly started, our news each month will be varied and interesting.

We must not omit to ask our beekeeping friends for their support and influence in obtaining subscribers; to this assistance we look in a great measure for an early issue from the difficulties inseparable from bringing out a new publication.

As the *Journal* will circulate throughout all the colonies, apiarian supply dealers will find it the best medium possible for bringing their wares under the notice of beekeepers. Our scale of charges for advertising has been made remarkably low, and we hope to have a large measure of support in this department.

In conclusion we extend a hearty greeting to all, and assure our friends that nothing on our part shall be left undone that will advance the interests of beekeepers.

CO-OPERATION NEEDED.

WHEN trade is brisk and all available labour employed, as a natural consequence every branch of business and industry, no matter in what line, must feel the benefit. There is no thought of failure then; everyone feels confident that whatever he has undertaken is going to be a success. Producers find no difficulty in getting rid of their commodities, and put forth their utmost power to meet the increasing demand. Prices rise not always because it costs more to produce the articles, but the purchasing power is greater, and this is taken advantage of. But let a depression overtake us, and everything is reversed. The demand for luxuries falls off at once, and should the depression be lasting or severe, thousands are thrown out of employment, and there is a falling off in the demand for the actual necessities of life. Everyone suffers, from the labourer to the merchant; but if there is one class that feels a depression more than another it is country settlers, in which class farmers are included. Even in the best of times they, as a rule, receive the least profit from the sale of their commodities, and when times are bad and prices come down, they are often put to their wits' end how to produce anything for the markets without a loss to themselves. It is not our province to go into the matter here, or we could point out several things in which reforms are urgently required if our country settlers are ever to be considered what they really are—the backbone of

the country, times as the price of what we have to sell, solely with apiculture, and see what opportunity is offered in that direction.

There can be no doubt that the beekeeping industry is suffering severely, certainly not more so than many others. However, it is our duty to face the difficulty, and see what can be done to better its condition, and place it on a surer footing for the future. Unquestionably the greatest good that could possibly be done for the industry now and hereafter would be to increase the sales of honey. It is certainly of no use to go on increasing the production if there is only a limited sale for it. The question naturally arises, Can the sales be increased? or in other words, Can we increase the demand? We have no hesitation whatever in answering this question in the affirmative; but to accomplish it there must be united action among beekeepers themselves. Let us for a moment look at what has been done in this direction in other countries. Take England and America, for instance. In each of those countries beekeepers have had the same difficulties to contend against as ourselves, and they saw the necessity of taking united action to overcome them. Beekeepers' associations began to spring up everywhere, till every county and every state can now boast of one or more. These associations are well supported, and such is the interest taken in many of their meetings that beekeepers often travel hundreds of miles to attend them. Every point affecting the welfare of the industry is discussed, more especially the best methods of producing, marketing, and increasing the demand for honey. The beneficial results of these discussions to beekeepers and the industry generally has been immense. They have been the means of enabling beekeepers to reduce their expenses in producing and marketing their produce, and showing them how to increase the demand in their home markets. We have only to look through the English and American bee journals to be convinced of the benefits arising from such associations. The demand for honey in those countries is increasing rapidly every year, and notwithstanding the largely increased production in England, it is mentioned in the *British Bee Journal* for January 6th last, that wholesale buyers were unable to purchase sufficient to meet demands. Prices are low in America compared to what they have been, but it is freely admitted that it is principally due to the depression. We must, however, expect greater fluctuation in prices of honey there, owing to the enormous quantities produced in California in favourable seasons.

To come back to ourselves. Now what have we done to get over the difficulties that we find confronting us? Comparatively nothing. We have made two or three attempts to establish associations, but from the want of support of those in whose interests they were started, they have fallen through. What could be expected when beekeepers were so thoughtless of their own interests but that they would suffer in consequence? We time and again warned

I saw bees kept in this colony. Please means adopted by the advanced apiarists, such would taining the best results at a minimum expense. We have absence of those multitudinous and our beekeepers alliances too often found given their support to the hive-makers, and, by united action, have been able to surmount each difficulty as it arose, and would not have been lamenting our hard case now. However, it is never too late to mend, and the sooner we set about rectifying former mistakes the better it will be for ourselves. There must be no lukewarmness about the matter, but everyone must do his best for the general good of the industry, and we have no fear of the results.

First of all there must be co-operation amongst us before we can expect to accomplish much good; singly we can do but little, unitedly we can do a great deal. We believe that the majority of our beekeepers have so far seen the folly of not working together that there would not be much difficulty now in inducing them to give their support to beekeepers' associations. We do not suppose for one moment that such associations could be kept going in every district, but we feel certain that one might be well supported in every principal centre of beekeeping, and be made a medium for doing no end of good generally. We shall be glad to have the opinions of our readers who take an interest in this matter, and shall return to the subject again.

THE AUCKLAND HONEY MARKET.

SINCE we removed to Auckland, we have made it our business to inquire into all matters affecting the beekeeping industry, and especially the honey trade. As we expected, the latter is in a most disorganized state, in fact it could scarcely be in a worse state than it is at present. Strolling through the auction rooms from time to time, we have come across honey in all sorts of conditions, of various qualities, and in all kinds of vessels—some fairly good, some in a fermenting state, and some not fit to rank as honey. Often the honey is put up for sale by the auctioneer, time after time, without effecting a sale, till he gets tired of it himself, and glad to knock it down at any price to the first bidder. A penny or twopence per pound is perhaps the best price that can be obtained for good honey when sold in this way, while some of it would be dear for the trouble of carrying it away. In any case it could not pay the producers; for the freight alone would swallow up the proceeds, to say nothing of the auctioneer's commission. If the producers were the only ones who suffered a loss, it would not much matter, but it affects the sales of all honey. People will tell you, when you ask a fair price for a first-class article, decently got up, that will be an ornament on their breakfast table, "Oh, I saw some the other day sold for a penny or twopence per pound," as the case may be.

We have been shown large quantities of otherwise fair honey that had been sent to market in an unripe state—both in casks and tins. The result was it fermented, of course, but no doubt a good deal of it was sold before the tins bulged very much. Not only that, but we have seen a lot of the

tins that had been pricked to let out the gasses generated while fermenting, after lying by for a long time, actually soldered up again to be put on the market. We ask, can it be wondered at that the sales of honey are slow when our markets are in such a state as this? for I take it that the Auckland Honey Market is a fair specimen of our markets generally just now.

We found on inquiry at some of the principal dealers, that first-class honey, put up in a decent manner, is in fair demand, but they will not touch any unless it is put up in a business-like and attractive form. We are also told by those who have the handling of it, that the demand for Matamata honey has increased very rapidly of late, thus confirming what we have repeatedly pointed out, viz., that with a proper system of marketing, we can increase the number of consumers.

We have decided to do our best to remedy some of the evils mentioned by establishing a honey depôt on the lines mentioned in our circular on the cover of this journal, and if we only receive the support of those in whose interests we are working, we are confident of completely altering for the better the existing state of the honey trade.

BEEKEEPING IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

By S. A. B.

It has given me much pleasure to hear that you intend starting a new bee journal, and trust your enterprise will meet with success financially. Your long experience as a beekeeper, and the ready help which I feel assured will be accorded you by the beekeeping fraternity, must, without doubt, make it a success in every other sense of the word. It will meet a want much felt since the decease of the old one, and will, I know, be heartily welcomed by all who have the true interest and advancement of bee culture at heart.

Scientific beekeeping is only now beginning to attract particular attention in this colony, as was proved by the deep interest shown by the public generally in the Italian bees and apiary requisites exhibited at our last Agricultural Show. An attempt has been made also to form a Beekeepers' Association. I do not think, however, that anything particular was done at the first meeting, owing to the frightfully inclement state of the weather, which must have prevented many from attending. This Association will, I have no doubt, be very successful, and do much for the advancement of bee culture in New South Wales, if the members will only take example by our faithful little friends and fellow-workers, the bees, and sink self in the common weal.

I am sorry I cannot give you a very flourishing account of the last honey season. The rainfall has been almost unprecedented, the bees being kept prisoners in their hives on an average four days in the week during the honey flow, and the honey secretion was most meagre. The wild apple, ironbark, blue gum, and turpentine blossoms, just kept the bees alive until the box blossomed,

and owing to the wet this was in a great measure a failure, strong stocks only storing forty or fifty pounds of honey, and as far as I can gather this seems to have been the experience of nearly all the advanced beekeepers, at least in the coast district, where the rain has been heavier than in the interior.

The keepers of gin-case hives in our neighbourhood have lost more than half their swarms, either from starvation or the moth, frequently, I suppose, from both causes combined. The season has been most favourable to the production of animal life, and owing, doubtless, to that reason the ravages committed by the moth have been far in excess of anything known in this district for many years past. My neighbours complain that swarm after swarm of their bees have taken to the bush, leaving hives full of moth-eaten comb. On two occasions bee trees marked in the spring and cut down in the autumn were found a living, crawling mass of the moth grub, without a bee or a drop of honey in them. Since our apiary has become Italianized I am glad to say we can set those pests at defiance; but I shall never forget the trouble we had in the early days of our beekeeping—it was a constant battle, and though we came off victorious, it was a hardly-won victory, but we never lost a swarm from the moth.

Will you allow me to take this opportunity of getting the "sense" of the beekeeping fraternity on a hobby of mine—keeping bees without floor-boards, but on a bed of sand. We shall be moving our apiary shortly, and I have an idea of arranging it in something like the following fashion:—A trellis covered with grape vines, with a walk six feet wide down the centre, the hives facing outwards on a sort of low platform, made as follows: Two lines of hardwood planking, six inches by one, sunk edgewise into the ground three inches in depth, and exactly the width of the hives apart, the space between being filled with clean white sand, holes perforated down the middle of the boards just above the ground and below the sand, providing for the drainage of the bed in case of rain. There will be no harbour for spiders and earwigs, or bee-parasites generally. The floors can be easily and effectually cleaned by scraping the surface with a bit of flat stick and sprinkling a little fresh sand occasionally, and bees cannot carry the grains of sand on to the combs with their feet as they do the propolis and general *debris* of the hive. One of our best swarms last season always had such a dirty floor-board that I was obliged to be constantly changing it to keep the combs even decently clean. I should be glad to learn the opinion of some of your readers on my idea. Again wishing you every success in your undertaking, and I trust all colonial beekeepers will give you their most hearty support.

*Sunnyside Apiary, N.S.W.,
June 8th.*

[We hope to be forgiven for stating that our esteemed correspondent is a lady beekeeper, and, if our judgment is worth anything, a very successful one. We can call to mind two or three lady friends in New Zealand who are amongst the most

able beekers
them to give
We do hope, h
object, for ladies are
servant than men, and on
valuable
correspondents. Sand instead
boards is
quite a novel idea. If the drainage round about is
good, so that the sand will keep dry, and the latter
beaten down firm, we see no reason why it should
not answer very well. Bees cannot get over a
rough surface very quick, but if the sand is firm
and smooth they should be able to manage. They
might at first try to carry out the grains of sand,
but they would, we think, soon tire of that. If
successful it will at least save some expense, and
that will be a consideration in itself. Can any
of our readers form an opinion on the matter? We
shall be glad to hear how the experiment succeeds.
—Ed.]

BEEKEEPING NOTES.

BY OBED POOLE.

As an old English beekeeper, and one that still takes the deepest interest in everything connected with apiculture, it was gratifying to me when I heard that you were going to bring out an Australasian bee journal. That such a journal will be of the greatest benefit to the beekeeping industry in these colonies goes without saying, and it only remains for those who have at least a laudable desire to promote apiculture to supplement the exertions of the editor by contributing to its columns, and in every way striving to make it a success, both as a technical journal and financially. Every trade and profession have now a recognised organ devoted to the promotion and advancement of its affairs, and the elucidation of various problems connected therewith. Nor have bee-keepers in other countries been behind hand in recognising the value of a journal devoted exclusively to their interests. The Americans, with their characteristic spirit of advancement, were the first to publish a bee journal in the English language, nearly thirty years ago, and it still holds the leading position. Since that time others have been brought out, and about half a dozen are issued there now. The result of having such mediums of intercourse between beekeepers has been to bring about co-operation among them, and to place them in advance of all other apiarists. To them the beekeeping world is indebted for much of its present knowledge of the practical management of the bee, and also for many valuable inventions and appliances connected with the advanced system of apiculture.

The *British Bee Journal* which was first published as a monthly organ in 1873, but is now issued weekly, has given a wonderful impetus to bee-keeping in Great Britain. The establishment of the British Beekeepers' Association—of which and the benefits of such associations generally I shall have something to say in my next communication—shortly followed, to which has since been affiliated associations in every county.

On my arrival in New Zealand I was both pleased and disappointed in the manner in which

I saw bees kept in this colony. Pleased with the means adopted by the advanced apiarian for obtaining the best results at a minimum of cost, with an absence of those multitudinous collection of fads and appliances too often found in the catalogues of English hive-makers, and which frequently dishearten the young beekeeper. Such was my impression on visiting the Matamata apiary in September last. The simplicity of the various arrangements delighted me; whilst at the same time nothing was wanting which would conduce to the health of the bees and the scientific investigation of the internal economy of the hive. From my observations I felt at once assured that there was a grand opening for apiculture in New Zealand, and further experience and observations have confirmed this. Your bee flora is grand, and the climate for beekeeping cannot be excelled in any part of the world, and I feel convinced that where we in England can produce one pound of honey you can produce three or four.

Of course under these circumstances it cannot be expected that honey will realise as much per pound as in the old country, still it should produce a much higher sum than it does if beekeepers would only co-operate and do away with that curse to agricultural and horticultural pursuits, "The Middle Man." I have given as much as ninepence and one shilling per pound section of comb-honey during my short stay in Auckland, and the producer has since told me that he only obtained 2½d and 3d for the same honey. Now such a profit as this is simply preposterous. We suffered in the same way in England for a long time, until beekeepers took the matter in hand, and the result was the formation of the British Honey Company with a capital of £20,000, in twenty thousand shares, thus enabling the smallest beekeeper to become a member. The company purchases the members' honey, both comb in sections and extracted, tins being sent for the conveyance of the latter. The various classes of honey are carefully sorted for market; the best prices are thus realised, the position of the company being a sufficient guarantee of the purity of the article supplied.

The English beekeeper has here a ready market for his honey, of which he is not slow to avail himself; the company pay the vendors ready cash for their honey, and the profits at the end of the year are divided amongst the shareholders.

I must confess, however, that I felt disappointed at the loose and rough way in which many persons keep their bees. The old straw skep at home was at least picturesque, and when well covered, as was generally the case with a substantial "hackle" of straw, was not only weather-proof but comfortable for the bees both in summer and winter. The miserable gin and candle cases used here as hives by many persons present not only an unsightly appearance, but let in both the wind and wet, conducing not only to dysentery, but to that other terror to beekeepers, Foul Brood. And the worst of it is, that this terrible disease is not confined to the hive or apiary from which it emanated, but is liable to spread and cause annoyance and destruc-

tion amongst neighbouring apiaries. Such vile habitations for bees should not be tolerated, and anyone who will not keep bees properly should not keep them at all, or at all events should be compelled to keep them in hives constructed to afford them that amount of protection which would preclude their becoming a nuisance to their neighbours.

The establishment of the *Bee Journal* will do a vast amount of good, by infusing a spirit of co-operation amongst beekeepers, which will be the means of their obtaining a better price for their honey. Upwards of one hundred thousand pounds worth of honey is annually imported into the United Kingdom from America, and I see no reason why New Zealand beekeepers should not participate in the benefits which the home market affords. Comb-honey, if sent from here about Christmas, or in January, would reach home in a time of scarcity, and fill a convenient gap in the American-English market, and would, I am convinced, meet with a ready sale. I may mention that the usual retail price per pound for honey at home is one shilling, although in some old-fashioned country places I have known the price regulated by the market value of butter.

[Mr Poole, by example and precept, did much for beekeeping in England when the industry was in a very rude state in that country. He was the original inventor of the "Queen-excluding Zinc," and owned at one time the most extensive apiary in Great Britain—about 200 colonies of bees. As the founder and secretary of one of the county beekeepers' associations in the old country, and occasionally delivering lectures on practical apiculture, he is well qualified to judge of what is needed here to push the industry ahead.—Ed.]

BEEKEEPING AND BEE LITERATURE.

BY R. J. KENDALL.

I DON'T know how it is with the rest of the bee men in New Zealand, but I do know, speaking for myself, that when I met my friend Mr Hopkins one day lately at the corner of the Victoria Arcade in Queen-street, Auckland, and he told me that he was going to bring out a new bee journal, that the statement gave me a good deal of pleasure and put new bee life into me. As an old reader and contributor to Mr Hopkins' former little paper, I believe his idea will meet with favour, and further, I believe it is a necessity, if beekeeping is to amount to anything at all. The prosperity of the business is more bound up in bee literature than many think or would believe, and I found my statement on these simple facts:—In that country where there is most bee literature—America—apiculture is raised to the dignity of a profession in hundreds or thousands of cases, and this can be said of no other country on earth. Compared with the bee business in the States the puny little attempts in England, the Continent, and Australasia dwindle out of sight. And why is this? Simply because the Yankees have got the sense to see that they must keep touch of each other. They must know what they are doing, and

have a honey barometer that tells them just how things are going all along the line from Maine to California, and from the Lakes to the Gulf—nay more than that, all over the world; for actually the *American Bee Journal* does just that. Some readers may reply that there is such a publication as the *British Bee Journal* in existence. I know it; and the prosperity of the business in England and America is very accurately indicated by a comparison of the two journals. The *American Bee Journal* is like electricity; the *British Bee Journal* isn't. The one is a practical journal, full of snap, vim, go, and get up; the other is a nice, quiet evening party—white tie, swallow tail, patent leather, full dress sort of affair. In the one journal you mentally picture the beekeeper with his coat off, smoker near, in the bright sunshine, holding up a frame, and hunting for the queen; in the other you picture a staid, orderly convention of moss-backs, with ——, Esq., in the chair, assembled listening to the village parson, who is making a gilt-edged, pretty, theoretical address on the poetry and antiquity of beekeeping, the social instincts of bees, their origin by natural selection, or some other like proper address, concluding, of course, with the invariable stereotyped never-to-be-left-out-on-any-account quotation:

“There flowery hill Hymettus, with the sound
Of bees industrious murmur, oft invites
To studious musing.”

Or again—

“So work the honey bees,
Creatures that by a rule in nature teach
The art of order to a peopled kingdom.”

In fact, I have come to the conclusion that a British beekeepers' meeting, where one of these quotations was not spouted by somebody, would be considered a rank failure, and the *British Bee Journal* would refuse to print a report of it. And that is just the difference, and just where it is English beekeeping and bee literature is of the orthodox, proper, staid, respectable poetry sort, while American literature and apiculture is business, from the word “Go,” first, last, and all the time. One is theory, the other is practical. Now for Heaven's sake, Mr. Editor, make your journal practical, snappy, and to the point. It is for you to educate New Zealand beekeepers—for you to take them out of the Egyptian land of skeps and ancient usages into the promised land of honey and pollen. The business languishes. It wants new-life, vigour, new ideas, and last, but absolutely necessary, hearty co-operation on the part of beekeepers. If the bee men will give this co-operation, if they will act together, every man consider it as much a part of his duty to send his experiences or his observations and his comments to the journal as it is to say his prayers—this thing of beekeeping is going to go ahead. If, on the other hand, this report-furnishing is neglected, it's going to languish. But, fellow beekeepers, don't try to write essays. Hopkins can do that; he is full to the bung with yards of it. Put down what you do, what you see, what the other fellow says, and what you think, just as it is. Never mind grammar, or spelling, or anything else, but the

facts; get them every time. It's the Editor's duty to attend to the communications going in ship-shape. That's what he's paid for. Ask questions, and don't be afraid of asking fool questions either. The man who is, is going to get left. It is simply astonishing how many people go without information they would like to have, and which they just as well might have, if it was not for the fear of exposing their own ignorance. Besides which you ask a question. I read it and mentally say, “Ay, that's just something I thought of writing to ask,” and so you get the answer, so do I, and so does somebody else somewhere else. If we all chip in with our mite the thing will boom, and we will be happy. And there is plenty to do. It's not going to be a picnic. It's no use raising honey unless we can sell it, and it's no use selling it unless it pays. The goal in front is £150 to £200 or £250 per year anyway, and remember, we have got to get there, and we have got to get there on 100 to 150 hives—in short, make it a business. I believe it can be done, and it rests with the beekeepers of New Zealand to say whether they will do it. To do it we need a weekly or fortnightly bee journal, and we have got to make this journal live, for we can only through such a journal know where the honey glut is and where it's scarce, and so pick our market. We want to control the trade and knock the Frisco glucose honey (?) out of the ring. I was talking to a man the other day who had a fancy for going into beekeeping, but he said, pulling a long face, “I can buy honey at 3d. per lb., and I don't see how it would pay to raise honey to sell at that figure.” “I don't propose to raise that kind of honey,” I replied. “If a man wants to eat that kind of honey, it's a free country, he can do so, but not me.” You try to buy the Matamata honey at 3d. per lb. and the shopkeeper will ask you what you are giving him. There is butter, butterine and oleomargarine, and there is honey, and honeyine, and sugar and water and essence of peppermint. It's just as a man's taste goes. “But the public won't buy honey at 6d. or 8d. when they can get it at 3d.,” says one. Won't they? Does my objector take the public for “a hass?” If yes, he's out. If no, then he will see that as soon as the public is educated to buy honey, not honeyine, as it is now being educated to buy butter not oleomargarine, it will buy honey, and to give this education is the business of the *Journal* and beekeepers. Beekeepers must talk it to their customers personally, and the *Journal* will educate the public by sending copies to the newspapers in the cities and towns with articles on such subjects marked with blue pencil. So you see it will pay to have a live bee journal, especially devoted to the business, and it will pay beekeepers better than the proprietor of the paper when the sum is figured out. It will raise prices, it will make markets, and it will make beekeeping a business, a question of dollars and cents, and not a mere fad, hobby, pastime, or a “every little helps” sort of spare hours side occupation. That's what a good bee journal means to beekeeping.

[The readers of our former journal will remember Mr. Kendall as the writer of some very pithy

letters over the *nom de plume* of "Lone Star." Mr. Kendall is an Englishman, but has spent a considerable time in America, where he is well-known in the beekeeping world as a thorough practical writer on apicultural matters. He points out clearly the only way in which we can expect to build up our industry and make it something more than a mere toy business; though we cannot help thinking that Mr. Kendall has not seen the *British Bee Journal* of late, since it has been edited by Mr. T. W. Cowan.—Ed.]

THE EFFECT OF WIND ON THE INTERIOR OF HIVES.

By J. R. M.

WE doubt whether the effect of wind on the interior of a hive is fully realised by amateur beekeepers; and should the following calculations be considered reliable, it may direct the attention of some at least towards better protecting their stock from the winter movements of the atmosphere.

The normal temperature of a hive in the breeding season should be, as is generally accepted, about 85° Fahr. This is necessary (a) for the hatching of brood, (b) the ripening of honey, (c) and the prevention of loss of honey, by the extra amount consumed by the bees in order to keep up their warmth if the temperature falls. In the winter, to which we will for practical purposes at present confine our remarks, the latter only has usually to be considered; but in strict truth it demands our consideration as much as if we had also to provide for the two former. For if the temperature falls below the proper degree, the winter stock of honey is drawn unduly on, the weaker bees get killed off, and the danger of spring dwindling is increased—results which can not be held of less moment in winter, than the non-hatching of brood, and non-ripening of honey in summer.

What then is the exact effect of the wind directed towards the entrance of a hive?

The Langstroth hive contains, after due allowance for the room taken up by the frames, comb, honey, and bees, about 1,000 cubic inches of air in each full story (should any wish to estimate the effect on a reduced hive, they will observe that for each inch of reduction, he must subtract about 70 cubic inches), and this we will take as the unit of air to be acted on by the wind.

As to the wind, a scarcely perceptible movement of the air takes place, when it travels at the rate of one mile an hour. A hurricane, which would go far towards unroofing houses and *a fortiori* upsetting beehives, registers 80 miles an hour. Between these limits lie the ordinary winter winds. Five miles an hour is the rate of a light breeze, ten miles an hour that of a brisk breeze, fifteen miles an hour a strong breeze, and twenty miles an hour a strong wind. Thirty and forty miles an hour are the rates of ordinary violent half gales and gales; but as they are of short duration, we purpose confining the calculations to those lighter winds, which may be considered to last pretty steadily, after the

autumn is set in, until the spring has well advanced, say for about four months in the North Island of New Zealand, and more or less in higher and lower latitudes. We will then in one moment give the effect of wind travelling from one mile to twenty miles an hour on the unit of air in one body of the Langstroth.

As to the width of the entrance of the hive, by which the wind obtains admission to the interior, the ordinary depth of the triangular entrance is $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch, and if the body of the hive be drawn forward so that the width of the entrance internally is rather less than three inches long, then a column or wedge of wind an inch wide and an inch deep could enter, if playing directly on the front of the hive. If the internal width of the entrance be that usually allowed in winter, viz., half an inch, then the sixth part (about) of the above wedge of wind could enter.

We can now put in tabular form the approximate number of times in which the total mass of air in one story of a Langstroth hive will be changed by a wind playing at right angles on to the front of a hive; and the calculation is purposely only approximate, as fractional accuracy is of no use to the ordinary beekeeper, nor necessary for our purpose.

The numbers in the diagram denote the number of times in which, assuming no obstacle, the total mass of air inside will be completely changed in one hour. They are all below the mathematically correct figure.

RATE OF WIND PER HOUR IN MILES.	INTERNAL WIDTH OF ENTRANCE.			
	3 in.	2 in.	1 in.	$\frac{1}{2}$ in.
1 mile	60	40	20	10
5 miles	300	200	100	50
10 miles	600	400	200	100
15 miles	900	600	300	150
20 miles	1200	800	400	200

Of course the above assumes that the internal air can find its way out easily, and that no obstruction is offered by friction with the frames, combs, etc., and that the wind plays fully on the entrance. Allowance of a very considerable percentage must be made for these impediments to the change of air, which however would have to be somewhat discounted by the angular shape of the entrance of the ordinary Langstroth, which tends to gather together the wind and drive it in more than would be the case if a hole in a flat surface were presented to the wind.

But after every allowance is made, even to the extent of 50 per cent., it is a hard fact, that with an entrance of only half an inch, the whole of the warm air in the interior of the hive, where the bees are clustered, would be reduced to the temperature of a winter wind about *once every minute* in a very moderate breeze of ten miles an hour. And as it is no uncommon event for a three days' spell of cold rainy, breezy (if no worse) weather to take place, we leave it to beekeepers, who are careless

about the aspect of their apiaries, and the width of their entrances, to reckon up the number of times the bees have to warm up their bedroom.

And to put it in another way, in a case which must frequently occur, where the nights are cold. If only rough calculations are sufficiently to be relied on, during one long winter's frosty night of fourteen hours, even where the entrance is the minimum of half an inch, and the wind only at the same very moderate rate, the outside bees of a cluster would practically be in freezing temperature the whole time, as the air would be changed some eight hundred times. Fortunately, naturally or artificially, the wind seldom gets such a fair chance of doing its work; yet the possibility and occasional certainty of such an event should claim more attention than we think it does; and some breakwind or excluder should be arranged for the protection of the bees, which must certainly suffer more than is generally thought.

Nor are matters much improved if the wind blows 30° to 40° right or left of the line at right angles to the front of the hive, as the sides of the triangular rebate direct the greater portion inwards; and when the wind is 90° right or left, that is, full against the sides of the hive, even then the inside is seriously affected by the vacuum caused by the wind passing across, the cold air in this case being drawn down through the mats above.

Bees in their natural state cluster in cold weather behind many intersecting, crossing, and irregularly arranged combs, all of which tend to keep the air on cold windy nights fairly still, and prevent the sudden draught of chilly air from playing on them. The writer had recently an opportunity of opening a large old box hive with a strong swarm in it. The massive interlacing combs made him quite ashamed of having driven the bees out into a scientific Langstroth, after their clever and laborious preparation for the wintry winds. For with all its many advantages, it cannot be denied that the very place which should be warmest in the Langstroth is the very place which is coldest. The wind, if it enters at all, is driven as through the nozzle of a fire engine-mouthpiece right up the central combs, and this too (in continuous bad weather from an unfavourable quarter) for several days.

Should any one be disposed to think, that this necessary result of the wind on the interior of a hive is far too overdrawn, owing to the absence of any exit for the enclosed air, let him prepare an empty hive, or if he will, a tenanted hive, and closing one ventilating hole and the edges of the cover and bottom board with some pasted paper, place a candle at the other. Then let him observe the effect on the candle of a pair of bellows playing on the entrance. It is extraordinary how hard it is to keep wind in, or out. And if the wind does not drive the internal air out through the mats, it will find a partial exit by the bottom board, and even by the entrance itself; for air in motion gets the same sort of power over air at rest, as water in the case of the common rain, and steam in injectors.

But enough for our purpose now, if any of our readers hasten to narrow their entrances to half an

inch at least; for the larger figures in the table are too appalling to be alluded to, and carry their own lesson; and still better if they invent some temporary breakwind, so that their stocks may have a serious drawback to their welfare removed in however primitive a way during the present winter.

Matata, June 15, 1887.

Correspondence.

[These columns are open for the discussion of all matters connected with Apiculture, but the Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents, who will please give their name and address, not necessarily for publication. When referring to any previous communication, please quote month and page.]

IN NEED OF A JOURNAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—The intimation that you are about to start a monthly bee journal for the whole of the Australasian colonies is a very agreeable surprise to me. It is very agreeable because I feel strongly that such a journal is greatly wanted; and it is a surprise that you should have the courage to undertake such a responsibility after the experience you have had with the *New Zealand and Australasian Bee Journal*, which, although so ably conducted by you for two years, had then to be discontinued as imposing too serious a pecuniary loss upon the spirited proprietor, Mr. Firth. However, "Fortune favours the brave," and I sincerely hope that in this case you may be rewarded with the success which your zeal and energy so well deserve. As one who greeted the first appearance of your former bantling and took a lively interest in its career to the close, I hope I may be permitted here not only to congratulate you upon your new effort, but to offer a few words by way of exhortation to our fellow-workers in all parts of Australasia upon what I consider to be our duty in regard to the support of the undertaking.

Fortunately, when the issue of the *New Zealand and Australasian Bee Journal* ceased, an excellent agricultural paper, which is a credit to the press of New Zealand, was found to "take up the running," and to incorporate, as far as practicable, the old bee journal in a separate department of its monthly number. It must be in many respects advantageous to the honey industry that a periodical of such comprehensive aim as the *New Zealand Farmer, Bee and Poultry Journal* should contain a well edited section devoted to the apiary; it is calculated to do much good amongst farmers who keep only a few hives for their own use, and among classes of the general public who might scarcely be expected to take in a special bee journal. I hope therefore that the *Farmer* may continue to devote the same attention as heretofore to its Apiary department, and that it may find itself aided and assisted in so doing by cultivating "friendly relations" with the *Australasian Bee Journal*. We, as beekeepers, however, must see and feel that such a publication as the *Farmer*, no matter how excellent in its way, never could supply the place of a special organ of the beekeeping industry. Whether beekeepers' associations exist (as they ought to do) or not, we require a sort of *club paper*, devoted exclusively to matters relating to our pursuit, by means of which we can communicate freely with each other, with the general press of the country, and with the technical journals of other parts of the world which possess their special bee literature. We require to have these records of mutual information and instruction in a form admitting of convenient binding for future reference in as small a compass as practicable and without being mixed with a mass of extraneous matter. We in the Australasian colonies require all this more especially because of the great

difference in the natural conditions, climatic and otherwise, under which we have to work, as compared with European and American apiarists, and because of the comparative newness of the industry with us. The movement towards low prices in all sorts of products and manufactures which has been going on steadily for so many years in all parts of the world (and which, I may observe, *en passant*, I believe to be chiefly owing to far more general and persistent causes than those usually given under the head of "depression of trade") has extended itself of late in a very perceptible manner to the honey trade in the older countries, and has been reflected thence with very damaging effect against our younger industry here. If we are to struggle against and effectually overcome the difficulties which now lie in the way of making the honey industry after all an important one in Australasia (and I, for one, do not doubt that it may be done), we can only expect to do so by an energetic and intelligent co-operation between those engaged in the industry in all these colonies—and for this purpose we require above all things a well conducted and well supported special organ.

We are indebted to you for giving us this opportunity of showing whether or not we are earnestly bent upon overcoming difficulties and establishing the industry upon a firm footing; it remains to be seen how we do our part to turn the opportunity to account. If every beekeeper in the seven Australasian colonies who has any intention of continuing to practice apiculture as a business, upon a large or even upon a moderate scale, will make it his business not only to subscribe for and read your journal, but also to contribute regularly to its pages whenever he has anything to communicate which may be of value or of interest, then I have no doubt that you will be able to continue the publication in a manner which shall be not only creditable to the apicultural pursuit in this hemisphere, but must lead the way to that further and more intimate co-operation by means of Beekeepers' Associations, etc., which I look upon as essential for the welfare of the industry. I do not expect that even in that case the results can be such, in a pecuniary point of view, as to fully repay you for your risk and trouble, but I feel quite sure that anything short of such a measure of support must leave you in for an actual loss, which no individual can be expected to bear for any length of time. Therefore it is that I wish thus expressly to point out to all those who, like myself, would wish to see the *Journal* a success, that *it lies with ourselves to make it so by a trifling effort on the part of each.*

THOS. J. MULVANY.

Bay View Apiary, Katikati,
June 9. 1887.

[We, and we are sure our readers, are glad to see Mr. Mulvany again to the fore with his practical suggestions. The subscribers to the former journal will remember with pleasure the very practical articles by "T. J. M.," and we are pleased to inform our readers that Mr. Mulvany has promised to contribute regularly to our columns.—Ed.]

CONGRATULATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I haste to congratulate you on your launching another bee journal upon the apicultural waves.

Or is it a resuscitation? Most of us who were interested in the vigorous journal so ably conducted by you some time since, and who regretted its demise, will hail with satisfaction this new attempt to supply a much-needed reliable local journal of apicultural instruction. Australasia with its varied climates and resources is yet comparatively little known, even by its own inhabitants.

The *Journal* will tend to enlighten ourselves and others, and wipe away many dusty cobwebs found hanging about even in these new lands.

The Beeists of Australasia should give you a vigorous support.

Yours apistically,

CHAS. FULLWOOD.

Melbourne, June 7th, 1887.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM DUNEDIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I hear from a friend that our little proteges have "got round" you to such good effect that they are to have a trumpet all to themselves once more—and that you have consented to blow it for them. This is as it should be; and I hasten to pen you this note to say how right pleased I am, and that for several reasons. In the first place, I may say that I was always well pleased with the contents of your last journal—the *New Zealand Bee Journal*—taken as a whole; and I have no hesitation in saying that should your new venture prove no better, it should find a welcome with every bee lover. But seeing that you, like your readers, have not grown younger since those days, I think we may even anticipate an advance upon the old lines, if only as the result of that impressive teacher—Experience.

Then, again, good as the *Farmer* has proved as a stop-gap (I hope the editor of *Farmer* will take this kindly) since the *New Zealand Bee Journal* ceased, yet I have always thought that the beekeepers of New Zealand, to say nothing of Australasia as a whole, should have been well able to have supported a journal devoted exclusively to apiarian matters. To the amateur, with his dozen or so of colonies settled in the suburbs of a town, on perhaps a quarter of an acre, such a journal as the *Farmer* was more than he required, unless he contemplated becoming a general farmer. Then, again, the individual with his hundred or so of colonies wants at least one journal exclusively apiarian if he wishes to make the business he has chosen pay; and who, I ask, does not? But to do this he must be up to, or abreast of, the times, or *bee-keeping* will become a matter of *hive-keeping*.

Now, nothing helps in this matter better than a thoroughly representative journal; and knowing full well that if the beekeepers of New Zealand and Australia will only wake up and do all they can to help—that you are the man to do the thing. I send you my congratulations and best wishes for success.

I remain, etc.,

WM. CHAS. BROWN.

Albion Works, Great King-street,
Dunedin, June 16, 1887.

BEEKEEPING IN VICTORIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—A technical journal is absolutely necessary now-a-days to the progress of an industry, and there are none of any importance but what support one or more representative papers. In these days of competition, when improvements and inventions follow each other so rapidly, unless we are in a position to learn from time to time everything that is going on in all parts of the world in connection with the particular industry we are interested in, we must, perforce, get left behind. Text books are invaluable as works of reference, but they soon get out of date; journals keep abreast of the times. It was from this standpoint I hailed with pleasure the advent of your first bee journal, and I was grieved when it ceased; not so much, however, because it was incorporated with a farming and poultry journal, but because of the increased price. Labour is rather costly yet in Victoria and the price of honey low, hence we beekeepers have to keep down our expenses all we can.

About the time the old bee journal was dropped the *Australian Beekeepers' Journal* was started in Melbourne, but although the subscription is reasonable, the editors find a difficulty in keeping it going from want of sufficient support. I believe, however, that by degrees a greater interest will be taken in bee matters and that support may be forthcoming to keep two journals going.

I alluded above to the low price of honey in this colony; this is due, in a great measure, to the small demand. I am sure something might be done to increase the sales by bringing our honey, more particularly extracted honey, prominently before the public and making its value as an article of food better known; but to do so requires our united efforts. At present there is very little sale

for honey in Victoria during the summer months; very few families keep it regularly on their tables, and there is no good reason why it should not take its place with butter, jellies, and jams, and even supersede some of them. When used at all it is in the winter months, for coughs and colds; but were the general public acquainted with the good effects resulting from the frequent use of honey the demand would increase rapidly. There is honey and honey, a matter on which the public need enlightenment. They do not know the difference between extracted and strained honey; the consequence is, we that produce the pure and wholesome article can get no more for it than those who stick to the old primitive style of taking it from the bush and merely straining it, regardless of how much dirt and rubbish is mixed with their so-called honey. The expense we have gone to in procuring all the necessary appliances and our extra trouble in securing the pure article in that case counts for nothing. We must, if we wish to succeed, get over these difficulties, and no doubt much may be accomplished in this direction by a well conducted bee journal. I shall therefore do my utmost to help you to make this one a success.

I am, etc.,

H. NAVEAU.

Hamilton, Victoria, June 8, 1887.

A number of communications have been unavoidably crowded out of this issue, but will appear in our next.

Reports.

BAYVIEW APIARY, KATIKATI.

SEASON 1886-7.

THE past honey season has been a disappointing one, in this district at least. The winter of 1886 was colder and wetter than usual, but the bees passed through it without any loss or difficulty, and the stocks promised well in the spring, which was a normal one as to temperature and rainfall on the whole, but too much of the rain fell in October when the bees should have been gathering the honey of the rewa rewa. This sort of forage, which yielded so good a crop in 1885, promised very well as to blossoming in 1886 also, but the weather at the period for collection was not very favourable for either the secretion of honey or the working of the bees. The summer was hotter than even the preceding one, the mean temperature for January being nearly four degrees above the average, and with much less rain than usual. The honey flow during December and January was pretty good, but stopped quite suddenly, and the whole of February, March, and April was very hot and dry, with the exception of a couple of thunderstorms in the first of these months. The bees were unusually late in commencing to swarm, and showed little disposition that way all the time so that it would have been injudicious to encourage an increase. It soon became necessary to prevent all further swarming as much as possible, and keep the parent stocks strong. The storing of surplus honey ceased so completely in the month of February that the stocks built up from this year's swarms had little opportunity of making any good return. The tendency towards robbing became so great that it was with difficulty the last

extracting in the early part of February could be completed, and the spring take was nil.

Having united a few of the weaker stocks, after the wintering we started with 79 stocks, spring count. These were only increased to 88 in the course of the season. The whole take of extracted honey was 6,512lbs., giving an average of 82½lbs. per stock, spring count. The best hive gave 202lbs. without swarming. The ten best averaged 166lbs., and the ten worst only 26lbs. The nine stocks built from swarms averaged only 28lbs. each.

On the whole I think the past season may be said to have been as much below the average of years as to production of honey, as the preceding season was above it.

THOS. J. MULVANY.

Bayview Apiary, Katikati, June, 1887.

GLEANINGS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS, ETC.

TREATMENT OF FOUL BROOD WITH CHLORIDE OF MERCURY.

MR HERMAN NAVEAU, of Hamilton, Victoria, recently wrote as follows to the *Australian Beekeepers' Journal*:—"In the *Illustrated German Bee Journal*, from Gravenhorst, I read an article on the cure of foul brood, and it is stated therein that even with the use of phenol the disease sometimes breaks out again. Dr. Paul Jachum recommends chloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate). This remedy has been tried by several members of an Association, and the cure was so complete, and the disease was so entirely eradicated, that it never broke out again. The way it is used is as follows: All the frames are lifted out of the hive and placed in a comb-holder, and then the inside of the hive is thoroughly sprinkled with a solution of the chloride—one part in 18,000 or 20,000 parts of distilled water—with a sprayer or atomizer; then with a pin or penknife open all the diseased cells in the combs and spray them well with the solution so that it gets into the cells, and return the combs to the hive. By the use of chloride of mercury, the slimy, foul broody matter in the cells dries up so completely that they become easy for the workers to clean. After three weeks, inspect the hive again, and repeat the spraying; but should any of the combs be very badly infected it is better to destroy them, for the bees can build new combs quicker than they can clean very dirty ones, particularly if they are provided with foundations. The following is the formula:—

Corrosive sublimate,	1 part, by weight,	to 20,000	distilled water
and	1 do. do.	18,000	do do.
In very bad cases,	1 do. do.	15,000	do do.

The article is in German, which I have translated and given the substance in the above."

[The German beekeepers have given a deal of attention to the treatment of foul brood, and possibly the above remedy may be effective, as the drug is a powerful germicide. Why distilled water should be required we are at a loss to understand.—ED.]

THE EXPERIENCE OF ONE WHO HAS SHIPPED HONEY
TO ENGLAND.

SOME of our readers whom we know have experienced bitter disappointment in shipping honey to the old country, will be interested in the following letter from a Canadian beekeeper on that subject. That there is a good market in England for first-class honey there can be no doubt, at the same time there are big difficulties to get over before a foreign brand can obtain a footing there.

I am much pleased with the *Canadian Bee Journal*, and hope with the aid of booming subscriptions, to see the *Journal* increase its popularity and enlarge its sphere of usefulness. Your letters from "Peek-a-Boo" are exceedingly interesting. Your articles concerning the O.B.K. exhibit at the Indian and Colonial are in the highest degree satisfactory. I am satisfied England is waiting to receive all the honey Canada can produce, and that the amount sent to the exhibition was only as a drop in the bucket. I would suggest that a competent man be appointed in England, one who is thoroughly and practically acquainted with bees and honey, to take charge of our honey interests in England, and, if necessary, one in Canada to assist in grading, collecting, inspecting, and shipping the supply, and, if the supply can be depended upon, we have nothing to fear as to the final result. A beekeeping friend in 1879, having a large quantity of honey, requested me to dispose of it in England. I reluctantly consented. After six weeks corresponding with parties in England, who were strangers to me, I succeeded in disposing of my trial shipment by the ton, netting 9½c. with an urgent request for a much larger shipment, requesting it to be put up in forty pound cans, and not in casks, as before, promising the sales would realise 10c. net. I also sent another shipment in casks, of 300 and 500 pounds (a poor way of putting up) to a practical beekeeper who, being much pleased with it, immediately arranged to sell to large firms and other institutions, who agreed in writing, providing the supply could be depended upon, to take four tons per month the year round. Of course the honey had to be unpacked in England and put up in 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 pound cans according to the requirements of their trade. This shipment netted 9 four-fifths cents per pound. I was very strongly urged to ship all honey in future in smaller packages, it being more convenient in filling orders that every man should have his own tub, etc. My limited experience is, the individual who ships honey in casks and barrels makes a costly mistake. Canadian honey at this time was comparatively unknown in England, consequently we had to start low, with the intention of gradually raising the price, and in time would make it pay well.

Halloway, Ont., April 13, 1887.

LEWIS MARSH.

HONEY AS A MEDICINE.

LAST year a French tourist, M. Guilmeth by name, paid a visit to Tasmania; and, being much interested in its indigenous vegetation, examined the numerous varieties of the eucalyptus which flourish in that island. His investigations brought him into contact with a small black bee, which stores its honey in the *E. globulus*. He found that this honey emitted a strong odour as of gum leaves. Collecting some, he carried it to Europe for the purpose of having it analysed, and of ascertaining whether it possessed any special qualities. It was carefully studied by M. Thomas-Caraman, a well-known chemical analyst, and *Le Temps* of February 3 said that he had discovered in the honey some interesting medicinal virtues. It exercises a moderating influence on the action of the heart; it is anti-thermic—that is to say, it lowers the temperature;

it facilitates the respiration, for it is antiscorbutic; it is a febrifuge and parasiticide; and it has been found efficacious in overcoming obstinate cases of bronchitis, and even of whooping-cough. It is almost unnecessary to add that the various preparations of eucalyptus make an important figure in the French Pharmacopœia; and its therapeutic value is far from being fully ascertained at the present time.—*Sydney Mail*.

SEASONABLE OPERATIONS—JULY.

IN all but the most northern districts of Australasia bees will still be in their winter quarters, but where acacias and eucalypti are plentiful breeding will shortly commence. Provided the requisite attention has been given to keeping the hives snug during the past two months, very little will need to be done this month. Nothing more is required than to see that each hive is contracted to the size of the colony, the frames covered with an extra mat or two, and provided with a fair quantity of food. Under these conditions the bees will be active and the queens will soon commence to lay. Planting for shelter and forage should not be delayed, and seeds of the hardier kinds of honey plants may be sown this month. Hive-making should now be pushed forward to be in good time for the coming season. Those who purchase their appliances should make out a list of the material they require and send it on to the manufacturers at the end of this month or the beginning of next. Much disappointment is avoided by ordering goods early and the manufacturers are saved a great deal of inconvenience.

Special Notices.

As the *JOURNAL* will go to press about the 23rd of each month, correspondence for publication in the next issue should reach the Editor not later than the 15th.

CORRESPONDENTS will oblige by writing on one side of the sheet only anything sent for publication, and apart from business communications.

P.O. ORDERS for subscriptions, advertisements, etc., to be made payable to Hopkins, Hayr & Co., and addressed to P.O. Box 296, Auckland, New Zealand.

POSTAL NOTES for sums under £1 are the handiest and cheapest.

ADVERTISEMENTS for the next issue should reach the Publishers by the 20th of the month.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

We have posted several copies of this number to some of our friends, and we shall deem it a great favour if they will distribute the surplus copies among those people in their district interested in beekeeping. We shall be glad to send extra copies for distribution to anyone applying for them.

BOOKS, CIRCULARS, &c., RECEIVED.

WE have received from Messrs. Charles Dickens and Son, Adelaide, South Australia, THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE KEEPERS' GUIDE BOOK FOR AMATEURS, by Charles Dickens, a pamphlet of 38 pages, to which is attached the firm's price list of hives, etc.

The pamphlet contains a great deal of useful information in a condensed form, adapted to beginners, and is fully illustrated. We are, however, sorry to see so many different hives figured in it and advertised in the firm's price list. We are certain it will save no end of confusion and annoyance to beginners and beekeepers generally if we avoid introducing all sorts and sizes of hives. The pamphlet can be obtained from the above firm, post free, for 1s. 2d.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

FOR MAY, 1887.

Date.	Barometer corrected (inches)	Max. Temp. in Shade.	Min. Temp. in Shade.	Mean Temperature.	Solar Radiation.	Minimum Temp. Exposed.	Rainfall in Inches.	Velocity of Wind in Miles.	Direction of Wind.
*	29.89	63.0	51.5	57.3	116.6	40.9	5.30	115	...
†	30.01	57.2	4.05½

* Means. † Means for same month previous 20 years.

REMARKS.—A wet and disagreeable month throughout, rain falling on 22 days out of the 31. Barometric pressure considerably under the average of the previous 20 years; mean temperature close to the average; rainfall considerably above.

T. F. CHEESEMAN,
Observer, Auckland.

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¼ Column...	0	4	0	0	10	0	0	17	6	1	10	0
⅓ ..	0	5	0	0	12	0	1	0	0	1	14	0
½ ..	0	7	0	0	17	6	1	10	0	2	10	0
¾ ..	0	10	0	1	5	0	2	0	0	3	5	0
1 ..	0	12	6	1	10	0	2	10	0	4	7	6
1 Page ...	1	0	0	2	10	0	4	7	6	8	0	0

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"The AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL, which is embellished with 143 illustrations, is the most complete and practical book on apiculture that we have seen, and should be in the hands of every beekeeper."—*H.B. Herald*.

"We expected Mr. Hopkins would produce a valuable work, and in this we have not been disappointed. . . . The result is the production of the most complete book on bee keeping yet published—*Garden and Field*, Adelaide.

"We have therefore the pleasant duty of recommending the MANUAL as the newest and best bee book of the Southern Hemisphere, and, indeed, we may venture to say, the best bee book extant."—*Australian Bee Keepers' Journal*.

"The AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL is an exceedingly creditable production. . . . The information it contains is of a description the most interesting even to those who have no intention of becoming possessed of a single hive."—*N.Z. Industrial Gazette*.

"The writer of this review is well acquainted with all the different English, American, and German works on practical apiculture now in circulation, and he has no hesitation in saying that the AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL is the most complete of any yet published."—*N.Z. Farmer*.

"Mr. Hopkins stands at the head of our scientific bee keepers, and his advice is uniformly of a practical kind. In some points, indeed, such as the anatomy of the bee, in description of appliances and the diseases of bees, the book far surpasses in completeness any we have yet seen."—*Canterbury Times*.

"At a meeting of the Victorian Beekeepers' Club, the chairman (Mr. Ellery, editor of the *Australian Beekeepers' Journal*), called the attention of the members present to a new bee manual by I. Hopkins, of Matamata Apiary, Auckland, New Zealand, which had just been published. He stated he had looked through the book most carefully, and had come to the conclusion it was the best manual for Australian beekeepers. It was written by one who had had a lengthened experience in apiculture in this part of the world, and it had especial reference to beekeeping under the conditions existing in Australasia. He advised every beekeeper to obtain a copy."—*Australian Beekeepers Journal*.

To be obtained at all Booksellers.

Wholesale Agents: Bagnall Bros, Turua, Thames; J. Hatch, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne; G. Robertson & Co., Melbourne and Adelaide; J. L. Hood & Co., Hobart, Tasmania. Hopkins, Hayr & Co., Publishers, Auckland.

Circular Notice to our Friends and Customers.

We, I. HOPKINS (late of Matamata) and H. H. HAYR & CO. take this opportunity to inform our friends and the public generally that we have entered into Partnership in the Beekeepers' Supply and Commission business, under the name and style of HOPKINS, HAYR & CO., and that our office and store is situated at Lower Queen Street, Auckland.

While returning thanks for past favours, we may state that with the coming season we have arranged to keep every item in stock that will be needed in a fully furnished Apiary. The management of the business will be entirely in the hands of our Mr. Hopkins, so that our customers will have the full benefit of his varied experience and advice, if needed.

As the success of the Beekeeping industry depends on finding a ready market for the sale of honey, we intend to do everything in our power to open up markets and create a demand for it. As part of the scheme we shall establish a Honey Depôt in connection with our business, where we will undertake the tinning, labelling, packing, and sales at a small commission over actual cost. Hitherto a very great drawback to the sales of honey has been in the slovenly style it has reached the market, yet in many cases it could scarcely be wondered at. For instance, a settler with perhaps a few hundred pounds of honey, residing a long distance from town, could hardly be expected to go to the trouble and expense of getting honey tins, labels, cases, etc. The cost of these, for putting up a small quantity of honey, with freight and other charges added, would probably be as much as the honey was worth when packed, to say nothing about the trouble: consequently, it has been sent to town in any package that came handy, and that cost little or nothing, such as kerosene tins, old kegs, and other such like vessels, to find its way into the auction rooms, there to fetch little or nothing, and so disgust the producer.

It will be our aim to remedy this state of things, and relieve the small beekeeper of all anxiety with regard to placing his crop of honey on the market in proper form, and place him in a position to compete with his more extensive neighbours. By thus relieving the market of much that finds its way into the auction rooms better prices will be maintained, and a greater demand will spring up when the honey is put up in an attractive manner. By purchasing tins, labels, and cases in large quantities at the time, we shall be in a position to put up honey in the very neatest style at the most reasonable rates, and thus give our customers the benefit of our position and experience.

The prices of hives, comb foundation, and all appliances sold by us will be reduced to the lowest scale consistent with producing good articles and doing a legitimate business. A list will be made out in due course, and forwarded to all our customers, due notice of which will be given in this Journal. We have ordered a large consignment of queens from Italy, to arrive here in August next, and being in a more favourable district for early queen rearing, we hope to be able to supply queens much earlier in the season than hitherto.

In conclusion, we shall do our utmost to promote the welfare of the Beekeeping industry, and we hope, in return, to obtain the support of beekeepers generally.

We are, etc.,

Yours faithfully,

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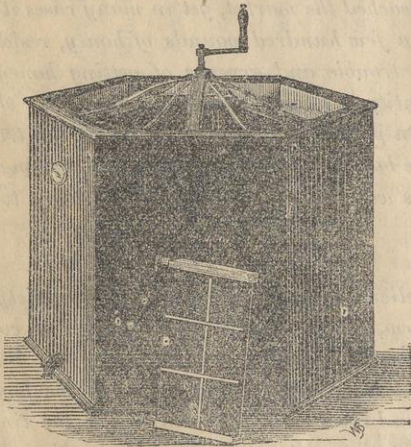
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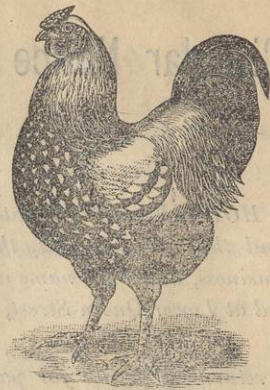
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