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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

OCTOBER 18th, 1915.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS'
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.



PER ANNUM : **3/6** IN ADVANCE.



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 16

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

MARKETING HONEY.

A gratifying development to the beekeeper is the opening up of the English market. For many years past attempts have been made to establish a trade with English mercantile firms, but trial shipments have not as a rule met with any degree of success. As a consequence our local markets have been glutted with honey, which has brought anything but remunerative prices to the producer. These failures have been largely due to lack of organisation among the beekeepers, to a want of supervision at the time of export, and to the exporter's aim to make the English market a dumping ground for honey which was unsaleable locally. To-day it would appear that these three factors have proclaimed themselves to the beekeeper as responsible for past failures in dealing with the Home markets. By organisation the beekeepers can unite and maintain regular shipments, finance, and fix contracts, seek and obtain reduction in freights, and generally watch the interests of every honey producer in the Dominion. After dealing with all surplus for export, the local market can be controlled and prices standardised. The beekeepers made a wise move when they sought the assistance of the Government to grade all honey for export, but no stone should be left unturned until grading is made compulsory. Optional grading leaves the exporter at the mercy of the nefarious trader whose actions in the past have done so much towards bringing the name of New Zealand produce into bad repute. At the outset compulsory grading will change the order of things, and producers will of necessity be compelled in their own interests to offer the best of their product. The sooner the beekeeper realises that the buyer is looking for the graded article, and that he is prepared to enter into contracts on the Government certificates only, the importance of grading will become paramount. All the world over Government assistance has been sought with regard to the export of foodstuffs, and our own authorities are helping those producers who are desirous of maintaining a high standard in the world's markets. The quality of butter and cheese has been brought to a high level during the past few years under Government supervision, and what grading has done for these products it will do for honey. The essentials of a good export honey are, firstly, that it must be a matured article, granulated, and free from the slightest trace of ferment; secondly, it must possess a total absence of scum—i.e., wax particles and dirt, which are so often seen on honey ex-

posed for sale in auction rooms; and, thirdly, it must show that it has received attention in packing. These are the three potent factors that are going to stamp New Zealand honey as a first-class article, and to the beekeeper who is desirous of obtaining remunerative prices and competing favourably with others, strict attention to the production of a high grade honey must be given. Year by year the grade of New Zealand honey has improved. Methods of dealing with large surpluses of honey no longer trouble the up-to-date man, for in these days of keen competition the beekeeper who neglects to strain and to provide good tanks in which to mature and manipulate his crop is left behind. Whether the producer turns his attention to the Home or local market, the same strict precaution will be required of him to produce a marketable article. It is on record that most of the New Zealand honey sent Home is used for confectionery purposes, and this is not to be wondered at when we take note of the packages and their contents which have left this country in seasons past, and I am sorry to say there are still to be found among the ranks of the producers those who have not made any effort to improve on old methods. The requirements of our local trade now demand new packages, but this improvement has not been brought about voluntarily by the beekeeper, but has been forced upon him by the public, who are now demanding that food shall be served up in the best possible manner. Compulsory grading will not only be the means of improving the standard for export, but as a natural consequence will improve the quality of the honey placed upon the local markets. There should be no such thing as bad honey offered for sale either on this market or for export. Differences of flavour and colour will always exist, as these depend on the varying flora of the country; but honey, whatever its source, should receive care in handling from the time it leaves the hive until it reaches the vendor. Colour and flavour are matters of individual taste, and all honey which is ripe, clean, and carefully packed can be classified as good honey. The quality of honey depends more on the beekeeper than the bees.

APIS DORSATA.

SWARM CONTROL.

By C. A. JACOBSEN, Little River.

In reply to friend Cotterell's remarks on my method of swarm control by the use of the Hand floor-board, he states that thousands of babies are murdered. This must be only theory; in practice it works out quite differently, as I will endeavour to show.

If you will read again, Mr. Cotterell; you will find I make my first switch when all cells are capped. The queen will then have ceased laying for about a week, therefore very few babies will be gasping for the want of water, and there are quite enough bees to look after the young community of the hive. This is proved by my having in most cases to give a second

switch to relieve the community in the old hive, and so even up to two to take care of the honey flow. If friend Cotterell could see the colonies two or three weeks after, he would be simply delighted with the result.

Swarming Prevention and the Increase in the Honey Crop.—I have shown how to control a colony after it has contracted the swarming fever, and I will now give my method of prevention if the bees are caught before they get the swarming fever. Of course, I have young queens in the hive; this is, to my mind, essential for the best results, and it is also necessary to assure perfect success in this method of keeping the bees contented, and at the same time getting rousing strong colonies. Having all conditions favourable, I proceed to go through my hives at about the beginning of October in this locality. My bees have about six or seven frames of brood, and the rest of their hive full of honey and pollen, and yet our young queens have no inclination for swarming, but if something is not done the bees will loaf, and trouble will follow, but at the right moment the right action will do the trick.

I bring along a super with nine combs or comb foundation. Lift two combs out from the middle, and replace them with two brood combs from the middle of the brood nest, replacing these two with the two empty combs from the super. I then place the super with the brood combs in the middle on top of the hive. This, of course, brings the brood combs in the top just above the empty combs below. This is the ideal position. It gives the queen an extra vim for laying, and she will now lay to her full capacity, and the bees are busy bringing in the requirements of the hive. All the community is hustling. I have just come in from a hive treated in this way a week ago to-day, and the result is that I find in the super five frames of brood and two frames of honey, with a small patch of brood in the middle, ready to be capped, and the two outside combs being filled with honey, and the super boiling over with bees.

The next move is to give more room. Drive the queen down, and if there is not sufficient room for her in the bottom, put the brood up above, generally into a third super, putting empty combs in place of the brood lifted out.

Now is the time to put on a queen excluder above the bottom storey. Put the third storey on top of the excluder, take a frame out of the top brood nest so as to make eight frames in each super, put the super of brood on top, the other in between, and the job is done—no more swarming that year. The bees are now so busy they have no time to bother about swarming, and if there is any honey in the fields you will get it in your hive. You have a great force of bees, and you have them just in the right condition to do the work; but I want to say again you must have young, vigorous queens from the best strain procurable. It will be seen that I take all the value out of a queen in the one season.

[A most excellent plan to follow if we could be sure of warm weather whilst the brood in the top storeys is hatching. A cold snap the same as we get would be inclined to chill the brood in the top storeys.—Ed.]

WHAT IS IT?

"It" is not, I may say, the Department of Agriculture that I am holding up to criticism—at least, only incidentally so—but a glass tumbler designed originally to hold the "King's evil"; but as a loyal subject thereof a friend of mine has filled it instead with honey, of which he says:—"About 1ewt. of honey was left in the tank the whole season, and had a coating like hoar frost. This I carefully scraped off without going down into the honey, and then liquified it, and put it into the tumbler. It then represented all clear honey, with the exception of a thin scum on the top; this all granulated again with a fine smooth surface. Since then a drying-out process seems to have set in—or is it a fungus growth?" So I examined it. The body was pure honey, and on the surface appeared an "efflorescence," which might easily be mistaken for a fungus growth, but under the microscope declared itself too as pure honey, and in the test tube resolved once more into its liquid form. It is easier, however, to say what "tisn't" than what "'tis." It is not "scum," as our Laboratory Department has vouched for, and therefore should not be so designated. It is, I believe, formed only under certain atmospheric circumstances of heat and pressure (an artificial imitation thereof, such as too narrow honey gates, &c., which carries down air bubbles into the honey mass). The same efflorescence sometimes occurs in sea-ice (vide Scott's "Antarctic Voyages"). With honey I believe it is the more readily produced owing to the unequal crystallisation of the Granulose and other parts, a process which may best be seen in the fern-like efflorescence that appears at times in granulated honey in glass bottles exposed to light (or an uneven temperature). This can thus best be avoided by keeping the honey at an even temperature. Last year I suggested the adoption of the term "efflorescence" for this trouble, as it is the correct scientific term, but a gentleman in Wellington pointed out to me that to "the man in the street" this term was likely to convey the idea of "fermentation," and advocated the name "foam" as more suitable. I am inclined to think there is something in his objection. I am considerably adverse to "paddling" as a means of eliminating this evil. Last season I gave the paddling a good trial, as I intended sending all my honey to the English market. Result, five cases turned down by the grader as too soft, a trouble I have never suffered from before; and I have heard of other cases in which actual fermentation was set up. I would therefore rather suggest the adoption of the application of gentle heat for the eradication of this difficulty. And till our Department comes forward with a more suitable and less opprobrious term than "scum," why not call it, as the Israelites of old, "manna"?

W. E. BARKER.

If there is one thing more than another that we need, it is a standard of density for extracted honey. At present it is a go-as-you-please, no-two-alike proposition. Can anyone suggest how to get uniformity?

COMPETITION FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

We are very anxious to increase the circulation of our Journal, and we wish to enlist the active co-operation of the enthusiastic young folks in the homes of our beekeepers. We are led to believe that a good many young ladies and young men, as well as scholars in the upper school standards, are deeply interested in beekeeping, and that these can be induced to help us in securing new subscribers. We therefore ask all our young friends to make an active canvass among the people who live in the vicinity of their homes who keep bees and are not yet subscribers to the "New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal," and secure their subscriptions for twelve months. The amount is very little, only 3/6 for the whole year, and we believe it will not be difficult for our young friends, if they will only set to work, to secure quite a number of subscribers.

By way of recognising the help given in this way we will give the following prizes:—To those who send in three subscriptions, we will post a copy of Tickner Edwardes' charming book, "The Lore of the Honey Bee." For six subscriptions we will send this book, and, in addition, a copy of Margaret Morley's "The Bee People"; while to those sending ten subscriptions we will present a copy of Maeterlinck, the great Belgian author's wonderful book on "The Life of the Bee," a work that is a real treat to every one that has any acquaintance with bees.

All competitions will close on the 31st December of this year, and lists, accompanied by remittances, should be addressed to

THE EDITOR, "N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal,"
P.O. Box 572, DUNEDIN.

STICKERS.

EAT HONEY—NATURE'S OWN SWEET.

Right through the American States the beekeepers and supply dealers are engaged in an extensive honey advertising campaign. One of the cheapest and most successful of their methods is the use of stickers on all letters, papers, and parcels sent through the post. The National Beekeepers Association has imported thousands of these "Eat Honey" stickers, and invites every beekeeper to use them freely. Grocers would use a few hundred if they were asked. Will you help? The stickers are just like ordinary postage stamps, 2 inches long, ¾-inch wide, gummed ready for use, and printed in bright red on white. A parcel of 500 sent post free on receipt of twelve penny stamps. How many shall we send you?

EDITOR, Box 572, Dunedin.

Contributors will please note that we propose to publish the Journal a few days earlier each month. The November issue will be published on 10th November, and the December issue on the 1st December. Articles and correspondence should reach the office a few days before these dates.

Siftings.

(By J. S. COTTERELL, Waikato.)

Swarm Control.—In September issue, page 253, I am made to say "three parts a week." This should read "three pints (imperial) a week."

Laying Workers.—When introducing a queen by the smoke method, it is advisable to give a frame of brood in all stages to ensure success. Bees must be confined down to the brood chamber only with a tight wood mat, and the quality of the smoke just right. A laying worker colony was treated by this method this spring, and in thirteen days the introduced queen had brood in three additional frames to the one supplied. Laying workers will accept no queen except by the smoke method of introduction.

Early Season.—Colonies are now mostly strong, and require a shallow super to give room, as well as increased entrance ventilation. Drones are flying fully two weeks ahead of last year. There has been a gentle flow of honey since willow until last week in September, but the weather is now broken (Oct. 4th), and colonies are running short of stores. Better keep a close watch on the food supply. Don't trust to the left of the hive by lifting one end of bottom board; inspect the interior, and see how matters stand. Hive on scales for the past three weeks has lost half a pound a day, even when honey has been coming in freely. A hive with solid sheets of sealed brood will weigh heavy, and is consequently somewhat deceptive as regards food supply. Be mindful that in order to maintain the requisite heat for brood, it is necessary that honey or sugar syrup be available, for should a cold night be experienced, it is then possible for the bees to raise the temperature. Without a supply of food at such times thousands of larvæ and sealed brood are chilled to death, greatly retarding the prosperity of that colony.

Shallow Supers.—As an advocate and user of shallow supers, I cannot endorse what "Critic" says (page 259) as to their useful extracting purposes. Such prominent men in the beekeeping world as L. H. Scholl, of Texas, who counts his colonies by the thousand, and J. E. Crane, another large American producer, use them exclusively. I find that the bees take more readily to them than full-depth frame, especially so in the early part of the season, and they can be added to the hive without giving too large a space above the brood at one time. Their chief use is in the removal of honey, as by this means you can handle supers in place of frames, and where one is working single-handed and the crop running into tons of honey (which must be extracted before cold weather starts honey granulating in the combs), speed is an important factor. Perhaps "Critic," with the use of his gentle assistants, prefers to remove honey, comb by comb, and brush or shake the bees off, but at the close of honey season, when robbers are at their worst, this cannot for obvious reasons be continued for any length of time. Nor can he, except with the use of the super clearer,

take honey off in wet or showery weather with any degree of comfort. On the other hand, with shallow supers of honey weighing about 40 lbs., they can be quickly removed from the hive if necessary in wet and showery weather or when robbers are at their worst, quickly covered with a sack, and replaced on the hive over a super clearer, to be removed when wanted. In the former case a large amount of smoke is necessary in order to control the hive being relieved of honey resulting in general disorganisation and a liability of the colony being robbed out. In the latter case no smoke is needed at the entrance. In extracting, it is my aim to get the combs heated to a temperature of 100 deg. F., and this entails handling the supers up and down on the stack in either a heating room or over a specially constructed heating apparatus. One can toss 40-lb. supers around all day without appreciable effort, but I pass at the full depth as being too unwieldy. "But that's another story."

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[“Critic” will in future look over each number of the Journal, and criticise any items which appear to need criticism. The criticisms are not undertaken in a captious spirit, but with the view of drawing attention to matters which may have been overlooked by contributors.]

First page, Sept. number.—Mr. R. C. Aitkin says:—“The bee is not a reasoning creature as man, but follows instinct.” This is an interesting question, and, although not of vital importance to the practical apiarist, it is one that may well be discussed in a technical journal devoted to bees and bee culture.

The term “instinct” is often used in a vague manner in connection with the lower animals, and I think there are many circumstances in bee life that go to prove the bee (hive bee) to be a reasoning animal. “Instinct,” as defined by one of the best standard English dictionaries is “unreasoning prompting to any mode of action, whether bodily or mental, without a distinct apprehension of the end or object to be accomplished.” Reason, on the other hand, is “a motive for an action, or a determination.”

Undoubtedly all animals, including man, do things by force of habit, or, in other words, by instinct, and such instincts may vary, according to the change of environment for the better preservation of the animal. Should, however, the change be a sudden or violent one, unless reason can be brought into play to assist instinct, the animal is likely to suffer. One only has to study the experiments carried out by Huber, Sir John Lubbock, and other naturalists to be convinced that the hive bee is a reasoning animal when occasion requires. Most beekeepers have heard or read of the case where a snail had crawled into a hive, and, when discovered, the bees had

not only fastened the snail to the side of the hive, but had hermetically sealed the shell, supposedly for the purpose of preventing any unpleasantness from the decaying body. I personally saw a similar occurrence many years ago when transferring bees from a box hive. This looked like a reasoning action. The difference between man and the bee in this respect is not in quality but in degree.

Page 252, last paragraph.—Mr. Aitkin has here struck a real live note in his advocacy of raising plenty of early queens, and having them ready in nucleus hives for use in making increase, or in other ways, and I am entirely with him when he says that well-reared early queens (of course, from selected stock) "will prove one of your very best assets."

Page 253.—Speaking from the result of considerable experience with Italian bees, I can fully agree with Mr. Cotterell that "leather-coloured" Italians are, as a rule, by far the best. The light golden bees are very pretty to look at, but are less hardy, and not so profitable as the others.

Page 255.—If anything could show the advantage of co-operation among our beekeepers and its result in the present status of the honey export trade, the paragraph in the Waikato Beekeepers' Association's annual report referring to previous sales of exported honey on the London market should do so. Just imagine New Zealand honey being sold as low as a fraction over 3d. per lb., out of which all expenses of freight, brokerage, commissions, &c., probably amounting to well on to £10 per ton, or, say, 1d. per lb., leaving a trifle over 2d. per lb. to the producer to pay for his labour, interest on the capital invested, and tins and cases. Beekeepers should be thankful to those who pioneered and brought about the present satisfactory condition of our export trade, and not only be thankful, but should join in and give their practical support to the movement.

Page 256.—It is satisfactory to learn that a "field day" is to be held this coming season at the Government Apiary, Ruakura Farm of Instruction. This is as it should be, and it is to be hoped that there will be a large muster of beekeepers on the day, when, no doubt, the farm authorities will do their best to suitably entertain their visitors.

Page 256.—I believe it to be a fallacy that foul-brood cannot be eliminated. It has been reported as having been cleared out of more than one district. This being so, there can be no reason why it cannot be cleared out of others, and eventually out of the whole, provided the provisions of the Apiaries Act are strictly carried out. I grant that it may take a long time to reach this desirable end, but if we allow the idea to get abroad that it is impossible to eradicate foul-brood altogether, the more indolent of our beekeepers will console their conscience by saying, "What's the good of bothering; we shall always be more or less troubled with disease?" In any case we can now control it so far that it gives the careful beekeeper little trouble.

Page 263.—I have again read (as Mr. Jacobsen desired me) his article on "Swarming," and I fail to see that I made

a mistake when I said his switching system is a modification of others. The whole question hinges on switching the bees (that is, a portion of a colony) from one hive to another at pleasure for the purpose of controlling swarming. The details of the way it is carried out does not matter.

Thanks to those correspondents for their information re flowering of eucalypti. Bluegums (*Eucalyptus globulus*) blossom in my district much earlier. I have seen them in full blossom in May, and never later than June.

SOFT CANDY FOR BEES.

THE SO-CALLED "FULLER CANDY" FOR QUEEN CAGES, TRANSPORTATION OF COMBLESS COLONIES, STIMU- LATIVE AND GENERAL FEEDING.

By Dr. BURTON N. GATES.

The well-informed beekeeper has learned that it is unwise and hazardous to feed under any circumstances honey in any form, even though it be from his own apiary. There have been many sad and general infections with bee diseases by such unguarded feeding. Thus it has become almost an axiom, "Feed no honey." Consequently, substitutes have necessarily been adopted, and among these are sugar syrups of various dilutions and compositions.

For several years Mr. Fuller, of Blackstone, Mass., as well as others, has been experimenting with a modified candy, which will not harden beyond usefulness. Beekeepers of Massachusetts and elsewhere about the country have found it advantageous to use this as a substitute for honey or syrup. So numerous are the inquiries and satisfactory the results, that it seems desirable to prepare information in printed form.

The soft candy has numerous advantages and possibilities. It is found to be a most satisfactory stimulative feed; a food for bees in transit, either full colonies or combs, in combless packages, or for queens in mailing cages. It is also found satisfactory and advantageous as winter stores. Colonies have been observed to leave natural stores for the candy. This has occurred in colonies out of doors or in the cellar during winter, as well as with colonies which are flying. Some of the advantages of the candy are the ease with which it is handled or supplied; the fact that it may be made up in quantities and stored until needed for use; its failure to excite robbing; the ability to provision colonies with known amounts or weights; and its freedom from bee disease infection. It is furthermore found to be economical, there being no waste by evaporation or spilling, as is the case with liquid feeds. It is proving exceedingly practical in all feeding purposes and methods.

The candy may be made in any degree of hardness or softness, according to the preference of the individual or the needs of the season. It may be molded in pulp, or wooden pie-plates,

shallow tins, or specially constructed feeders, "division-board feeders," overhead or super feeders, or boards may be nailed to the side of a frame and the candy poured and molded within the frame, allowing this to be hung in the hive adjacent to the cluster. With the candy may be mixed pollen substitutes, but these are as yet in the experimental stage, and their efficiency or satisfactoriness is uncertain.

The latest formula or recipe for the cream, or soft candy, fondant, which is practically a confectioner's recipe, is as follows:—

12 lbs. granulated sugar.

1½ lbs. liquid glucose. (Granular or crystal glucose may be used, mixing it with the usual amount of water. It may be desirable to modify the amount of glucose.)

¼ quarts water (equals 40 ozs., which equals 5 cupfuls).

¼ teaspoonful (about) cream of tartar, added when the temperature reaches about 230° F. or 110° C.

Boil to 238° F. or 114.4° C.

The measurements should be accurate.

(To be continued.)

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

Although New Zealand has a whole lot of forest country, there are no commercial apiaries kept near them, as only dark honey is gathered, except in one or two places. Bees near the bush get too much foul-brood.—"The Western Honey Bee."

We were under the impression that there was very little foul-brood in the bush colonies. One of the large apiarists in the South has taken hundreds of colonies from the bush, and he reports no foul-brood from any of them.

A new note on the Scum question was struck by Mr. A. C. Askew in a letter to the Editor recently. He says:—"It seems to me that we need to be mighty careful on this scum question. I have the greatest sympathy with the beekeeper who has a really good honey, and yet gets turned down for scum; but it doesn't matter what you call it—scum, efflorescence, froth, or anything else—the less we have of it on the surface of our honeys the better. Do you know anything of yeast? Well, it is very similar in its growth. Given right conditions yeast germs grow and grow until fermentation takes place. So will scum affect honey. What we want is an authoritative and reliable method of manipulating the honey to get rid of scum, and when we get it make it known to every beekeeper in New Zealand, particularly the exporter." The question at once arises: Does scum grow and grow and cause fermentation? Has anyone any experience?

GOOD NEWS, INDEED.

As a result of the representations made to him by a deputation from the Beekeepers' Conference in Wellington in June last, Mr. Massey has been good enough to include upon the Supplementary Estimates the sum of £100 as a subsidy of the funds of the National Beekeepers' Association. This subsidy is to be paid at the rate of pound for pound on all the money collected as subscriptions.

It is the duty of every beekeeper who has the work of the Association at heart to get to work and induce his neighbour beekeeper to become a member, that the Association may be enabled to take advantage of the generous assistance accorded by the Government.

With this subsidy the Association will be able to undertake very necessary work in all directions, more particularly in the appointment of local inspectors, which are allowed under the Apiaries Act Amendment, 1912. Full particulars of the Association's proposed work and its scheme of operations will be published in the Journal shortly.

In order to carry out instructions of last Conference that the National Beekeepers' Association be registered under the Unclassified Societies' Act, it is necessary that certain amendments be made in the Constitution. These proposed amendments have been drafted and submitted to the General Executive and to the Secretaries of the various Branches for their approval and suggestions. Immediately replies are to hand, a special general meeting of the Association will be called, so that the necessary resolutions may be submitted. The only amendment on which any controversy could arise is on the question of branch fees. The proposed amendments provide for a registered office, common seal, and other minor details.

District Fees.—The District Branch Secretary shall collect all fees due by members of his Branch, and remit the same to the General Secretary. The General Secretary shall pay quarterly the proportion of the fees due to the various Branches.

The Committees of the various Branches may apply to the Central Executive for an advance to meet their current expenses, and the Central Executive shall pay such sum of money on request.

Dissolution.—The Association may be dissolved at any special general meeting called for that purpose, provided that all the liabilities of the Association have been discharged. Two-thirds of the members present (Rule 10b applying) at the meeting may resolve that the Association be dissolved as from the date named in such resolution. The property and the funds of the Association after such dissolution shall be divided amongst the financial members of the Association in the proportion of the fees they have paid during the year that the dissolution takes place.

Should any member of the Association care to write on these or other matters, the Secretary will be pleased to hear from them.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I agree with Mr. Robert Gibb that beekeepers should take notice that the bee-hives have proper shelter from the severe winds and bad weather generally, and that if in an exposed position they should be protected with some kind of hedge. But I much prefer tree-lucerne to barbery, for several reasons. First, tree-lucerne is easier to prune (no pricks thereon), and the thorns of barbery are unkind to children's feet; also, the cattle here eat tree-lucerne when cut and thrown to them. Here the borer does not touch it, but the barbery harbours all sorts of insect pests. As to appearance, the tree-lucerne easily leads. Mr. Gibb says frost touches it; well, we have some fairly heavy frosts, and even young trees take no heed of frosts. There are hedges here that have been growing for six or seven years, and are giving pleasure and satisfaction to the owners. One point of importance is, which is the most reliable honey-producing plant, and on this point some of us seek enlightenment.—I am, etc.,

Opotiki.

WM. HEALD.

THE APIARIES ACT.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have just been reading the Apiary Act, 1907, and a splendid Act it would be, if enforced. It is now 1915, and still we have foul-brood (pretty thick, too, up these parts). About four years ago I reported three or four cases of disease in my apiary, but I merely received a reply to my letter, and nothing further. Since then I have merely kept the disease within bounds, and gone for a honey crop each season. Of course, I had to treat colonies every season, and render diseased combs, but I made no serious attempt to get entirely rid of the disease, knowing that, do what I would, it was sure to make its appearance again from neighbouring yards. Last season the inspector visited this district, and I thought that at last our Act was going to be enforced. I set to work and had a thorough clean up, treated every colony, whether it showed signs of disease or not, and rendered every comb I had; but still I see no signs of the Act being enforced about here. It seems to me that I must keep on treating diseased colonies year after year till such time as neighbouring colonies die out and my bees gather up all diseased honey. I am thankful to say there have been a good few cases of such colonies dying out and their honey brought to my apiary this last season. Several small beekeepers have lost all they had; another complains that his bees never swarmed last season; another that some strange, queer-coloured bees (Italians) are going into his hives and taking away the honey. I may get my apiary free from disease in time, if I have a long life in front of me, but it makes a man feel like complaining when he reads such a splendid Apiary Act dated 1907, and knows it is not being

enforced. I quite understand that it was advisable to go easy with the Apiary Act for a year or so, but surely after all these years we beekeepers have every right to demand that it be strictly enforced.—I am, etc.,

Waiau.

C. A. OLDMAN.

THE BOSTOCK FEEDER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have used a feeder for two or three years that I like so well I want others to know about it. During the last four years it has become recognised that to get the best results from stimulative feeding there must be a slow supply of feed that continues the whole 24 hours of the day. My own idea is that the feed should be above the cluster, so that it may be kept more or less warm. Here in New Zealand we are all acquainted with the 2-lb. glass jam jars having screw tops. I gathered up 50 of these jars, and drove an inch nail through the centre of each tin top. There should be only one hole, and that a small one. I would not under any conditions use larger than an inch and a half nail. To complete the apparatus I get a benzine case, knock out the end boards, and split each in two, so one case makes four feeders. Through each piece of board I bore a large hole, say, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, then I take a half-inch chisel and roughly chop out a groove on each side of the hole, which makes a passage for the bees to walk along when the feeder is in position. I make the holes in some in the centre, and in others near one end, so that with a small weak colony I can always put the jar right above the cluster, no matter what part of the hive the cluster may be found. I have only to choose a board with a hole in the right place. To place in position, I go to the hive and remove the cover. I either remove the mat, and put in its place two half-mats, which do not come close together, or else I cut out a slot—say, three-quarters of an inch wide, and extending across about four frames. I then put on an empty storey, and lay the board across the top of the frames, seeing to it that the hole and groove in the board come right over the strip where there is no mat. This gives free passage to and from the feed over several frames. Though there is such good communication, yet it does not allow the hot air to escape. The board is the exact length of the inside width of the hive, and fits tight. It comes down tight on top of the mat, or two edges of the half-mats, and stops all draught. The rest of the top not covered by the board can be covered with pieces of sack or paper to pack all snug and airtight. The jar being filled with syrup and the top screwed on, it is turned upside down, and placed directly over the hole. A few drops will run out at first; if they do not, shake out a few so as to let the bees know the feed is there, and, having been thus started, they continue to suck the feed from the small hole. If three nails are driven in round the jar, it will make sure of its resting in the proper place.

When a jar is emptied, it takes only a moment to remove it and replace with a full one. There is only one disadvantage,

and that is the small size of the jar. This can be overcome, either by boring two holes and using two jars, or by using a tin can holding, say, 10 lbs. I got a gross of tinman's sheet metal screw caps at an ironmonger's for a small sum. I then got a number of tin cans, such as treacle tins or biscuit tins, which saved me making cans on purpose. Having made sure that each was airtight, I soldered one of the screw caps on each for filling. I then punched the small hole in the cap, and it was ready for use. These tinsmith's caps are only $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch across, so they go right down in the hole in the board, and they cannot get out of place, the can resting flat on the board.

I have used almost every kind of feeder that I ever heard of, but I would rather have this than all other kinds put together.—I am, &c.,

Fernhill, Hawke's Bay.

O. R. BOSTOCK.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re my treatment of foul-brood, I have had numerous inquiries with reference to various matters connected therewith. "W. A. C.," "J. J. M.," and "C. B." ask these questions:—What strength the naphthol beta and carbolic acid?

Naphthol Beta.—Take 1oz. dissolve in 10oz. of water, and use one part of this to one quart of syrup.

Carbolic Acid.—Take a piece of unbleached calico, or something similar, two inches larger both ways than the hive, and wring this out well with cold water, and well sprinkle it with neat carbolic. (I use Calvert's No. 5.)

"A. C. J." asks do I not think it would be advisable to place an empty comb in the middle of the foundation, afterwards to be removed? No, I do not, for this reason: what small portion of honey they may take down will be immediately used up in drawing the foundation; whereas, if a comb was put in, it would receive this honey, also the syrup, which would not be desirable.

Page 243.—A writer fears that I have been misreported, or a slip of the pen, as he advocates the McEvoy plan of treatment of disease by transferring the bees from the diseased combs on to sheets of foundation. If our friend will read the instructions again, he will find that I give McEvoy credit for his treatment, and nothing further, but recommend my own method, and if he will try it, without any deviation, I think he will have a success.—I am, etc.,

Peel Forest.

C. J. CLAYTON.

BLACK v. ITALIAN BEES.

By JAMES ALLAN.

Friend Baines isn't very big, but it appears to me he is a bit venturesome. He invites a discussion on Black v. Italian bees (N.Z. Bee Journal, page 235), by asking the following questions:—"Has the black bee been given his due; has it had a fair chance?" etc. Then he goes on in his own inimitable style to suggest the kind of treatment the black bees got.

Just a very few years after Mr. Baines came to gladden somebody's fond heart, my first colony of black bees came in a beautifully painted red box, commonly known as a gin case, and was deposited in a lean-to habitation specially built for the purpose, in a cosy comfortable nook, and decked with trailing roses. But at that time, though I had a wife and family, a new love was beginning, and that gin case was not good enough, so I sent to Mr. T. G. Brickell (his son, R. W., was not much in evidence in business in those days), the most famous beeman of the south, for a Langstroth hive. When that hive arrived, it was put together with great care, and duly received three coats of paint. Then a choice spot was chosen for it, nicely levelled, and the bees with every care were introduced into their new home. I don't remember whether I gave those bees names or not, but I knew them very well, and certainly no comfort that I could give them was denied.

Mr. Baines is making fun of us oldtime beekeepers, and my attempt to humorously answer him is somewhat clumsy, but I can assure Mr. Baines that the blacks of those days got as much attention as the Italians have ever done. Certainly knowledge has increased, and it is easier now to cope with disease. Still, looking back, I cannot but think that the advent of Italians gave a great impetus to the cleaning up of disease in the apiary. With them we had a bee that would second the efforts of the beekeeper. In my experience I have never known black bees to uncap and clean out disease. The Italian will. The introduction of an Italian queen will sometimes mean cleaning out American foulbrood that is in its earlier stages. With the black, the introduction of foul-brood is certain death, only delayed by the fact that the bees never touch it, and in consequence the spread of the disease is slower. When an Italian colony is beaten, it often goes more quickly than a black colony, just because its effort to stem disease has spread it more rapidly.

That Italians are pleasanter to work with is well known. When the blacks will crowd to the edges of the combs, the Italians will pay but little attention, but remain quiet on the comb the apiarist is handling. That, to me, is an advantage.

Then, as to robbing, it is only fair to remember that the converse is equally true: the good robber is naturally a good defender. A normal Italian colony is in no risk of being robbed. It is quite easy to prove in the case of Italian bees that robbing is a virtue.

The only other point I wish to notice is the Italian's early and late work. The evidence that it is out earlier and works later is too strong to need any support from me. Is it not a fair inference, when this is so, that it is also working with greater force than its competitor through the day as well?

The great trouble is that the cross bees are not as satisfactory as either black or Italian. It requires great patience and a taste for queen-rearing to work any apiary, whether black or Italian, up to its best. In every apiary there are a few outstanding colonies. The work of the apiarist is to breed up to the standard, and to my mind this can be easier done either with pure blacks or pure Italians, but easiest with the Italians.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received during the month:—

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