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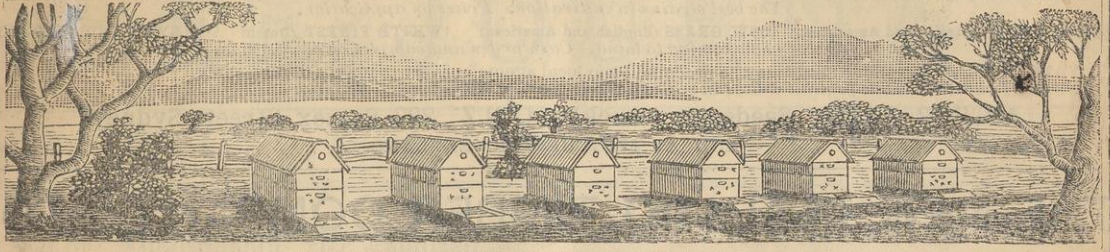
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*R. G. Luff*  
*9/5/88*

# BEE JOURNAL



No. 1. Vol. 11.] AUCKLAND, N.Z., MAY 1, 1888.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
SIXPENCE.

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# THE AUSTRALASIAN

# BEE JOURNAL

No. 11. VOL. I.]

AUCKLAND, N.Z., MAY 1, 1888.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY.  
SIXPENCE.]

## The Australasian Bee Journal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

I. HOPKINS ... .. EDITOR.

HOPKINS, HAYR & CO.,

Proprietors and Publishers.

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## Editorial.

### SEASONABLE HINTS FOR MAY.

ALL work for the season in the apiary should be finished this month, and the hives made snug for winter. Anything left undone now in the way of finally fixing the bees up in a proper manner for passing through the winter months, will result in a loss to their owner. About the end of the third week in May winter may be said to commence, and from that time till they should have the spring overhauling—at the beginning of August—the less the hives or bees are interfered with the better. Unless something extraordinary should occur, which an experienced person can soon detect in his periodical rounds among the hives, they should not be touched beyond examining the mats once a week or so, and removing damp ones.

### WINTER STORES.

If the instructions for the last month or two have been carried out, there should be a good winter supply of food in each hive, but should they have been neglected the food supply should have attention *at once*. A bee tent should be used when going through the hives if there is any danger of robbing, and one cannot be too careful at this time of the year. Any food required now should be given in the form of syrup, and as fast as the bees can take it. Directions for feeding have already been given. The quantity of food required per colony for winter stores depends very much upon the district, varying from 15lbs to 30lbs. In a good sheltered locality near the sea coast, where there is some winter bee forage about, the lesser quantity would probably be sufficient, while in colder or exposed districts, or for instance where there is little forage but clover to depend upon, 30 or 35lbs would not be too much. It is a very good plan to hold over to spring some well filled frames of honey, to put in the hives after breeding has commenced. It saves a lot of trouble and is about as cheap as feeding with sugar syrup. Where winter forage is abundant, too much dependence should not be placed upon it, as the weather may prove stormy just at the time of blossoming, and so prevent any nectar being gathered. To repeat what we have often stated, it is always good policy to keep the bees well supplied with food.

### CONTRACTING HIVES.

Surplus boxes not occupied by bees should be removed, cleaned, painted if necessary, and stored away for winter. The painting can be done through the winter if more convenient. Where there are colonies barely sufficient to cover all the frames in the lower hives, the latter had better be contracted with division boards so as to crowd the bees together to conserve

## Contents.

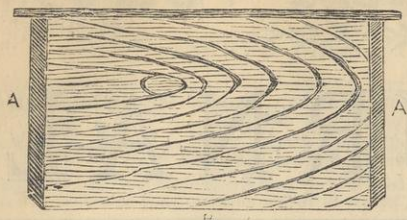
### EDITORIAL—

Seasonable Operation for May	163
Beekeepers' Associations and Bee Journals	164
The Foul Brood Act and the Inspectorship	165
Lecture on Bees and Beekeeping	166
The English Honey Market	166
Is the Ventilation of Hives yet Perfected? By J. R. M.	166
Why He did not want the Foul Brood Act	168
Jottings, by Lamh Dearg Erin	169
Bee Gossip, by O. Poole	169
Binders for Journal	170
Foul Brood Legislation, by W. C. Brown	171
New Zealand Beekeepers' Association Rules	172
Beekeeping in Ireland	172
Auckland Honey Market	172

### CORRESPONDENCE—

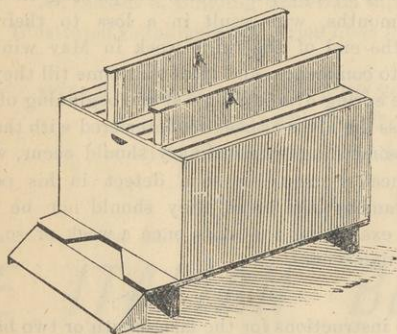
The Petition, etc.	173
A Beginner's Experience	173
Notes from Hawke's Bay	173
Foul Brood Act	174

the heat. Division boards for the Langstroth hive, like the one shown in the following figure, can be made out



DIVISION BOARD.

of a 9 inch board ; it does not matter about the thickness, whether three-quarters of an inch or an inch. They should be made to fit the hive nicely, to shut out the cold air from the unoccupied space and to prevent the escape of warm air. The width of the board should be 8½ in., and the length 18½ in. On one edge nail an ordinary top bar as shown in figure, the projecting shoulders of which should just rest on the tin supports to keep the board in position. If the ends and bottom are bevelled it will make the board handier for fixing in the hive and prevent crushing bees. The following engraving shows the method of contracting a hive with the division boards. We consider division boards among



the most useful appliances one can have in an apiary. In spring, when breeding commences, and it becomes so necessary to keep up the heat of the hive, nothing will tend to that end so much as crowding the bees together. A cool evening just after sundown is the best time to put in the division boards, as the bees are crowded together and none running about in the way.

#### MATS.

A good supply of mats should always be kept on hand, so that if by any chance those on the hives get damp, dry ones can be put on in their place. We find the most useful mats are those made from stout wrapping material ; they are sufficiently porous, warm, lasting, and cheap. Importers of wall papers generally have plenty of it. An extra mat or even two may be put over the frames now and they should fit nice and snug. Entrances to hives may be contracted as the cold weather sets in and it should be seen that the covers are free from racks.

#### FUMIGATING COMBS.

Spare combs when taken from the hives should be put away where the bee-moth cannot get at them. If there is a proper room or closet for them, put them in at once and fumigate them with sulphur ; in a fortnight or three weeks after. In the absence of such a place the bodies of hives will do ; hang them in these an inch or so apart and pile the bodies on one another pasting a strip of paper round the joints and put a close cover on top. If any sign of bee-moth appears during the winter, put a few wood embers in an iron pot or other suitable vessel, place it on top of the upper frames, throw on a handful of sulphur, and put the cover on at once. The fumes of sulphur being heavier than the air will soon find their way down through all the combs and kill all insect life that may be amongst them.

Timber for hive making should now be seasoning ready to be made up later on. Those who make their own hives will find it much cheaper and handier to buy their frames and sections from the manufacturers.

APIS.

### BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND BEE JOURNALS.

We have long been of opinion that the proper duty of beekeepers' associations and bee journals is to jealously guard the rights and claims of the legitimate beekeeper, to promote his interests in every reasonable way, and to prevent as far as possible an indiscriminate rush into the beekeeping ranks. There can be no doubt that the unsound state of the beekeeping industry in all countries at the present time is due in a very great measure to the encouragement given by journals and associations to all and sundry to become beekeepers. Self interest has in many cases been the chief inducement, with the journals at all events, while the associations, under a mistaken notion of doing good, have induced thousands to take to beekeeping who were totally unfit for the pursuit. Past experience clearly proves that probably not more than one person out of twenty who makes an attempt at beekeeping turns out a successful bee master, and that every one who turns out a dabbler does more or less injury to the business. The dabbler is the person who sets up a few hives of bees, and for the first year or two, while the thing is a novelty to him, gives some little attention to them, but finding that attention is actually necessary to success he soon grows tired of the pursuit and works his bees in a spiritless sort of manner. In a good season he may turn out a few hundred pounds of honey, and this he will send into market, most likely to be sold by auction, in any vessels that come handiest to him, to fetch any price it may. By and by foul brood attacks his bees, but the first idea of something being wrong with them only occurs to him when his colonies begin to die off. All hope of obtaining any more honey from them is given up, the bees are abandoned to their fate—to die a lingering death—and the diseased combs and boxes are left on their old stands for other bees to enter and become infected. These are the people who have done most of the mischief from which we are now suffering, who have brought the price of honey down below its fair value, and who have been the means of spreading disease. These are the people among others we have been encouraging to start beekeeping, to the ruin of the beekeeping industry.

It is quite time bee journals and beekeepers' associations adopted other tactics and put the whole matter before the public in its true light. Hitherto it has been the custom among journalists to laud beekeeping up to the skies and make out that immense profits are to be derived from the business, while no one knows better than themselves that for every *successful* beekeeper there are hundreds of failures. It should be the first duty of those who have the management of journals or associations to devote their energies to creating a greater demand for the beekeepers' produce, and

not encourage others to go into the business while the struggle is so severe for those already in it. We do not wish to be understood as objecting to farmers and others keeping their hive or two to provide honey for family use, so long as they give their bees the necessary attention, and not allow their hives to become a hot-bed of disease, but we contend that there is no room for any more in the business of raising honey for market at present.

We are glad to see that the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association has been wise enough not to adopt that old stereotyped formula as one of its "objects," viz., "To promote an interest in the science and practice of bee-culture amongst the general public, etc., etc." We have had rather too many of the general public join the beekeeping ranks. If we try to induce them to become consumers of honey instead of producers it will be more to our benefit.

With regard to shows and public demonstrations, we think that some reform is required in these; that in future it will be much better for beekeepers to confine themselves to exhibiting honey and wax, and if hives and bees are to be exhibited let it be by dealers, if they wish, who have them for sale. It may be very interesting to visitors to watch the manipulation of bees, and have all the various appliances that constitute the beekeepers' stock-in-trade explained to them, but very little practical good can come out of this to the beekeeper who finds his honey slow of sale, but a great deal of harm will result, however, when those he has given the information to become his competitors in the business.

#### THE FOUL BROOD ACT AND THE INSPECTORSHIP.

WHILE paying a flying visit to the Waikato districts last month we were very much surprised to learn from a prominent apiarist that several beekeepers in his neighbourhood had raised an objection to signing the petition sent out with the last issue of this journal. It appears that an idea had somehow got into their heads that one or more individuals who are taking a prominent part in the movement were more interested in getting themselves appointed as inspectors under the Act than in any benefit the passing of a Foul-brood Act might be to the industry. They thought that a good billet would be open for some one if such an Act came into force, and that some one was already working for it. It clearly shows how easily it is to be mistaken, and how cautious one should be in passing judgment on the actions of others. Now, to let our readers into the secret of the inspectorship as arranged in the draft of the proposed Foul-brood Act drawn up by the Committee of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, it would be injudicious to publish the whole of the draft until the Act has been laid before Parliament, or we would willingly do so.

The Sub-Committee recognised at the outset of framing the Act, the difficulty of providing for inspectors; they knew it would be absolutely useless to ask the Government to place a sum on the estimates for the payment of such officers, as the

same thing had been refused last session in connection with the Codlin Moth Act. They felt also that any arrangement of appointing inspectors without providing for *some* remuneration for their time and trouble in carrying out the duties of the office (as was suggested through the *Journal*) would turn out a dead letter. For a time there seemed to be no way of getting round the difficulty, and that the present unsatisfactory state of things must continue.

However, what cannot a body of intelligent men accomplish when cornered in this way? In this case, at all events, the Committee, by dint of perseverance, appear to have extricated themselves from the difficulty, and hit upon a scheme whereby the proposed Act is made workable at very little expense, none of which falls upon the Government; while it seems to be as efficient as it can be under the circumstances for dealing with infectious bee-diseases.

Briefly, the scheme of the Act is this. One or more experienced beekeepers who have a good knowledge of bee-diseases are appointed by the Government as inspectors. Any two beekeepers in a district, if they suspect foul-brood or other infectious disease to exist in any apiary within a certain distance of their own, after compliance with certain forms, may compel the owner of the suspected colonies to display the combs of such colonies for inspection by the complaining beekeepers, and if the latter desire it the owner must cut out a small portion from such combs as shall be indicated, not exceeding one pound weight in all. Such pieces of suspected combs are then packed and sealed by the owner in the presence of a constable who is to send it by post to the nearest inspector, together with a fee of five shillings, which must be provided on the spot by the complaining beekeepers. The inspector then examines the comb and reports to a Government official, and according to his report so is action taken afterward to free the apiary of disease. The above is a very rough outline of the scheme, and it should be explained that every provision is made for the protection of the owner of the suspected colonies, at the same time he cannot by any means escape from the liability of being called upon, or if need be compelled either to show the bees and combs of suspected colonies himself, or in the event of his refusing to do so to allow the complaining beekeepers to examine them and cut out pieces of combs, which is done in the presence of a constable. The inspector examines the comb sent to him and reports, he *not knowing* from whose apiary it came and for his trouble he gets the five shillings paid by the complaining beekeepers.

When the above had been explained to the Waikato beekeeper, he expressed his entire satisfaction with the whole scheme, and stated he could get a great many signatures to the petition now, which promise he has fulfilled.

New Zealand beekeepers may rest assured that whatever is undertaken by the Committee of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association will be for the best interests of the industry generally, and without partiality to anyone.

## LECTURE ON BEES AND BEEKEEPING.

MR. I. HOPKINS was announced to deliver a lecture on the above subject at the Zion Hill schoolroom, Birkenhead, on Monday, March 26, at the invitation of the Birkenhead Fruitgrowers' Association. Owing, however, to severe indisposition, Mr Hopkins was unable to attend, and his place was filled by Mr Obed Poole, one of the vice-presidents of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association.

There was a good attendance, and Mr Poole in his opening remarks expressed regret at the loose and cruel way in which beekeeping had been carried on in the past, and expressed a hope that the advent of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association would induce a more rational and humane method of treatment to prevail, and that the production of honey and wax would become, as it deserved to become, one of the most flourishing amongst the minor industries of New Zealand.

Mr Poole gave a sketch of the progress of beekeeping in other countries, including England, America, Russia, Poland, Spain, Egypt, etc., and expressed his earnest conviction that for the production of first-class honey, New Zealand was second to none.

The natural history of the hive bee was next touched on, a description of the frame hive, extractor, and the use of wax foundation, artificial swarming, the method of removing the supers of honeycomb, were also described. The utility of bees in the fertilisation of flowers, without which, the lecturer explained, many of our fruits, such as apples and strawberries, would never arrive at perfection. The lecturer concluded with an earnest appeal for the humane treatment of bees and an invitation to all beekeepers to join the newly-formed New Zealand Beekeepers' Association. A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer and chairman terminated the proceedings.

## THE ENGLISH HONEY MARKET.

CORRESPONDENTS are repeatedly inquiring about the chance of finding a payable market in Britain for good honey. They are inclined to think, from what they hear and read about the retail prices of first-class honey at Home, that the best of our colonial honey, such as that gathered from clover and eucalyptus, should bring a good price in the English markets. New arrivals tell us that 1s. per lb. is the ordinary retail price for a good article in England, and naturally enough, a person unacquainted with the ordinary channels of commerce, would conclude that at least 50 per cent. of the retail price could be obtained for a wholesale parcel sent from the colonies, or, in other words, that the expenses of freight, commission, &c., would not exceed 6d per pound. Could 6d net be obtained it would pay handsomely, but this is not the case when consigned to a commission merchant in the ordinary way. The very highest price we have yet heard of as being secured by the sender, after all expenses were paid, was 3d, and that was not received until nearly 12 months after the honey

was sent. There is, undoubtedly, a good market for colonial honey in England, provided the sender can avoid the commission agent by dealing direct with a merchant. We know of two or three beekeepers in New Zealand who consign their honey to friends, who sell for them, and the returns are from 5d to 6d per lb.

Some three years ago a case or two of Matamata honey was sent to London and submitted to one of the largest commission firms in the city to see what could be obtained for it. The reply was '35s per cwt. net, kegs free,' which meant that the returns would be, after all expenses were paid, about 2½d per lb. for the honey. None was sent, of course. Everyone we know that has tried the English markets—with the exception, of course, of those who consign to other than commission agents—have been disappointed, and we advise colonial beekeepers to sell in their home markets rather than ship their honey to England.

## IS THE VENTILATION OF HIVES YET PERFECTED?

By J. R. M.

## II.

In the April number of this magazine, attention was drawn to the need of artificially controlling the ventilation of hives, if equality of temperature is (and who doubts it?) desirable. What calls the attention of the beekeeper to this need is the fact, that with the only motive power for ventilation at hand (viz., the power evolved by the expansion of the warm air in a hive), when most ventilation is needed, viz., on sultry days, then the motive power is weakest, and ventilation almost or altogether at a standstill; and when least ventilation is needed, viz., on cool summer nights, and in winter, then is the motive power the strongest, and the ventilation and consequent cooling down of the temperature the greatest. In the ordinary manipulation of the Langstroth, one scrim mat is used in the summer, and something extra in the winter; but in the former case nothing is done to lessen the successive chilling, which must take place on our chilly New Zealand summer nights, when it is all important that the brood should be warm; and in the latter, however thick the mats are, there needs some difference of provision for the frosty night and frequently hot mid-day temperature. However, it may freely be admitted, that the winter needs of a hive are better met by thick mats almost completely checking the movement of the air, than the needs of summer, when the really cold nights require almost the winter mats, and yet the intense summer sun must be provided against by free ventilation. Ought not some simple plan to be adopted to control the ventilation and keep it in some way more in harmony with the needs of the bees?

As nothing can be said to answer until it has passed through the ordeal of hard experience, however much it may appear to be suitable to the purpose aimed at, the following suggestions are submitted to beekeepers as the general lines, from

a mechanical point of view, on which hive ventilation can be artificially regulated, rather than as expedients already beyond the region of question. All that the writer ventures to claim is that one of them at least ought to be adopted by every beekeeper whose bees are subject to six or eight hours in the day to a temperature in summer below 50° Fahr., and in the winter below 40°, and who wishes and professes to take a paternal care of his busy little labourers. The ventilation can be affected either by the materials or arrangements of the hive, or by the size of the inlets and outlets of the air.

I. *The material of which the hive is made.*

(a) Careful experiments in England have shown that between a thin one-boarded hive, and a double-walled hive with cork dust packing—the two poles of hive materials—there exists a difference of fifteen units; that is to say, that the latter will take fifteen days to cool down to the temperature which the one-boarded hive reaches at the end of its first twenty-four hours. Although ventilation and the supply of fresh air is properly the subject in hand, and not temperature, yet the two are too intimately united to be treated apart; and the above fact is fatal to the common idea that an inch board is all that can ever be required in this country. The double-walled cork packed hive, no doubt, is unnecessary here; but that does not include the conclusion that an intermediate material cannot with advantage be used. A one-boarded hive means that (a) on a hot summer's day, unless the beekeeper is round, the hive becomes unsupportably hot; (b) on a cool summer's night the brood is for some six or eight hours in danger of a chill; (c) in a frosty air the walls of the hive are fatal to any bee that crawls on them. In other words, the dangers alluded to earlier are all intensified when merely one board is used; and *vice versa*, all the evils which require the constant attention of the beekeeper to avert are lessened in so far as in some way or other a less conducting material is used. Let those who see their way to it, by all means have their hives double-walled and corked packed. They will be rewarded by healthy prolific bees. But short of that, many cheap means are at hand for lessening the conductivity. Coarse scrim, canvas, old cloth and flannel, sheets of coarse brown paper, old newspapers,—all or any of these wrapped neatly round the hive body, and tacked carefully and firmly on, and then well painted, will act in the required direction. Numerous half-inch holes half through the boards from the inside, with Willesden paper, two ply, tacked on inside, would create a most efficient non-conductor at the cost of about a shilling a body. A loose matting, or painted canvas bag, nailed on to the edges of the cover, and hanging down over the hive would be very easily attached, easily repaired, and very effective. The heat stored up in the hot day would be, by any of these means, more slowly given out at night, and the cooled walls would, in turn, moderate the heat inside in the heat of the day, thus rendering the motive power at hand for ventilation more uniform, and the occasions when actual manipulation would be

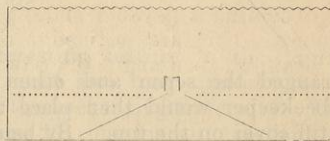
required fewer and fewer. If the writer may venture an opinion on a matter which he has not had yet the opportunity of trying, he would submit to his readers the latter expedient as the neatest and most effective at the cost, viz., a loose painted coarse calico or canvas bag, dropped down over the hive by the mere act of putting on the cover, and perhaps tied at one corner in order to tighten the bag round the lower edge. An incidental advantage of this simple expedient would be the protection given to the wood, and its greater longevity in consequence.

(b) *The internal arrangement of the hive.*

The transverse arrangement of the frames (an object obtained by merely providing a bottom board about 20 inches square, instead of one 16 inches by 24 inches), from a mechanical point of view, is better for equable temperature than the ordinary right-angled position. As it is the least puff of cold wind *plays right on to the clustering bees*, little affecting the outside combs. With transverse frames the cold air strikes the front frame, rushes right and left, and with diminished force finds its way throughout the hive, warmed somewhat moreover by contact with frames and combs before it reaches the inmates. In summer, too, when the bees are presumably spread over all the frames, the fresh air is more equally distributed, except only when the hive is brought right forward, and even this could be easily obtained with a bottom board twenty inches square, for the hive could be temporarily turned a quarter round, when the usual arrangement would at once be attained.

We now come to the second sphere for regulating operations, viz., the inlet and outlets for the air; and first as to the inlet.

II. *Inlet.* In New Zealand the usual inlet is formed in the bottom board, and it is cut back so that if the back of the hive is flush with the bottom board the inlet is closed, consequently, if the beekeeper wishes to reduce his entrance on a cold night, he has some little trouble in judging the exact position to which he should draw back the hive, lest he should altogether close it. If at the apex of the triangular rebate a groove half an inch wide were made,



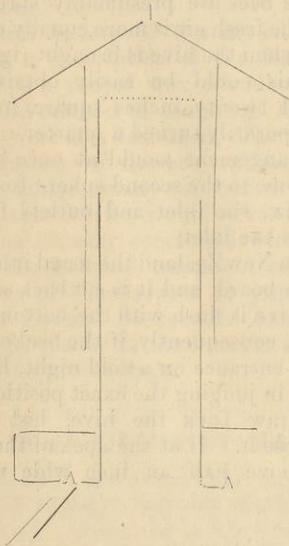
extending about an inch into the hive, a certain amount of rapidity of action would be gained by the beekeeper, as with confidence he could draw back the hive flush with the bottom board, knowing that he left sufficient exit for the bees. In a sudden access of excessive cold, a large beekeeper could thus materially protect his bees in about half the time that he can now, as it is seldom that one shift satisfies the judgment of the manipulator.

III. *Outlets.* The use of a strong scrim mat next to the top of the frames has the practical advantage of enabling the manipulator with rapidity to get to his work. A steady pull and the propolis is nowhere. On the other hand, it is of little use in regulating the ventilation, the porosity is



irregular owing to the propolis, and the edges are invariably turned up or shrunk.

Now, a well known writer has pointed out that the whole air inside a hive has to be changed at least every half-hour when the temperature inside is 41° Fahr., and when the bees are most quiescent. In a temperature of 85° and upwards, it would be well to change it every half minute. To effect the latter a hole or aggregate of holes, 3 inches square or as much more as could be arranged for, would be required; to effect the latter a hole or aggregate of holes  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch square would be the proper size. How can we, in a rough and ready way, best vary the holes or aggregate of holes from a superficial extent of three inches or more square to  $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch square? From a purely mechanical point of view there are two ways requiring the hand of the beekeeper, and one way automatical. (1) The first way would be to cut pieces of thick brown paper, mill-board, card-board, Willesden paper, old newspapers, pasted or glued together, or thin wooden boards, a little larger than the interior measurements of the hive; and in this stiff cover to cut either one large hole in the centre some three inches in diameter, or four or five holes about an inch and a half in diameter.



Having arranged the scrim and other mats, as usual, the beekeeper would then place the above described stiff cover on the top. By being a little larger than the interior dimensions of the hives, the wooden cover when placed on the top would keep the edges close, and the hole or holes in the centre would be the only means of exit for the air. A moveable slide would enable the beekeeper with certainty and confidence to regulate the ventilation. A slight variation of this plan would be the nailing the stiff sheet, or in this case better a thin board in the cover itself, and working it by a wire projecting outside. Thus a beekeeper could go rapidly the round of his hives, and almost as fast as he walked, adjust, close, or open his ventilators. (2) The same object would be in theory obtained by having tin sliding shutters to the two ventilating holes as usually provided in the Langstroth hive.

A twist with the thumb should be able to close or open them, in the same way as provided for at the end of the last paragraph. However, in practice, the large extent of the top's surface exposed to the heat and cold would seriously mar the effect, especially in the case of the cold. It would so chill the rising air as to stop the escape of it.

A variation of this plan would be this. Instead of the present circular ventilating holes in the pediment of the cover, let there be a circular 3-inch chimney rising some 6 inches from the middle of the ridge piece, with an easy fitting cap with a large conical top. Let the top of the chimney and the cap be so perforated with holes as to enable the beekeeper with a turn of the hand to open or close them as he wished. One unique advantage of this simple plan would be this: in very hot weather the chimney would get so hot that a strong up-current would be formed, thus providing in the heat of the day what is so hard to obtain, viz., a definite draught through the hive. (3) As to automatically working ventilators, the combination of two metals which expand and contract unequally in different degrees of temperature, could easily be made to open and close all the above ventilators; but the suggestion of trying them must suffice for the present.

It is true that these or any other mechanical arrangements require a moderate outlay of money and some little trouble in first carrying out. Let those, who from business or inclination keep bees more for pleasure than as producers of wholesome food and source of profit, and so prefer to work as simply and haphazardly as possible, remain for the present content with the ordinary Langstroth. But this should not prevent others, who are able by beekeeping to supplement their income, or wish to aid in the perfection of the modern scientific arrangements for the health of the bees, and the production of large supplies of surplus honey, from not resting until every weak point has been met. As has been pointed out by the leading English authority on beekeeping, modern science has indeed brought bees under a control never dreamed of by our ancestors. But for all this it does not mean that we are relieved of labour and thought, but only that our labour and thought are made more use of.

#### WHY HE DID NOT WANT THE FOUL BROOD ACT.

THERE is a cute old German at Mount Barker who has a number of colonies of bees, and one at least badly infected with foul-brood. He was asked why he did not get rid of it, and this was approximately his reply:—"I haf some foul broods! Dot vhas alright! It spreads alofer der goundry—dot vhas alright, too. Too many beoples makes and zells honey, and it vhas too sheap, und den der foul brood gomes mit deir hifes, und der bees vhas all deadt, und dhey gheeps bees no more, und honey vhas dear. But I gheeps some more bees, und gets a goodt brice for mine honey, und idt vhas alright." Mr. Tight says he keeps 60 colonies in kerosene boxes, from which he once got two tons of honey. This is good for his style, but it is only an average of 74½lbs per hive. The average with the bar-frame is 300lbs. in some years, and never less than 100lbs. in a well-managed apiary. Mr. Tight has something yet to learn, hasn't he?—*Garden and Field*, Adelaide.

## JOTTINGS.

BY LAHM DEARG ERIN.

ALL hail, friend Hopkins! The New Zealand Beekeepers' Association is at last an accomplished fact. Thanks to those energetic friends who have ungrudgingly given their time and trouble to the work they took in hand. Special thanks are due to the Executive Committee who are already licking the Association into shape, and again special thanks are due to our worthy Editor who is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. This, friends, is as it should be, and the more members we can get, the firmer will the Association stand. That we have a thoroughly practical and hard working executive, is amply proved by the petition now lying before me, and from the number of names already on it augurs well for the prospective Act. Beekeepers are awaking to the fact that unless they *do something* they may as well give up honey raising, and it is high time a Foul Brood Act for New Zealand was passed. It is of no use disguising the fact, for go where you will in Hawke's Bay I don't believe you could come across a beekeeper who has not had some experience with foul-brood, or is already suffering from its effects, and until *compulsory measures are taken for its eradication* we shall never be free.

Here is an instance which will show your readers where foul-brood *can* get to. A swarm of bees located themselves in the Hastings church, between the lining and the weather-boarding, about twenty-five feet from the ground, and being a source of annoyance to the congregation, were doomed to destruction. Our local beemaster, Mr. James Adamson, was asked to shift them, which accordingly he did, taking some thirty pounds of honey and combs away. The *middle brood combs were rotten with disease*. Now, I presume those bees were healthy when they first located there, but contracted the plague by visiting flowers which had diseased germs left on them by infected bees—or was the queen in the first place an unhealthy one? or had they contracted it by robbing? or *through careless beekeepers leaving diseased comb about after taking a box hive?* I should be inclined to bet on the latter. Anyway, there is the fact, foul-brood in a church above all places, and twenty-five feet from the ground!

Here is another curious case. A friend of mine requested me to shift his swarm of blacks to a Langstroth hive. On manipulation what was my surprise to find they were Hybrids—a black queen crossed by a Ligurian drone, as the progeny proved, the workers in some instances having only one yellow band and in others two; but the drones were all black. There is only one person in this district who has Ligurians, and he is fully three miles away. Furthermore this swarm was in an old box, had been there for two years and had swarmed this season. So I infer that the Ligurian drone must have flown nearly three miles to meet the queen, or *vice versa*. Beekeepers please note: if you want to keep your Ligurians pure, you must keep them over three miles to

ensure pure mating, otherwise it is just a chance whether you get a pure mate.

There has been a little flutter amongst the beekeepers down here, owing to the Acclimatization Society importing the humble bee into Hawke's Bay, but on reading up, at our Editor's suggestion, his letters in August to November numbers of the *Farmer* for 1886, I do not think we have much to fear from them, at least I hope not. Query: Would a humble bee drone mate with a Black or Ligurian queen? It would make a good big serviceable cross as regards carrying capacity for honey.

I note friend Kendall's last article and quite agree with him in his remarks as to working the Association—that to those who *do work* for the Association it will be entirely a labour of love. We want to work it as economically as we can. We want *enthusiasts* as well as experienced hands in the work—men who will impart their knowledge with a lavish hand, who will do their best to enlighten ignorance and squash old-fangled notions. These are the men on whom the duty will devolve to support our Association, for it was by "*vim and energy we got there.*" Let us by *perseverance and pluck, keep it still going.*

[We never heard of any such cross between humble and hive bees. The N.Z.B.K.A. must and will be worked economically. We must look to every member to do his share of the work by assisting the Executive Committee all they possibly can, and in this way we shall be able to accomplish much that cannot otherwise be done.—Ed.]

## BEE GOSSIP.

BY O. POOLE.

I MUST compliment Mr. Newman, the editor of the *American Bee Journal*, on the improved appearance of the new volume of that periodical, the first numbers of which have just reached me. It is printed on good paper, its articles are well written, and it decidedly ranks as one of the first bee papers in the world.

\* \* \*

One interesting feature in the journal is the weekly portrait and biographical sketch of some member of the beekeeping fraternity. The number for January 25 contains an excellent portrait of Father Langstroth, with a short but concise biography of the rev. gentleman, who is now in his 78th year. I am sorry to learn that he has very indifferent health and that pecuniarily he is not situated as he should be. One of the American bee societies recently raised a subscription and sent him a small donation, for which he expressed many grateful thanks.

\* \* \*

Now, this is not as it should be. Do beekeepers in America, in England and Australia realise to what extent they are indebted to Father Langstroth, not only for his invention of the frame hive, but also for his excellent work on apiculture? I trow not. If they did not a moment would be lost in

getting up an universal subscription over the whole bee world in aid of this veteran apiculturist.

When boards are used for dipping purposes in the manufacture of wax sheets, a correspondent in an American bee journal recommends the use of lime water for the purpose of immersing the boards after each operation. It is said to effectually prevent the wax sticking.

Pine leaves or spikes have been suggested to me for use as fuel in the smoker. I fancy it is a good idea; they are common enough in New Zealand and may be picked up in any quantity where pines abound. I would suggest that they be collected and tied up in bundles to fit the smoker, together with a few leaves of the eucalyptus, the smoke from which would not only quiet the bees, but prove a valuable disinfectant for the hive.

Mr. H. Koerbs, of Berka, on the Ilm in Thuringia, is said to have invented a new artificial comb in which the queen absolutely refuses to deposit eggs or the bees' pollen. If this proves to be correct it will make a new departure in scientific beekeeping.

Judging from what Mr. C. J. H. Gravenhorst, the eminent German apiarist, says on the subject, I am led to believe these new foundations will receive a large amount of attention in the bee world. I have already written home to a friend to try and obtain me some specimens, which I hope will arrive in time for a trial next season. Writing on this subject, Mr. Gravenhorst says:—"Mr. Koerbs promises a good deal. What Dzierzon often imperfectly realised by means of his diamond rule, and others by means of a division-board, Vogel's canal, or by merely moving the combs together more closely, may now be obtained more easily and in a more natural way by the use of Koerbs' artificial combs. Mr. Koerbs has been known to us for a long time as the fortunate inventor of the frame machines which go by his name, nevertheless we were not over sanguine in regard to his latest invention. But as he offered to give us particulars of his invention if we would give him our word of honour not to divulge his secret, we complied with his desire, and asked for full particulars, which were readily supplied to us; and in addition we received one of Koerbs' artificial combs completed by the bees from which the honey had been extracted several times. How simple a matter it appears! It is, indeed, another case of the egg of Columbus, and it seems strange the idea has occurred to no one before. Nobody by merely looking at Koerbs' artificial comb, as put up by us, will see anything particular in it, but when you take it into your hands and have a little explanation given you, the importance of this invention becomes at once apparent. If this new invention should accomplish only half of what Mr. Koerbs expects it to do, we shall undoubtedly see a great revolution in the manufacture of artificial combs, as well as in beekeeping generally."

Mr. Koerbs claims for his invention the following

advantages, the utility of which, of course, has to be proved:—

"1. They are made of pure wax by means of the Rietsche press, and are not used by the queen for breeding, even if the combs are inserted in the brood-nest.

"2. They are very durable.

"3. The most delicate combs will stand the employment of full force in extracting the honey.

"4. The honey is extracted very quickly, the operation scarcely requiring half the time it takes to empty other combs.

"5. In bad seasons these combs remain empty, not being used for breeding, and there being, unfortunately, no honey to collect.

"6. The bees do not carry pollen into these combs.

"7. The separation of the honey compartments in the hive from the brood-nest becomes superfluous."

Brother beekeepers, have you been troubled during the past season in your apiaries with a colony of pugnacious bees, a colony, I mean, that you find a difficulty in manipulating and upon whom the smoker seems to have only an irritating effect, who sting right and left and even strangers at a distance? If so, tackle them at once, that is if there are any drones left in the apiary. Don your bee-veil, and, if necessary, gloves, and search for and kill the queen; remove all unsealed brood, and either give them a queen-cell or compel them to raise one from eggs supplied from one of the more docile hives in the apiary.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Douglas, of Motiti Island, who has imported some humble bees from the south. He tells me they are thriving splendidly and increasing rapidly and that already he can see a vast improvement in the productiveness of the red clover.

Auckland farmers would, I think, do well to follow the example of Mr. Douglas. The cost of obtaining the bees would be very small and the benefits obtained by the fertilization of the red clover incalculable.

I remember, before leaving home, remarking to an old globe-trotting friend of mine, "Well, they have succeeded in introducing the humble bee to New Zealand." "In that case," he replied, "New Zealand should supply red cloverseed for the world." I think so too.

[The above was unavoidably crowded out last month.—ED.]

#### BINDERS FOR JOURNAL.

In reply to several correspondents who have inquired about the above, we may state that we have not been so far successful in procuring a cheap and efficient binder. A bookbinder has the matter in hand to see what can be done, and should he succeed we will mention it in the *Journal*.

## FOUL BROOD LEGISLATION.

BY W. C. BROWN.

THE autumn that we Southerners have passed through is one to be remembered, particularly by those who have extracted close or have many stocks of 'driven bees,' for a general prevalence of cold, wet, windy weather has prevented such stocks from utilising the thistles and other autumn forage; and so continuous has it been, that it is only in rare cases they could be got to store syrup, so closely have they been compelled to cluster. Some idea of the season may be gathered from the fact that Dunejin, about a month ago, awoke one morning to find itself mantled with a slight fall of snow.

The New Zealand beekeepers' 'tree of knowledge' in the month of April had quite an autumnal appearance—variegated—some of the leaves being decidedly *Brown*.

I hope the friends will forgive me if I have provoked discussion by what little I have written, and would say that I have not the slightest inclination or intention to fight a triangled 'foul-broody' duel with friends L.D.E. and K. True, as friend Kendall says, W.C.B. is no doubt a capital fellow when you know him, and no one knows that better than I do; yet I would spare the friends having to follow my dissection through the columns of the *Journal* by, as far as this matter is concerned, preferring to remain 'in my shell.' But before I finally draw in (as far as personal matters are concerned), let me say that friend K. is wrong in putting these words into my mouth, 'secure the passing of an Act that will do little more than humbug the industry.' Friend K., pardon me, but do take time and read carefully what is written, and then you will be better able to deal fairly with—shall I say, an opponent. L.D.E. also misquotes me, and I ask both to again read the sentence, page 135. They need not trouble the *Journal* with apologies, which are anticipated and accepted. I would like the friends who advocate legislation on this matter to answer the following queries:—

1. How has the beekeeping industry been able to make such rapid strides in the past, foul-brood and other diseases notwithstanding?

2. How is it that, with the exception of one state, America and Great Britain, though fully recognising the malignity of foul-brood, have not thought it necessary to invoke the aid of the legislature of their respective countries?

3. Has foul-brood in New Zealand increased in virulence or been introduced since the adoption of modern methods?

If to either clause of the last query an affirmative be given, do you think drawing everybody's attention to the fact through Parliament will do much to help the industry? Is it not very much like 'misdirected energy' to attempt to catch through the 'meshes of the law' an enemy so minute that a quadruple line of them from London to New York could be housed in a box of one cubic inch capacity, and of which one spore stands as one drop to 15,000 gallons? If you want to 'wipe out' the careless beekeeper, do you not think that the best way to do so is to keep our own apiaries clean, and let the

careless ones 'die out in rottenness,' thereby allowing the survival of the fittest? Have you such a 'poor opinion of the mental capacity of the New Zealand beekeepers' as to think there are not enough *careful* ones amongst them capable of doing this without the aid (?) of the law?

Will you be prepared to ask Government to have all unleased Crown lands periodically inspected for foul brood amongst any bees that may be located thereon?

I have penned the foregoing queries in the hope that a few may be set thinking about the (to me) absurdity of asking the legislature to interfere with a *growing* industry. I may also say that, though I may seem to be but a growler, that I have, without fee or reward, spent the best part of my spare time advocating modern methods and experimenting on many lines, and this as a married mechanic not too flush of funds, and because of this, and for the 'love of the cause,' I do not want to see the friends looking for aid from the Government, but rather bracing themselves up and fighting and conquering the foe with steady aim and purpose. In great hopes that the modern hive may soon be made proof against all forms of *Bacillus*.

*Dunedin, April 18, 1888.*

[We will endeavour to answer some of our correspondent's queries. (1) If Mr. Brown will look up facts connected with the beekeeping industry for the past six years in America, and the past four years in England and these colonies, he will be inclined to think that its 'strides' have had a backward tendency. We say without hesitation and without fear of contradiction, that not two-thirds of the quantity of honey on an average has been raised annually in the countries mentioned during the past three or four years that was previously produced. Other circumstances beside foul-brood have tended to bring about this falling off, we admit, but everyone conversant with the general history of beekeeping knows full well that foul-brood has been the chief cause.

(2) Michigan and Utah States have both legislated on foul-brood. We are in possession of copies of their Acts, and we believe other States have done so. We know that in two or three others, beekeepers agitated for and took preliminary steps to introduce Foul-brood Acts. But let us ask, are we to put off doing what the majority of us think will be beneficial to ourselves simply because others have not already done the same thing? Are we to consider ourselves such dullheads that we must always follow others instead of relying on our own common-sense to do that which we feel needs doing? Where was the first Foul-brood Act passed? In Michigan we believe. Who did the Michigan beekeepers follow?

(3) Foul-brood may not have increased in virulence in New Zealand since the adoption of modern methods, but it appears previously to have been confined to comparatively few districts. The beekeeping industry at that time was of no importance here, consequently no attention was given to it. But as the industry grew in importance and the adoption of the modern system of beekeeping gave

facilities for the spreading of foul-brood, we have all been brought face to face with a difficulty that we must grapple with or give in to it. Now, the majority of our advanced beekeepers have decided that the first thing that must be done is to get control over the indolent beekeeper, for without this all other measures are useless. Before this can be done lawful power must be given them, and this is all they ask. If what they ask be given and it fail them they will have the satisfaction of knowing they did their best.

With regard to that part of Mr. Brown's letter referring to the best method of 'wiping out' careless beekeepers by 'keeping your own apiaries clean, etc,' it is evident that he has had no experience in 'keeping an apiary clean' with diseased bees in charge of a careless beekeeper near him, and we are surprised that he quite ignores the result of those who have had such experience and given it through this *Journal*.

We have always looked upon our esteemed correspondent as a friend of advanced beekeeping, and though we consider him wrong in the stand he has taken on the foul-brood question, we cannot but admire his pluck in putting forward his opinions in the face of strong opposition.—ED.]

## NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION.

### RULES.

(Continued.)

VII. Members are entitled to a free pass to all show of the Association, copies of reports and papers published by the Association, and to participate in all the benefits resulting from the operations of the Association.

VIII. Local Beekeepers' Associations can become affiliated to the NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION upon application to and by the sanction of the Executive Committee of the latter, under conditions to be fixed between them, the general terms of such conditions being, that the local Association shall pay a small sum annually into the funds of the NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION, in consideration of which the local Association shall be entitled to the privileges mentioned in Rules II and VII.

IX. The business year shall commence on the first of March in each year, at which time all membership fees for the ensuing year must be paid to the Treasurer.

X. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at Auckland, or at such other place as the Executive Committee may appoint, on a day to be fixed by the Executive Committee, of which at least one month's notice shall be given, either by circular or by advertisement in the *Australasian Bee Journal* and the *Farmer, Bee, and Poultry Journal*, both of which papers shall be considered the official organs of the Association.

XI. At Annual General Meetings five members shall form a quorum. The Executive Committee shall submit a short report of the proceedings for the past year, and a statement of receipts and expenditure, which shall be printed and a copy sent to each member of the Association. The balance-sheet to be audited by two members of the Association.

XII. Extraordinary General Meetings of the Association may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, provided not less than fifteen days' notice of such meetings be given to each member.

XIII. The Executive Committee shall have power to make and alter By-laws for the guidance of their proceedings; provided that such By-laws do not contravene any rule or resolution made at a General Meeting.

XIV. In the event of a vacancy occurring by death, resignation, or otherwise, in the Executive Committee,

the remaining members shall have power to fill up such vacancies, or they may act until the next Annual General Meeting, without filling such vacancies, provided their number does not fall below six.

XV. All propositions at any meeting shall be disposed of by a show of hands, but a ballot may be demanded by the mover and seconder.

XVI. No member whose subscription is in arrear shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Association, or to any of the privileges connected therewith.

XVII. The Committee having arranged that the *Australasian Bee Journal* and the *Farmer, Bee, and Poultry Journal* shall be the official organs of the Association, every member will be presumed to be a reader of one of them, and all papers issuing from the Association, notices of meetings, etc. published in them shall be taken to have been enunciated to the members in the same way as if they had been sent to each individual by post.

XVIII. These rules shall not be altered except by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at an Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose by the Executive Committee, or on the demand in writing signed by at least twelve members of the Association, sent to the Secretary. In case of such meeting being called the Secretary shall give each member at least 30 days' notice, and state the objects for which such meeting is called.

F. LAWRY,  
PRESIDENT.

## BEEKEEPING IN IRELAND.

BEEKEEPING is largely on the increase in Ireland; a good sign. The number of swarms at work last year, according to the Government returns, was 25,230; and they produced 331,167lb of honey, against 21,327 swarms, yielding 302,297lb of honey, in the previous year. Of the total yield, 106,429lb were gathered in the province of Leinster, 108,495lb in Munster, 88,653lb in Ulster, and 27,590lb in Connaught. The backwardness in Connaught is very remarkable; for Connaught is emphatically "the peasant's province," and beekeeping is largely a peasant industry. That the western peasants are very unfortunate or very foolish in their neglect of beekeeping, is apparent from the fact that where swarms are hived in Connaught they yield more honey per hive than in any other province. This is shown from the returns of successive years. Munster is the next prolific; in Northern Ulster the yield is naturally smallest.

## AUCKLAND HONEY MARKET.

HONEY moving off very slowly at present and no improvement in prices. In fact, they have had a rather downward tendency owing to a large quantity of good extracted being placed in auctioneers' hands for sale at a low price. It being in unsaleable packages—60lb tins, is against it going off very rapidly. Some very fine clover honey in 2lb tins, apparently put up before it was thoroughly ripened, as a sample we examined showed signs of fermenting, is offering at 7s 6d per dozen. About a quarter of a ton of comb honey is also to be seen at the same auction mart; it has been put up several times but fails to fetch the reserved price of 4s per dozen 1lb sections. In the early part of last month we placed about 400lbs of comb honey at the owner's price, making a total of nearly 900lbs for the same person, the bulk of which was sold at 4s 6d., cases returnable.

We do not expect to see much improvement on the present state of the honey market before June or July, when the demand should increase and prices advance.—HOPKINS, HAYR AND CO.

## ERICA ARBOREA FOR SHELTER AND BEE FOOD.

THIS is a most useful plant for the apiary. Grown as a hedge it affords good shelter for hives, and belonging to the heath family is sufficient to recommend it as a bee plant.

We have made arrangements by which we can supply large plants, well balled, at 6s. per doz. or 35s. per 100. Smaller plants 25s. per 100.

If planted four feet apart a close and ornamental hedge will be obtained which will bear trimming to any extent.

## Correspondence.

## THE PETITION, ETC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I received the petition furnished by the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association for the purpose of obtaining the signatures of those interested in getting a Foul Brood Act passed next session, and I am getting them as fast as possible. If all subscribers to the *Journal* persevere in canvassing their respective districts, we shall have a few yards of signatures at the foot of the petition, and this ought to impress our representatives with the need of doing what we ask. There are one or two matters connected with the working of such an Act as we require that I should like to draw your attention to. The first is the appointment of 'official experts.' Many beekeepers I have asked to sign the petition are under the impression that, owing to the want of technical knowledge of bee diseases on the part of our representatives and those who may have the framing of the Act, clauses may be introduced which will make it unworkable, and only useful as a means of finding employment for a few needy partizans, who may know less about bees than an average bank clerk knows about sheep. To guard against this, beekeepers should see that their representatives should go to Wellington well posted on the matter, and, if possible, the Act should be so drafted by our New Zealand Beekeepers' Association as to require nothing to be added or materially altered after it reaches Wellington.

I have not seen the draft of the proposed Act yet, but I take it from your footnote to friend Kendall's letter that the 'expert' difficulty has been got over. It would never do to appoint anyone but a person thoroughly well up on the subject of bee diseases as an expert or inspector, and I think the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association should be asked to appoint them, or to recommend such persons they believe most suitable for the position.

I have been much amused with the controversy between friends Brown, Kendall, and 'L.D.E.' Now, the fact is I cannot help thinking that Mr. Brown has been bamboozling us a little, and that we shall find his petition, when it comes in, top all the rest in number of signatures in favour of the Act, notwithstanding his seeming opposition to it. Hush! let me whisper: We'll have to make an official expert of him.

Now, Mr. Editor, I'm going to have a turn at you. On page 147 last issue, when speaking of a beekeeper to the north of Auckland feeding 30lbs. of honey to some of his stocks already, you say, 'At this rate he will have to feed them heavily unless the late rains bring a good Autumn flow.' You are evidently unacquainted with the nature of the northern bee flora, or at all events with that around here, or you would not say that. As a matter of fact, autumn rains spoil our chance of getting honey from the ti-tree and the other native flora on which we depend at this time of the year. I am in a position to state, from eight years of careful observation, that the native trees and shrubs which flower in the autumn in this locality always bloom best and yield the most honey when there is little or no rain and cold winds, from March 1st to June, and the present season is no exception to the general rule so far. In the dry summers and autumns years ago, in the good old days when the peach was wont to flourish, the bees succeeded here better than they have ever done since. At that time the loss of bees from starvation during the summer and fall was a thing unheard of. But in later years it has been no uncommon thing for box-hive beekeepers to lose half their stocks through starvation alone.

I hear on all hands that the gin-case fraternity have lost heavily this season. One of my neighbours, who keeps from 20 to 30 hives, has lost one third of his bees from starvation. While on this subject I may state that many colonies which do not actually die are so weakened through running short of stores and the consequent cessation of brood rearing in the middle of summer, that when the April honey flow opens they are so reduced in population that autumn dwindling sets in, and the

dwindling often ends in extinction. When a colony is running short of stores, it becomes a prey to the bee louse. This is a small parasite of a cream colour which fastens itself to the bees in large numbers, often dozens of lice on a single bee.

G.A.G.

[You may depend that the committee will do everthing in their power to prevent any blundering in carrying out the provisions of the Act, should it become law. The draft will be made as perfect as possible before it goes to Wellington, and there will be no snug billets open for anyone. We thank you for correcting us *re* autumn forage in the north, but we were certainly under the impression that autumn flowers and nectar were more plentiful when refreshing rain came early after a hot dry summer.—Ed.]

## A BEGINNER'S EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have just received the April number of the *Journal*, and have to thank you for your courteous remarks in reply to my letter, and if it be not trespassing too much upon your kindness and space, I shall be glad to tell you of my further experience and observations.

You say that the bees have been dragging out the young ones because they were starving; this, no doubt, is often the cause of such conduct, but in this instance I have found, since last writing, that they are doing it in order to fill the cells with honey. Fresh brood has been hatched since I wrote, and this they still continue to remove and drop outside, while both new combs and old brood combs are being fast filled with honey. They are working briskly, building and collecting, and they are carrying away the comb foundation which I have put in two frames, and are converting it into comb elsewhere. In some of the combs, brood and honey cells are contiguous, and in some, old black cells are filled with honey, while new ones remain empty. I have difficulty also in preventing them from bridging from frame to frame, although I have plenty of frames placed about a quarter of an inch apart. I shall be glad to have a hint on this point, as when I seek to lift a frame out, I find it firmly fastened to the next with a bridge of comb. I presume, therefore, that they are making preparation for the coming winter, and that they find a sacrifice of some brood necessary in order that a sufficient quantity of food may be stored.—Yours faithfully, MOEWE.

Manly, April 9, 1888.

[We are really at a loss to explain the cause of the bees throwing out their brood. We never knew them to do such a thing unless when short of stores or when the brood had been injured in some way. The bees are evidently preparing for winter by bridging their combs, and that may have something to do with it. The only plan to reduce the bridging to a minimum is to have the hives set firmly and level: the least movement of the hive by wind or other cause will start the frames swinging, and this would make the bees try to secure them by bridging. A thin knife slipped down between the frames will sever the connection.—Ed.]

## NOTES FROM HAWKE'S BAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I received the April number of *Journal*, and was very pleased to see that the Association has been started, and let us hope that it may strengthen daily. I intend to become a member very soon, as I consider it is the best thing that ever was done for country beekeepers, especially if we can get a Foul Brood Act passed. I am going to have a rap at friend Brown *re* the proposed Foul Brood Act.

Now, friend Brown, you speak rather disparagingly about the Foul Brood Act, and all its paraphernalia. You ask, 'Where are our experts to come from?' and 'who shall pronounce this, that, and the other to be foul brood?' Why, friend Brown, from amongst ourselves, as 'Lamh Dearg Erin' tells you. Now, friend, you evidently have

not had any trouble with this foul brood disease, and you don't know what a curse it is to beekeepers. Hold on! You may have some trouble directly that will open your eyes. The disease is spreading rapidly all over the country; when your bees get it, or any of your neighbours' bees, you will be glad to have an Act passed to help to prevent the further spread of the disease, so don't fight against the Act. Now, friend Brown, all I say is in a friendly manner, and no doubt it will come to a friendly argument. Mr. Editor, you must excuse me for the jumbled-up manner in which I have put this letter together, as I am only a young hand at it.

The petition *re* foul brood question is being signed by almost all who keep bees in this district, and I am preparing a letter to send to the member for this district to make him acquainted with the disease. I will forward you the petition this week as requested in the last *Journal*.

There is a fair demand for honey up this way. Extracted honey realises 6d per lb; honey in comb (1lb sections), fetch 6d each. This season has been a bad one for bees in this district, owing to so much dry weather. The heaviest amount of honey I have taken from a hive this season is 102 pounds.

I delivered a lecture in the Hampden School-room on the 6th inst., which was fairly attended. The chief objects I touched upon were the foul brood disease and the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association. If you require a report I will send you one.—Yours truly,

A. H. PARKINSON.

Hampden, Hawke's Bay, April 14.

[We are always glad to receive reports of anything done to advance the beekeeping industry, or, in fact, affecting it in any way. Glad to hear you are getting a good price for your honey.—Ed.]

#### FOUL BROOD ACT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I am extremely glad to learn that our beekeepers are trying to get legislative power in the matter of foul brood. When I wrote to you I had not the slightest idea there was any movement in the matter in this country. As requested, I waited on the M.H.R. for this district, Mr D. H. McArthur. I took with me one frame of brood in healthy condition, and one frame in a diseased state, and fully explained the matter to him. As he admitted he knew nothing about beekeeping, I, in as brief a manner as possible, gave him some particulars about it, which appeared to please him much. After giving a very patient hearing he said he could see the necessity of some action being taken to compel people to keep their bees in a healthy state, and that he would gladly co-operate with Mr Lawry in trying to get the Act passed. Had I not waited on Mr McArthur and explained the matter, I think it would have been a dead letter with him, and unless others have done something similar, I fear the worst for the Act, as comparatively very few know anything about modern beekeeping. As to becoming a member of the Association, I may state I have always had a dislike to belong to all and any sort of club, association, society, league, membership, &c., preferring to act solely for myself, and as best suits myself, providing always I do not infringe or impose on the rights of others. I have a great love for bees and the business of beekeeping, and were I to make an exception in this case for the love of the art, and join the Association, before doing so I should like the Association to make it a rule to inquire about the persons' character when applying to be admitted as members. I know of men that keep bees of very questionable character, and one of them is undergoing a long term of imprisonment for a serious offence. I would not care to have my name associated with such, merely because they keep bees. I was on a visit to Major Noake some time back, and expressed myself as stated. As to Associations, it does seem to me a queer thing for men to study hard to make themselves master of a business by way of proficiency, and invest capital, then to give lectures, publish tracts, leaflets, and do all in their power to induce others to enter the business,

and so become competitors instead of customers. Talk about doing away with the extractor, rubbish! The fault is with the supply dealers and journals urging people to keep bees. Then anyone entitled to the term apiarist, knows it is only a few that are so persuaded that find they are fit for the business, causing loss of time and capital to others. But I find by experience there are plenty of men so unscrupulous they care not whether they cause others to lose £100 provided they gain 5s by the transaction. I am in favour of beekeepers' conventions, at which all that is necessary for the benefit of the beekeepers could be discussed. All beekeepers should be licensed, and then the names of the most respectable and well-informed would soon become known, and it could be arranged for them to meet and discuss important questions once a year; each one to bear his own expense. From the foregoing you may think me to be a very selfish individual, but I speak what I think is for the best interest of the practical apiarist, and not for the supply dealer. I hold it is the interest of any man that he should not have too many competitors in his trade, and I confess I am not so generous as to think my time should be passed with the sole view of providing the masses with cheap honey. If we get the Act passed, as I said in my last, it will encourage one to grapple with the disease, and it will drive out a large number of careless box people, who are doing the most mischief. I have asked several to attach their signatures to the petition to Parliament, but none of them would, though I fully explained it would certainly be to their advantage to do so. Some of them insulted me, some asked what business had I to interfere,—that I wanted to become inspector, and other like nonsense. Were it not that I have so little time to spare, I should like to say more, but must now close.—I am, &c.,

A. J. RICHARDSON.

Fielding, April 20, 1888.

[Our correspondent appears to be quite willing to work in unison with others for the good of the beekeeping industry, as proved by his interviewing Mr. McArthur, and procuring a number of signatures to the petition, which we now have in hand, notwithstanding his objection to join an association, society, or other body. We are quite certain that no committee of any respectable association would knowingly admit as a member any person of bad character, so that Mr. Richardson need not be afraid of joining the N.Z.B.K.A. on that score.

We quite agree with our correspondent in what he says about encouraging everybody to go into beekeeping, as will be seen by our article in another column, which was in type some time before receipt of his letter, and it is a notable coincidence that our train of ideas should have been nearly identical. We must, however, point to the fact that supply dealers are a necessity—well, evil if you like, but without them individual beekeepers would find it rather inconvenient and expensive to get their appliances.—Ed.]

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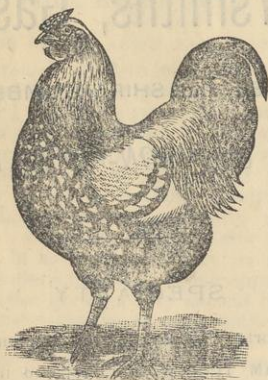


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