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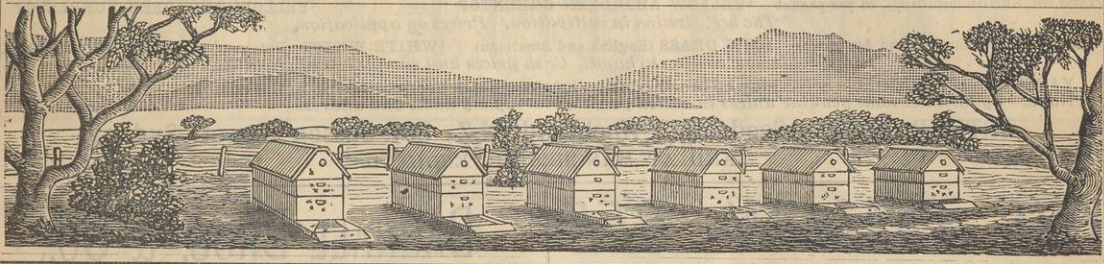
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THE AUSTRALASIAN

BEE JOURNAL



No. 8. Vol. 1.] AUCKLAND, N.Z., FEBRUARY 1, 1888. [PUBLISHED MONTHLY SIXPENCE.

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THE AUSTRALASIAN

BEE JOURNAL

No. 8. Vol. I.]

AUCKLAND, N.Z., FEBRUARY 1, 1888.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY.
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The Australasian Bee Journal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

I. HOPKINS EDITOR.

HOPKINS, HAYR & CO.,

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Editorial.

SEASONABLE OPERATIONS FOR
FEBRUARY.

THE latter half of December and the month just past was a great improvement from a beekeeping point of view upon the previous month or two, and a fair amount of honey was gathered in most districts throughout New Zealand. Beekeepers in consequence have been relieved of much of the anxiety caused by the backwardness of the season. Though it may extend a little later than usual it will be impossible to make up for the loss of nearly the first half of the season. From reports that have reached us we find that in most cases extracting did not commence till a month later than usual, and that a great deal of trouble was caused by the bees persistently swarming instead of taking to the top boxes. In spite of all that could be done to prevent it, they would swarm, and in some cases even immediately after the queen cells had been removed. Now, this is very easily accounted for, though it may seem strange to many. The bees had been able to gather sufficient honey for their requirements to carry on brood-rearing, and perhaps a trifle more, but not enough for comb building and storing as surplus, consequently, as soon as the brood chamber began to get over-crowded, they would swarm, as it would be no use going into the supers where they could not work from the want of sufficient honey to enable them to secrete wax. At such times worked out combs are most valuable, for the bees would readily take to a super filled with these and most likely fill them with honey while others were compelled to be idle or swarm. A stock of worked out combs are the most profitable things a beekeeper can have on hand at all times, but more particularly in a poor or backward season.

COMB FOUNDATION.

Much has been written against the use of comb foundation as being unprofitable at its present price. Now, not a season passes but what its advantages and profitableness is brought prominently under our notice. Many beekeepers with a false idea of economy think that by using narrow strips of foundation in their frames, they secure all or nearly all the benefits arising from its use, and so save the extra expense incurred in using full sheets. This is particularly the case with beginners, though by no means confined to them alone. There cannot be a greater fallacy than this, and a season like the present one is the best for proving it. Those who have an idea that they save by using strips only, and

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there are many such, should for their own satisfaction try full sheets in a hive and mark the result, and we are sure that if they are sensible men they will not use strips again.

While examining some hives lately I was surprised to see so many drones flying from them; in one or two instances the colonies appeared to be half drones. We knew that there must be a great deal of drone comb in the hives, and asked the owner if he used comb foundation, to which he replied, "Yes, but I only put narrow strips in the frames." This then accounted for it. The bees had built worker comb in the centre frames and drone comb in the outer ones, which proved correct when examined. Here then were colonies with half their population consumers only (and large consumers), while all, or nearly all, should have been producers, and this state of things was the result of trying to save a few shillings on comb foundation, whereas it really ends in his getting no surplus honey from his bees. We put the matter clearly before him and he declared he would act differently in future. We know others who complain that their swarms are doing badly this season. These people use strips instead of full sheets, and their swarms have had all they can do to build comb without storing surplus honey. It is not the bees that are doing badly, it is their owners.

THE PROSPECTIVE CROP OF HONEY.

We can now form a fair idea of what the season's crop of honey will be in New Zealand. From reports of the takings in different parts in both Islands, we take it that there will be very little if any over half an average crop from colonies actually at work. Now, if we take into consideration that there are probably not more than half the number of colonies profitably working now, compared with what there were three years ago, and make allowance for that season being a particularly good one, we may arrive at a fair estimate of the quantity of honey likely to be raised this season. It was estimated, and we don't think it was far out, that the crop for the season of 1884-85 amounted to 300 tons. Supposing that to be correct, and allowing the season to have been one-sixth above what might fairly be termed an average one, we shall then have to reckon 250 tons as an average crop for the number of colonies at work. From various causes such as low prices of honey, but more particularly through foul-brood, a very large number of people have given up beekeeping, while the ravages of disease have caused a large decrease of bees in the majority of apiaries, so that at the present time we believe there are not half the number of colonies in active work that there were in the season mentioned. Following out our line of reasoning, if correct, there should be only one-fourth the above quantity—about 60 tons—raised this season, and we believe that will prove rather over than under the actual quantity.

Now, with regard to whether we shall have enough honey to meet all the requirements of the demand, we emphatically answer—No! we shall not. While the output has been falling off, the knowledge of the uses of honey has been spreading, and the demand has gradually increased, so that two factors in favour of those who have stuck to the business of beekeeping have been at work, and we sincerely hope they will now begin to reap a reward for their perseverance.

Now that the season is well advanced and honey gathering gradually drawing to a close, so far as surplus honey is concerned, great care should be taken when depriving not to run the bees too close. Taking all things into consideration it pays far better to leave the bees sufficient of their natural stores for winter food than to feed syrup later on.

It should be the object of those working for comb honey to have as few sections unfinished as possible at the end of the season. When honey gathering begins to slacken the partly finished sections should be collected from all the hives and be given to one or two of the very strongest colonies, while the weaker ones should only be left to finish the capping of the combs.

Beware of robbing as soon as honey gathering ceases, and keep the hives and surroundings free from long grass and weeds.

N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

We have now had a fair discussion on the matter of reviving the above association, and though more might have joined in and given their opinion, still all that have done so through the *Journal* are unanimous with regard to the necessity for such an institution. A number of beekeepers have written privately expressing their willingness to become members, so that under the circumstances we think it is high time some practical steps were taken to start it. For this purpose we now call a meeting of all interested, and who can attend, for Wednesday, the 7th of March, at 7.30 p.m., at Hopkins, Hayr & Co.'s office, 13 Lower Queen Street, Auckland. Before taking this step we consulted several of the most practical beekeepers in and around Auckland, and they considered that the sooner the association is got into working order again the better for us all.

Now for a *very* practical part of the question. It will be absolutely necessary that we should know at the first meeting what support there is forthcoming, for on this will depend entirely whether the association shall be started again or not. To test this, each person willing to join should not only send name and address, but also their first annual membership fee of 5s. Do not think that by sending the 5s you will lose it in the event of the association not being started, for if sent to ourselves, we guarantee to return every farthing in that case. Any little expense of calling the meeting in the local papers we will defray ourselves, so that nothing shall be deducted from the fees received for that purpose.

We do not doubt that support will now be forthcoming from all progressive beekeepers throughout the colony, and it should be borne in mind that the support of all is urgently needed. Don't think that "there will be plenty of members without me." We have made a start in the right direction by agreeing to work conjointly to get out the pamphlet; let us now go a step further and form ourselves into a strong association, and so agree to co-operate in all matters for our mutual benefit in future.

"Lamh dearg Erin" has laid down a few excellent lines for the successful working of the association, which, if properly carried out, will make it and the industry in this colony "boom." In connection with "Lamh dearg Erin's" suggestions, we might mention that we have already interviewed Mr Lawry, M.H.R. for Franklin North, and made him thoroughly acquainted with the foul-brood question. He saw the importance of legislating on the matter, and at once kindly offered to take charge of any bill the beekeepers would entrust him with. We shall shortly have a copy of the South Australian Act, which will be laid before the first meeting of the association, so that there should be no difficulty in having a foul-brood bill ready to lay before the next session of Parliament. *Don't forget to send name, address, and membership fee at an early date.*

THE AUCKLAND HONEY MARKET.

SINCE the great bulk of the honey that glutted the market for the past two years has been cleared off, there seems to be a much healthier tone in the honey trade. Though we cannot as yet report a rise in price, there is a fair demand—considering the time of the year—for a good article of extracted honey in 2lb. tins well got up. It is gratifying also to notice that beekeepers, profiting from past experience, are disposed to pay more attention to the manner of marketing their honey. From present indications, we believe that very little of this season's honey will reach the auction rooms, and should this be the case the chief obstacle to establishing a sound business will be removed. It is our object to prevent, so far as we possibly can, any honey reaching the auction rooms, and we have already intercepted two or three lots on their way there. In the form it was in it is very doubtful whether it would have fetched 1d. per lb., but by tinning it and getting it up decently we very soon disposed of it at a good price.

There is already a much better understanding among dealers and grocers with regard to the prices of tinned honey, but there is also a strong disinclination among them to deal in inferior qualities for table use, or in any kind not well got up. They complain very much of the way a great deal of the tinned honey has been put on the market hitherto—a soiled, paltry-looking, plain printed label, carelessly put on—and say that such packages lie as dead stock on their hands. They cannot give such packages a prominent position; therefore they lie on their back shelves eating up all the profit there should be on them. One and all agree that it is absurd to think of selling at a profit nowadays any article not got up tastefully, however good it may be. However, as we have already stated, there is every indication that beekeepers will pay more attention to this matter in future.

We are giving a great deal of our time and attention to the honey trade; in fact, we have made this a prominent feature of our business, and hope by degrees to be able to put the honey trade on a sounder footing than it has ever reached yet. Our honey depôt is now well-known by all the wholesale dealers in Auckland, and we have already done a very fair business for our clients, and we trust that our efforts to forward the industry may be recognised by those interested, and that we shall receive their support as our reward. There is one thing, however, we must protest against, that is, having parcels of honey brought to us to sell after the owner has canvassed every likely place in town he knows of himself. On one or two occasions honey has been left with us, and on our taking a sample to canvass for orders immediately after, as is our custom, we have found the owner has been before us, and we have had all our trouble nothing. Of course, the owner has the right to sell his own goods if he can. At the same time he should acquaint us with the fact that it will be no use to try the places where he has been for a day or two, and so save us the time and trouble of going round to them on a useless errand.

FOUL-BROOD LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

THE Act for the repression of foul-brood in South Australia, that we previously intimated had been laid before the Parliament of that colony, has, we are glad to say, been passed and become one of its laws. Great praise is due to the leading beekeepers of South Australia for the example they have set their brethren of the sister colonies of Australasia. As a body there certainly seems to be more "go" in them than is to be found among the rest of us, for while we appear to be content to talk they act, they go straight ahead and reach the goal, while we are waiting for somebody to act as starter. Well, we are pleased that someone has led the way at all events, for the rest cannot now afford to remain long in the background. We are anxiously awaiting a copy of the Act, which will be of great assistance to us when we can muster energy enough to take action in the same direction.

From the *Adelaide Garden and Field* we learn that as soon as it became known the Act had been passed, a large meeting of that class of beekeepers who have most to fear from it, was held in Williamstown to protest against the innovation. The following is taken from the above journal:—

"Some very impulsive hot-headed people at Williamstown, like frightened sheep, have rushed together at the call of their bell-wether, who, without ever reading the Act just passed by the Parliament, have told the flock that it is intended to compel every beekeeper to use only bar-frame hives, and thus to place beekeeping and hive-making in the hands of a few rich people. Now this is a perfect misstatement. There is no truth in it whatever. Anyone can keep bees in anything that he pleases to use. He may keep them in an old hat, or a washing-tub, or a basket, or a kerosene box. What he may not do is to *wilfully* keep a colony of bees that is infected with foul-brood. When he knows or is informed by a competent authority, that any hive or hives contain bees or combs or brood that are infected with 'foul-brood,' he must cure the disease or destroy the bees and boxes. By doing so he will save the rest of the colonies and prevent the disease spreading to his neighbour's apiary.

"If any one of the one hundred 'beekeepers' who met at Williamstown on the 28th of last month, had known anything practically about the advantages of bar-frame hives and the facilities they give for eradicating foul-brood, that one would have stood up and tried to prevent the ninety-nine others from abusing the friends who have been trying to benefit all beekeepers by getting the bill passed. There are a few very selfish men who want foul-brood to spread amongst the apiaries of their neighbours, because it will discourage them and drive them out of the business, but we believe that hardly one amongst the hundred at Williamstown has really tried a bar-frame hive, else surely they would see that 300lbs. average of honey in the frames against 60lbs. in the boxes would pay for the better hives over and over again. Every man who tries to make his fellows wiser and better is likely to be misunderstood and possibly abused."

THE PAMPHLET ON THE USES OF HONEY.

WE are glad to inform our subscribers and others interested in the issue of the above pamphlet that the matter has advanced another step. Having received orders for 5,000—the number suggested for the first edition—the first portion of the matter has been handed in to *The Farmer* office, and is now in type. The remaining portion, that is the

recipes, we are now busy compiling, and will have it ready for the printer in a day or two. By the time this number of the *Journal* is issued in all probability the body of the pamphlet will have been printed. It will then only remain to print the covers, but before this can be done those who have ordered them, and who have not already done so, will need to send a copy of what they require printed on the back cover, that is, their business card. It will also be necessary to forward the cash for those ordered.

For the information of those who may have forgotten what the pamphlet is to be like, we may state that it will contain 12 pages about the size of those in the *Australasian Bee Manual*, enclosed in a coloured cover. About eight pages will be taken up with explanatory matter and the other four with recipes. On the front cover will be the title and the words "PRESENTED BY" with a space for the beekeeper's name. The back cover will be left for the business advertisement of those ordering copies. The printing and the paper will be of the best, and the whole thing got up in an attractive form.

The printer's price is 5s. 6d. per hundred for the 5,000, and for all orders of 500 or more the advertisement on back cover will be printed free; under 500 a charge of 2s. 6d. extra will be made to defray cost of setting type. If left blank there will be no extra charge.

Those who have ordered copies will please comply with the request noted at end of first paragraph. Until the first edition is published further orders will be taken at same rate, after which the printer will charge a slightly higher rate for new copies. Orders should be sent in as early as possible.

OUR ITALIAN QUEEN TRADE.

WITH very great regret we are obliged to announce that we shall not have any Italian queens ready to send out this season. The following will explain why, and at the same time convey some useful information connected with the difficulties of importing Italian queens:—

Early last autumn we sent to Italy for twelve queens to arrive here at the beginning of August, so as to have them in time to raise queens and drones before there were any black drones flying; instead of which our instructions were not carried out, and the queens were landed six weeks behind time. To add to our discomforture, when the boxes were opened immediately after arrival (Mr. O. Poole assisting), eleven out of the twelve contained, not live bees, but were literally full of the large bee-moth in all stages of growth, from the eggs to the perfect insects, an inch long, and ready to fly. The combs were destroyed, and such a mass of eggs, larva, cocoons, and moths in each box as to completely shut out from view the mass of dead bees lying on the bottoms. Profiting by former experiences, the boxes were opened in a close room to prevent any moths escaping, and as each one was carefully examined to see if any queens were still alive—they being as a rule th

last to succumb—it was burnt with the whole of its contents by Mr. Poole. Not a single live worker-bee remained in all the eleven boxes, but two queens *just* alive were discovered in such a weak state that in spite of all we did to revive them they in a short time went the way of all flesh. The twelfth box contained a fine lot of healthy bees and a queen, but not a sign of the bee-moth.

Now it was clear to Mr. Poole and ourselves that the whole of the mischief lay in the fact that the combs when put in the eleven boxes had been infested with bee-moth eggs, which in due time had developed into the larvæ and moths. To that circumstance, and that alone, is to be attributed the death of all the bees and queens. Probably the combs had been lying by for some time, and instead of taking the precaution to fumigate them two or three times before putting them in the boxes, they were carelessly put up and sent off. The combs in the twelfth box had most likely been taken direct from a hive, and were clean. We cannot otherwise account for the difference. Our instructions with regard to a supply of water and "good" candy in case the former failed, which did happen, had been faithfully carried out, and we haven't the least doubt, but for the downright carelessness of putting in combs containing bee-moth eggs, and perhaps larvæ the whole of the queens would have reached us safely.

With only one queen, and that arriving so late, it was almost impossible for us to succeed in raising purely mated young queens, but nevertheless we tried with the aid of another queen for raising drones which we procured, thinking, perhaps, to get as many as would supply orders. However, there were too many black drones about, so that with the exception of one or two, our young queens have been cross mated. We have now a good start for next spring, and with a further supply of imported queens (not from the same place, though) we shall have a good batch ready, we hope, to send out early.

Those who have sent cash for queens can have it returned, or we will allow 6 per cent. interest on it until we send the queens next season, or we will allow 5 per cent. discount at once off the price of any goods ordered to the amount standing to their credit. We can only again express our regret for the disappointment, and may remark that it has been a serious loss to us.

ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE.

"THE earnest desire of succeeding is almost always a prognostic of success." Beekeepers of New Zealand, keep that motto in mind, and let each of us always have that earnest desire of succeeding, which will resuscitate the defunct Association, and make it arise from its ashes with renewed vigour.

R. J. Kendall, I bow to you, and sincerely endorse your views, and right here I say most emphatically, YES, let us have an Association with lines so broad that every district in New Zealand, however small may be its beekeeping community, shall be included in it. With representatives from every district who shall either in person, by proxy, or by

monthly reports bring forward subjects for discussion at the meetings held periodically at the Association's rooms or secretary's office. That the said representatives shall be chosen by members of the Association in each district. That the first duty of the said beekeepers' representative shall be to interview the member of the House for his district, explain to him by PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION the ravages that foul-brood *has* made and *is making* amongst our bees; point out the *necessity* for an *Act* for its repression, and to THOROUGHLY ENLIGHTEN *him* on the subject. By so doing every member of the House of Representatives will be made familiar with our wants, and when a discussion takes place in the House, members having seen what a scourge this disease is, and being well up in the subject, will pass the Bill (the said Bill to be drafted by the Association). Then it will not be our fault if we do not speedily check this curse of our apiaries.

Readers of this *Journal*, I have been asked my views. I plunk them down in the rough, leaving our worthy editor to rub them into shape. I say this, with all due deference to older hands in the bee industry, who I know will come forward and give us the benefit of their experience. We don't ask for government subsidy, we don't want it. What we *do* want is a member of the Association in each district, who has the welfare of the honey industry at heart, to be *recommended* by the Association, and *appointed* by the Government as Inspector, who will go round and inspect the different apiaries and send in his report, whether clean or otherwise—a man who will advise beekeepers as to the best methods of treatment, and one who earnestly has his heart in the work. There ought to be plenty of enthusiasts who would gladly take the trouble, and they only want asking. To an experienced apiarist a foul-broody hive can be spotted at once, from the very way in which the bees are shaping. (More of this in another article.)

Now as regards name, Friend Kendall, I take you at your word, "Say something anyway if it is only to say you don't agree, and why you don't." Let us call it by its old title, *The New Zealand Beekeepers' Association*. As you say, Trades Unions have been a mighty power, and are still, but has that power always been for good? A Trades Union amongst beekeepers may eventually mean slinging foul-broody comb over your successful neighbours' fence and other pleasant means of diversion to a dissatisfied or disappointed beekeeper—not that I mean to impute bad motives to any apiarist; as every one who keeps bees in the improved hives shows, by so doing, his humanity and enlightenment.

Friend Brown, I see you have put your foot in it and the boss has got his eye on you. "All things are for those who wait." Mahomet could not move the mountain, so had to go to it. Granted, you can hang a leg of mutton this weather, but it won't wait for you to take it down, it will run sooner; result obvious. So with foul-brood; the sooner the Association is started the better. I say strike while the iron is hot. Every reader of this *Journal*

should become a member, and I will go a step farther. Every subscriber of the *New Zealand Farmer*, who takes an interest in apiculture, should be a member of the Association, as they get to a certain extent the benefit of articles from our *Journal*.

I note "Nechtah's" query *re* bees converting sugar syrup into honey. I will give him instances which have come under my own observation. About nine or ten years ago a swarm of bees located themselves in a shepherd's hut, just under the ridgeboard, and thrived amazingly; there they built comb and stored honey, and robbed the shepherd of his sugar. When we took the honey-comb away nearly a third of it was nothing more or less than candied sugar, to a certain extent it had a faint aroma of honey, but it was not equal to the genuine article by a long way. Again, last winter season I fed my bees on phenolised syrup. Some of the combs in the spring I took out; the syrup had been carefully stored and sealed over by the bees, and on tasting I could detect the phenol; it was simply phenolised syrup. So far as I could see no chemical change had taken place, and *the bees had to fill themselves to take it to their own hives*; so it went into the honey sac of the bee before being stored.

Now for foul-brood again. Mr. Editor, I crave your indulgence a little longer and trust I won't disgust your readers on this subject. Has it never struck you that the extractor in an indirect way may be the means of spreading foul-brood. Take for instance a few badly diseased combs that you want to extract the honey from. Very well. A careful apiarist of course will not uncap the brood, but it sometimes happens that an accidental slip of the knife does so; for argument sake we will say it does so. Those combs, on being put into the baskets, will they not leave behind them enough germs *on the wire of the baskets* to stock the whole apiary? For if the apiarist does not carefully disinfect succeeding combs, or wash out thoroughly his extractor after manipulating diseased combs, will he not find out to his cost, at the end of the autumn, that he has unwittingly inoculated a part if not the whole of his apiary?

Now, Brother Apiarists, this is a query, and may be in the opinion of some an insignificant one; but remember one drop of water can put out a lighted match, but a whole brigade is sometimes foiled for the want of it. So with us. No matter how insignificant you may deem your views, air them in the *Journal*; give us the benefit of your experience, and when this subject is exhausted we can easily raise another, for in this great world of insect life there is far more to be learnt than we ever dreamt of.

LAMH DEARG ERIN.

[We quite agree with our correspondent that the name of the national association should be the same as formerly, "The New Zealand Beekeepers' Association"; and it should be that in spirit as well as name. It will be seen in another column that we have called a meeting of all interested in its re-formation. *Re* the extractor being the means of disseminating foul-brood, the disease, from what we know of it, is so contagious that a

foul-broody comb coming in contact with anything would leave some germs behind ready to be conveyed to the next thing that touched it, and where this happened to be something that would come in contact with healthy bees the mischief would be done.—Ed.]

DO SOMETHING.

BY R. J. KENDALL.

MANY people in New Zealand and in England have asked me the comprehensive question as to what was the difference between Americans and Englishmen. The readers of the *Journal* have not asked me that, but I'm going to tell them. In the last issue of the *Journal* I asked beekeepers to vote yes or no as to whether they desired to have a Beekeepers' Association formed. The answer to that has been very slim. The lack of interest shown in this—because it can be nothing else, as I asked those who did not want a society to write and say so, the object being to consult the wishes of the beekeepers in the district, and carry out those wishes. Not a single objection has come to the proposal. All those who have written have voted in favour of such an association, but those who have written are nothing like the number who should have written. This means that listless, don't-care sort of spirit, that is the very worst to meet. But it is emphatically English. It is known popularly as conservatism, but it is really lack of energy—want of go—the absence of that vim and snap which is so characteristic of the American, and to which he owes not only his individual but his national progress. This is why to-day America is the leading nation on the globe, and why the average American is at least fifty years ahead of the average Englishman. Had such a proposition as I made been made through an American bee journal, the beekeepers in the vicinity would have risen to it like fishes to a beetle. In America, as soon as a new idea is proposed, the tendency is to try it—to try it quick, so as to make some money out of it before anybody else picks it up, and it gets common. But propose a new idea to an Englishman, and he says, "Hum! I'll think about it." After "thinking about it," he asks if there is any precedent for it, whether anybody else has tried it and found it answer, and so on. Then if he feels favourably disposed towards it, he refers it to a committee of one (himself), and the committee takes it and in about a month reports progress, and another month is taken, and then the committee (of one still) reports to the Board (the same individual as the Committee), that if properly conducted and gone about, and there is the necessary this, that, and the other, and circumstances are favourable and about half a dozen other ifs and buts, and contingencies, the thing *may* answer. And then the Board discusses it, and weighs it, and adjourns the discussion till next meeting; and when that time comes, as like as not it is again adjourned, or laid on the table, or some other of the thousand-and-one dilatory pleas are put in;

and even if it is decided to try it, even then there is delay—for then the engineer or surveyor or somebody else has to prepare plans and specifications—and then tenders have to be called for, and so on—always delay, delay, delay, before the idea can be put into operation. The Yankee goes at it in a different manner. As soon as he gets an idea he goes away by himself and does some rapid figuring and thinking, and by next morning he is ready to make a break for what he is after. Probably the readers of the *Journal* think I have done a little stretching and drawing on the imagination—but I think I have not—and I'll give a few familiar instances. The flag on the new Council buildings in Auckland got ripped somehow. Before that flag could be mended it was reported to the City Council, who referred the matter to a committee, Finance I believe, who considered the matter, reported it back to the Council, who in turn considered it before it could be ordered to be mended. Had I been Town Clerk I should have got it mended and put it down to office expenses. Again the suggestion has been made to put guard chains round the wharf to prevent people falling into the sea. Everybody agrees it is a good idea, but it is not taken up, and probably years will slip by before it is done. Again, when there is a fire and a block of buildings is burnt, see the time wasted before they are put up again. Now for the other side. When Chicago was burnt in '70 or '71, scores of merchants, as soon as they saw their stores were doomed, telegraphed to New York for fresh goods, trusting to have new places rented by the time the goods got there, and in hundreds of cases the goods were travelling on the railway before the fire was out. As soon as it got so that people could move about amongst the ruins, those who went to look at them saw in all directions little signs reading, "John Smith, wholesale business carried on till new store built at Blank-street." Potter Palmer was the big dry goods dealer of Chicago. He had a mammoth place. It got on fire. While the engines were playing on it a reporter of the *Chicago Times* saw Mr. Palmer gazing at the fire from the steps of an hotel opposite. "Well, Mr. Palmer, what do you think of this fire?" "What do I think? Well, I am wondering where in the mischief I shall open to-morrow. I think I shall take the Exhibition building on the Lake shore." He did so. And the next morning papers contained a big advertisement something like this:—"The great fire at Potter Palmer's.—Potter Palmer has leased the Exhibition building on the Lake shore, where he will carry on his business till his new store is built. Busses will convey shoppers *free* from the terminus of the street cars to the building." When Barnum's big circus, hippodrome, and menagerie got on fire about a couple of months ago, while the thing was blazing, Barnum was telegraphing and cabling to his agents all over the world, telling them of the loss and directing them to buy fresh animals and get fresh attractions. Very shortly Barnum got a cable message from his London agent, "Think I can get Wombwell's menagerie for a price. Shall I buy?" Barnum cabled back, "buy," and he now

owns Wombwell's show and is going to add fresh attractions, and make his collection still "the biggest show on earth." This is the difference between the Yank and the Briton. In big and little things it's the same. It is this snap, promptness, and go that makes the Americans the go-ahead people they are, and it is this same spirit that has made them lead us so far in the beekeeping industry as in everything else. If the beekeepers of New Zealand want to be in the front they must get there, and must show a very different spirit to that they have shown in answering the query, "Shall we have a Beekeepers' Association?"

If this backwardness in replying is because I have taken it upon myself to ask them to do so, if they think I am trying to rush them for the sake of the industry, I am willing to step down and out, and simply do what I desire, fall into line as a full dress private. But for God's sake, brother beekeepers, do something. Life is too short to waste it. Business is on the point of booming again, and a little promptness, energy, and co-operation, and we can make money. Now somebody step right to the front and start this thing. If we won't follow, we are not worthy of success.

[Our correspondent will note that we have now taken a practical step by calling a meeting to set the association going again, and we believe that the beekeeping fraternity will come forward and back up our efforts to establish a strong union between them all.—ED.]

FOUL BROOD.

BY T. G. BRICKELL.

THE discussion on Foul-brood now taking place will be of great value to many of your readers who at the present time have the disease among their bees and are afraid it is intending to stop there. For some years I have been, in season and out of season, on every possible occasion, urging the settlers to keep bees in frame hives and to treat them according to modern ideas; but during the last two years I have felt it necessary to be more guarded and to strongly point out to those who had adopted frame hives the necessity of being always on the look-out for brood which did not hatch, and as soon as such was seen to at once uncapp them. One reason for this was that we have here in the spring and autumn such sudden and severe changes of temperature that it is almost impossible to avoid having chilled brood in the hives, and another reason was that reports of a disease in the brood was reaching me from all over the country, and I had found that by persistently uncapping the diseased cells they were cleaned out by the bees and the disease kept in check. I had no disease worth the name among my own bees, though I found they required more care in the spring and autumn than during the summer; in fact the disease where the combs were clean may be said to disappear during the honey season, always reappearing as soon as the bees were compelled to use the honey stored in the hive, and I

had also followed the advice and practice of Mr Cowan, and added salicylic acid and borax to the feed whenever I gave any to the bees. I have during the last two years visited dozens of small apiaries and examined hundreds of diseased colonies, treating them with the various known remedies—salicylic acid, phenol and camphor—with varying success, always being able to check the disease but never to absolutely cure it, as although the bees would be apparently entirely free and clean, it was sure to reappear as soon as they were confined to their lives a few days. This spring I reserved four colonies for experimenting with, and have also used two swarms for the same purpose. To describe these experiments would take up too much of your space and probably weary your readers, but from them I have come to the following conclusions: that the disease we have is not *Bacillus alvei*; there is an entire absence of the characteristic offensive smell; the term "dying out in rottenness" can seldom or never be applied, even to the worst cases, as forty or fifty cells will be found empty and dry on uncapping to one where the larvæ is a rotten decomposing mass; that either of the remedies referred to will keep the disease in check, and that it can be easily cured by shaking the bees into an empty clean hive, letting them build comb for four or five days in empty frames, then destroy the comb built and give them full sheets of foundation. In every case where I have given the bees a comb from an infected hive the disease has reappeared, although the comb was apparently free from infection. I am afraid to occupy more of your space now, but if you will give me permission I will refer to this subject again. In the meantime I shall be obliged if some of your readers who have foul-brood will send me enclosed in a box a small sample for comparison. It is of the utmost importance, in order to avoid mistakes, that when talking of foul-brood we should all mean the same thing.

Dunedin, January 16, 1888.

[We gladly grant permission to refer to the matter again, and shall be glad to get all the information you can give us. We shall take the opportunity of quoting from D. A. Jones' pamphlet in our next, and give his experience of the various symptoms of chilled, over-heated and foul-brood, for it is important that we should all know exactly what we have to deal with.—ED.]

OUR PRICE LIST.

WE wish to call attention to two or three errors in our price list, which, though duly corrected in our proof sheets, were overlooked by the printer, and escaped our notice till after they were sent to our customers. If those who have them will kindly make the following corrections we shall be obliged. Page 4, second line from top, '8s. 3d.' should read 8s. 4d. Page 6, second line from bottom, the price of 'Norton's devices' should be 1s. 6d. instead of '10d.' Also on same page the price of the framework for extractor should be 10s. instead of 7s. 6d. Page 7, fourth line from top, the price of honey tanks should be £8 10s. instead of 8s. 10d.

Add at page 9, under Clark's Smoker, 'Bagnall's combined Cold Blast and Direct Draft Smokers, 6s.; by post.

REVERSIBLE HIVES AND FRAMES.

BY O. POOLE.

THROUGH the kindness of my friend Mr. Hopkins, I have been enabled to gain some experience in what to me was a very novel system of bee management, namely, the reversible hive system. Though I had casually heard before I left England that such a system had been introduced in America, I paid little attention to it, as I had not seen it mentioned in the *British Bee Journal*, to which I had long been a subscriber. It was not until I had the pleasure of looking through Mr. Hopkins' bee library that I became interested in the matter, and learned what Mr. Heddon had been doing in America.

In order to learn for himself the value of the new invention, Mr Hopkins imported a complete reversible hive—which arrived in November last—and it was stocked with a fair swarm about the latter part of that month. Having a good deal of spare time on my hands, and feeling particularly interested in the new hive and system, I asked to be allowed to take the hive under my charge, which permission was readily granted, with the proviso that I should give the readers of the *Journal* the benefit of my experience, and which, it is needless to say, I quickly complied with. Unfortunately, my memorandum book, in which I noted the dates of the various manipulations, has been mislaid or lost, so I shall have to trust to my memory, which, by the way, is not one of the best.

The hive is what is termed a sectional one, the lower or breeding part being in two parts somewhat like two half-stories of a Langstroth hive, though not so large. The dimensions of each sectional part are—Length, 15 inches; breadth, 13 inches; depth, 5 inches, inside measure, and they are made of three-quarter inch timber. Each part contains ten frames $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch wide, 13 inches long, and $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches deep. The end bars are close fitting, and are therefore $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and there is just room enough between the ends of the frames and the sides of the hive to allow the former to slide in easily. It may be as well to mention that the hive was made in England, and on the English plan, with the frames running parallel to the entrance, which will also account for it being smaller than the Langstroth hive. When all the frames are in position there is still a space left between the last frame and the back of the hive of about an inch for a board the width and depth of the hive, and three-quarters of an inch thick, called the dummy. Two wood screws run through the back of the hive, near the centre, which press against the dummy when screwed up, and this again presses against the frames, making them all firm and rigid, so that the whole of them, with the sectional body, can be reversed at once without moving. There is nothing in the bodies for the frames to rest on when putting them in, nor is anything needed, as the end bars of the frames project above and below the top and bottom bars, and just come flush with the upper and lower edges of the body, so that when the latter is placed on a flat surface the frames can be put in and screwed

up without any trouble. The same when the different parts are in position, as the lower part of the ends of upper frames rest on the upper part of the ends of lower ones.

The supers consist of two more sectional parts, and contain seven broad frames, separators, and twenty-one one-pound sections—three to a frame. These have also dummies and screws. The hive was also furnished with a slatted honey-board or queen-excluder, to place between the breeding compartments and supers, but we decided not to use it. Round the outer edge of the bottom board there is a thin fillet on which the lower section rests, and which raises it sufficient to give the proper bee space between the bottom board and frames. Two movable blocks to regulate the size of entrance and a flat cover completes the description of the hive.

Near the latter part of November I prepared the two lower sections of the hive by filling the frames with foundation, and introduced a swarm that had come off a few days previously, and been hived temporarily in a small box. The weather was not very favourable at the time for honey-gathering, and the fact that the bees had done a considerable amount of work in the way of comb-building in the box, and so consumed their original stock of honey, was against their making a good start in the new hive. But nevertheless they had the combs in the upper section, which they seemed to take to first, pretty well worked out, and one or two frames in the lower part started, in about a week.

About the middle of December I reversed the hive, and placed on it one of the supers before mentioned, which was immediately occupied by the bees, and a few days ago that was also reversed, and another super placed between that and the stock hive; and, judging by appearances, the whole forty-two sections will be filled by the end of the season, which, considering the locality (Epsom) will, I think, be very good work for a young swarm the first season. I do not, however, in any way attribute this success to the peculiar make or system of the hive, as many more of Mr. Hopkins' hives are doing equally well. In fact, the only advantage I can see in reversible hives is that you get the combs fastened to the bottom as well as the top of the frames. Now in *sections* this is *particularly to be desired*, and if that end can be attained by the use of reversible section cases, I say by all means use them; but for the stock hive—well, I don't think the game is worth the candle. New Zealanders, I think, will find a difficulty in improving upon the old Langstroth hive, and I advise them to stick to it. For cheapness and simplicity it is the best I have ever seen. Mr. Hopkins has two fitted with devices for reversing the frames which answer very well, and all the advantages of reversing the brood frames are secured by the use of these without the disadvantages of the *reversible* sectional brood department; and I consider there are disadvantages of no slight nature connected with them.

To sum up. With regard to the imported hive, I think it is an ingenious fad, eminently calculated for crushing bees during manipulation; still at the

same time, I must admit that I think the idea of reversing sections a good one, as it compels the bees to join the comb all round, and to give us better filled and consequently more marketable honey. I shall, however, be better able to speak positively on this point a little later on.

BEEOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY G. A. G.

MODERN methods of beekeeping seem well-established in Queensland. I observe no less than two advertisements of all kinds of beekeepers' supplies in the *Queenslander*.

* * * * *

The editor of the *Beekeeper's Magazine* (New York) appears to have the cause of the National Organisation of American beekeepers at heart judging from the following offer, viz.: "We will send the *Magazine* free to every member of the National Association, and to each state and county organisation who shall belong to the National Organisation. This offer we will stand by for two years after the organisation is effected."

* * * * *

Who is the person that has been selling his honey in Auckland—good comb honey—in one pound sections (well filled) for 3s per dozen? Our opinion is that the sooner he leaves the ranks of beekeeping the better it will be for himself and the fraternity. Such persons have done much to bring about the present state of things that exist in the honey market.

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According to the *Canadian Bee Journal*, the British B.K.A. publish an illustrated handbook called "Modern Beekeeping," at sixpence. Many thousands of these have been sold, and the circulation is largely on the increase.

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In Brisbane, Carroll published a Bee Book; price post free, six stamps.

* * * * *

This has been the shortest season we have had North of Auckland for many years. In my district the height of the honey flow only lasted ten or twelve days, commencing on December 1st, 1887. The bad weather prevented the bees gathering honey (more than enough to keep them going) during November.

* * * * *

J. E. Pond, jun., the well-known American apiarist and writer, contends that there would never be any trouble to get bees to work in sections if all the brood frames were kept exactly three-eighth of an inch apart, and no more, and the cells would always be kept full of eggs and brood even in the best honey flow.

Correspondence.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH FOUL-BROOD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Following in the track of Mr. G. Stevenson, I wish to place some of my observations and experiences on foul-brood before the readers of the *Journal*. I am sorry to say that in the early spring of last year I found all my hives contained about two combs, each nearly full of foul-brood. I commenced to feed outside on medicated syrup—the Cheshire prescription. I got some of my bees to carry the food into their hives. These were nearly all blacks. The hybrids that I had did not seem inclined to take any of this food. For the whole time I fed with the syrup outside I only noticed two of the hybrids on the stand I was feeding on. When the weather got warm enough to open the hives pretty often I uncapped the cells of the infected combs, and poured the medicated food into the combs, with the result that one hive of hybrids absconded, and left about six pounds of sealed honey. This was the cleanest colony I had. I kept this feeding up for about two months, but I did not get clear of the disease. I raised enormous quantities of bees by the use of this syrup, but they did not seem to clean the comb at all; consequently I got my combs blocked up with the disease again, only, instead of about two combs per hive, it was raised to from four to six. The weather now getting warmer I adopted more severe measures. In one instance I took my bees from their combs altogether for fourteen days, in another, seven days, and put them into small boxes with good ventilation, made of thin boards of about half-inch stuff, and I kept them cool, so that they should consume all food that they had with them. I then hived the bees in the instance of those kept fourteen days on wired foundations, and I am glad to say in this case I have taken about thirty pounds of honey, and up to the present no further trace of the disease. Not so fortunate with the other. I hived this one on the best of the old combs, cutting out all pollen and the brood parts, leaving only what might be called starters, and three new full sheets of foundation. In this case, the seven old frames with the starters, and the comb the bees have made, are clean; but in the three sheets of foundation there is about one cell in one hundred affected—this on what I term the first round. What I mean is, the first lot of bees have emerged, and the queen has layed the second time in the combs. Another colony dwindled down and it is now in a nucleus hive on two starters and one of the old combs washed out with the gardener's syringe and cold hard water from an artesian well. Now, this comb, to all appearances, contained only about six diseased cells per side until the syringe was brought to bear upon it; then you could see where there was disease. The foul-broody matter came from the cells in enormous quantities where the eye could not perceive it before. When I had given it a good drenching I placed it in the extractor, and dried it as well as I could, and then sprayed it with corrosive sublimate, and placed it in the nucleus hive, and put the bees directly on it. In this case the starters and the comb built on it are to all appearance clean; but I have found about six diseased cells on the old comb, some perfectly dry, but the larvæ were decaying in two of the cells, and I will let you know on some future occasion if they dry up perfectly on this comb or not. Now, I burned a number of my old combs, saving ten for further experiment, and you will be surprised when I tell you I pickled them; but I have done so; and I have gained some knowledge, namely, how to remove the pollen clean out of a comb with little trouble, and I will now give extracts from my diary of that same transaction:—

"Saturday, Dec. 24, '87.—I took ten combs, uncapped all the cells, and syringed the same with a gardener's syringe. Result: Foul-brood matter and nearly all the dead bees removed from the same. Placed the combs in half a water barrel, covering them with nine gallons of water.

"Monday, Dec. 26, '87.—Stirred 5lbs. best table salt into the nine gallons water. Note: The bees have found

out the brine and seemed determined to get all they can of it, but I covered it with sacks.

"Saturday, Dec. 31, '87.—Removed the combs from the pickle, and syringed them with pure artesian water. Result: All the pollen and the remaining dead bees removed from the combs. Note: Am most agreeably surprised at the result of this experiment. The combs are (with the exception of the cocoons in the cells, which seem to be moved about, so the bees will remove them,) completely cleaned out. P.S.: Removed the water with the extractor from the combs. Such faith have I in the result of this experiment that I have placed three of these combs in the centre of my best colony, using the others in top story."

I have little to add; only to hope your readers will read and consider what conclusions they can draw from these experiments. I know what mine are; and I will let you know how I get on with these combs on the earliest opportunity.

J. A. MORELAND.

Opawa-street Apiary, Blenheim, January 2, 1888.

[We shall be very glad to have a full report of all your treatment of the disease, and the results. The "pickling" of the combs may have a good effect. A supply of moderately salt water placed in every apiary for the bees we believe to be a very good thing.—Ed.]

BRIGHT AND LEATHER-COLOURED ITALIAN BEES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Seeing by the December number of the *Bee Journal* an opinion expressed as to the relative merits of the leathery coloured Italians and the light-coloured variety, I will give you my experience of Italian bees, and you will see it has not been a happy one.

A neighbour of mine and I sent to you and got our first Italians in January, 1884. We did our best with them, but neither of those nor their queen progeny were ever as good as a good black, so we soon got quit of them. In March, 1885, I received from you another for another trial. Unfortunately she died in September, 1885, leaving me with six queen cells. I got five laying queens out of them; their progeny are all dark-coloured. That I expected, as they were fertilised by black drones, but these were the best queens I ever had to do with: they build up quickly, keep their hives full of bees, and gather honey fast. My neighbour received another from you, which appears to be of the dark-coloured variety, the bees of herself and queen progeny being splendid honey-gatherers. I got a third queen from you in April, 1886, and introduced her to a black colony. Her bees appear to be of the light-coloured variety, the down on the last rings being very light when young. I do not know that she is a pure Italian, but I believe her to be a hybrid, between Italian and Holylander's, she being so useless, and her bees are light-coloured. I raised five queen cells in April, 1886, in case of her dying in the winter. Three came through drone layers, one died, and the other would not lay many eggs, so I killed her. During the season 1886 and 1887 (thinking my failure was caused by too late breeding), I raised and introduced eighty queens from her, Italianising the whole of the apiary, doing away with all the blacks, leaving only those raised from No. 2 queen, and from brood borrowed from my neighbour. In the spring I had six dead colonies, one drone layer, and my first introduction to spring dwindling. The queens layed eggs and raised brood, but the boxes did not increase in bees, in fact, after a couple of days' rain, the outside frame of brood would be left uncovered from want of bees. I did not double up, so as to see if they would get better as the weather got warm, but when I had some ready for swarming, I assisted others with brood, and out of the lot of 73 boxes, I only got five queens, whose bees went into the top boxes in December without assistance. On examining my book one day to see where I got a certain queen, I found to my astonishment that the six boxes that died, the drone layer, and all the boxes that had spring dwindling, without exception, were raised from my third Italian. It has certainly been a lesson to me not

to breed from a queen extensively again, until I have tested her progeny for honey-gathering, and, if possible, for wintering. If any of your other customers have got a light-coloured queen like her, and bred from her, they may well ask if they gather honey like the dark ones, as, even when built up and get strong they neither gather honey nor build comb anything like the dark ones, and without assistance in the spring they would die of starvation, when the others would be swarming and gathering pounds of honey every day. Both lots having been subject to the same treatment, the queen and progeny of my third Italian is certainly poorer than the very poorest blacks I ever had anything to do with.

Yours truly,

F. D. N.

December 28, 1887.

[If you have not made any mistake with regard to the queens you have certainly had rather a strange experience. We have had no Holyland queens since 1883-84, so that the queen you got in 1886 must have been a pure Italian. In 1886-87 we sent out Cyprio-Italian queens, and their bees proved to be the best we ever had, but rather vicious.—Ed.]

THE NEW ZEALAND (NATIONAL) BEEKEEPERS' PROTECTIVE LEAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—“Lamb dearg Erin” has hit the right nail on the head when in the December number of the *Journal* he calls upon New Zealand beekeepers to reorganise the Beekeepers' Association. I consider the present a very opportune time for the realisation of this much-to-be desired object.

The following from the pen of Mr. John Aspinwall, the able editor of the *Beekeepers' Magazine* (New York), which appeared in the November number of that journal, may be of especial interest at the present important juncture:—

“We note that friend Newman, of Chicago, has for his subject at the coming North American Convention, ‘The Proper Organisation of Beekeepers in America.’ This, to our mind, is a very important one. . . . The advantages of such an organisation are beyond computation (the editor had been referring to the British Beekeepers' Association in the paragraph left out.—G. A. G.). If every county association sent a delegate to the State Association, and then the State Association should send its president to the National Association Convention, we would have an organisation which, to our mind, would obviate the greatest difficulty we have to contend with in this country, viz., the distance to and cost of reaching the Convention. Admit that each county association tax its members \$1 per year, surely that is not much. If a member learns one good thing relating to beekeeping, he may save enough money to pay his dues all his life. Is it an impossible thing to suppose we could get twenty-five members together in each county? This amounts \$25. This amount should pay expenses of the association, and enough left to pay part, if not the whole, of the expense of sending the delegate to the State Association. The delegates would be, say, vice-presidents of the State Association. This in New York State would mean fifty-seven vice-presidents. If they contributed \$1 each to the yearly dues of their county association, we would have \$57 beside the dues of all the members of the State Association. Certainly \$50, or whatever less is thought proper of this, could be set aside to send the president to the National Association Convention. Thus a continuous train would be established from the county straight up.”

Now, in my humble opinion, the above extract represents something like what we want in New Zealand. At present there are not sufficient beekeepers here to form county associations. But provincial associations should at once be formed, each of which should be in affiliation with the national organisation. The presidents, and perhaps the vice-presidents, of the provincial associations should be vice-presidents of the national organisation.

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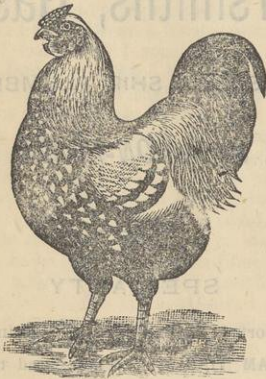


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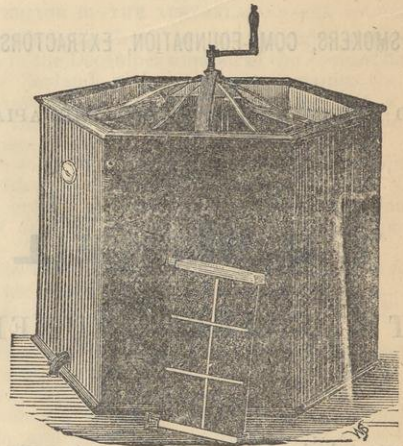
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