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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

JULY 15th, 1916.

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



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



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A. J. D'ARCY,

20 Linton Street - Palmerston North.

July 15, 1916.]

E. A. Yates

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 25

DUNEDIN.

3/6 PER ANNUM.

ADVERTISING AT AGRICULTURAL AND FLOWER SHOWS.

For the purpose of advertising honey and its uses, stimulating a larger consumption, and creating that favourable impression necessary to its universal use, what better method can be employed than bee and honey exhibits at fairs? Since honey is used much more freely during cold weather, fall is the proper time to do this advertising. Almost all Associations are willing to allow exhibitors the privilege of selling at the same time, so long as they do not impair their display. Thus the exhibitor is more or less repaid for time and expense incurred, and his advertising will be gratis. As an exhibitor at the Hartford Fair since its inception, I have found this method of advertising of no small advantage, assisting in the disposal of about 8,000 pounds of honey this season and a considerable number of bees and queens. Being much more interested in the rearing of choice bees and queens than in honey production, my energy is expended largely in that direction, and I know a great many spring orders can be attributed to this source.

As superintendent of this department for the past seven years, I find that it requires a good deal of time, energy, and enthusiasm to keep it up to its high standard, but when the time arrives and everything is set up and in order, and we hear visitors saying, "This is the prettiest place on the grounds," I feel well repaid for the exertion.

We had about 12 tons of honey on exhibit this past season, of different shades and quality, coming from all sections, of which probably three-fourths was extracted. This, with some forty or fifty colonies of bees in single frame observatory hives, representing different races, drew a crowd of interested sight-seers.

Several different exhibits of queen-rearing outfits, including cell-cups, cells in different stages under development and mating-hives, with large displays of hives and fixtures, were shown and their uses explained.

The culinary department received its share of attention. The cookies, gingersnaps, cakes, canned fruits and pickles, in which honey was used for sweetening, had recipes attached that were copied by many, and will encourage a more liberal use of honey in cooking.

Honey sandwiches, a roll with a slice of comb honey inserted, and honey phiz, a concoction of extracted honey, cream and carbonated water were sold near the entrance of the building, where those passing were invited to try a sample at 5 cents. About 1,200 sections, averaging eight sandwiches each, and between 200 and 300 lbs. of extracted honey in the drink were disposed of in this way.—American Bee Journal.

A. W. YATES.

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

It must be satisfactory to all our progressive beekeepers to know that their Sixth Annual Conference passed off so successfully, and that the result marks a further step in the progress of our industry of commercial beekeeping. The outstanding features of the Conference, as they appear to me, were the registration of the National Association under the Unclassified Societies' Act and the adoption of a uniform constitution throughout its branches. This latter I presume was necessary as branches of the parent Association. The National will, as soon as the registration is effected, have an authoritative standing and a stronger voice in the regulation of beekeeping matters throughout the Dominion.

I was pleased the Conference passed a resolution urging the Department to enforce the registration of apiaries. This has been on the tapis for the past seven years, and the wording of the opinion of the Conference (page 395) shows clearly how important the matter is considered by our leading beekeepers. It is rather disconcerting, however, to find that another country has forestalled us in this more than seven years after the registration of apiaries was officially brought under the notice of the Department, and has been repeatedly urged since. The New South Wales Apiaries Act, which has recently come into force, contains a clause to compel registration each year on or before the first day of September; in default, or giving an untrue statement, renders the beekeeper liable to a penalty of £20.

Page 397.—The present position of the export honey trade is very satisfactory, but what of the future? Are we going to keep up a sufficient supply to hold together the business in the Home markets, obtained after much perseverance? If we do not send forward good quantities each season we may be certain that those handling the export honey at the other end will, as a matter of course, lose interest in the trade, for the reason that it will not pay them to bother with it. If this should happen we shall have only ourselves to blame, for I feel sure that we could easily export twice or even thrice the quantity we have been doing if the whole of our beekeepers gave their support to the business and sent the bulk of their honey to the N.Z.H.P.A. for export. If we lose the present export arrangements through want of support, the bulk of our honey must of course be thrown on our local markets, with the result that many of us will have to look for some other means of support, as the price of honey will be so reduced that beekeeping will not pay commercially.

Pages 398-404.—Although Mr. Cockayne's paper on "The Present and Future Sources of Honey in New Zealand" is interesting reading, I am bound as "Critic" to say that there is very little in it of any practical service to commercial beekeepers. For a paper on such a subject to be of benefit to the industry, it would require the collaboration of a botanist and an experienced beekeeper. Much of the paper presupposes that the beekeeper can influence farmers in such a way as

to induce them more or less to put in crops that will be beneficial to beekeepers, or, at all events, it suggests as much. Now, I have yet to meet the farmer that one could influence in the least that way, nor should any beekeeper expect to do so. The farmer will put in what crops he considers best for himself, and if it should happen to be one that helps his beekeeping neighbour no doubt he would be pleased; but, on the other hand, he would have no regrets if it did not.

With regard to forestry and seed-raising, there is little in either to interest beekeepers more than the subjects would interest others. Those responsible for reforesting in New Zealand would be more interested in the production of suitable timber for our needs rather than honey, and seed-growing is the business of the farmer and horticulturist, over which beekeepers would have no control.

Re lucerne-growing, Mr. Cockayne says: "Beekeepers are well advised to do all in their power to foster the growing inclination of farmers to cultivate lucerne on an extensive scale. The direct advantages to the apiarist are so great that work in this direction is as important as any I can think of in furthering the honey industry." From the above it is apparent that Mr. Cockayne thinks that lucerne, if we can encourage the growing of it to a large extent, will prove the mainstay of the honey industry. Like the Scotsman on some other matter, "I hae ma doots about it."

Now, I wish it to be understood that my remarks on this matter are open to correction, and that I only venture to speak upon it with the view of eliciting all the information possible on the value of lucerne as bee forage in New Zealand, while at the same time recording my own experience. For the last few years, in fact, since lucerne-growing began to be taken up in New Zealand, I have been anxious to learn whether it would prove of value to beekeepers. I have watched good quantities when in blossom within a couple of hundred yards of a large apiary, and in different seasons. I have also got others to watch in my absence, and the result has been that we have seen no more bees on lucerne blossoms than I have seen on red clover, and that was one here and there, as though they had lost themselves. Near one lot of lucerne there was a patch of alsyke clover in blossom at some time, with no end of bees working on it. Others I have asked have met with the same experience; so that at present I do not think lucerne is going to benefit us much.

In America lucerne is only of value to beekeepers in the arid regions west of the Mississippi River, when grown on irrigated lands. If it did yield honey here, I am afraid we could not depend upon getting much from it, owing to it being so frequently cut, except where grown for seed, which would be comparatively small areas, and, like growing red clover seeds, confined to particular districts. It will, however, be of importance and add to our knowledge if beekeepers in different parts of the Dominion where lucerne crops are grown watch and report through the Journal the result with regard to the value of this plant to beekeepers, and it will be interesting if Mr. Cockayne informs us upon what experience he bases his statement that "The virtually unfailing source of nectar supplied by this plant in New Zealand," &c.

Fruit-tree blossoms keep the bees busy in fine weather, and the little nectar gathered from them helps to stimulate breeding at a very opportune time. I once saw (and only once) some surplus fruit blossom honey taken, and that was in a small apiary alongside the Frimly Orchard, Hawke's Bay. It was peach blossom honey, and I think it was extracted early in October while I was present. With regard to its quality—well, I considered it about a fifth grade article, far below ti-tree honey.

To sum up, it does not pay to grow crops specially for honey, and the waste places are so few that the majority of districts where beekeeping is carried on afford no opportunity to increase our bee forage, even if it was likely to pay for our trouble. No, beekeepers can do little or nothing to increase the bee forage in their districts, nothing that will prove of any practical value in the output of honey. The bees' roaming area in all directions covers some thousands of acres, and our efforts to improve a patch here and there would be trouble for nothing. When the beekeeper has used his best judgment in choosing the district for his apiary, he has done all he can do.

Page 409.—The Conference I consider did a wise thing in passing the resolution to request the Government to prohibit the further importation of bees while there is danger of introducing strange bee diseases into the country.

Page 420.—Another wise decision was to reject the motion in favour of using second-hand containers for honey. If allowed to do so, we should be going back thirty-five years and more, when rusty kerosene tins with paper and sacking covers, odd size biscuit and other objectionable containers were in vogue—just the thing to injure the honey business by playing into the hands of careless beekeepers.

By all means follow Mr. Earp's advice, and where honey is to be put on the local market put it up in retail packages at the apiary under your own brand. The beekeeper may as well have the extra profit as the middleman. Moreover, beekeepers will then know their honey is sold in proper form.

The best smoke—pine needles gathered off dead branches. A little dry sacking to start it, and it will keep alight all day. Makes a cool, dense smoke.

Using carbolic acid, it will sometimes get on the skin, and the burns are serious. Methylated spirit applied at once or whisky prevents any trouble.

McKnight's wedge press.—This is simplicity itself. Take a bar of wood about the size of a frame top bar. Cut a groove near one end, so that a wedge-shaped piece is left right at the end that will easily go into the frame groove. To use, place the frame on the bench against a block at one end, with the wedge inserted. Take the bar in both hands, with the end piece on the wedge, and run it the length of the frame, pressing strongly.

APIARIUS.

NOTES ON THE MAY ISSUE.

Planting Basswood.—Although the European basswood is being planted in America "because it blossoms earlier," remember that same America has cautioned beekeepers that the European variety (*Tilia Europa*) does not yield nectar. For honey purposes we must carefully insist upon getting seed of *Tilia Americana*. *Eucalyptus Melliodora* (yellow box) is of delicious flavour, is it? Well, I have some now in my mouth, and it tastes at first very much like sucking indiarubber; it is a special sample, too. Still, some might like it; but after white clover—not for me!

* * * *

Those Inspectors.—Might I whisper a suggestion that someone has to provide their expenses first, and votes are considerably well applied to their allotted purposes in the Department all interests lie in. Wait until after the Estimates come down in the House. Mind, I'm only guessing!

* * * *

That Engine-power.—You bet! Bought this year an eight-frame without an engine; fixed slip gear, and worked it by hand. But never again! No, not if it takes two engines. Does the work, though, and immense is the satisfaction of possession, though war freights made me gasp!

* * * *

Send honey to the troops? Not on your life! At least not per way of John Government. All mine went to individuals, and I paid the postage; for a long acquaintance in England with matters military made me a wiser if a sadder man. Does anyone think that the honey sent as one big lot will be given our boys as an extra? I don't! I am pretty sure it will be issued as a change, and Tommie will be docked some other item of ration to make up for the honey. "I say, you know, Quartermaster, the men don't want butter and honey both at one meal." No! The whole requisition savours to me too much like the cadging for porridge for our boys that some kind of meanness began a few months back. Post it, boys, and then you know it gets there as an extra. And you're pretty sure who gets it!

* * * *

Bisulphide of carbon poured—yes, it really reads so—on hot embers. Someone is tired of life. This chemical is deadly to all life by suffocation, not by poisoning. It evaporates very rapidly, so that a stick put in a drum of it to measure the depth will be dry as soon as you withdraw it. The fumes are the active principle. Place a third of a cupful in top of a stack of eight Langstroth bodies. The fumes, being heavy, sink; also they stink very muchly. The fumes are exceedingly explosive, more so than the vapour of benzine, so be careful! Bought in metal drums. Price very high on account of the war. The same gas is generated in rotten eggs, hence the similarity of the perfume, to put it gently. Not effective in buildings as much as in tightly closed vessels, as the sinking of the heavy fumes fail to reach the higher portions of the enclosure. Must have good and long ventilation before bringing in a light or fire of any kind.

A misprint on page 383 states that 1.20 specific gravity has been accepted for New Zealand. It should be 1.42. I agree with Mr. Ireland. Growth in honey is a misnomer. It is only a secondary form of crystallisation.

R. H. Nelson.—Burning the whole box of tricks would not suit me with over 180 diseased colonies. See here! Just you replace Mr. Cotterell's tube with a bee escape, and you have the Baldrige plan of curing foul-brood; absolutely safe; impossible to convey disease. You do not save the combs, but you do save risk of infection. I have used it hundreds of times, and wouldn't have McEvoy's plan if I got the work done gratis. The Baldrige plan is perfection, pure and simple, and available in midwinter as midsummer.

THOROUGHWORK.

CANTERBURY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association was held in the Trades Hall on Tuesday, 16th June, the President (Mr. E. G. Ward) being in the chair. Mr. C. A. Jacobsen and Miss M. Shepherd, who were appointed delegates to represent the Association at the Conference of beekeepers just concluded in Wellington, presented their report. The report stated that the constitution of the National Beekeepers' Association had been amended, and was now framed on lines which would include all the smaller District Associations as branches. Any existing District Association or any new Association which might be formed might become a branch, and its secretary would collect all fees and remit them to the general secretary of the National Association. It was stated that local inspectors would shortly be appointed to assist the permanent inspectors in instructing beekeepers and see that the Apiaries Act was complied with. It had been decided that the Act would be amended to prohibit absolutely the importation of bees or queens into New Zealand from any country where the Isle of Wight disease existed.

It had been intended to decide the step the Canterbury Beekeepers' Association should take in reference to the amended constitution, but a copy did not arrive in time, and it was decided that a subsequent meeting should be called for the purpose. The general opinion was that the new constitution would suit all parties, and that the Canterbury Association would fall into line.

The annual report of the Association, which was adopted, stated that a disastrous season had been experienced, and in consequence the membership had fallen off very considerably. The balance sheet showed a small credit, and the liabilities were nil.

Officers were elected as follow:—President, Mr. C. A. Jacobsen; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Ambrose Johnstone, E. G. Ward, W. J. Mulholland, T. Chave, R. N. Gidley; Secretary, Miss Mackay; Treasurer, Mrs. E. G. Ward; Librarian, Miss Hayton; Auditor, Mr. W. W. Yeoman; Reporter, Mr. E. G. Ward; Committee, Miss Shepherd, and Messrs. H. Johnstone and J. Shaskey.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Permit me to express my view, gained by observing the bees in early spring, on the question of suitable trees for bee fodder purposes.

1. *Salix Variiegata* (variegated willow).—Flowers in September-October; much preferred by bees to other willows, and much bigger goshin flowers and more pollen.

2. *Berberis Darwinii*.—Flowers August on through summer; much patronised by bees.

Salix Variiegata should be good for shelter, is very quick-growing; would not, I think, attain big enough dimensions for timber.—I am, &c.,

L. LENNIE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Hearing that we are to have local inspectors at work shortly, I would like to protest against inspectors visiting commercial apiaries in the absence of the owner. We welcome them when they come, and assist them in every possible way for the progress of the industry. But if those in authority consider the question in the interests of the owner, I think they will see the advisability of the owner being present. Otherwise we have no security that others calling themselves inspectors shall not meddle with the apiaries in our absence.—I am, &c.,

A BEEKEEPER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have been awaiting the publication of an article by a Southern beekeeper entitled "How I Secured a 10-Ton Crop from 100 Hives." Doubtless many readers of this Journal, like myself, would be very pleased to receive anything in the way of hints as to how this was obtained, as it must suggest something to anyone who follows up beecraft. Like a good many more of your subscribers, I am but a novice, and naturally wish to learn all I can about honey production. Since launching out in the venture I have found the past two seasons a failure. Previous to that I had several colonies which gave good returns; but foul-brood in the district soon got in, and since then it has been a continual battle. Now, I notice the Isle of Wight disease has found its way to New Zealand, and it is to be sincerely hoped this dreadful scourge will be nipped in the bud. I think some of the live members at the coming Conference should bring forward a motion asking Parliament to instruct their apiary instructors to destroy such apiaries thus diseased without ceremony. It is our only chance of keeping it down now it is here. With apologies for intrusion on your valuable space,—I am, &c.

A. D.

[Isle of Wight disease has not yet made its appearance. The copy sent to the printer read, "Has the disease," &c., and it was printed, "The disease has," &c., same words with a vastly different meaning.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Re the local market for honey, it seems to me that this is seriously neglected, and is it not possible that a scheme could be brought forward which would necessitate the grading of all honey, whether for local consumption or export? While we are paying strict attention to the export trade, and only sending honey away in good order and clean cases and tins, the local market is left for any slovenly beekeeper, who disposes of his honey in any shape or form, and in many cases unfit for consuming, and deteriorating the sale of honey and turning would-be consumers away.

I am sending you a 2-lb. tin of honey which was purchased with other goods from a large grocery firm at Auckland by a neighbour of mine. This is the sample of honey which is deteriorating the local trade, as my neighbour is probably only one of many who has purchased the same quality, and I am assured honey is off with him now, and who otherwise would have been a consumer. Could not honey of this description be disposed of to the biscuit factories, &c., at a satisfactory figure? Quite recently when I was in Auckland I noticed in a show-case in a grocer's shop situated in one of the suburbs some sections of honey which were only half-filled and broken, and looked anything but tempting. The condition of the wood partition of the sections was a disgrace for any beekeeper to put on the market. They just simply looked as though they were put into a hive about fifty years ago and never looked at till taken out last season, and then put direct on the market from the hive with about three-eighths of an inch of propolis on all edges, and the balance of wood all very badly stained. I asked the grocer how much per lb. for section honey, and he replied 6d. per section. I replied that they were only half-sections of honey, the balance being wood and dirt. "Well," he said, "they are the best procurable, and very hard to procure at that." You can see I am only drawing your attention to the condition in which some honey is put on the local market, in the hope that a scheme may be brought forward to help to better these conditions.—I am, &c.,

A. L. LUKE.

TESTING THE SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF THICK HONEY.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I wish to call attention to and correct an error in connection with the above, which was published in my Bulletin No. 18 on "Bee Culture," page 35, and reprinted in Bulletin No. 55, page 28. The instructions therein given are to add a similar "weight" of water to that of the honey to be tested, when it ought to have been "volume." In this latter case it should read: Take, say, 4 or any number of liquid ozs. of honey, with the same quantity of water, and mix well; when mixed thoroughly, test with the hydrometer, always remembering that hydrometers are graduated to give this correct reading of liquids at a temperature of 60 deg. Fahr. or 15 C. (I am not aware of any being graduated otherwise). Supposing the reading gives 1.190, by adding 190 it will give 1.380 as the sp. gr.; or, if the reading gives 1.210, the sp. gr. of the honey

will be 1.420. I will now explain how the error occurred. When writing my bulletin, I was unaware how to get the correct specific gravity of honey in which the hydrometer would not sink at anything near the temperature of 60 deg. F.—that is, how or in what proportion the honey should be diluted, &c. I then went for information to one of our leading N.Z. analysts (he has given me liberty to mention his name, which I have done to Mr. Kirk, so I need not do so here), who gave me the formula I published. He, in a recent interview, admitted after further consideration of the matter that he was wrong, and expressed his regret for inadvertently leading me into an error, which, of course, I also regret.

With regard to the direct tests carried out by myself, roughly some 250, by which I arrived at the minimum sp. gr. of 1.420 recommended by me as being the lowest density at which honey should be marketed, that is absolutely correct.

I hope you will publish the above to prevent any of your readers testing in error.—I am, &c.,

I. HOPKINS.

[It appears that the credit for discovering the error into which Mr. Hopkins was inadvertently led is due to Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, apiary instructor for Auckland district.—Ed.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—On page 381 (May issue) Mr. W. E. Barker states that the occasional occurrence of new species is brought about by the bees "by the blending within certain limits, only just becoming fully known, but which can be mathematically defined . . . of these plastid chromosomes," &c., &c. For further information, I desire to ask him where I can procure the work from which he learns that chromosomes can blend? He states it is only becoming fully known, yet can be mathematically defined. If it is a fact that chromosomes can blend, then the world has learned a greater fact regarding the science of heredity than has ever before been discovered; and for purposes of queen-breeding it is almost the "open sesame" to success in perfection. So far as I can learn, chromosomes always and eternally undergo reduction, contrary to blending, and even should it be correct that chromosomes have been discovered to blend, it would not account for new species, as Mr. Barker states, for it is a well-known admission among students of heredity that, while the known fact of chromosome reduction favours the current interpretation that the chromosomes are bearers of heredity, it by no means **proves** the correctness of that interpretation. On the other hand, so immense an upheaval of our present belief as that chromosomes actually blend may lead us to undreamed of heights of knowledge and possibilities, and I humbly sit at his feet to learn the "howness thereof."

Blending of the chromosomes would result in evolution always by gain of characters, whereas up till now it is well known that new races may be brought about by loss of known characters—e.g., viciousness in bees. I only mention these facts to let him know how backward is my reading if his statement is fact. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, &c.,

H. BARTLETT-MILLER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Re Mr. Bartlett-Miller's enquiry which you have submitted to me. I don't know, but somehow I feel that, like Uriah Heap, he is not quite so "umbel" as he would have us believe. But anyway, owing to an omission of your printer, it is not to be wondered at if his mind should want some enlightening. What I actually said was "and it is to the bees we thus owe the occasional occurrence of new species or varieties, caused by the blending within certain limits, only just becoming fully known, but which can be mathematically defined (I refer to the chromo-somes of the cell structure, which, however, is of too technical a nature to enter more fully upon in this paper) of these plastid chromosomes from one branch or tree to another via the ovary and the ovum. And it is more than probable that it is to the intervention of bees and other nectar-seeking insects that we owe the many varied hues of our flowers by their carrying the enzymes to which it is now known the hues are due." I may say that when the world was younger I had the privilege of studying cytology under Professor Vines, of Cambridge, and have often regretted that circumstances prevented me following up that study; but still I have kept fairly well in touch with the remarkable strides that branch of science has made of late years, and I would refer him to "Vines on Cell Structure," "The Cell in Inheritance and Development" (Wilson), "The University Text-book of Botany" (Campbell), "Sex Evolution" (Geddes and Scott), "Practical Physiology" (Ditmer and Moore), "Recent Advances in Vegetable Cytology" (Fischer), "Comparative Cytological Studies with especial regard to the Morphology of the Nucleabus" (Boston).

Mr. Bartlett-Miller, I see, is a nurseryman. He would not think of trying to graft a plum on to a passion-fruit. Why? Because in practice he finds it won't "take." Were he to study the mitosis of their cell structure, he would be able to go one step further and know why they could not "take," because their chromosome "ids" were to dissimilar in mathematical equation; or if they do take, 'tis but to languish and die, because they are unable to adapt themselves to their environment. Nature for some reason jealously and carefully hides the secret of life, and it is only by very careful research that her ways are made manifest. Perhaps in graft hybrids and chimaeras, where the accidental splitting of the Palar nuclei has apparently sometimes given us new species, as for instance in *Laburnum Adami*, can the mitosis be best followed, and I would refer him to "Knowledge," page 186, of May 11, 1911, where he will find a very interesting article on "Graft Hybrids and Chimaeras." Professor Haig has also some interesting articles on "Mitosis in Higher Plants" in "Knowledge," 1909. But I am afraid Mr. Miller is too optimistic in thinking that here we have an "open sesame" to success in queen-breeding—a way has but been opened for plenty of discussion and plenty of study along very interesting lines. This is all that has at present been attained. The bees simply act as "carriers" of Nature's will. I suppose if I had simply said the bees carry the pollen that fructifies the ova in the ovary, which causes the cells to multiply, he would have agreed with me. But that is but half of the story. My friend surely runs off strict

scientific lines when he says, "new races may be brought about by loss of known characters—e.g., viciousness of bees!" A man may be fool enough to lose his temper; his son will probably follow suit. This does not make a new race; environment corrects it. The irritability of bees is a defensive habit which we may modify by inter-breeding with more domesticated varieties, but that is not making a new race. Life is too short for that game. I think if I was asked to give a definition of what takes place in the nucleus of a cell during its mitosis, I should say the chromosomes suffer multiplication at one end, addition at the other, and subtraction in the middle. We are the only beings that may be eternally damned (at least so theologians tell us); everything else goes on eternally. The cell is certainly eternal.

In answer to "Critic"—

"Waft thou the spicy breezes,
Blow soft o'er New Zealand's Isle;
Where every prospect pleases,
And only man is vile."

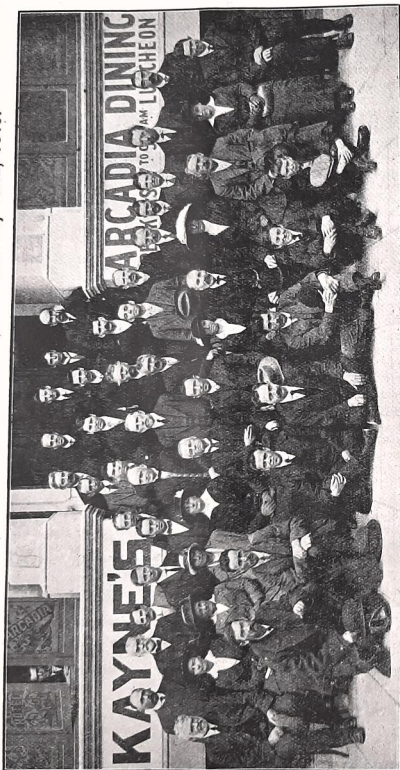
If "Critic's" opinion is right, this should be the beekeeper's daily petition to the Deity, but I don't think it is. Nectar's but the elaborated or transformed sap of the plant. Surely he would not have us believe that the sugar-cane obtains all its saccharine from the atmosphere, and it is anemophilous. I think he will find the producers of sugar can tell him differently, and are careful to improve its sugar content by heavy manuring. He, too, is at variance with our experts, who attribute the lack of a honey flow this season in Canterbury to the subsoil having been depleted of its water these last few years. It is also a common opinion amongst honey producers (see numerous articles in *British Bee Journal*) that the quality of the honey is influenced by the soil it is grown on. The old idea, of course, was that honey was a special product provided by Nature as a bribe to insects. This is only partly true, and if I might be allowed to hazard an opinion as to the origin of nectaries, well supported by botanical facts, I should say that in the course of generations the bees in fossicking for food so stimulated the flow of the sap at certain localities that permanent glands or nectaries were formed, enlarged and evolved as plants found their economic use. For plants and animals seem to have some dim idea of what works for good in their general economy. For instance, we eat potatoes and suck lollies, with only a very faint idea of the why or of the very interesting chemo-toxial alterations that go on in our bodies afterwards. Truly may it be said of all Nature that "now we see as in a glass, darkly, but then face to face"—especially "Critic."

—W. E. Barker.

FOR SALE, "EAT HONEY" STICKERS; good advertising medium; 500 for 12 penny stamps.

SECRETARY N.Z. Beekeepers' Association,
Box 572, Dunedin.

NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE, WELLINGTON, JUNE, 1916.



FRONT ROW—J. C. Hobbs, Geo. Flanagan, W. J. Trowson, R. Walker, R. G. Doyle, A. A. Pallant.
 SECOND ROW—Jas. Allan, Miss Meek, Mrs. Palmer, Miss Hart, Mrs. Finnan, F. S. Pope (Secretary of Agriculture), J. Rentoul (President),
 Miss Miller, C. A. Jacobsen, Miss Shepherd, W. Parrant, Mrs. Unsworth, R. Stewart.
 THIRD ROW—R. J. H. Nichol, A. Ireland, G. V. Westbrooke, H. C. Weddle, E. A. Jacobson, — Baden-Powell, T. W. Kirk, R. H. Nelson,
 W. B. Bray, A. Ashew, R. W. Brickell, E. J. Pluk, M. L. Feist, H. W. Gill, J. Bowman.
 FOURTH ROW—V. Phillips, S. Rhodes, F. W. Adams, F. McKay, J. H. Row, — V. Sage, T. J. Manne, A. H. Davis.
 BACK ROW—H. W. Warcup, — Phillips, H. R. Feary, E. V. Sage, W. F. Barker.

BUZZINGS IN BEETOWN.

By "CITIZEN."

The long spell of hot, dry weather this fall must have tried the temper of the beeman as well as the bees. Anyway, "Citizen" did quite a little cussing when his good wife was out of hearing. Well, look you, till this year I regarded my honey-house as being practically bee-tight. My windows are pivoted horizontally, as recommended by Mr. Hopkins, and I have found the idea good. But three months of hot scorching sun made those window-frames shrink, the flow dried up, and the bees poured into the honey-house like women at a bargain sale or men raiding a "pub." For one whole day they took complete possession, and I never want another day like it. I think the whole yard went mad. All night some bees hung around, but working in the dark I fixed things up safe. At 4 a.m. next morning they lined up, expecting to continue the jollification. But I had them beat, and gradually the yard quietened down to normal.

I've just been feeding up about twenty colonies for winter. I hate feeding. I've tried endless ways and means, and I hate them all. Some men get good results. I never seem to get a return for the time, trouble, and money it takes. Don't extract too close. It's better than feeding up.

Any of your neighbours who keep bees gone to the war? I have promised one man to keep an eye on his ten hives while he's away fighting for me. It's up to us who stay home to help where we can.

There was a very poor display of honey at the Apple Show in Wellington. As I explained to some of the fruit-growers there, it was owing to such a poor season. A great pity, as it was a good opportunity to advertise our product.

"Apiarius" (page 367).—I have not been entirely successful with the Clayton method of curing foul-brood, but I shall give it another go next season. Are you quite sure the bees carried down all the honey you speak of? Even so, if they have nothing but foundation to work on, there is not much risk of the disease continuing.

My wife says that I mumble it in my sleep. I can well believe it. It haunts me all day, and my head aches unceasingly. It's all very well for you, Mr. Barker, but we really aren't used to it. In your next article please break it more gently. "The sudden stimulus or photo-synthesis awakened the dormant chloro-plastids of the cells, thus furthering the decomposition of the carbo-dioxides and water in the sap and the formation by means of chemo-synthetic reactions of sugar." Oh, Lor'!

At the Beekeepers' Conference, when the Journal was under discussion, Mr. R. H. Nelson stated that as a means of education he had not yet had any information anywhere equal to that which he obtained from our Journal.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

"I have just had the biggest crop I have had for six years, and the way the bees have filled up the bottom storey this month of March was an eye-opener. Never in my twenty years' experience have I left my bees in such good condition for winter. Southland would be the ideal county if we could depend upon a little more sunshine at the right time. The one good year now reminded me of the old-time showman's cry: 'Here you are again, gentlemen; try your luck; once winning makes up for five times losing.'"—Southland correspondent.

Mr. Burton Gates, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, U.S.A., would be glad of the July and August (1914) issues of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal in order to complete the College files. He will also be glad of photographs and pictures typical of beekeeping in New Zealand. These are required for lantern slides. Mr. Gates says he has a collection of subjects illustrating beekeeping in most parts of the world, but little or nothing from New Zealand, and he would be glad to send any material the College has as an exchange. Answers to this request may be sent direct to Mr. Gates, or to the office of this Journal.

Notwithstanding the extreme dryness of the past two seasons, a new industry as far as Marlborough is concerned has steadily grown up, and that it has come to stay is evidenced by the fact that a shipment of just under three tons of the finest clover and lucerne honey has gone forward to-day to the consignment of Mr. F. W. Adams. It is a matter of congratulation for Marlborough that the sample on which this shipment was sold was considered so satisfactory that a record price was offered for the whole shipment. This alone proves that beekeeping in this district has a future that will earn fame for Marlborough only equalled by that won by the quality of its barley, peas, lucerne, wool, butter and cheese. The foresight of Mr. Adams, who has fostered this new industry from its inception, may be commended. It must be gratifying to him that this first large shipment is so well thought of by the consignees.—Marlborough exchange.

Our report of the Beekeepers' Conference was short one very important resolution:—

"That the National Executive be and is hereby authorised to defend on behalf of any of its members any action in which were a judgment given against them such judgment might be prejudicial to the beekeeping industry."

It was pointed out that in a small township recently a by-law was proposed which prohibited the keeping of bees within the borough. The by-law was evidently directed against one beekeeper, who had a cantankerous neighbour. Fortunately, the apiary inspector, Mr. E. A. Earp, visited the district at the time

the trouble was brewing, and immediately communicated with his chief, Mr. T. W. Kirk, who, on bringing the matter before the Crown Law Officers, found that the by-law was ultra vires, and on the Council being advised of the position the matter dropped. Mr. Robt. Gibb, to whom we referred this matter, says:—"Re bees being a nuisance in towns. Bees are 'ferae naturae,' that is, wild by nature, and cannot be controlled. Beekeeping is a legitimate calling, and I cannot see how any County Council can proclaim them a nuisance. Apiarists should always take care to keep their bees away from public roads, and if they annoy their neighbours they should use tact, not law—in other words, sweeten them with a bit of honey now and again, and it is wonderful the effect it has on a pernicious and quarrelsome neighbour."

OBSERVATIONS ON A HOLIDAY.

By A. C. A.

I was rambling round the West Coast of the South Island a few weeks ago. From Nelson I went across the bay to Motueka. Couldn't find any of our fraternity there at all, except the box-hive man. If any enthusiast wants a job cleaning up box-hives, go and have a look in the orchards of Motueka. I had a chat with one man owning four box-hives and the conversation ran thus:—

"I see you have some bees."

"Yes."

"Know anything about them?"

"No, I don't trouble. I keep them just for the orchard. Every year I sulphur two of them and 'rob' the honey, and let the other two swarm."

"And does the bee inspector come round here?"

"Oh, yes; he was here two years ago; said we must get proper hives and so on, but we didn't trouble."

"Have you any disease round here?"

"Dunno, though last year three of my swarms died."

Comment is needless.

Back to Nelson, and from here I went by easy stages to Glenhope. There are quite a good number of small beekeepers along this line, but there is still a lot of sheep-farming and some cropping, neither of which are much use to the apiarist.

Glenhope to Reefton is an eighty-mile run by motor, and except around Murchison there is no hope for the beekeeper: all hilly bush country. But from Reefton to Greymouth there is some very fine country. Some day, when this country is really discovered by the dairy farmer, there will be some beemen buzzing round also. At present the West Coast is regarded somewhat as a joke from a beekeeping point of view, but one time we shall see.

Listen! I fell in with a man keeping about thirty hives as a hobby. He confessed that he knew little of modern beekeeping. He had never seen an extractor, and hardly knew what it was. He raised all sections. Last season he "robbed" his bees four times—in November, December, January, and

February. He reckoned his average was about 200 sections per hive. That's a West Coast story. Sounds incredible to me, but even if he got half that quantity, it's a darned sight better than my bees done, and my stock don't lose any time either.

Anyway, this I do know for a fact, that these sections were sold to the neighbours around for 2/9 per dozen. Imagine first-grade sections at 2¾d. each. Now, there's something for you to laugh, or cry, over. I tell you I nearly cried!

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

During the past month two further letters have come in—one containing subscription to the National, and the other subscription to the Journal. Neither of these letters gave any indication whence they came. If you have sent some money and no receipt has reached you, the reason why is evident.

Subscriptions due June 30th, and paid:—Messrs. W. D. Esther, W. McDonald, R. Paton, H. Taege, H. R. Wilson, F. Parkes, J. Clark.

Several further subscriptions have come to hand, but owing to the absence of the Editor in the North Island they will not be acknowledged till August issue.

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Good Clean Beeswax

In any Quantity.

HIGHEST PRICES GIVEN.

Cash or Exchange for Supplies.

Let us know how much you have.

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N.Z. BEEKEEPERS' JOURNAL.



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SAFE ARRIVAL GUARANTEED.



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Untested	-	10/-	15/-
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PRICE LIST OF QUEENS.	1	2	3	5
Untested	3s.	9s.	13s.	20s.
Tested	10s.	18s.	25s.	42s.
Select Tested	14s.	26s.		

COLONIES OF BEES (without Queens).

2 Frame (Nucleus Colony)	...	Each—10s.
3 " " " "	...	12.6.
4 " " " "	...	15s.
Full Colony on 10 Frames	...	£1 12s.

To the above prices must be added the price of the Queen required.

BEES Free from Disease, and bred from good stock. All care taken to ensure safe transit, but no responsibility taken with the colonies. I will, however replace a dead queen, from the mail, if the box is returned intact.

TERMS—CASH WITH ORDER.

W. A. DAWSON, FORTROSE, SOUTHLAND.

Modern Equipment for the Progressive Beekeeper.

On every hand we are finding that Up-to-date Apiarists are recognizing that success is most rapidly and economically secured by the employment of the latest forms of equipment. We make it our business to keep in touch with the leading Manufacturers in different parts of the Globe, and receive from time to time the most approved and reliable devices that have proved themselves by practical results. Amongst these are the following, which will be found of distinct service to Beekeepers, not only from the standpoint of saving time and trouble, but also in securing economy in time and expenditure.

POWER EXTRACTORS.

We issue a special pamphlet on this subject, and will be glad to mail a copy free on application. The plant consists of a four, six, or eight-comb Extractor, with a Honey Pump geared to the side, and the whole outfit driven by a one or a one and a-half horse-power motor. At a mere fraction of the cost of the wages of an extra man, and the saving of heavy, laborious work, an Apiarist with this plant can extract honey all day long.

THE BAINES' CAPPING REDUCER.

This device enables the Beekeeper to overcome all difficulties in dealing with uncappings. A high-grade wax is produced immediately the extracting is finished, and the honey is not deteriorated in the slightest degree. Particulars on application. PRICE, 55/-.

NEW QUEEN EXCLUDER.

This Queen and Drone Excluder is far superior to the perforated metal. It has met with the greatest approval from experienced Beekeepers, who consider it a most valuable invention. PRICE, 2/6. Per Dozen, 27/-. When ordering, please state whether for use on dovetailed or on old-style Hive.

COMB FOUNDATION.

We keep large stocks of Dadant's, Faulkner's and Root's Foundation, brands of the highest grade, which can be used with complete confidence.

THE "DANDY" HONEY SPOON.

This is a wonderfully simple but very useful invention for those who use honey on their dining-table. It does away with sticky fingers, and is much cleaner and more desirable than the ordinary spoon. The "Dandy" is specially shaped, and has a little hook or catch in the handle, which enables it to be hooked on to the side of the honey jar, always ready for use, and always clean. PRICES: Nickel-plated, 1/6; Electro-plated, 2/- Post free.

A BOOK EVERY BEEKEEPER SHOULD HAVE!

"BEEKEEPING." (By Dr. PHILIPS.)

This is a new book which has just appeared, by one of the most eminent authorities on Beekeeping in the United States. It deals with the "how" and "why" of Beekeeping, and differs entirely from other standard works on Bees.

Orders are now being booked for delivery on arrival of Supplies.

The difficulty of obtaining supplies is so great that we suggest you order your requirements now, so as to be sure of them when required. At any moment imports into the Dominion may cease.

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