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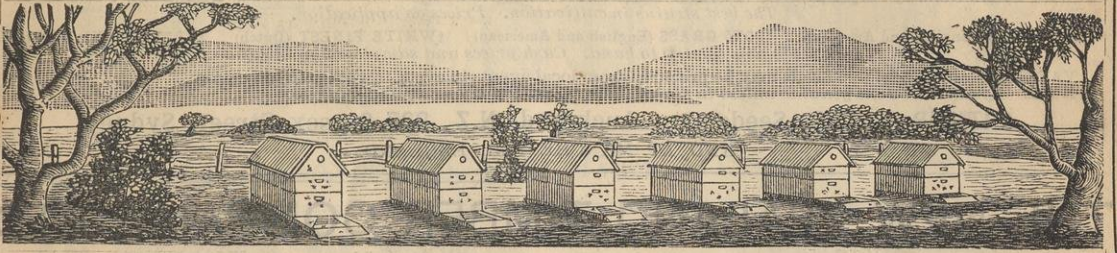
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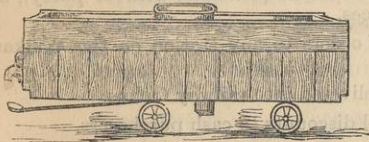
THE AUSTRALASIAN

BEE JOURNAL



No. 9. Vol. 1.] AUCKLAND, N.Z., MARCH 1, 1888.

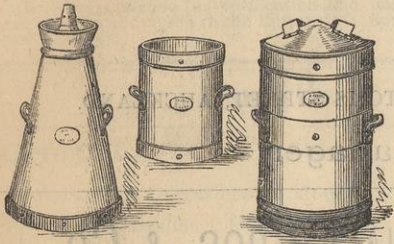
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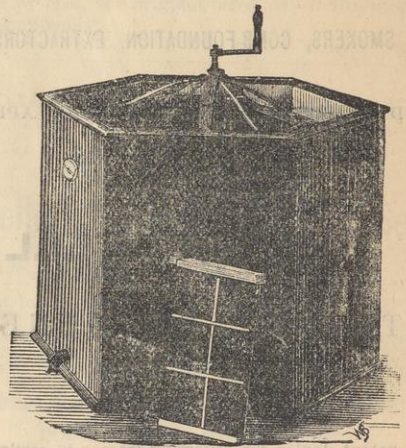
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THE AUSTRALASIAN

BEE JOURNAL

No. 9. Vol. I.]

AUCKLAND, N.Z., MARCH 1, 1888.

[PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY SIXPENCE.

The Australasian Bee Journal.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

I. HOPKINS EDITOR.

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Editorial.

SEASONABLE OPERATIONS FOR MARCH.

As a rule the taking of surplus honey ceases by the end of February so that the honey season is practically over by that time. This season, however, being an unusually late one, it is just possible it may extend to the end of the first or second week of the present month in some districts. In any case there cannot be much more honey gathered so that care should be taken to leave the bees sufficient food in their hives when going through them now. It is not good policy to run the bees too close at the close of the season, for should there be a long spell of dry weather through the autumn and little or no honey being gathered, breeding will drop off very rapidly, and the colonies will go into winter much weaker than they should be. Now, with a good supply of food, breeding may be kept up late in the autumn, and this is a point that should be made by every beekeeper who wishes to see his colonies come out strong in early spring. And who does not? Late breeding ensures plenty of young bees to go into winter, and these are what we have to depend upon for early spring workers, to stand the buffeting of boisterous winds and cold weather. Old bees at the commencement of winter that do not die before spring, are very little good as workers, and soon die off when they begin to gather pollen again for breeding. There is an old saying that "spring management should commence in autumn," and this is practically correct.

Any late swarms that have come off that are not progressing very well should be assisted by giving them a frame or two of honey and some worked out combs, or in the absence of these they should be fed with syrup in a way that will not attract robbers. Rather to our surprise we had four natural swarms in the second week of February, but as we could do with increase they were hived separately, and assisted, and are now doing very well.

ROBBING.

The first four or five weeks after the honey flow ceases is the worst time for robbing, and every precaution should be taken against robber bees getting any encouragement on their pilfering raids. Pieces of comb containing honey lying about within reach of the bees for instance, or opening hives while robbers are flying will often start fighting and robbing generally throughout the apiary, and when once the bees get fairly excited over it, it usually ends in the loss of the weakest colonies and the thinning of the others. When it is absolutely necessary to open hives at this time, the operator should be provided with a bee-entrance something similar to the one shown on p. 132, to cover the hive and himself. He can then with safety carry out the requisite manipulations without fear of robbers. A light framework of thin laths covered with mosquito netting large enough to allow of working comfortably under, is all that is needed and if it is made to

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bees into a smaller cluster, and so leaving some of the brood to perish, he describes its appearance as follows:—

The appearance of chilled-brood, however, differs materially from that of foul-brood; the larvæ is frequently found dead in all stages, from the egg to the perfectly formed bee just ready to gnaw out, while foul-brood usually operates on the larvæ when they are almost fully grown, and should they have lived sufficiently long to have had the wings formed, and assumed the general appearance of the bee, say two or three days before emerging; then they appear to be old and strong enough to resist the disease, or in other words, if they had been fed on any of the diseased food, or food containing *fungi* or *spores* of foul-brood, they would have died and assumed the foul-broody appearance before they had become so fully developed. Now, in this chilled-brood will be found fully developed bees, almost ready to leave their cells; and the skin of the larvæ seems to retain more perfectly its shape and appearance, and when pricked with a sharp instrument the larvæ will usually be found to contain a watery substance quite unlike foul-brood. Another proof whereby chilled-brood may be detected is that bees almost fully developed are found dead in their cells, retaining their shape and appearance, never sink back into that brown ropy matter which so plainly marks *pure foul-brood*.

NEGLECTED BROOD.

Neglected, deserted, or starved brood resembles chilled-brood very much in many respects, especially as it is found in all stages, from the egg to the perfect bee, but it differs in one respect very markedly; the bees after consuming all the honey in the cells often remove all the food from the larvæ, giving them a very dry appearance, and sometimes they even bite or gnaw open the larvæ, not being satisfied with taking the food from them, thus making holes in their bodies and giving many of the larger ones a shrivelled appearance. This may all occur before the bees desert the hive or die. [We should think so.—Ed. A. B. J.] And I have found all the brood dead except that just ready to leave the cells.

OVER-HEATED BROOD.

This is also called scalded, suffocated, and smothered brood. It is caused by insufficient ventilation during hot weather. . . . I have known colonies smother in a very short time and the over-heated brood die. This dead brood, on examination, will be found to resemble chilled-brood somewhat, and if allowed to remain in the cells it becomes putrid and smells very much like pure foul-brood. It differs from chilled-brood in this respect, that while in the latter, bees, just ready to emerge, are found dead in the cells, the heating does not seem to affect the older larvæ to the same extent. When bees are smothered the moisture arising from their over-heated condition settles on the combs, and makes them very damp. The moisture seems to affect the larvæ, accounting in a measure for their rapid decomposition, and the offensive smell being nearly as bad as that arising from foul-brood

(To be continued.)

A BEEMASTER'S TROUBLES.

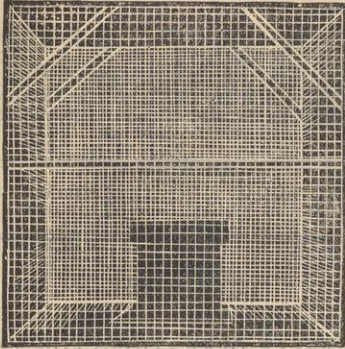
At the Resident Magistrate's Court, Christchurch, yesterday morning, J. Manser sued W. Kerr for 10s., the value of a swarm of bees. Mr Shackelton appeared for the plaintiff, Mr Stringer for the defendant. The plaintiff said he resided in Selwyn-street, Sydenham, and was engaged extensively in the rearing of bees, an occupation of which he had many years' experience. On Christmas Day a swarm rose from one of the stocks, and, notwithstanding his efforts, it escaped over a fence, six feet high, into the garden of his neighbour, Mr Kerr. Plaintiff mounted a pair of stilts, which appeared to

be part of his stock-in-trade, and kept his eye on the swarm until it had settled; he then got a box and went to secure the bees. Kerr met him at the gate and refused him admission. Manser said he was bound to get the swarm even if he had to climb over the fence for it. Kerr said if he did that he would "chuck him out." This seems to have daunted Manser, who lost his bees, and now brought this action for their value. The defendant's story was that Manser's bees were a constant source of annoyance to him. Many times they took possession of his premises, even, sometimes, invading his kitchen. Manser's section and his own were each only a quarter of an acre in extent, and were situated in the midst of other houses, so that it was impossible for Manser to keep the bees from annoying people in the vicinity. They were dangerous, and his children had often been stung. He knew nothing about their treatment, and could not manage them at all. On December 21st, as had often happened before, a swarm came over, and he sent for Manser, who took them away. Four days after another swarm came over—this was the one the action was about—and defendant thought they were coming too thick, so he and his wife drove them away; they were not allowed to settle. The defendant's wife corroborated this statement. Mr Beetham—What is the law on this matter? Mr Shackelton—The owner has a right to follow his bees and take them wherever they settle. Mr Stringer—But they must have settled. Our point is that they never did settle. Had they settled, and the defendant refused the owner permission to enter for the purpose of taking them, probably he would have been liable for wrongful conversion of property. It is not clear, however, that there would be a right to enforce an entrance. Mr Beetham—It seems there is no law to prevent anyone keeping bees in the heart of a town, though the practice must be an intolerable nuisance, and I think the owner has a right to follow his bees. But to claim a right, which is practically permission to trespass, the conditions precedent should be rigidly complied with. The evidence is not conclusive on this head, and judgment will be for defendant.—*Wellington Press*, February 7th, 1888.

[There is an old English law, which we believe has never been repealed, to the effect that a person from whose hive a swarm has issued has the right to take it from wherever it settles, providing he has kept it in sight all the time. How far the law of trespass may override this we do not know. The magistrate, without experience, had no right to say that the practice of beekeeping in town *must* be an intolerable nuisance; bees are not nearly so much nuisance as fowls or any other stock; in fact, we cannot see that they are any nuisance at all. If neighbours will fall out and go to law over the bees it does not follow that the latter are at fault.—Ed.]

LECTURE ON PRACTICAL BEE CULTURE.—At the request of the Secretary, Mr. Hopkins will shortly deliver a lecture on "Practical Bee Culture," before the Northcote and Birkenhead Fruitgrowers' Association. The exact date has not yet been fixed, but it will be about the middle of this month—March.

fold up when not in use it will be handier. If any colonies should be found queenless, a condition which is not infrequent at the close of the honey season, they should be provided with a queen or the means of raising one without delay; queenless colonies are more likely to



BEE TENT.

be attacked by robbers than when in their normal condition, therefore a watch should be kept on them and the entrances contracted. Weak colonies should be assisted by giving them one or more frames of emerging brood from the stronger ones; in fact, see that everything is done to get the bees into good condition for winter.

SURPLUS HONEY.

All surplus honey now on hand should be prepared for marketing; sections should be cleaned and packed in crates. Should there be but little demand for them just now it will be better to hold them over for awhile rather than sacrifice them, and then put them on the market when comb honey is getting scarce. First class extracted honey should be put up in two pound tins and inferior qualities in 10lb tins; it is a mistake to put it in one pound or odd size tins. There is a good brand of honey on the Auckland market now in 2½lbs and 6lbs tins. These are all odd sizes and will not find so ready a sale as the 2lb tins.

Rape and mustard for early spring forage should be sown toward the latter part of the month. All utensils such as honey tanks, extractors, etc., as soon as done with for the season, should be cleaned carefully and put away.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN "FOUL-BROOD" ACT.

WE are indebted to the kindness of A. Molineaux, Esq., proprietor of the *Garden and Field*, Adelaide, for a copy of the "Foul-Brood" Act, lately passed in South Australia. The Act is a very short one, containing but four clauses as follows:—

No. 410.

An Act to prevent the spread of Foul brood among bees.

[Assented to, December 9th, 1887.]

WHEREAS it is desirable to prevent the spread of, and to eradicate the contagious disease known as, "Foul-brood" among Bees—Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the said province, in this present Parliament assembled, as follows:

1. Every person who shall have in his possession, or under his care, any colony, hive, or swarm of bees affected with foul-brood, shall forthwith destroy all comb, and thoroughly disinfect any box, case, or hive, and any material or thing which shall have been used in connection with the bees so affected.

2. Any person who shall after one week's notice in writing having been served upon him by the Inspector or person appointed or authorised under the provisions of

the next clause, knowingly fail to observe the foregoing section in any particular, or shall knowingly have on his premises any comb infected with foul-brood, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, punishable, on summary conviction, by a penalty of not less than Five Shillings nor more than Ten Pounds.

3. Any Inspector, or person appointed or authorised by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the purposes of this Act, may, with such assistants as he may think fit, enter upon any land or premises where bees are kept, and inspect all beehives and materials used for beekeeping thereon.

4. This Act may be cited as the "Foul-Brood among Bees Act"

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

WM. C. F. ROBINSON, Governor.

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

WE would again remind our readers that a meeting of those interested in the above Association has been called for Wednesday evening, the 7th of March, at 7.30, at the office of Hopkins, Hayr and Co., 13, Lower Queen Street, Auckland, and we hope as many as can conveniently attend will do so. We also hope that every progressive beekeeper in New Zealand will appreciate the effort being made to arrange for joint action in the future on all questions affecting their welfare, and assist by becoming a member of the Association.

CHILLED-BROOD, FOUL-BROOD, ETC.

MR. T. G. BRICKELL, in our last issue, has given his experience with a disease which, though showing many of the symptoms of *Bacillus alvei* (foul-brood), he believes is not that disease. Though we give Mr. Brickell credit for being a practical and observing beekeeper, we haven't the least hesitation in saying that the disease he has described is foul-brood; it may be but a mild type, but nevertheless the genuine disease. It would appear that the doubt arises in his mind principally through "an entire absence of the characteristic offensive smell." Now, all who have had experience with it agree that no disagreeable smell can be detected until the disease has run its course in a hive for some considerable time, and is never noticeable in its earliest stages. This bears out our own experience. We have examined a goodly number of affected colonies in all stages of disease, and it was only in such colonies where the combs had not a healthy cell that could be detected, and the bees had dwindled down to a mere handful, that any offensive smell was noticeable. We were disposed to doubt at first, but further experience left no room for it. Every item of Mr. Brickell's description tallies exactly with the known symptoms of foul-brood in its earliest stages.

We now fulfil our promise to give Mr. D. A. Jones' experience of chilled-brood, etc.

CHILLED BROOD.

After stating the cause, such as cold nights during the early part of the breeding season driving the

mind is worse than misdirected energy; it is so much lost power, effort, or strength, as you please, and so I say if a National Association is formed, let its first, its greatest efforts, be put forth to make our little co-workers proof against Bacilian invasion (pardon this phrase). The same efforts put forth to secure the passing of an Act that will do little more than humbug the industry, and eventually prove a dead letter, might go far if not quite, to find, say, not a cure, but a preventive of the dreaded scourge. This may seem Utopian, but I can't help that. It is the goal towards which our energies should be directed, and anything short of which will be but so much tinkering at the best.

Now, friend Kendall, and all who live in an Americanised atmosphere, here is something to "vim" and "snap" at, something that's worth "trying quick," and something which, when accomplished will "lick (bacillus) creation."

Just let me "bob out" the end of the (or a) line so that you may see whether it's worth following up. Medicate the foundation so that the young larvæ are disease-proof. Place below a perforated floor-board a disinfectant that will *constantly* make and keep the atmosphere of the hive pure; or saturate the hive so that it shall slowly give off vapour or gas sufficient to keep the inmates clear of disease.

I thought when I penned those words I should get my ears boxed, but if you'll pardon my impudence they are true for all that, and, like many another sentence, capable of a false construction. When I've a good few miles to go up river, and the tide's falling, I prefer to wait. Others may "bullock ahead and bust up." But there, for the present, I must stop, hoping the friends will "let me down as gently as they can."

Dunedin, February, 1888.

[Glad to find your Beekeepers' Association doing such practical work, but we think if some of our members would follow the example of friend Brickell, that is, get a good number of the honey pamphlets and distribute them among the general public, it would do more good to the industry just now than the demonstrations. Not that we undervalue these, but increasing the demand for honey should be the main consideration at present. True, the knowledge gained by ocular demonstration that honey can be taken from the combs in a cleanly manner will do some good, but we cannot get very many to attend these practical lectures, whereas we can place a pamphlet in every household.

Now, friend Brown, you are having a friendly sparring bout with some of us. So mote it be. With regard to the proposed "Foul Brood Act" you ask, "Where are experts to come from who shall pronounce this, that, and the other to be foul brood?" Unfortunately it would not be difficult to get one hundred or more beekeepers in New Zealand that have had sufficient experience with a disease that is killing off the bees from one end of the colony to the other, to have made them thoroughly expert in all the symptoms and appearances of it. We care not whether it be foul brood or not, or whether Root, Cowan, Cheshire, or

anybody else has yet to learn anything about foul brood. The fact that we have to face is that we are losing our bees through some disease that we know to be infectious. We know from the appearance of the combs when our bees are attacked, and this is sufficient for our purpose. We have tried so far to cure it, but we find a big difficulty barring the way to success, which we must, with all the means in our power, try to remove. Come on with your "disease-proof" plans, and welcome; the Act will not prevent you. We shall not discard your method if it prove successful, but in the meantime you must not prevent us adopting a plan to keep the disease in check while you are perfecting your preventive

When you have a good few miles to go up a river, and the tide is falling, would you wait the turn of the tide if your living depended upon your reaching your destination by a certain time, and which could not be accomplished were you to wait? We think you would prefer to "bullock ahead" at the risk of "busting up."—Ed.]

BEE GOSSIP.

BY O. POOLE.

A LEARNED writer, I forget for the moment who, once remarked that there were "many beekeepers but few beemasters." I have often wondered what the writer in question would have thought could he have seen some of the queer beekeepers that I have met with during my perigrations. Many persons imagine that it is only necessary to purchase a frame hive and tenant it with bees, to obtain a fine harvest of honey at the end of the season. The result is a grievous disappointment, the thing is thrown up in disgust, the humane system gets a bad name, whereas it is only their own stupidity and folly that is to blame in expecting to gather a harvest without having done anything to deserve it. I remember meeting an old gentleman, at one of our shows at home, who was most anxious to adopt the humane system; I procured him some frame hives, transferred his bees, showed him the way to hive his swarms and super his stocks, lent him a good text-book, and put him (as I thought) on the right road; in fact, his bees were doing splendidly. Judge my astonishment, on meeting him in autumn, to find that he had actually *suffocated* his bees to obtain the surplus honey. Here in New Zealand I have met persons almost as bad—stocks with the quilt kept off, and the cover filled with comb, thus making the frames quite unget-at-able. One economical gentleman on the east coast had removed six of the frames before hiving, thinking ten too many, and placed the other four equidistant apart, with the result that the combs built on the quilt had given way, and the destruction of the bees, as a matter of course. In fact, I could multiply these examples of fool-hardy bee-keeping almost without number.

* * * * *

I am induced to make the above remarks by reading an article in one of the American papers, "Who should keep bees?" I fancy a more per-

VICTORIAN EXPERIENCES.

I WAS somewhat nervous after my Queensland experience to ascertain what Victoria might be in the immediate neighbourhood of the far-famed Melbourne.

I located in about the best of the suburbs of that city for bees, and anxiously awaited results. I put three stocks that I brought from Brisbane, presided over by imported queens, in my yard. In March they were in good condition. In a few weeks after I commenced contracting for winter, and eventually had them out, six frames each. During the latter part of the winter I fed them sugar syrup, and during September gave them room by degrees. In October, from two of the stocks I had swarms, or at least I divided, and from those I have had natural swarms, having increased to 9—eight good stocks, one weak one from the two in spring. The odd one went wrong. Remember, I had three at start—two all right, one diseased, which I have had to destroy—queen and combs, and doctor bees, etc.

I have not seen the disease in the other boxes yet, but quite expect before winter arrives to do so. I am using salycilic acid and also phenol. Be careful with phenol; I am satisfied if carelessly used it will do considerable harm.

Well, all the honey I have yet taken has been about twelve pounds for twelve months. The same bees in Brisbane would have given me as much in twelve hours. I expect to get a few more pounds, maybe fifty, in a few days, and at that the bees will need feeding, I guess, during the coming winter. I have raised some fine young queens, but although I have kept a lot of drones flying, believe all the youngsters have formed misalliances.

Maybe in the country, near forest and bush, honey may be obtained in quantity, especially adjacent to farms where plenty of clover is cultivated, but near this great city honey is scarce, and yet it is being sold at low prices, from 3d. to 5d. per pound.

CHARLES FULLWOOD.

Melbourne.

[Your Victorian experience in apiculture has certainly not been very favourable so far. No doubt the value of honey as food, etc., requires to be put prominently before the Melbourne public to create a better demand. Your Association should bring out a pamphlet on the subject the same as the New Zealand beekeepers are doing, and distribute them free.—ED.]

THE HONEY PAMPHLET.

SEVERAL correspondents have sent for sample pamphlets; some have sent stamps for them, some have not. The letters and stamps have been handed to us by the printer, and as soon as the pamphlets are published we will send them on to those who have paid for them.

We wish to call attention to the fact that payment *must* be made for the pamphlets when the order is sent, as the price will not pay for booking or posting accounts. For small sample orders of one dozen or so the price is twopence each, and all orders should be sent to us to avoid confusion.—EDITOR "BEE JOURNAL," P.O. Box 186, Auckland.

OTAGO NOTES.

BY W. C. BROWN.

AT the time of writing we are going through a spell of unusually cold weather, or perhaps it would be more correct to say *it's going through us*, for a howling S.W. gale has been trying, and very successfully so this last few days, to get at the marrow in our bones. In fact, the latter end of last month, and this month so far, has been very trying to all who keep bees, but especially to owners of badly-fitting hives. Hives with gaping cracks may do when honey is coming in fast, and the thermometer registers 80° to 90°, but so soon as a gale springs up then have we brood deserted and chilled, and all its attendant evils, to say nothing about the enormous amount of stores consumed by the bees in their vain endeavour to keep up the normal heat of the interior, sufficient in many instances to pay for a good sound hive.

It is a most difficult matter to get at anything like an estimate of the honey yield down here, the climate and the forage varies so much. Whilst colonies in the vicinity of Dunedin may do but little more than gather sufficient to carry them through the winter, others on the Taieri Plains, nine miles distant from the city's centre, give plenty of surplus. The variability of Dunedin weather is proverbial.

We had a demonstration at the Dunedin Botanical Gardens, when friend Brickell explained several of the most important features of modern beekeeping, doing a little extracting, which slightly astonished some of the onlookers. The hives stationed in the Gardens were also opened and duly examined by one or two members of the Association. We would have been better pleased had the public shown more interest by turning out in greater numbers, but notwithstanding, a few more were enrolled as members.

Yes, friend L. D. E., *I have* put my foot in it, and am now placing the other one in the same position, with the intention of *taking a stand*, and having done so with some premeditation, I am not surprised that "the Boss has got his eye on me." That's just what I wanted to catch, and so my pen runs on without a tremble.

Given a "Foul-Brood Act," or one with some such title, and all its paraphernalia, where are your *experts* to come from who shall pronounce this, that, and the other to be foul-brood? Why, some of our greatest bee-men in England and America could not with any degree of justice fill the billet. Why A. J. Root learnt a thing or two about the outward characteristics of *B. alvei* when Cowan called on him last year; and I think a good many who would rush for billets as experts under this projected Act, could, with profit, sit at the feet of such as A. J. R. Friends who advocate the passing of this Act, like to lay great stress on our "Scab Act" and such like, forgetting that there is no analogy between sheep and bees further than both are subject to diseases, and the owners of both suffer thereby.

Yes, I like "go," but it must not be with the steed who has the bit between his teeth. I have still a little of the Britisher left about me yet, that likes to know *where* I'm going. Nothing to my

meter and ventilating tubes, which, according to his idea, not only prevented swarming, but kept the queen from laying in the bell glasses, which were worked on the top, the whole being surmounted by an ornamental roof, and, according to the illustration given, must have been a great ornament in the garden. Poor Nutt! In those days he was supposed to have reached the acme of perfection in beekeeping. I wonder what he would say could he come back and see our method of working now? And going on at the rate we are, what will beekeeping be fifty years hence?

Several of your subscribers have expressed a wish that they could obtain a cheap pair of covers in which to keep the current numbers of the *Journal*. They would prove very handy and useful; would keep the *Journal* clean for binding, and also prevent the numbers being lost. Perhaps you could arrange with some bookseller to supply the want.

Through the courtesy of the maker I have just been shown a new extractor which will shortly be placed in the market. It is not only much cheaper, but is altogether a better article than the one now generally in use. It is strongly made and well put together, and should meet with a ready sale.

I notice that a great feature in most of the foreign journals is the selected query department. Although the questions and answers are brief, still they are most interesting. For instance, in *Gleanings* for January the following query appears: "Are sections open on all sides preferable to those open at the top and bottom only?" Now this question is answered by fourteen leading American beekeepers, and the whole of the answers only take up half a column of the journal. Might I suggest, Mr Editor, the adoption of something of the sort in the *Australasian Bee Journal*, and will you allow me to propound the following query to be answered next month—"What three inventions of modern times have conferred the greatest benefits on beekeepers?"

[Our experience has been that Italians are capital cell builders. We have frequently had over 40 on one frame and scarcely ever less than 25. If a sufficient number of subscribers desire covers for the *Journal*, we will have some made that will hold two or three volumes. We shall be glad to adopt a query department on the American plan if a few of our leading beekeepers will answer the queries—ED.]

HONEY LABELS.

HANDSOME glazed labels in black and gold, green and gold, blue and gold, red and black, yellow and black, and orange and black, post free per 100, 3s. 6d.; 500 or more, 3s. per 100; 1,000, 25s.; larger quantities proportionately less. These labels completely cover the body of a 2lb. tin, and answer for larger tins. Estimates furnished for all kinds of labels and of any design.

HOPKINS, HAYR & Co.

BEEOLOGICAL NOTES.

By G. A. G.

WHO is the Queen-street grocer that is selling extracted honey in 2lb tins retail at wholesale price? And where is the beekeeper who must have sold his honey at a ruinous price to enable the grocer to sell at such a low price?

Beekeepers should carefully husband this season's crop, and not sell too cheap, for the supply is not equal to the demand this season; but whatever you do, do not auction it.

Sisters and brothers of the beekeeping fraternity, do not forget to be present at the first meeting of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association (the time and place of meeting has been notified in the *Journal*). You are all interested in this important matter, and it will not pay you to be absent. We want as much steam on as possible when the engine is started, and this can only be obtained by your presence. Don't forget to bring the necessary motive power, CASH, and practical suggestions.

The *Beekeeper's Magazine* goes in for "Bee Fiction Literature." It publishes no less than two "Apiarian Serial Bee Stories" each month.

The North American Beekeepers' Society are stirring in the matter of combination. They wish to form a Society to be called "The International American Beekeepers' Association," to include in its territory all of the United States and Canada. According to Article two of the proposed Association its objects are:—"To promote the general interests of the pursuit of bee-culture throughout the North American continent; to form a fraternal bond of union for the instruction and protection of its members; to diffuse a general knowledge of the value and uses of honey both for food and medicine; to create a market for this God-given sweet; and so assist in its distribution evenly over the American Continent, thereby enhancing its commercial value."

Our Association, if rightly managed and well supported, should work in the above direction for the honey trade in New Zealand.

Has any one in New Zealand given (what is often called) "The Demaree Queenless Plan" of raising comb-honey a fair trial, on a large scale? If so, I hope they will report what success they obtained.

I tried the plan with one hive last season, and my own opinion at present is, that it takes more trouble than it is worth. It will never come into use among professional apiarists.

From what I see of the plan and its workings, I believe it would suit well for amateurs with a

tinent question would be, "Who should not keep bees?" In these days of cheap bee literature there is no excuse for the slovenly way in which many apiaries are managed, and those persons who will not give up the old gin and candle box, and learn the rational working of the frame hive, should never keep bees at all.

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I have often noticed, even in otherwise well regulated apiaries, the waste of wax that is continually going on. I allude to the small pieces of comb, cappings, and shreds of foundation that one sees constantly lying about. Now, these should be carefully saved in the wax extractor and boiled down. At home it is getting a scarce article and has to be imported in large quantities. In 1886 there was imported into the United Kingdom 30,826 cwt. of wax, valued at £126,377. Of this 10,718 cwt., valued £39,371, was re-exported, leaving for home consumption, 20,108 cwt., value £86,646.

* * * * *

The total quantities of wax, with their value, for the years 1884, 1885 and 1886 are:—

1884.	1885.	1886.
28,258 cwts.	38,295 cwts.	30,826 cwts.
£105,813	£149,253	£126,377

The amount re-exported for the same years and the value thereof are:—

1884.	1885.	1886.
10,378 cwts.	10,328 cwts.	10,718 cwts.
£36,467	£36,706	£39,731

As the editor of the *British Bee Journal* remarks: "There appears from the above to be a wide field for the production of wax."

* * * * *

The question is again cropping up in America, "Do bees injure maturing fruits?" and some scoundrel, in a paper called the *Messenger*, published at Atlanta, Iowa, has advised the wholesale poisoning of bees, by placing dishes of honey containing poison near the vines before the grapes are ripe, alleging that the grape vine industry has been almost killed out in Iowa by the bees. How long is it to be before fruitgrowers will learn that bees are their best friends, and that without their aid one-half their fruit would never arrive at perfection? It has been proved over and over again that it is impossible for bees to attack sound fruit, and it is only when they have been attacked by birds or insects, or have burst through over-ripeness, that the bees venture to suck the juice. As Professor Cook remarked at the Michigan Beekeepers' Convention: "I do not believe that the bees ever injure sound fruit. They are never attracted to anything that is entirely closed up. A sound grape is closed up, and the odour cannot escape. I have placed the tender varieties of grapes where bees could get at them in time of drought, but they never touched them. If some of the grapes were pricked, the bees soon cleaned them out, but left the sound ones untouched." If Mr. Bee Poisoner escapes with a whole skin, then American beekeepers are—well, not what I take them to be.

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I have just been reading the report of the pro-

ceedings of the Michigan Beekeepers' Association, and the North American Beekeepers' Society. They certainly are a go-ahead nation of beekeepers, and it must be a pleasure for an enthusiastic apiarian to live in their midst. The North American Beekeepers' Convention lasted three days, and some of the members must have travelled some hundreds of miles in order to attend. Amongst those present I notice the names of Professors Cook and Miller, A. J. Root, Heddon, J. G. Newman, Bingham, Hutchinson, and a host of other celebrities in the American bee world. Papers were read, new ideas ventilated, every item being discussed *seriatim*. I wonder when we shall get such enjoyable times in New Zealand, and how many beekeepers will think it worth while to travel a hundred miles to attend the meeting you have convened for March.

* * * * *

Yet another new bee paper, for which I predict a great success. It is to be called the *Beekeepers' Review*, and will be edited by Mr W. Z. Hutchinson, Secretary of the North American Beekeepers' Association; it will be devoted to the reviewing of current apicultural literature, each number being almost entirely devoted to some special subject. Mr Hutchinson is well known in America as an enthusiastic apiarian and a terse and ready writer. I wish him every success.

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I have not had the pleasure of reading Mr Simmins's (Eng.) new book, "A Modern Bee Farm and its Economic Management," which is spoken very highly of by the English press. I only read his first work on the non-swarmer system, published some two years ago, the other day, and I certainly was surprised to find him saying that "Ligurians were very uncertain in the matter of queen cell building, as quite often they do not seem to trouble in the least about losing their queen." Now, Mr. Editor, this is quite contrary to my experience, and I should like an expression of opinion from yourself on the subject. I have always regarded Mr. Simmins as a practical man, but in this case I fear he has "a bee in his bonnet."

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The Canadian *Bee Journal* of November 16, contains an excellent portrait of Mr Cowan, editor of the *British Bee Journal*. Collectors should get a copy, published by D. A. Jones & Co., Beeton, Ont.

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"There is nothing new under the sun," and reversible hives are no new thing, after all; they were advocated by Nutt in his work published in, I think the year 1833 or '34. I have not his book by me, but I now perfectly recollect (although I had forgotten when I wrote last month, not having read his work for some years) the description of his cottage hive and the manner of working it. The bees were first hived in an ordinary straw skip and allowed about three weeks or a month, according to the season, to fill it with combs. It was then inverted and packed in a box supported on four legs. On this was placed a shallow box about four inches in depth containing the thermo-

cat," from himself to *Bassanio*, against whom he has such a mortal grudge:—

"*Shylock*.—Drones live not with me,
Therefore I part with him, and part with him
To one that I would have him help to waste
His borrowed purse."

MERCHANT OF VENICE—*Act II., Scene 5.*

In the play of *PERICLES*, *Gower*, who appears as chorus in the introduction to *Act II.*, informs the audience:

"Good Helicane hath stay'd at home,
Not to eat honey, like a drone,
From others' labours."

And in the same play, a mob of democratic fishermen who are denouncing all those better off than themselves as "our rich misers," and "the great ones" of the land, who "eat up all the little ones," are made to exclaim:

"We would purge the land of these drones
that rob the bee of her honey."

Act II., Scene 1.

In *KING HENRY VI., Part II.*, the Duke of Suffolk having fallen into the hands of the piratical crew of a small craft who are about to murder him on the coast near Dover, although he has discovered his rank and offered to pay any amount as ransom, cannot bring himself to believe that such base-bred creatures should have so little awe of his high station, and tells the captain—

"Drones suck not eagles' blood, but rob bee-hives,
It is impossible that I should die
By such a lowly vassal as thyself."

Act IV., Scene 1.

The passage in *KING HENRY V.*, where the poor drone is finally handed over by the "sad ey'd justice," for condign punishment to "executors pale," has been already quoted, and represents what was evidently considered to be the appropriate end of a worthless career.

(*To be continued.*)

Correspondence.

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I heartily congratulate you upon two important practical steps made in the interest of the honey industry, as announced in this month's issue of the *Journal*—the revival of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, and the printing of the pamphlet on the uses of honey—both of which we owe mainly to your energy in starting and maintaining, under circumstances but little encouraging, the *Australasian Bee Journal*, and working it up as an organ for co-operation among the beekeepers of these colonies. I enclose 10s for my own and my son's fee of membership to the Association, and £2 15s for the 1000 copies of the pamphlet which we agreed to take for our apiary. I regret very much that I cannot be present at the meeting which you have called for 17th March. Living so far from Auckland I

can seldom, if ever, take any personal part in those meetings, where I hope many matters of great practical importance will have to be discussed and settled. The great majority of those who should be subscribing members of the Association will be similarly circumstanced. They will, however, I have no doubt, agree with me in attaching a high value to the advantage of having such a central body with which all may communicate in a free expression of their views for the common good, and in the perfect satisfaction which I think all should feel in seeing the practical working of the Association placed in such good hands as your own and those of the other intelligent and experienced beekeepers now living in or near Auckland. If the mass of the beekeepers do their part in supporting the Association they may safely trust to the Auckland committee for the management of its affairs.—Yours faithfully, THOS. J. MULVANY.

FOUL BROOD, AND THE REVIVAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Having read in the February number of the *Bee Journal* that a meeting is called for the 7th of March to recuscitate the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, I sincerely hope every intelligent beekeeper will become a member without hesitation. I strongly back up the arguments of "Lamb dearg Erin" with regard to the Association; his letters are so cheery that one can read them over and over again, as are those written by Friend Kendall. I will willingly do my best for the Association if formed, and simply by writing to me I will do anything for it, either as inspector of the district or anything the Association may require. Now for the Foul Brood disease. I have had a dreadful pull to get rid of this disease, and I am sorry to say my bees have it yet, and are all likely to get it before long. The reason is that bees are kept by almost everyone around here, in any old box they may happen to lay hold of when a swarm is on the wing. Of these old boxes, a great many are infested with foul brood, and these careless people when told of it, make answer, "Mind your own business," or words to that effect. The bees leave the germs of the disease on the flowers, and so the disease is spread.

Beekeepers, don't let the forming of the Association fall through because you think it will do you no good, but become a member, and give the Association your heartiest support. It will do you great good. For the future I will chip in with a little that may interest your readers of the beekeeping fraternity.

A. H. PARKINSON.

Hampden, Hawke's Bay,
February 13th, 1888.

TRANSVERSE V. LONGITUDINAL FRAMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Having lately had to drive some thirty swarms of bees out of boxes of every description, I beg to offer my own conclusions on the subject of transverse v. longitudinal frames. The bees certainly ought to have a voice on such a matter, and not their friends the beekeepers only.

The opinion of the bees in Matata is decidedly in favour of the transverse frames; I mean the placing of the frames for their occupation at right angles to the entrance, running across it, and not lengthwise, as in the ordinary Langstroth. Two-thirds of the boxes had their combs almost perfectly across. Nine of the others had worked from a corner, radiating outwards, thus, indeed, bringing the edges of some of the combs on to the front boarding. And one only had the combs at all as in the Langstroth, and this was in a case where some rough

few hives, as there would be less danger of losing swarms when the beekeeper is away; provided, of course, that the hives were carefully looked after.

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For the benefit of those who have never seen the above-named device described, I will, with the Editor's kind permission, give a short description of the "Queenless System" in the March number of the *Journal*.

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The following lines from the *American Bee Journal* will almost describe the present season and its effects in many districts here, but I hope a little overdrawn:—

"Von hundret schvarms und fifty doo,
Mit empty combs ish all;
I gets dish long, try summer droo,
Mit noting in der fall."

[You willingly have our permission to describe the Queenless System through the *Journal*.—ED.]

Occasional Notes.

No. 3.—SHAKESPERE ON BEES AND HONEY.

(Continued.)

BY T. J. MULVANY.

WE now come to a class of passages from which I venture to draw the conclusion (flattering to our craft), that Shakespere was himself a beekeeper. It is, indeed, not at all unlikely that he should have indulged in such an amusement. Unfortunately but few reliable details of his private life have been handed down to us, but it appears to be certain that he led a country life until he had been a few years married; that then, after some four or five years of struggling in London, he began to make money, which he invested in the purchase of farm lands and other property in Stratford-on-Avon, where his wife and family continued to reside; that he farmed these lands through his brother, he himself visiting Stratford at least once every year; that he spent most of the years 1592, 93 there, while the plague was raging in London, so that the theatres were kept closed (and this was just before the publication of his first works); and that he lived there altogether for the last nine or ten years of his life, in opulent circumstances, but still cultivating his farms, while he was at the same time producing the masterpieces of his dramas at the rate of one or two every year, and only journeying to London occasionally for a short time, probably to superintend the bringing out of his new plays. He had, therefore, ample opportunities at nearly all times of his life to acquire a taste for beekeeping, and the intimate acquaintance with the habits of bees shown in many passages of his works leads strongly to the conclusion that he did so. I find one quotation attributed to him (without specifying where it is used, and which I

have not myself chanced to find), which certainly smacks strongly of the practical beekeeper:—

"He is not worthy of the honey-comb,
Who shuns the hive because the bees have stings."

In KING HENRY VI., *Part I*, there is a passage which seems to indicate that a judicious manipulation of the hive with the aid of "smoke," when taking surplus honey-combs without destroying the bees, was not unknown to him:—

"Talbot—So bees with smoke, and drones with noisome
stench,
Are from their hives and houses driven away."

Act I., Scene 5.

This "driving away" of the bees is certainly in marked contrast with the barbarous killing by means of sulphur, which he has elsewhere denounced as "murdering." In the *Part II.* of the same play, there is a simile used which shows a practical knowledge of the effect produced upon a stock of bees by the loss of their queen.

"Warwick.—The Commons, like an angry lot of bees,
That want their leader, scatter up and down,
And care not who they sting in their revenge."

Act III., Scene 2.

And in *Part III.*, there are words put into the mouth of the same Warwick, which seem to refer to bees partly stupified and temporarily scattered by smoke.

"Thou shalt not dread
The scattered foe, that hopes to rise again:
For though they cannot greatly sting to hurt,
Yet look to have them buzz, to offend thine ears."

Act II., Scene 6.

In the RAPE OF LUCRECE there occurs a line which indicates an acquaintance with the fact that the worker bees are short lived, contrary to the ignorant idea (not yet quite exploded), that the same bees inhabited a hive for many years.

"The old bees die, the young possess the hive."

The wasp is taken notice of as one of the greatest enemies of the honey-bee, as it still is in England and many other countries, though we are so fortunately exempt from it and many other pests here at the Antipodes. In the poem last quoted we find the lines:—

"In thy weak hive a wandering wasp hath crept,
And sucked the honey which thy chaste bee kept."

And in the TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA,

"Julia.—Injurious wasps! to feed on such good honey,
And kill the bees, that yield it, with your stings."

Act I., Scene 2.

The poor "lazy, yawning drone" comes in for his full share of contemptuous notice. He is held up as the impersonation of idleness, sloth, and gluttony, and there is no indication anywhere that his true position in the economy of nature was understood at the time.

The following is *Shylock's* reflection when transferring the services of *Launcelot Gobbo*, whom he describes as "a huge feeder, snail-slow-in-profit," and as one who "sleeps by day more than the wild

strictly No. 1 honey of any class, whether American clover honey (in which even Canada sympathises heartily), or American basswood-linden Canada honey, in which we all sympathise.

The first condition not depending upon the flowers from which honey is obtained, may be briefly stated thus, viz., to be left long in the hive of a populous colony of bees, before extracting. On this point much has been said and written, and while I shall not attempt argument on this disputed question, I will humbly ask who shall decide?

No one will deny that bees have a large stock of "bee sense," and that among bees "doctors never disagree!" Then if the bees do not regard honey as having keeping qualities until it has been refined and gauged and sealed, why should beekeepers? Assuming, then, that clover or other honey has been duly refined, gauged and sealed by the bees before extracting, and that we have just now placed it upon the table in a neat Muth two-pound bottle, just in time to cool before tea, need we hope for a better presentation for table use?

As I have now the honey upon the table, and have outlined the method of its production and presentation, it would seem that the leading query had been answered. But I wish to further intimate how, having obtained the best quality of honey of any class, whether buckwheat or other, it may be maintained in its pristine excellence.

If extracted late in the season, after the weather has become cool, it will keep perfectly sound in a clean pine barrel, bunged tightly if stored in a cool place. The barrels should be stood on the end not having the bung, if designed to be kept long into the next season. By so doing the head having the bung may be easily removed, and one or two inches of surface honey taken out.

The object of separating this surface honey from the honey below or deeper in the barrel, is to avoid mixing that which has suffered by contact with the air from that which has not. Upon opening the barrel, if any change has taken place, the surface will be found to be soft, perhaps foamy. Remove this soft honey until you find the solid honey below. Use the foamy honey for vinegar; melt the other in a water bath, skim and put it in Mason's jars, nicely sealed and put in a cool place, the colder the better. Such honey will remain clear for a long time, and will be as fine as if just taken from the combs, as long as it may be desirable to keep it. If only such honey were offered to the public, the market would not be *overstocked* and the *prices* would be satisfactory.

After the reading of the above essay it was discussed as follows:

J. A. Green.—I prefer tin for use in storing honey, as barrels sometimes impart a flavour to the honey, and the honey cannot be liquefied without first removing it.

R. F. Holterman.—I prefer the square tins with a wooden jacket.

A. B. Mason.—I like the barrels. The honey can be easily and quickly removed by using a small-sized garden spade.

A. I. Root.—I am not sure that barrels taint the honey, but I do know that it is never tainted by the use of tin.

Geo. E. Hilton.—Second-hand lard tins can be secured of grocers and butchers for 15 cents each, and they are excellent for storing honey, and will even answer for shipment.

President Miller.—Several years ago Mr Doolittle mentioned wooden boxes, coated inside with wax, as a cheap package for shipping honey. The honey was put in just as it was beginning to granulate, and left until granulation was completed when it was ready for shipment.

James Heddon.—I tried that 16 years ago, but it is of no value. I produce honey by having it perfectly ripened in the hives. It is first stored in large settling tanks, then drawn off into the square, jacketed tin cans, each holding about 50 pounds. The opening of the cans are securely closed by screw caps with corks inside, and the honey is then stored in a cool place until the time comes for shipment. You may talk as much you please, but the majority of customers prefer their extracted honey

in a liquid state. I will now tell how I liquefy it before shipment. One end of the cellar under my honey house is partitioned off from the rest of the cellar. In this small space is a stove, and in connection with the stove is a coil of steam pipe which heats not only this small space, but a large box above it on the first floor. In this box can be placed 800 pounds of honey in cans. The cans are put in at night, a chunk of wood put into the stove, and the next morning will find the honey all melted; when it may be removed and a like amount of candied honey put in its place. I can in this manner liquefy 1,600 pounds of honey per day with very little labour. The square jacketed tin cans are the best package for a jobbing trade.

Prof. Cook.—There is a difference in tin. Lead tin should not be used on account of the chemical action. I C charcoal tin is best.

James Heddon.—Would not Coke tin answer?

A. I. Root.—It does not look so nice.

N. W. McLain.—Some chemist of Europe reported in the *British Bee Journal* that there was no danger from chemical action upon any tin that is heavy enough to hold honey.

T. F. Bingham. So far as chemical action is concerned, it makes no difference as to the kind of tin, so long as it is *tin*, not lead.

R. F. Holterman.—Unless Coke tin is carefully washed, it is more likely to rust when standing empty.

J. A. Green.—When honey is intended for table use, tin should be used; but for shipping large quantities, oak barrels, parafined, as you would wax them, answer a good purpose.

James Heddon.—It depends upon circumstances.

A vote on the matter of vessels used for shipping honey resulted as follows:—Thirteen members preferred tins; four preferred wood; and forty preferred both.—*Beekeepers' Guide*

NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

BEEKEEPERS of New Zealand, a meeting is to be held on Wednesday, the 7th day of March, at 7.30 p.m., at the office of Messrs. Hopkins, Hayr & Co., 13, Lower Queen Street, Auckland, and it rests with you to make that same 7th of March a red-letter day in the annals of beekeeping. For then I hope to hear of a monster meeting when the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association will be inaugurated a second time, but on so firm a basis that it shall not collapse like its predecessor—for want of energy, tact, perseverance and support. When every beekeeper who attends, will do so not out of idle curiosity, but with his mind made up to do his level best, not only to further his own interests, but also those of his brother apiarists. Let each one of us remember that this Association will be an open field for *our mutual benefit*. Individually we can do but little, as a body, a great deal. That we need an Association each one of us knows only too well, reasons for which have already been enumerated. Petty jealousies and bickerings should be laid aside, and our great aim should be to make this Association an institution which will be a mighty factor for the true advancement of intellectual bee culture in New Zealand. UNITY, STRENGTH, AND CONCORD should be our motto. I think friend Kendall has made a mistake when he says he is willing to step down and fall in as a full dress private. I only wish we had a few more enthusiasts like him to

laths had been placed as guides to them (without wax, however), and even then the tendency was in the transverse direction, and in the left corner a snug warm place had been made, presumably for her majesty and her subjects on cold nights.

Speculatively speaking, everything seems to me to be in favour of the transverse frames. When a cold wind drives in through the funnel-like entrance, instead of playing full on the clustered bees, it meets a series of breakwinds which effectually disperse the chilling current, leaving only the lowered temperature, a very different matter, as those who have slept out in the open on a still frosty night, and at another time with a cold breeze piercing through every crevice, well know. The only reasons for the ordinary arrangement, that I have had brought before my notice, are that bees waste less time in travelling from one comb to another, and that the ventilation is better on hot days. As to the first, I would remark that in the natural transverse system the bees always leave holes near the top for passing along, but that they seem to think the space at each end of frames on the artificial transverse system sufficient for the purpose. Secondly, the facility for increasing the ventilation on hot days by porous mats is much greater than the means at hand for keeping up the warmth on frosty nights.

Having to start an apiary here next spring, I purpose, unless any of your readers give me solid reasons against it, to arrange as follows:—Instead of the ordinary bottom board, mine would be about 20½ inches square, with the ordinary sunk entrance on one side. Then the Langstroth hives would stand 'broadside on' on them, and be pushed backwards and forwards as required, exactly as usual, but with the frames all transversely arranged. I take my stand on the fact (unless our bees are peculiar) that it is the natural position for them.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. MADDAN.

Matata, Bay of Plenty, February 9, 1888.

[We believe when comb-building in boxes is commenced that the bees are not so much guided by future requirements as by immediate convenience. Our experience is that the shape and size of the box has more to do with the direction of the combs than anything else. In nine cases out of ten swarms hived in square or nearly square boxes will build their combs diagonally, and the reason for this is that they cluster in one corner as being most convenient for working, and the first combs are carried from the end of the box to the side. But if hived in a long narrow box the combs are pretty certain to be built across the narrow way of the box, no matter whether the entrance be from the side or the end: so that in the one case they would be transverse and in the other longitudinal, clearly showing that the bees were influenced by the shape of the box and their own immediate convenience. An extra mat or two in cold weather will easily get over the difficulty of upward draft.—Ed.]

GRIMSHAW'S APIFUGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—You will probably recollect that my friend, Capt. Armstrong, obtained from your firm some short time since a bottle of Grimshaw's apifuge. I wish now to give yourself and the readers of the *Journal* an account of his and my own experience of the use of it. Yesterday I paid Capt. Armstrong a visit, and, as usual, I had a look at his bees, but before doing so he reminded me that he had the apifuge, and requested me to try it, stating that he had already tried it himself on two or three occasions and found it an unqualified success. Following the directions on the bottle I rubbed a drop or two over my hands, and being determined to give it a thorough test, I commenced to manipulate a hive containing a strong colony without smoke or veil. Removing the cover and tearing off the mat in a rough manner, calculated to irritate the most docile bees, the inmates of the hive came "boiling" up over the tops of the frames and elevating their business ends ready to wreak vengeance on the intruder. But before they had time to make up their minds to begin the attack down went my hands

among them, and, as though by some magic influence, their threatening attitude seemed to be instantly changed to one of the greatest respect, apparently knowing that they were in the presence of a power greater than their own, and so far from making even the slightest attempt to sting, the bees appeared anxious to get as far away from me as they could. Without the least ceremony or care, with regard to jarring the hive, I removed frame after frame, and purposely did all I could to irritate the bees, but not one sting did I get, though I am certain had it not been for the apifuge I should have been stung unmercifully. I manipulated another colony much in the same manner and with the same good result.

The effect of the apifuge upon the bees is most marvelous, in fact, without personal experience of it, I could scarcely have credited that anything could have subdued them so quickly and completely. My opinion is that when it comes to be better known you will have a very large sale for it. I am told that it is equally as effective in keeping off mosquitoes, and I know of one person who is using it on his horses to keep the flies off their ears and nostrils. So very little is needed for use at the time that a bottle will last for a long period.—Yours, etc.,

O. POOLE.

January 10, 1888.

[The apifuge is indeed a wonderful preparation in its effects upon insects. The ingredients appear to be rather expensive, but as no more than a drop or two is needed for rubbing over the hands a bottle of it will last with care for two seasons. With this at our command we need not fear Cyprians nor the most vicious hybrids. Our stock was small, it being only a trial lot, but we shall keep a large stock on hand in the near future, when we hope to be able to reduce the price considerably Ed.]

Extracts from Foreign Journals, etc.

PRODUCTION OF EXTRACTED HONEY FOR TABLE USE.

THE following paper was read by Mr Bingham before the annual meeting of the North American Beekeepers' Society, held in Chicago on the 16th November last. This with the discussion that followed will be found very instructive:—

The heading of my essay implies that extracted honey has other than table uses. Those uses, however, are not in this essay to be even alluded to. I am merely to dissertate upon this special sweet as it relates to table purposes.

The above heading also implies that there is a difference in extracted honey—either because it is differently produced, or that after its production it is subject to common and material changes as ordinarily handled by beekeepers or honey producers.

Let us first consider that honey, while being a peculiar sweet, is in no wise an exception to other non-crystallised saccharine substances in its tendency to absorb water and undergo fermentation. Honey, like other sweets, takes on these abnormal conditions, slowly or with rapidity, in proportion to the heat and moisture with which it is surrounded; the only exception to this rule being in the consistency of the honey itself. Thus if the honey is very thick, its changes are slower, while if thin they are more rapid.

This view will enable every one familiar with honey, whether in the comb or extracted, to understand why there is such diversity in the keeping qualities of honey. Comb honey often undergoes changes while in the hives, rendering it necessary for the bees further to refine it.

I dwell upon this point particularly, as it lies at the foundation of the successful production of all strictly No. 1 honey. Much has been said and written concerning adulterated honey, etc., but it remains for the beekeepers themselves to determine the future demand for honey.

The above outline of facts leads us directly to the conditions necessary to the production and maintenance of

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take the lead. Some one must, and here let me state that had it not been for his encouraging articles, "Lamh Dearg Erin" would not have had the cheek to have slung so much ink at our worthy editor. Brother apiarists, now is the time; if we are going to put the Association on a firm basis, let it be done at once. As friend Kendall says, and very aptly too, there has been too much "thinking about it." Now for the good the Association will do you individually. By regularly attending, you will first of all be made better by the social intercourse with those whose occupation and study make them sympathetic and congenial; it is there you will get some valuable hints from older hands in the business than yourselves; it is there you will hear of scientific truths, and of the latest methods for successful working of your apiaries; it is there by listening attentively to all the discussions and conversations which take place, and by taking notes and remembering what you have heard, will enrich your minds, that you will go home spurred on to do better work in future, and strive to help your less successful brother in apiculture. This, I take, is what an association is for.

The winter is now approaching, when beekeepers will be able to read up their journals and bee lore, and will be able, if not too lazy and apathetic, to devote a little time in sending in their past seasons' experiences for the mutual benefit of the readers of this *Journal*. It is very gratifying to note that beekeepers are beginning to "chip in" with their queries anent Foul Brood, etc., as well as their experiments re the same. This is as it should be. Friends, send in your queries by the square foot, depend upon it subscribers to this *Journal* will endeavour to answer them. I can honestly say I have already derived more than 6s. worth of information from taking in this *Journal*, and it rests with the N.Z. beekeepers to keep it going, and going it must be kept, and that too, together with the Association.

Now, beekeepers of New Zealand, I make this final appeal to your good sense, your energy, and last but not least, if you only knew it, for the GOOD OF YOUR POCKETS. Much as I regret it, I am sorry to say I shall not be able to attend your meeting of the 7th—first of all, living so far south of Auckland, and secondly, having a heavy press of work on hand, debars me from that pleasure. You can rest assured of my warmest wishes for the success which I am sure will attend our efforts; and if I can be of the slightest use to the Association the Editor knows where to write to. To him I send a short essay embodying a few ideas, which I would like to be read before the meeting, and when read would like them discussed thoroughly. Reject, re-arrange, lick them into shape; discard them altogether if you will; do anything with them, ONLY START THE ASSOCIATION.

LAMH DEARG ERIN.

[To account for this article being out of its usual place, it arrived just as we were going to press. We thoroughly endorse everything L. D. E. has said.—Ed.]

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