



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

The Australasian bee journal. Vol. I, No. 2 August, 1887

Auckland, New Zealand: Hopkins, Hayr and Co., August, 1887

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/O7F3PFPJ7VPS38A>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/>

For information on re-use see:

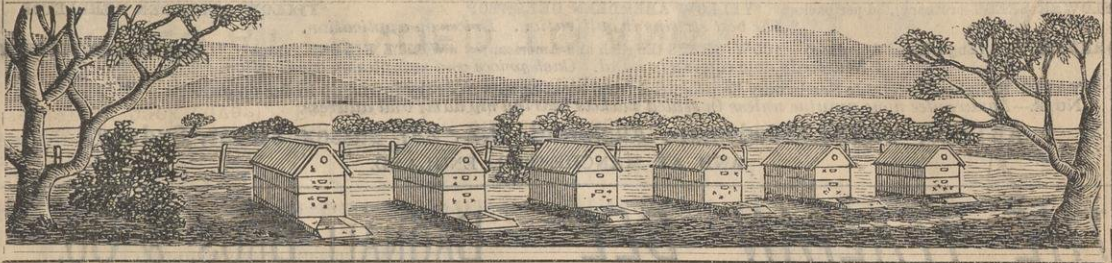
<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

BEE JOURNAL



No. 2. Vol. 1.] AUCKLAND, N.Z., AUGUST, 1887.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY
SIXPENCE.

P O. Box 296.

Telephone 285.

HOPKINS, HAYR AND CO.

Proprietors and Publishers of

Publishers of

The AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL | The AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL

Manufacturers, Dealers, and Importers of all kinds of Apiarian Appliances. Importers and Breeders of ITALIAN QUEENS. Honey Tinned, Labelled, Packed, and Sold on Commission (see circular on back cover). Estimates furnished of cost of fitting out any sized Apiary, and their laying out undertaken.

APIARIES ATTENDED TO AND KEPT IN ORDER

BEESWAX BOUGHT AND SOLD ON COMMISSION.

OFFICE & STORE: LOWER QUEEN ST., AUCKLAND.

NOTICE.

As we are holding over the printing of our General Price List until the arrival of Goods on the way from England and America, we beg to submit a few lines in the meantime. The prices of all other bee appliances can be learned on application.

HIVES IN THE FLAT.

	£	s.	d.
A case of three Two-story Hives for extractor, with frames complete	1	5	0
A case of three Two-story Hives for comb honey, with frames, section-boxes, and separators complete	1	17	6
A case of three One and a-half Story Hives, with frames, sections, and separators complete ...	1	10	0
A case of four One-story Hives, with frames complete	1	4	0

SECTION BOXES IN FLAT.

	£	s.	d.
1 lb. Boxes, per set of 56	0	2	0
Case containing 20 sets	1	13	4

FRAMES IN FLAT.

	£	s.	d.
Narrow and Broad Frames per set of ten or seven, respectively	0	0	9
Cases containing 50 sets of either, per set	0	0	8

COMB FOUNDATION.

Stout Foundation, per lb.	£0	2	3	Thin Foundation, per lb.	£0	3	3
----------------------------------	----	---	---	---------------------------------	----	---	---

WHOLESALE PRICES ON APPLICATION.

Honey Extractors, Honey Tanks, Wax Extractors, Comb-foundation Machines, Dipping Boilers, Smokers, Honey Tins, Labels, Packing Cases, and every appliance needed in a well-appointed Apiary.

YATES' RELIABLE SEEDS.

CHOICE SEEDS FOR THE GARDEN AND FARM.

VEGETABLE SEEDS, 6d per packet ***SWEDE, YATES' CHAMPION PURPLETOP** ***SWEDE, YATES' SELECT GREENTOP**
 FLOWER SEEDS (ordinary), 3d per packet ***YELLOW ABERDEEN GREENTOP** ***YELLOW ABERDEEN PURPLETOP**
**The best strains in cultivation. Prices on application.*
 †**RED CLOVER** (English and American) †**COW GRASS** (English and American) †**WHITE FINEST** (Dutch) †**'ALSYKE AND TIMOTHY**
† New seeds now coming to hand. Cash prices and samples on application.

YATES' Reliable Vegetable Seeds may be procured from local agents in every township in the colony.
 NOTE.—I guarantee none genuine unless in sealed packets bearing my name and address.

ARTHUR YATES, Seedsman, Auckland, N.Z., 237 Sussex Street, Sydney,
 AND AT MANCHESTER, ENGLAND.

THE ITALIAN BEE BAGNALL BROS. & Co.

COMPANY.

BEE FARM AT PARRAMATTA,

In charge of W. ABRAM.

OFFICE, 312 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY,

S. MACDONNELL, Secretary.

Mr W. Abram, Manager of this Company, served his time under the late Dathé, the celebrated German naturalist, and, till his death lately, the greatest living authority on bee culture.

Before leaving his mother country, Mr Abram secured a number of splendid Italian Queens, which took prizes at various Exhibitions in Europe. In addition, the Company, through Messrs Newman, of Chicago (publishers of the *American Bee Journal*), had several colonies of specially-selected Italian Bees sent from America.

Under the skilled care of Mr Abram, the Company has established the finest strains of Italians. No hybrids nor black bees are kept. All queens are carefully tested in every case for their worker progeny, and when time allows, for their queen progeny.

Price lists of Bees, Hives, Queens, etc., posted on application to the Manager or Secretary as above.

C. C. BROWN

CORNER OF

COOK AND HOBSON STREETS

AUCKLAND.

AUSTRIAN SUITE

Consisting of Couch, Four Small Chairs, Lady's Rocker and Gents' Folding or Rocking Chair. **£5 5s.**

Every description of FURNITURE and UPHOLSTERY work kept in stock and made to order on short notice.

COUNTRY ORDERS PROMPTLY EXECUTED.

Remember the Address!

MANUFACTURERS OF HIVES,

AND ALL OTHER

APIARIAN APPLIANCES,

TIMBER MERCHANTS

HAURAKI SAW MILLS

TURUA, THAMES, NEW ZEALAND.

Price Lists sent FREE on application.

N.B.—A few Foundation Machines on hand.

N.B. — Special Value in Tea.

PENNAL & CO.,

(LATE OF EPSOM),

Tea Dealers, Grocers,

AND

PROVISION MERCHANTS,

(NEXT GARRETT, BUTCHER),

EDEN TERRACE, Auckland.

THE AUSTRALASIAN



BEE JOURNAL

No. 2. Vol. I.]

AUCKLAND, N.Z., AUGUST, 1887.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
SIXPENCE.]

The Australasian Bee Journal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

I. HOPKINS EDITOR.

HOPKINS, HAYR & CO.,

Proprietors and Publishers.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION :

Per Annum (in advance) 6s.
Post Free on day of Publication.

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

Contents.

EDITORIAL—

Seasonable Operations—August	19
Beekeeping for Beginners	20
Queensland	21
Kangaroo Island and Italian Bees	22
Sand in place of Bottom boards	22
The N.S.W. Beekeepers' Association and other items, by S.A.B.	22
Beekeeping for Pleasure and Profit, by Chas. Fullwood	23
Notes from Queensland, by D. R. McConnel	23
Must the Extractor go? by T. J. Mulvany	24
Co-operation in Beekeeping, by R. J. Kendall ..	25
Break-winds, by J.R.M.	26
Honey as a Medicine, by W. C. Brown ..	27
CORRESPONDENCE—	
The Honey Market	28
The Need of a Honey Market	29
Importing Foreign Bees	29
Bottom for Hives	29
CLIPPINGS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS—	
Must the Extractor go?	30
Books, Circulars, etc., Received	30

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.

Editorial.

SEASONABLE OPERATIONS—AUGUST.

FOR NEW ZEALAND.—The winter, which has been remarkable for the amount of rain that has fallen, is now drawing to a close and we shall soon have the busy season of spring with us again. Spring in New Zealand, particularly the first two months—September and October—is very often more boisterous and cold than the winter months, and causes more anxiety with regard to the bees than getting them through the winter. Last spring was a very trying one: after breeding had progressed considerably, but before the colonies had been strengthened very much with young bees, bad weather set in and continued so long that in many cases breeding ceased and the colonies dwindled down to such an extent that nothing but uniting them—two or three together—could have saved the majority of the remaining bees. Breeding will commence early this month, except in the very weakest colonies, and a good supply of food with warmth being indispensable for its progress, attention should be given to both matters as soon as the weather permits an inspection of the hives. On the first warm sunshiny day go through the hives. First clean the bottom boards by giving them a good scraping, standing each hive, for the time being, on one placed temporarily alongside. After replacing them examine the interior, removing empty and mouldy combs, and contract the hive with division boards, leaving only as many frames between that the bees can conveniently cover. See that there is a queen to each colony, and unite those that have no queen with others that have. Be sure there is plenty of food for the bees, for a greater quantity will be needed now for feeding the brood, and the older bees being more active will require an extra share. Cover the frames snugly with say three dry mats, contract the entrances, and try the break-wind entrance blocks recommended by “J.R.M.” figured in this issue. Syrup made of good sugar and water, as follows:—Put half-a-pint of water to each pound of sugar used in a saucepan and boil for a few minutes, stirring it well all the time to prevent burning,—is a good substitute for the natural food of bees. Frames of empty combs make excellent

feeders. Lay a comb on a slight incline on a board over a vessel and let the syrup fall on the former from a perforated tin held about a foot above it; the force of falling will drive the syrup into the cells. Lift the board with the comb when turning the latter, to prevent breakage, and fill the other side in the same manner. Let the combs drain for a little while before putting them in the hives. If the syrup is lukewarm when the frame is suspended in the brood-nest it will be all the better. Evening is the best and safest time to place food in the hives—beware of robber-bees when feeding. Remember that the old bees will soon begin to die off very rapidly, and there should be plenty of young bees coming on to take their places hence the necessity of doing everything to promote breeding. Hives and all appliances needed for next season's use should be got ready within the next six or eight weeks. Honey-plant seeds may be sown this month if protected from frost, and all planting should be finished. Sow a little grass, clover seeds, and bone-dust on bare places in the apiary.

FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, (by S. A. B).—On bright warm days, open and carefully examine each hive and make yourself thoroughly acquainted with the state of the interior. If any hive has become queenless during the winter, "box" it with one of your weakest swarms, provided it has a queen. This is rather a delicate operation for a novice, except when the honey flow is at its height, when you can take the frames covered with bees out of one hive, and alternate with the frames in another without much fear of fighting, but if Doolittle's plan is adopted, it can be done at any time without the loss of a single bee. Give the bees artificial pollen; if the supply in your neighbourhood is scanty, this is done best by mixing flour with chaff in a flat tin dish with a rim round it. The chaff prevents the flour being blown away, and gives the bees a foothold while packing the pollen into their baskets. As soon as the natural supply comes in in sufficient quantities they will cease using the substitute. In the drought of 1885, the bees took the flour greedily, even the little native bee coming in for its share. Boxes should now be painted, frames wired and filled with foundation, and everything made ready for the spring campaign. Keep down the grass and weeds in the vicinity of your hives.

FOR VICTORIA (by Mr. H. Naveau).—This is the last month of our winter. Gooseberries, peaches, and early apricots begin to blossom this month. The almonds are the first of the fruit trees to flower, but as they come into blossom in the depth of winter (July), when we get our hardest frosts, they are of very little service for bee forage. The bees are very busy cleaning out their hives and getting ready for spring work. Now is the time to go through and arrange the hives in the best manner to promote breeding. As the swarming season in Victoria commences about the 12th of October, the colonies should receive attention with the object of working them up to that point at that time, from the middle or latter part of this

month. The earliest swarms come off at that time, but the weather being very changeable, we usually get most of our swarms in November, after the honey season and fine weather has fairly set in. We are troubled very much here in the spring with the detestable Cape weed; the paddocks are yellow with it. The bees gather a good deal of honey and pollen from it, but the former is not worth much as the flavour is very poor. Weak and queenless colonies should be united this month, and a good supply of food provided to stimulate breeding, and so strengthen the colonies. Prepare all necessary material for the approaching season, and send in your orders for goods without delay.

[Generally speaking, the instructions given under the head of "Seasonable Operations for New Zealand" will apply to most of the other Australasian colonies, particularly New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, but as there are some slight differences between the seasons, and a great deal between the flora, it will be more satisfactory to our subscribers to give short monthly instructions separately for each colony. By the kindness of "S.A.B.," and Mr. Naveau we have been able to commence with New South Wales and Victoria in this issue, and are making arrangements to include the other colonies under this head shortly.—ED.]

BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS.

No. 1.

It has been suggested that we should commence a series of short articles dealing with the elementary principles of the art of modern beekeeping, for the benefit of beginners, a suggestion we gladly take up. Though there may be nothing in these articles that cannot, in a general way, be gleaned from a good standard work on modern beekeeping, we may be able to drop a few hints as we proceed, not usually found in such works, that will enable beginners to avoid going to unnecessary expense, or falling into the errors they are liable to. Experienced beekeepers can afford to pass these articles, and as they will not occupy much space the more interesting portion to them will not be much curtailed.

The modern system of bee management is so simple that an intelligent person, with an earnest desire to master the art, can make himself very efficient in one season. Correct judgment on many points, however, can only come with extended experience. A person intending to keep bees, whether a colony or two for observation and amusement, or a large number for profit, should first of all purchase and read up a good standard work. The best are those recently published, among them *Root's A.B.C.*, *Cook's Manual*, and *The Australasian Bee Manual* are most to be recommended. The latter, however, is best adapted for beekeepers in these colonies, as it deals with the climate and local peculiarities of each colony, and the seasons, which are directly contrary to those of the northern hemisphere. A patient study of a work of this kind will convey a clear insight into the various branches of beekeeping, and enable the

beginner to judge intelligently how far it may suit his purpose to go into the matter, whether it is worth his while to take it up as a business or merely for amusement. In either case it will be an advantage to pay a visit, if convenient, to an apiary already established and worked on the improved system. Much may be learned in this way in a very short time. We have frequently had amateur beekeepers visit us who acknowledged to have learned more in half an hour at our apiary than they had after reading two or three books.

Beginners should always bear in mind that it is best to "go slow" at first. Frequently beginners grow enthusiastic and are eager to go in on a large scale the first season; this, when put in practice, is a mistake that is not easily rectified afterward, and generally leads to disappointment. The practical knowledge for working a small number of colonies to the best advantage should be acquired before attempting to work a large number. From two to five colonies will be found quite sufficient for the first season. The larger number will probably be too many if the person who is to look after them is engaged in some business that takes him away every day during the honey season. It is a very great mistake to have more colonies than can be properly attended to. Two colonies will give greater satisfaction and yield a larger profit, when well cared for, than ten partly neglected. We have known farmers, for instance, get a good number of colonies together, and just when they should have been looked after, that is, in the swarming and surplus season, some other work on the farm required their attention; the consequence was, no profit from the bees, the apiary in a disordered state at the end of the season, and the owner disgusted. Better to give the increase away or let the swarms go rather than be at the expense of providing hives for more than can be attended to.

To clergymen, schoolmasters, postmasters, and railway station masters, in country districts, who have some spare time on their hands, and mostly at home, beekeeping should be specially attractive, as offering a light, instructive, and profitable employment which needs but a very small outlay to begin. In fact, no farm or country settler's house should be without its hive or two, if only to provide honey for family use. Honey is a good substitute for sugar for all household purposes, and we know of more than one family wherein sugar has not been used for some years. Nothing is more healthy for children, and if more of it were given to them, in the place of the butter, treacle, and jams, now used, they would be much the healthier for it.

The question has often been put to us, "Will such and such a district do for beekeeping?" We may say without hesitation that any habitable district is suitable for bees. Some of course are much better for the purpose than others, and many would not be suitable for establishing large apiaries in, but there are none where man resides that a few colonies could not find a living and give some profit to their owner. White clover yields the finest honey, and perhaps of all cultivated plants the greatest quantity, so wherever

there is plenty of that, and a variety of other vegetation, it is a good district for bees. The greater portion of the native flora in all the Australasian colonies yield a large quantity of nectar, but, excepting a few instances, notably some of the eucalypti (gum trees), the honey is not nearly so good as that gathered from cultivations. The quality of the honey to be obtained in a district, as well as the quantity, is a point that must be studied by those who contemplate going into beekeeping on a large scale. It would be more desirable to get less in quantity of a good quality, than more of an inferior kind. There need not be any anxiety about a district where it is only intended to keep a few hives of bees.

QUEENSLAND.

It is with a great deal of pleasure we note that our friends in and around Brisbane are working well together for their mutual benefit. From a file of the *National Association Journals*, kindly forwarded by Mr. D. R. McConnell, the editor of the Apiary Department, we learn that very great interest is taken in the monthly meetings of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, where some very interesting papers are read and questions affecting the welfare of the beekeeping industry discussed. The Queensland honey markets, like our own, appear to be in a disorganised state, and the price of good honey low in consequence; the cry is co-operation.

Queensland has proved itself a grand country for apiculture; reports of crops of honey have been given equal to some of the best takes in California, and for the quality of some of the eucalypti honey gathered there we have had proof, and can answer for it being delicious and all one could wish. Mr. McConnell kindly sent us two samples a short time since; one from his own apiary and one from Mr. Edman's. Both were excellent, but one labelled "white gum" was, we thought, equal to the best we have ever tasted. Notwithstanding that such a fine article of honey is offered at a reasonable price the sales are slow, and the reason appears to be the same there as elsewhere. The public require educating into a knowledge of the value of honey as food, and for various domestic uses. It is curious to note that while the local article seems to be going a-begging the "Customhouse returns of honey imported into Queensland in 1885 from different parts amounted to 42,550lbs., valued at £1,243, on which a duty of £365 6s. 1d. was paid" (furnished to the *Journal of the National Association* by Mr. E. Cusack).

Our friends were troubled last autumn by their bees swarming out and decamping "over the hills and far away," which seems to have puzzled them somewhat to account for the cause. We venture to suggest that the colonies were starved out; we never knew or heard of colonies leaving their hives through any other cause.

The Jubilee Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition, to be opened in Brisbane on the 16th of August, promises to be a grand affair, judging

by the value and number of prizes given. There are no less than 645 classes catalogued, with two prizes in each class ranging from 200s. to 2s. 6d. There are six classes in the Bee and Honey division with a "Jubilee Cup," value 10 guineas, to be given to the most successful exhibitor in these classes. We shall be anxious to learn who is so lucky as to carry off such a valuable prize.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

KANGAROO ISLAND AND ITALIAN BEES.

MANY of our readers are no doubt aware that some eighteen months or so back an Act was passed in South Australia setting aside Kangaroo Island as a breeding station for Italian bees. The object of those who interested themselves in getting the Act introduced and passed, was to secure a spot where imported Italian queens could be isolated and the breed kept pure. It was a capital idea, and gave the islanders a rare chance of securing a monopoly of the Italian queen trade throughout Australasia. It was with pleasure we anticipated the certainty in the future of getting any number of pure queens we required, within a month or so of the order being sent, landed successfully at our apiary. Much to our surprise and disappointment, however, we learnt, some few months ago, that nothing had been done in the way of rearing queens by the islanders, and we were compelled to send to Italy again for breeding queens, with the risk of having but a small percentage of them landed alive.

Kangaroo Island possesses natural advantages for beekeeping that has attracted the attention of many well-known beekeepers, and being situated almost at the nearest point of call in Australasia of outward-bound steamers from Naples and Brindisi, it appears to be in every way suitable for making headquarters in these colonies of the Italian queen trade. It is rather astonishing to us that some of the leading beekeepers about Adelaide have not taken the matter up and started a queen-rearing apiary there. If two or three were to join in establishing such an apiary, with a competent person to work it, say on shares, we feel sure that it would pay handsome dividends. In such a place and with such advantages, queens could be raised for less than one-half the usual cost, and if from 6s. to 8s. each could be obtained for all that could be raised after the apiary was well started, it would pay far better than raising honey, though the honey secured from the same apiary would go a long way toward paying working expenses. We can only hope that some of our South Australian brethren will move in the matter and get on the track of that coming bee, *Apis Australis*.

SAND IN PLACE OF BOTTOM BOARDS.

SINCE the last issue we have noticed in a work on Polish beekeeping that sand is recommended and used in Poland as a stand for hives. The stands

are prepared by raising the earth at each hive two or three inches above the surrounding level; an inch of clean dry sand is then placed on top of each elevation and beaten down smooth and firm. Round the outside edges of the mounds some dry chips or moss is placed, and this again covered with earth well stamped to prevent insects burrowing under the hive.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE N.S.W. BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, AND OTHER ITEMS.

By S. A. B.

LET me congratulate you on the first issue of the *Australasian Bee Journal*. The exterior is neatness and simplicity itself, and its subject-matter must be heartily welcomed by all lovers of apiculture, when you include such names as Mulvany, Poole, Kendall, and Fullwood among your contributors.

You will be glad to hear that the N.S.W. Beekeepers' Association is an accomplished fact, and that a copy of your journal was placed on the table at the last meeting. Taking all things into consideration the meeting was well attended, and the members were evidently prepared to work and to assist the association to the utmost of their power in carrying out its objects. Mr Angus Mackay, Instructor in Agriculture, N.S.W. Technical College, has been appointed president; three vice presidents, a committee of twelve, and two sub-committees of three each were appointed, one of the latter to draw up a code of rules for submission to the general meeting, and the other to inquire into the subject of the adulteration and sale of adulterated honey in the market. I think it is well that this subject is receiving such prompt attention, as there seems reason to believe that a great quantity of glucose is being imported under the guise of honey, and it is even whispered that certain manufacturers are taking the business out of the hands of our little friends and manufacturing honey themselves. If this is so, and there seems to be little reason to doubt it, it only shows how very necessary it is that *all* beekeepers, whether using the bar framed hive or not, should co-operate, if for no other purpose than to aid the Association in this one object, to prevent the adulteration of one of nature's greatest delicacies. It would be well, I think, if the Association were next to turn its attention to the suppression of the "middle man." Mr. Poole's remarks on the subject were very much to the purpose, and I had an opportunity last week of proving how very true they were. I was purchasing fruit at a stall in the Sydney Market, when a lady came up and asked the price of some comb-honey lying on a plate; she was told that it was one and sixpence per pound. I am afraid I did not succeed in keeping the extreme disgust I felt from showing itself in my voice as I said, "What! do you charge eighteenpence a pound for that stuff?" for it had evidently been taken from the top of the brood nest, and the honey

that was leaking out on the plate was discoloured and looked anything but nice. "Oh, yes! it's comb honey," was the reply. "What will you give me for honey in section boxes?" I asked. "Fivepence, or if it is *very good*, sixpence." I bowed my thanks and departed, perfectly resolved that that individual should never get one of my nice white sections for sixpence. Now, don't you think five hundred per cent. on the original cost is a little *too* much for any "middle man" to expect? I know they have high rents to pay, but have not we producers our expenses too? We have to pay rent, and to pay for our hives and implements, and even for labour, for the bees don't do everything, as some people seem to imagine. I know I never saw a swarm that could manage an extractor, or a comb mill, or even do the canning and bottling to my satisfaction. So I really cannot see why the lion's (and lioness') share should go into the pocket of that dreadful "middle man."

I am afraid I cannot give you much information about the bees. Our winter seems only now to have set in, frosty nights and cold bleak winds are the order of the day when it is not raining, but occasionally we have a calm bright day when the bees appear in thousands laden with pollen, for the wattle is beginning to show its yellow blossoms in sheltered nooks, and the bees have found it out. The warmth and moisture of last month deceived some of the eucalypti tribe, and made them think it was spring, for they came into blossom, but I don't think there was much secretion, and I fear these bleak winds have nipped them in the bud.

Sunnyside Apiary, N.S.W.

[We are indeed glad to hear that an association has been formed in your colony, and congratulate the members on their discernment in the selection of Mr A. Mackay as president. We hope the secretary will forward, from time to time, an account of the meetings for publication in the *Journal*, particularly the result of the inquiry into the matter of adulterated honey. We are afraid we cannot do without that dreadful "middle man," but we must certainly try to overcome the evils connected with his dealings so far as we are concerned. Co-operation, and the establishment of association honey depôts, appear to be the best means of doing it.—Ed.]

BEEKEEPING FOR PLEASURE AND INSTRUCTION.

BY CHAS. FULLWOOD.

THERE are several inducements to men, ay, and women also, to enter upon beekeeping, as in some other pursuits, once entered on, it becomes more and more fascinating, the more so the more deeply the nature, habits, and history of the insect are studied and become known.

To-day, much more than in years gone by, are bees kept for the profit (money gain) that can be made of their products, the results of their marvellous industry and skill, in gathering from nature some portion of her stores, that to mankind would be, to a great extent, lost but for these wonderful insects.

Quite right, brother beekeepers, exercise your ingenuity to secure as large returns as possible from the treasury of nature; with unflagging energy pursue your honourable occupation, use your millions of tiny toilers to the utmost of their capabilities in the attempt to gain a competency for yourselves and those depending on you. Treat the little workers kindly, house them snugly, when necessary feed them liberally, manipulate them carefully, not to say scientifically, and they will reward you abundantly.

But hold on. All who become beekeepers do not anticipate monetary return. We call to mind many honourable names who devoted much time and spent much in gratifying their taste for bee culture, and who gave to the world the result of their study, observations, and experiments that have led up to the present vastly improved methods of apiculture.

Whilst there are doubtless many persons who exclaim, "I would not keep bees, and submit to their terrible stinging propensities, but for the profit I make of them," there are others who are quite content to take the stings with perfect composure, because of the gratification afforded by the marvellous displays of ingenuity by the insects, and the wonderful provisions discovered to be made by Nature (?), the Governor of Nature, to meet the thousand-and-one exigencies arising during the history of a single colony of these insects.

The various bee journals, now becoming numerous, are constantly presenting something new, or unobserved, or unnoted, tending to throw light into the "mysteries of the hive."

The anatomy of the bee, the construction of the cell or comb, the nature and properties of honey before and after gathering, the uses of honey in nature, the place honey should occupy as food for man, the most wonderful economy of the hive, the assistance man may render in developing the best possible qualities in the bees we employ, the hives we use for profit and study, the implements we use to assist in our work, to lighten our labour and the labour of the bees, are all matters that will engage the attention, and afford pleasure to the keeper of bees, and be a means of mental and moral improvement, whether or not profit is sought. Beekeeping does keep many a man from vicious courses, tends to promote industrious habits, and enlarges one's views of the wisdom and unapproachable skill of the Great Creator.

Melbourne, June 5th, 1887.

NOTES FROM QUEENSLAND.

BY D. R. McCONNEL.

RECEIVE first my earnest congratulations on your spirited attempt to renew your journal. You march straight ahead for high bee-culture, and in doing so give example and encouragement to others. Though your journal is written, for the most part, and published in New Zealand, its influence has been, and will be, widely spread through all the colonies. "What's in a name?" It's what's under it we care for.

I may safely say that, whatever was the con-

dition of beekeeping in Queensland four years ago, it is on the high road to "the most scientific American method" now. "Modern" beekeeping is practised by more than one can count on one's fingers, and yet there are not many beekeepers in Queensland. We formed a Beekeepers' Association last August, 1886, at the annual Agricultural Exhibition in Brisbane, which numbers over thirty members. We have monthly meetings, to which some of us travel over sixty miles, when papers are read, new and old methods discussed, and much business arranged. We have induced the National Association to multiply by four their entries for exhibits under Honey, Bees, and Beekeeping Materials; and we appoint one of the judges for the show. Our improvements, to be taken in hand at once, are the commencement of a museum and a library. We intend also to ask the Government to make arrangements for sending bees by post, which is now impossible. So you see we have not "died ere scarcely born."

We have had a couple of pages of the journal of the National Association for ourselves since last September; and have now arranged for the same in the *Planter and Farmer*, a monthly agricultural paper. There is not support enough yet for a bee-paper alone. I send you a few back copies, and hope you will think our pages worthy of an occasional word from our friends in New Zealand. Our greatest loss has been Mr. Fullwood's leaving for Melbourne. He was the ablest writer among us and perhaps the greatest enthusiast. We hear of him in the *Australian Bee Journal* of Melbourne sometimes.

It has been remarkable that while you were complaining of the drought we had our season almost spoilt by wet. We had had a drought before that for four or five years; and the rain will have done good for the next season. I am not sure how much our crop, mostly from eucalypti, depends on the rainfall. Clover, of course, fails certainly without rain; but these gum trees of ours don't seem to mind how dry the ground is. Indeed, some varieties never bloomed at all last year, apparently because the rain came when their flowers should have opened.

Now that we can organise our work and observation through the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, we hope to be able by and by to present a complete report of the different times of flowering and the value of our honey trees.

I shall be taking too much of your space directly, so *Au revoir*.

Gootcha Bee Farm, Brisbane.
June 24th, 1887.

[Many thanks for your kind remarks: we shall endeavour to make the influence of the *Journal* such that every beekeeper in these colonies will feel that he cannot do without it. We can sympathise with you in the loss of Mr. Fullwood, though in this case your loss is somebody else's gain. We often recall with pleasure the remembrance of his visit to Matamata. A report of your association meetings will be very acceptable, and we wish the Queensland Beekeepers' Association every success.—Ed.]

"MUST THE EXTRACTOR GO?"

By T. J. MULVANY.

SUCH is the heading of an editorial article in the May number of the *American Apiculturist*. That "wonders will never cease" is a trite saying, but it occurs at once to my mind as most applicable when I see men amongst the American beekeepers, a class who have stood out prominently as not the least progressive in a proverbially progressive nation, coming forward with the proposition to do away with the extractor in order to raise the price of honey to its former standard! At the close of an article about the various sorts of hives in use, Mr. W. F. Clarke says:—"I do not use the extractor, hence do not want a hive specially adapted to it. If some one were to poke me up to do so, I might perhaps tell why; but it would be apt to stir up a hornet's nest." To this the editor adds in a note, "Someone ought to stir up a hornet's nest if it will be the means of preventing the general use of the extractor, as in our opinion the extractor is the cause of low prices for honey." Accordingly, in a subsequent page of the same number, he proceeds to poke at the hornets with the question above quoted, which he at once answers himself by designating the discontinuance of use of the extractor as "one of the wisest suggestions yet advanced by anyone," the grounds given for that opinion being, "We think the price of honey began to decline as the extractor came into general use." Further on he adds, "we believe better prices would be realised in less than one year, if the general use of the extractor be discontinued. Is not this the most practical and only remedy?"

I am curious to see how the American hornets will deal with this question in future issues of the *Apiculturist*. In the meantime I cannot resist the impulse to give what appears to me to be the very obvious answer.

The thing is simply impossible! When a great step of decided progress is once made in any branch of art or industry, there can never be any question of retracing it. Why, of course the price of honey began to decline when the extractor came into general use! How could it be otherwise? The use of the extractor rendered it possible to obtain 50, or in some cases 100 per cent. more honey from one hive of bees than before, and that in the form best suited for general purposes, *i.e.*, where honey is required without wax, and in the form best suited for long keeping, and for cheap and convenient packing. The extractor, in fact, rendered it possible to make the production of honey an important industry. As well might you think to raise the price of wheat by giving up the use of plough and harrow and returning to the more effective but greatly more expensive spade cultivation, or that of cotton and other cloths by abandoning all power-looms, or to bring back the pleasant days of high prices for pig-iron by giving up the hot-blast and the use of gigantic coke furnaces, and brighten up the steel trade by ignoring all the inventions of Bessemer, Gilchrist, and Thomas!

But would "better prices be realised in less than one year" if it were possible by any magic influence to demolish the extractors in all parts of the world, or to make all beekeepers forget that such a machine was ever in use, or (what I consider to be the most impracticable of all) to induce them, with their present experience, to refrain from its use? I fully believe that the result would be rather the reverse. If all those who now use the extractor were to give themselves up to the production of comb-honey, that article would be everywhere a drug in the market, the demand for it being, in the nature of things, much more limited than that for extracted honey, which can not only be cheaply transported to any distance as common freight goods (which is not the case with section honey, no matter how ingeniously it may be packed), but also can unquestionably be produced and sold at a profit at prices which would be ruinous for comb, and can therefore be used by thousands who could not afford to pay such a price for the latter as would make it worth the trouble to continue its production.

The movement towards low prices in all articles of human consumption, from wheat, beef, and mutton, down to cheese, butter, and honey, as well as in all raw materials and manufactured goods, has been going on steadily for many years. I believe it to be chiefly owing, not to any ordinary "depression of trade," but to causes that are still operating, and will continue to operate, so that no great reaction to high prices is to be expected, although some fluctuations will naturally take place, and some things that are now unreasonably low will recover a little. To enter fully into the discussion of this question would be unsuitable to the present purpose. I believe the movement is a necessary and beneficial one, tending towards "the greatest good of the greatest number," although necessarily involving, during the period of its working, much loss and inconvenience to some. But whatever may be the causes, or however it may eventuate, we cannot check the movement as regards the honey trade, by such expedients as doing away with the extractor, or ignoring its value as a means of producing cheap honey. There is no use in closing our eyes to facts, or in "kicking against the pricks." We must, on the contrary, continue our endeavours to produce as much honey as possible, in the best condition, and at the lowest possible cost. The great question to be solved is, At what selling price, and by what judicious measures for bringing the article within reach of all probable consumers, can we obtain a ready market for *all* the honey we can produce? If this can be done so as to leave a moderate margin of profit to pay for the time and trouble of the beekeeper; then the more people employ themselves in that way the better it will be for themselves and for the public. How such a ready market can be established is the nut which all bee journals, beekeepers' associations, and individual beekeepers have got to crack. To start such ideas as that of raising prices by wilfully depriving ourselves and the public of the advantages of one of the greatest modern improvements in the economical working

of the honey industry, can only have the effect of misleading people and can only end in disappointment.

P.S.—Since the foregoing was written the June number of the *Apiculturist* has come to hand, and I am glad to see that most of the leading beekeepers who have as yet noticed the question thrown out by that journal have expressed almost exactly the same ideas as those given above.

[Of all the suggestions we have yet seen put forward to better the condition of the honey trade, doing away with the honey extractor is the most insane. If it were not to show how sensible men sometimes lose their heads over matters they are deeply interested in, the subject would scarcely be worth noting.—Ed.]

CO-OPERATION IN BEEKEEPING.

By R. J. KENDALL.

I LIKED the last *Journal*; it had the right ring about it; and as a good start is half the race, I feel encouraged. The last issue contains hints and lines which, if carried out, I am convinced will rejuvenate apiculture in this province, and other provinces too, if they follow the same programme. Obed Poole struck the keynote in the fourth paragraph of his article; and I suggest that my readers drop this number of the *Journal* right here, get last month's, and read that paragraph before going any further. Circumstances alter cases and demand various treatment; and I am convinced that under the present circumstances in New Zealand one of the secrets of our future success in beekeeping is co-operation. I have not room to argue this question out here, so the reader must please accept my statement when I say I do not write the above without having given the matter thought. The old axiom that "competition is the life of trade" is one of the greatest fallacies ever written. Instead of the life it is the death, the cut-throat of trade, and its logical ending is the bankruptcy court. It does not even mean "the survival of the fittest," and almost assuredly the reverse. It means the survival of the most rascally, the most skilful in trade tricks, in under-selling, adulteration, and imposition—a game in which the honest man will go to the wall sooner than the cheat. Competition has been put on its trial and found faulty; it has been weighed and found wanting; and every company that ever existed is a recognition of the fact. On the other hand, co-operation has never failed once where it has been fairly tried on its merits and unhandicapped. Co-operation is fated not only to nurture beekeeping, but also to be the salvation of the world. So much as preliminary and general: now for the particular industry we are interested in—beekeeping.

The second note is struck in Hopkins, Hayr and Co.'s advertisement on the last but one page of the *Journal*, and my readers should also go through that again, and then, taken with Mr. Poole's remarks, they will probably get my idea. We want to combine part of the advertisement with the paragraph, amplify them, and we have the scheme.

The result of this would be that the beekeepers would raise the honey, extracted or comb, and ship it to town. Arrived there it would be taken hold of by the town agent, and by him graded, canned, and sold. The town agent would or should supply tins, or kegs to the country beekeeper for transport to town; and as these tins or kegs could be used by several beekeepers (any man could have his own if he desired), there would be a saving in this as well as in tins. In town there should be a wholesale and retail house combined, with honey always on sample; and if the depôt was made striking by some taking device it would soon attract notice, and get known. The next thing would be to have an association label to put on the honey of all members. Added on the bottom of the label might or might not, as members should prefer, be a small slip-label with the mere words, "From the apiary of John Jones, Rangitoto, N.Z.," indicative of the apiary it came from. The honey would thus be in pleasant shape for the retailer, and the raiser would reap the benefit, without sinking his identity, while the association's label would be a guarantee of the grade and quality. If the honey was graded top and bottom market prices could be obtained; and if the retail stores were well canvassed the association honey would soon be known; and once tried asked for a second time, and would after a little, I feel sure, drive out the inferior kerosene tin and slovenly blotched comb-honey. There might also, at trifling cost, be furnished retailers with a tasty honey rack, so painted or devised that it could not be used for outside jams or marmalades without exposing its illegitimate use, and yet at the same time furnishing a mute advertisement that it was the association's honey rack, and that the honey was all sold. Then, again, as another means of controlling the market and driving out inferior grades, to encourage trade, and induce sales, if a retailer would not give an order he might be furnished with a small quantity of honey "on sale or return," paying only for what he sold, and returning the rest, etc. Such a plan would be preferable to the honey remaining unseen and unknown. Each member of the association would, of course, be given a receipt for honey received, with its grade, and the price of it as sold. The auction would be avoided, and the only middleman that would interpose would be the necessary one—the retail dealer. Then, also, the association might have a canvasser who should canvass private houses, not with a pack, but with samples, orders taken and delivery to follow. I have come to favour this idea for the reason that I have found to my surprise that this colony likes its articles gilt-edged and "respectable," and will pay a higher price for its fancy. In the States it makes little or no difference; and I think the purchaser prefers to purchase from the beekeeper himself rather than the fancy shopkeeper. But then the Yankee is practical, and prefers his honey, like his whisky, neat. Then, again, he has found out that the broom with the painted handle is often the rotten or poor wood one. On the other hand the New Zealander, with all his old-country fads and prejudices, likes the nickel-plated article, and

pays for it. But the subject is a big one, and sufficient for the day is the dose. At the same time I want every beekeeper to take hold of this idea and think over it, and then write to the editor and tell him just whether you agree with it or not, and say what you think. I myself propose to go into the association as a beekeeper (not as a town employe); and if, my reader, the scheme has faults in it, tell me. If it's not good enough for you, it's not good enough for me; and, another thing, I'm not a bloated capitalist (I wish I was), but a poor man who cannot afford to pay 1½d. for a penny article. I'm in the same swim with the poorest of you all, and I only want what will pay. I've no money to fool away, and I have no axe to grind in this thing except the axe that cuts the firewood for the crowd.

[This question of a honey market scheme is the most important we have to deal with, and it is going to be well ventilated before we have done with it. We are pleased to see so many in earnest over the matter; good must result from the discussion. There is just one item in our friend's letter he has possibly overlooked. If we are to get our honey placed for sale in every shop, which, no doubt, is the best thing we can do, we must not appoint a house-to-house canvasser, or we shall have the shopkeepers refuse to take our honey at once.—Ed.]

BREAK-WINDS.

By J. R. M.

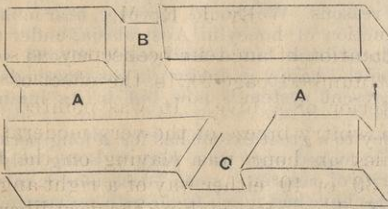
THE attention of amateur beekeepers was called in the last number (page 9), to the effect of wind on the interior of a hive. It was pointed out that, when a wintry breeze of the very moderate rate of ten miles an hour was playing on the front, or within 30° or 40° either way of a right-angle to the front, of a hive, after making the very liberal allowance of some 50 per cent. for internal obstructions, *the whole mass of air inside is changed once every minute.* And this too takes place, when the entrance is only one half-inch wide inside. Thus in windy weather the normal temperature of 85° or 80° is being constantly lowered to the temperature of the air outside to the great detriment of the stock. The winter's supply of honey is unduly drawn on. If brood is being hatched, it is liable to be chilled, and all the ill consequences of dead brood may follow. The chance of spring dwindling is increased. These facts, it was hoped, might lead to the use of some temporary break-wind, even if it took the form of pieces of broken bricks. Let somewhat more radical and scientific break winds be now considered.

I. First as to the natural break-winds at hand. A warm sheltered valley with a northern (in South latitudes) aspect at once commends itself, as the best locality for an apiary. A belt of forest trees would offer somewhat the same advantages. It is not, that there is in consequence no wind playing on the hives. Far from it. But the steadiness of the wind is broken; eddies neutralise one another; the main bulk of the wind is forced upwards; and

thus the constant steady stream of cold air, which must so try the bees in exposed situations, is rarely ever possible.

II. Secondly, much may be done by judicious planting of honey-producing and other plants between batches of hives. It has been urged that hives should be placed in groups of seven, six arranged round a central one; that is two in front, three behind, and two in the rear. If round such groups shelter hedges of acacia, box-thorn, etc., were planted, not only would the force of the wind be in all cases broken, but the bees, as they come home, would have some protection from birds and dragon flies.

III. Thirdly, purely artificial break-winds come up for consideration. The enormous advantage of the extreme fewness of the parts of the Langstroth hive makes it undesirable to add anything, except for the gravest reasons. Whether the chilling effects of wintry winds is a grave reason or not must be left to further experiments. In England, where the climate is not so cold as in the Northern States of America, but still at times very severe, and (what is even worse) very damp, beekeepers have had to consider the question. One of the devices adopted need only be alluded to here, as it combines pretty well all the advantages of the others, has the merit of great simplicity, and could perfectly easily and indeed with greater ease than in the case of English hives, be adapted to the Langstroth. The following diagram shows the principle:—



ENTRANCE BLOCK (SHOWING UNDERSIDE).

It is a piece of inch wood, six inches long, and two inches wide. On the under side a groove (AA) half an inch in width, and $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch high, is ploughed out the full length. From this a half inch passage (B) into the hive is cut, and in front an oblique passage (C), just missing the hive entrance, is formed. The break-wind is then pressed against the hive entrance and left during the winter months. It will be observed that from whatever quarter the wind comes, it cannot drive straight into the hive, and that in two cases out of three, the suction power of the wind is diminished by half. The bees have free exit, and (what in England, and the snow districts of Australasia is of great consequence), the glare of snow does not entice bees out to die of cold.

It was mentioned above, that this break-wind could be adapted with greater ease to the Langstroth, than to the ordinary English hives. The advantage of the Langstroth lies in this. The body of the hive could be brought forward and made to hold tight the break-wind, by the latter having a small rebate made on the hive side, so that half an inch of it could lie under the hive. In

the English hives, tacks have usually to be used, and in large apiaries this introduces an undesirable and troublesome detail. It may be well by the way to add, that of course for the Langstroth the break-wind would have to be made with an angular rebate at each end, that it could lie in the triangular entrance rebate of the bottom board; and moreover the two ends of the central air passage (AA) would have to be $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch high, so as to clear the level of the bottom board. A stock of such things would not much hamper the beekeeper. They would stow away in a small space in the summer, and be easily and rapidly placed in position, when overhauling the hives just before the winter.

The first means then of meeting the evil under consideration is one rather for those who are commencing an apiary, and have a choice of sites. The second can be adapted in any apiary, and this spring would be an opportunity of providing against the next winter. The third plan is one that should be well experimented on, and adopted at leisure, if found practicable and useful. Two equal hives, one with such a break-wind, and one without, in an exposed position, should be carefully watched, and the comparative state duly noted; the consumption of honey compared; the vigorosity of the bees in spring, and the date of their swarming taken into consideration. If warmth has anything to do with their wintering well, there can be little doubt of the result.

Matata, July 8, 1887.

[There would need to be a piece of board sloping from the front of hive to outer edge of entrance block to prevent the bees alighting on top of the latter, and so missing the entrance. A specimen of the above break-wind adapted for the Langstroth hive can be seen at the office of this journal.—Ed.]

HONEY AS A MEDICINE.

By W. C. BROWN.

I WOULD like to take advantage of your columns to address the apiarists of Australasia on a subject which is worthy of, but has received little of their attention.

Dear Friends,—The reprint in the first number of this *Journal* of an article from the *Sydney Mail* entitled "Honey as a Medicine," gives some force to the idea I have long held, and which I mooted in the *Farmer* some few months ago, viz., "That some attention might very usefully and profitably be given in the endeavour to find out a medicinal use of some kinds of honey." When I say some kinds of honey, you will please understand me as referring more particularly to many kinds that are now counted as injurious, or even poisonous, when partaken of in ordinary quantities as an article of diet, and which are generally gathered from the bush, plantations, etc., in some particular places at certain seasons, and are not to be classed with unwholesome honeys made so by careless storage, etc., etc. It will be unnecessary for me to mention any particular kinds, as most of you will be able to call to mind some—perhaps gathered in your own

locality—that as an article of diet is looked upon as almost too dangerous to throw to the pigs, some kinds producing one set of symptoms, some another.

Now concerning these honeys, I wish our friends, instead of rejecting them, would endeavour to find out if there is not some medicinal use for them. I fancy I hear our friends say, “How do expect us to do that? Do you wish us to experiment on ourselves, so that you may calmly consider the *post mortem* results?”

Now, friend Apiarist M.D., you who should and do take an interest in this department of the business, and who would immortalize your name by inaugurating a new system of therapeutics, say the word, and let our rural friend with the honey that “causes a burning sensation in the pit of the stomach accompanied with heat of the mouth, and dryness of the throat, etc.,” send along a sample stating known symptoms produced by *eating* it (don't say *taking* it), from whence supposed to be gathered, etc., and let us know the result.

Friend, that honey you got in the bush last season, and of which you ate perhaps a pound, and was afterwards laid up sick thereby two or three days, and of which you and yours have warned the neighbourhood not to touch, might in certain cases, if administered in proper doses, prove a specific to the saving of a life. You smile, and seem incredulous. Let me remind you of the *Monkshood* from which we obtain that valuable pharmaceutical preparation *Acon. Nap. Tinc.*, or again of the deadly nightshade, from which we obtain the various preparations of *Belladonna*, both of which are proved specifics in certain cases when rightly administered. I tell you, friends, it is only a matter of time when much of that honey now supposed to be fit only “to be taken and destroyed,” may yet prove to be of even more value than that prized from a gastronomic point of view.

Because I believe the beekeepers of Australasia are in earnest, and on the *qui vive* to know all and the latest that can be said about bees, hives, honey, etc., and that they intend to make use of this journal as a means of conveying their ideas to one another, is my sole reason and excuse for putting forward this subject for a little consideration.

So, now, come friends, send along what you *know* and what you *think*, only carefully distinguish the one from the other, and endless confusion and trouble will be saved us all.

But here I must stop. I had almost sat down in your chair, Mr Editor. *Lapsus calami*. I think I have partly opened the case. What have our learned friends to say?

Dunedin, July 13, 1887.

[To know without doubt the true value of the different varieties of honey, from a medicinal point of view, would be of great benefit to the industry of beekeeping. There seems to be a deal of ignorance upon the matter at present, even among those whom one would suppose it their business to know all about it.—Ed.]

SUBSCRIPTION CREDITS.—On receipt of a subscription the date to which the subscription is credited will be indicated on the wrapper of the first number mailed, which please accept as an acknowledgment.

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.]

THE HONEY MARKET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I am very glad to find you have come out with another bee journal; all the subscribers to the former one you conducted should at once rally round it and give you their support. There can be no doubt it has come at a very seasonable time, for there is nothing our industry needs so much at present as a well-conducted journal devoted exclusively to its interests. The infant has my best wishes for a long and prosperous life.

The present state of the honey market demands the attention of every beekeeper; and it is to be hoped that some of the most thoughtful and able writers among us will discuss the question through the columns of the *Journal* with a view to elicit the best ideas we can with regard to improving it. In the meantime I will endeavour to put forward my own views on the subject.

There can be no doubt that our industry has shared and suffered with others in the universal depression; but this does not entirely account for the present state of the honey trade. Honey, which of all sweets is the most wholesome and nourishing, and which one would suppose should be sought after before the detestable modern compounds called jams and syrups, occupies a position in the markets far inferior to them. How is this? It cannot be the depression that has placed honey in this position. We must look farther for the cause or causes. I will state what to my mind appears to be among the principal reasons. We should, however, bear in mind that the production of honey in Australasia, under the new regime, dates back but a few years, beyond which we come upon the happy-go-lucky gin case methods; therefore the present system is now but in its infancy with us.

1. Honey to a great extent has for a long period back, and still is, looked upon as a luxury, being only used in the majority of cases on “state” occasions or in sickness. High prices have had much to do with preventing a more general use of honey, though this does not hold good now. The prices fixed, however, by the old Beekeepers' Association, as we can now see, were too high, which tended greatly to prevent an increasing demand proportionate to the increased production, and so upset the balance of supply and demand to a great extent.

2. A very large proportion of the local honey, both comb and extracted, has reached the markets in the past in such a slovenly state that respectable dealers set their faces against having anything to do with it, and in many cases the look of the messy stuff in all kinds of vessels has disgusted both dealers and consumers. The consequence was it all found its way into the auction rooms to be sold at any price. Perhaps the worst result of this is that very few grocers, in Auckland at all events, now keep honey in stock, and when asked the reason, they tell you they “cannot sell it while so much is being sold at such low prices at auctions.”

These are then some of the causes of the present state of the honey business, and as our industry entirely depends on the demand for our product, unless we take steps to remedy the evils we cannot expect it ever to advance beyond the backward state it is in at present. Nothing can be accomplished without perseverance. I will now briefly give my ideas with regard to what I consider needs doing.

In the first place, whatever else we may do, we must get our honey by some means into every grocer's shop in the colony, and see that it is always kept in stock at these places. Before, however, we can succeed in doing this, we must take steps to properly grade our honey, and have it put up in neat and business-like packages. If

these are made attractive the shopkeeper will see that they have a prominent place in his windows or on his shelves. I shall state in my next what I believe would be the best plan to adopt to ensure all our honey being put up properly and in the cheapest manner. Everything possible must be done to bring and keep our product constantly before the public, and in a short time we might expect to find it entering every household as a staple commodity. But while there is no business-like organisation among us, but the majority working one against the other, it will be impossible to improve upon the present state of things.

Yours, etc.

G. A. G.

Dairy Flat, June 16th, 1887.

THE NEED OF A HONEY MARKET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have received the first number of the *Australasian Bee Journal*, and am well pleased with its appearance, and glad that again a special organ in the interests of beekeeping has been started. I need hardly say, I wish it success. Its success means success to the bee industry, which is now in a somewhat languishing condition. The chief cause of this is the unsatisfactory state of the honey market. Indeed there can hardly be said that such a thing exists; consequently, persons who have produced honey find it almost impossible to sell it for any price, but quite out of the question to do so at a price that will leave a profit to the producer. This being the case, the inducements to prosecute this industry with energy are sadly wanting. I am glad, therefore, that Mr. Hopkins, who is the father of scientific beekeeping in this colony, intends to devote considerable attention to this question. It is the question, above every other, to the apiarist. The difficulties to be overcome are neither few nor small, but I know no one better qualified to undertake the task than Mr. Hopkins, and I have confidence that improvement will soon be manifest.

The first thing required is a really good article to offer to the consumer, an article so good and so well got up as to attract the attention of the buyer, and give satisfaction in using. This is the beekeepers' part of the business, and unless the greatest care is given to it, the efforts of the seller will be unsuccessful. Then the public taste must be educated, and a greater local demand encouraged. I have greater hope of the local markets than the foreign. In this, the *Journal* and the press generally will be found of great assistance. The preparing, classifying, and packing will require much skill and care, but, until this is properly done, and the honey put upon the market according to its qualities, the possibility of disposing of our honey in any market will not have been established. I trust that every one interested in the production and sale of honey will second the efforts of friend Hopkins in every possible way.

The season just passed has not been a good one by any means, consequently the quantity of honey for sale will be less than in a good season, and prices should be better. I have heard of but few who have an average crop, while many have but little surplus, and their stocks weak, and foul-brood has been prevalent in some districts. From Tasmania I have very bad accounts: scarcely any surplus, while many have had to feed their bees, and others have lost all their stocks through foul-brood. Considering the many drawbacks to the beekeeping industry, concurrent with the general depression, it is, I think, matter for congratulation that a journal has been started, and that a skilful and practical man has come forward to push the interests of the industry.

L. J. BAGNALL.

Thames, July 15, 1887.

[We certainly have reason to feel proud over the many complimentary remarks passed upon us in the *Journal*, and trust that we may be able to carry out the scheme for the benefit of the industry we have sketched out in our own mind, and so deserve a continuance of the confidence reposed in our abilities by Mr. Bagnall.—Ed.]

VICTORIA.—IMPORTING FOREIGN BEES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—During the month of August, 1884, I sent an order to Mr. F. Benton for Italian queens, but as it was late in the season and snow on the ground at Munich when my order arrived, it could not be attended to that season. The next season Mr. Benton would have sent the bees, but could not ascertain from the agents at Naples what steamers would call there until it was too late again; but Mr. Benton not wishing to disappoint me again, mailed me a Cyprian queen in a cage, accompanied by 35 workers. This one arrived in Hamilton, Victoria, on the 18th May, 1885, safe and sound. Only five of the workers were dead. I successfully introduced the queen, but the bees did not seem to like her very well, and in about a month's time she was superseded, and soon died outside the hive, after I had made a fruitless effort to save her life. The following season Mr. Benton was at Cyprus, and detained there through ill health. Mr. Benton forwarded a consignment of Italian bees addressed to me to Naples, but as the cholera was in Italy at that time the captain of the steamer would not take the bees. When Mr. Benton was informed of this mishap he sent me from Cyprus a box containing one Palestine and seven Cyprian queens. Those arrived here in Hamilton, Victoria, on the last day of September last. The small box containing the Palestine queen I opened first, and oh! what a spectacle! All the bees were dead, and were sticking to the bottom of the box in liquid honey. In the corners of the box were several small butterflies I thought at first, but by closer inspection I discovered that they were the so-much dreaded bee-moths (*Galleria cereana*), and imbedded in the honeycomb were numerous larvæ of the same insect, hence the cause of the liquid honey in the bottom of the box. I did all I could to prevent the importation, or rather the acclimatisation of this pest. When I opened the next box the sight was about the same. At the third, I found one queen and two workers alive, but almost dead. I got five queens alive out of eight. I set to work to introduce them on Mr. F. Benton's own plan. The weakest one of the lot I introduced to a comb of hatching brood, and this was the most successful of all for the time being. The others I introduced to full colonies, and to all appearance they were well received; but when I inspected the hives again I found, to my great displeasure, that the workers had commenced queen cells, and I therefore concluded that the queens were killed. Three days after I looked over those hives again, and I found that the workers were destroying the cells. Oh! I said, if that is it, there must be a laying queen in the hive, and it proved correct. In three hives there were Cyprian queens laying, and they all did pretty well for some time. The best of all made preparations for swarming, and therefore I put the queen excluder zinc before the entrance, but to no purpose; the queen got through and the swarm came off, but owing to the zinc being before the entrance the swarm was but small. The second swarm was larger, but the young queen was lost by mating. A few weeks after this, to my great dismay, I discovered that all my Cyprian hives but one were foul-broody, so therefore my hopes of success were blighted once more. I made, however, a few healthy nuclei, and have now two original queens alive and four young ones reared here.

H. NAVEAU.

Hamilton, Victoria, June 13th, 1887.

[With one thing and another you have been unfortunate in your venture, but we wish you success in the future. We have warned those importing bees to be very careful in opening the boxes lest there be any moths ready to fly and make their escape (page 276 *Australasian Bee Manual*).—Ed.]

“THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL.”—The above Manual, supplied in one dozen packages, securely packed in case and placed free on rail or steamer at 25 per cent. off published price. Special rates for four dozen or more. Circulars containing opinions of the press, etc., for distribution sent with them.—HOPKINS, HAYR & Co.

BOTTOM FOR HIVES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—One of your contributors is about to try sand as a bottom for hives. Has she ever watched a loaded bee toiling over particles of sand? I would suggest that she should experiment with common earth, wetted and beaten flat and hard, which would be an excellent disinfectant; and also with a sheet of newspaper placed over the dry sand, and renewed pretty often, which would give a good footing for the bees, be warmer for their feet, and be a cheap bottom board substitute.

Yours, etc.

J. R. M.

Matata, July 8th, 1887.

CLIPPINGS FROM FOREIGN JOURNALS
ETC.

"MUST THE EXTRACTOR GO?"

WILL it be believed that the above query has actually been put forward in an American bee journal and seriously considered by the editor and several leading beekeepers? The idea of some of them being that the extractor, by enabling beekeepers to largely increase the production of honey, has been the means of bringing down the price of that article to less than one half what it was some years ago, and this is their reason for seriously considering the question of doing away with it. Shade of Major von Hruschka! are the beekeepers of America going mad? The low price of honey seems to have affected their brains. The Editor characterises the suggestion to discontinue the use of the extractor as "one of the wisest and most important suggestions yet advanced by anyone." That man should be helped to a straight-jacket and be confined before he does any serious mischief, for the person that could back up such an insane suggestion must himself be insane and is not a fit subject to be at large.

"O Science! to what point have you brought us beekeepers to? To that point where we stand ready to condemn you. You, Major Von Hruschka, and you, Father Langstroth, have both been the means of increasing the production of pure honey by your infernal inventions, and notwithstanding that we have hitherto lauded you up to the skies and worshipped you as gods of the beekeeping world, our eyes have now been opened to the evil you have done under the guise of benefiting us. Away with you and your extractor, and movable comb hives, we will have no more of them, but return to the strained honey age, and our primitive forms of beekeeping. *O miseris hominum mentes! o pectora caeca!*" APIS, in *New Zealand Farmer, Bee and Poultry Journal*.

HONEY PLANT SEEDS.—We have a supply of the following:—Figwort, Spider Plant, Giant Mignonette, Catnip, Limnanthus, Douglasii, a herb similar to Catnip, Horsemint of Texas, and White Sage of California. Any of the first six varieties, 5d. per packet, post free, or a packet of each for 2s. Horsemint and sage, 1s. per packet, or a packet of each variety, including the latter, 3s. 6d. post free.—HOPKINS, HAYR & CO.

BOOKS, CIRCULARS, ETC., RECEIVED.

FROM MESSRS. GEORGE NEIGHBOUR AND SONS, of 149 Regent-street and 127 High Holborn, London, their sixty-eight page illustrated catalogue of hives and apiary appliances. There are somewhere near thirty different hives shown, ranging in variety from the slightly improved straw-skep to the modern "British Invertible Bar-frame Hive" on the Heddon principle. Some improved "Invertible section cases" are also shown, together with every implement beekeepers require, and the prices are very reasonable. The catalogue is nicely printed, and contains a well arranged table of contents; it is sent free on application to the firm.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have been obliged to hold over several communications till next issue. H.T.A., Waipawa, may rest assured that we shall give all the information on the cure of foul-brood we can gather, for we have always looked upon this disease as the greatest drawback to successful beekeeping we have in the Australasian colonies. Mr Herman Naveau may be able to enlighten us as to what remedies are used and found most successful among beekeepers in Germany.

LECTURE ON BEEKEEPING.

AN interesting lecture on "Bees and Beekeeping," was delivered by Mr. O. Poole, at the Industrial Exhibition Rooms, Auckland, on July 21st, a report of which will appear in our next issue.

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.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

	Single Insertion.	Per Quarter	Half Year.	One Year
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
One Inch	0 2 0	0 5 0	0 8 9	0 15 6
Two Inches	0 3 6	0 8 9	0 15 6	1 5 0
1/4 Column...	0 4 0	0 10 0	0 17 6	1 10 0
1/2 ..	0 5 0	0 12 0	1 0 0	1 14 0
3/4 ..	0 7 0	0 17 6	1 10 0	2 10 0
1 ..	0 10 0	1 5 0	2 0 0	3 5 0
1 1/2 ..	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

1s. 6d. FOR NOTHING

To every BEEKEEPER in this Province.

Cut this out, enclose a stamped envelope with your address, and you will receive a **SHILLING IN COIN** or **1s 6d IN GOODS** by return post.

This is to settle a dispute between Mr Hopkins and myself. He says it pays to advertise; I say it does not.

J. M. MCLACHLAN
DRAPER
212 QUEEN STREET.

IMPROVED

LANGSTROTH BEEHIVES.

SMOKERS, COMB-FOUNDATION, EXTRACTORS,

AND EVERY REQUISITE FOR THE APIARY.

T. G. BRICKELL

BATH STREET, DUNEDIN.

My patent device for reversing frames is easily fixed on frames already filled with comb requires no alteration of hives or frames, and gives universal satisfaction.

PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.

CASH BUYER OF BEESWAX.

M. J. ROGERS

Upholsterer and Cabinetmaker

KARANGAHAPE ROAD.

Country Buyers of Spring Mattresses and Suites should see our prices and samples before purchasing elsewhere.

REPAIRS IN ALL BRANCHES.

Country Orders immediately attended to. Price list sent on application.

JOHN REID & CO.

26 QUEEN STREET, AUCKLAND

DEALERS IN BEESWAX.

Also, Exporters of Flax, Fungus, Timber, and Gum.

TELEPHONE No. 370.]

[TELEPHONE No. 370.

WAVERLEY HOTEL

QUEEN STREET (ADJOINING RAILWAY STATION)

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The above Hotel is one of the largest in the City of Auckland, and for the accommodation of families and travellers is unsurpassed.

HOT, COLD, AND SHOWER BATHS.

Tram Terminus and Busses to all parts of the City and Suburbs.

G. I. PANTER, PROPRIETOR.

ODLUM & SMITH**Coppersmiths, Gasfitters**

HOUSE and SHIP PLUMBERS,

TIN, ZINC, and IRON-PLATE WORKERS.

SPECIALTY.

Having imported machinery for making all kinds of **HONEY** and **JAM TINS** we are prepared to supply these articles at the **LOWEST PRICE** in any quantity.

Took **FIRST PRIZE** at the Exhibition for Honey Tins

NEAR THE DOCK

LOWER ALBERT STREET,**AUCKLAND.****AUSTRALASIAN BEE MANUAL.**

A few Copies of the above, slightly spotted on the covers, otherwise in good order, free by post, 4s 9d each, or 4s when sent with other goods.—Hopkins, Hayr & Co.

“N.Z. & A. BEE JOURNAL.”

A few Copies of Vol. I. of the above Journal, bound in cloth, free by post, 4s.; original price, 8s.—I. HOPKINS, P.O. Box 296, Auckland.

SEED, GRAIN, AND PRODUCE MERCHANTS. JAKINS & SON, Customs Street, Auckland

HAVE ALWAYS ON SALE OR TO ARRIVE—

Oats, Short, do. Danish, do. White Tartarian, do. Black Tartarian, do. Dun Tartarian; Maize (White and Crushed), Wheats (Seed), Winter and Spring, do. Fowl, do. Milling; Barley (Feed and Seed), Grass Seeds and Clover of all descriptions, Bonedust (Jl Brand), Superphosphate and Guano, Onions, Butter, Bacon and Hams, Bran, Sharps, Chaff, Potatoes (Derwents), do. Kidneys, do. every Seed Variety; Flour (Wood's), in sacks 100's and 50's, do. Meek's, in sacks 100's and 50's, do. Kaiapoi Milling Company's, in sacks 100's and 50's.

ADDRESS: JAKINS & SON, AUCKLAND.

Telephone 471.]

[P.O. Box 37.



Telephone No. 209.

Telegraph to New-market.

NURSERY.—First-class Nursery Stocks of all descriptions cultivated for sale by the undersigned, embracing Fruit Trees and Plants, Shelter and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Hedge Plants, Climbers, Bulbs, and plants of all kinds; Native Plants, Ferns, etc., for Home planting and for export in warden cases; Plants for Bee Pasture, etc., etc.

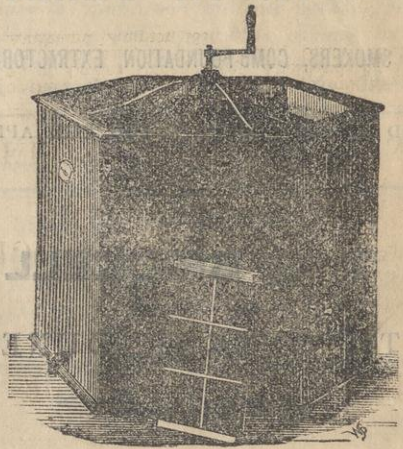
SEED WAREHOUSE contains the best and most reliable Seeds obtainable of all descriptions of Agricultural, Vegetable, Flower, Bee, and Hedge Seeds, Seeds for Bee Pasture, and all sundries and appliances for the reduction of insect pests, etc., etc. Seed Potatoes in very choice kinds, and all other Garden Roots.—**C. T. WREN**, Mount Hobson Nursery and Seed Warehouse, Remuera, Auckland, N.Z.

BRANSTON & LEE

Coppersmiths, Plumbers, Gasfitters,

BRASSFOUNDERS, HYDRAULIC ENGINEERS, &c.

HONEY EXTRACTORS
of the most improved kinds.



MADE TO ORDER.

CUSTOM STREET,

NEXT THE DOCK.

AUCKLAND.

F. STEPHENS

Boot and Shoe Manufacturer

136 QUEEN STREET

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

PRINTED for the Proprietors and Publishers, HOPKINS, HAYR, AND Co., of Lower Queen-street, Auckland, by HENRY BRETT, of Auckland, at his Printing Office, Shortland-street, Auckland, August, 1887.

WYANDOTTES.



WYANDOTTES.

America's latest production and general favourite as the best all-round fowl.

HANDSOME YOUNG BIRDS FROM THE

Finest American Strains, £3 per pair.

Despatched on receipt of P.O.O.

EGGS, £1 PER DOZEN.

T. B. HILL, Auckland, N.Z.

KIDD & WILDMAN

Booksellers & Fancy Stationers

ENGLISH, AMERICAN, and COLONIAL
PERIODICALS SUPPLIED.

COUNTRY ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

VICTORIA ARCADE, AUCKLAND.