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E. A. Gray

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1918.

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



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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

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

No. 9

VOL. 2

5/- PER ANNUM.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of fees as follows:— 1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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All communications regarding the Association and Journal to be sent to
FRED. C. BAINES, Kati Kati.

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EDITORIAL.

At the recent Conference held in Wellington, the following remit came from the Waikato Branch: "That the Conference fully discuss the advisability of forming judging tests for those who might apply, in order that they may be granted a certificate of proficiency; the tests to include the grading of honey, wax, honey-mead, and honey vinegar." There was but very little discussion on this, and nothing was done to give effect to the wishes of the members of the Branch. This is a pity, as it opens up a line of work that would assist the National and its organisation and usefulness in a way that no other line would.

However, to our thinking the remit only fringes the subject. What is required is something embracing the whole of the agricultural profession, from the opening of the hive in the spring to the grading of honey, both liquid and granulated, for the market. The National should certainly issue certificates to those who are capable,

and the possession of these would be to indicate that the owner was a practical man in not only judging the commodities' names, but in all branches of the industry.

When we went to school we were well grounded in the subjects of the standard in which we were placed, and at the end of the year we were examined in these subjects, both on paper and orally, and if we passed we received our certificate. This is the system we must go on, and at the close of next season—say, April or May—the National must set the thing going; and our duty is to find out the best way of making this proposal workable. Our suggestion is that a notice be put in various papers in districts suitable to beekeeping, stating that on the request of, say, seven or more people, the National will arrange for a series of classes on the industry, free of charge, the only condition being that the students pay the nominal membership fee of 5/- unless they are already members. The teacher should be a successful commercial beekeeper, who should be paid at least £1 ls. as a fee for every evening given,

besides out-of-pocket expenses. He should start at the A B C, having a full range of appliances at his disposal for illustration of manipulation, the same list of lectures being supplied to every teacher, so that the instruction given is uniform in every part of the Dominion. These could be drawn up by consulting the leading men of the industry here, or, perhaps better still, a copy of the examination paper of the British Beekeepers' and other Associations be obtained and altered to suit our own conditions.

These classes would be held indoors from May to August, and in September, when the teachers would be getting busy in their own apiaries, the class could be held there, with actual demonstrations at the hives—setting of queen cells one month, extracting honey the following, wax-rendering and general work of the season the next, grading the honey the following, up to closing the hives for the winter.

Then in the May following the examination to be held in the various places, all examination papers and questions being uniform: these to be submitted to a committee appointed for the purpose, and then at the annual Conference the certificates would be handed to the successful students. And the Editor would like to say just here that he would give a little to be the first recipient of a certificate granted by our own Association: but there is no danger—he couldn't pass!

Now, we submit there is nothing of the "wild cat" scheme about the above proposal. It is quite workable, and with the assistance of capable men could probably be improved upon. And, above all, it is absolutely and unmistakably the business of the National Association to undertake this work, because the platform of the Association is the improvement of the beekeeping industry, and the furthering of the interests and prosperity of the beekeepers throughout the Dominion, and if the scheme outlined is not the first plank in such a platform, we have a wrong idea of what the National is in existence for.

There should not be any difficulty in getting men to fill the positions of teachers. It would not be absolutely necessary that the same man take the whole course. Different men could take different subjects if desirable. To us it appears this scheme bristles with opportunities to the advancement of the industry in the Dominion and the usefulness of the National Association; and, providing it is taken up wholeheartedly by the existing members, there is no reason that it should not mean very great things for all concerned.

As indicated last month, the Government are subsidising our funds pound for pound for another three years, and this is granted for the very purpose outlined above. It is of no advantage to the industry that the National's balance sheet

shows a large amount of funds in hand. We would much prefer that it showed less if the President, in his report to Conference, was able to say we have spent the money in establishing these classes, and that one hundred new men and women had been added to the membership, who were actual owners of bees and holders of certificates.

Now, please do not read this and just say "a good (or bad) idea," and let it rest at that. If you think it good, what are you personally and individually going to do? Would you, if these classes were started within reasonable distance of your place attend them, with the idea of gaining further knowledge, and, perhaps, a certificate? We want to know! If the scheme does not appeal to you, or you can suggest something different, or add, cut out, or do anything that in your opinion would be to advantage, please let us know about it. These Editorial remarks are not written with the idea of filling up space, neither are they written without due thought and consideration of the subject in relation to the industry; but for all that they are not intended to imply that all has been said that could be said, or that this scheme in particular is treated in anything like the comprehensive way it should be. The Editor can only put the matter as it appeals to him, and he does it with the idea that others will come forward with suggestions and help. In fact, if this is allowed to drop for want of support, we shall feel we are "whipping a dead horse," which is not conducive to good work.

If the scheme is going to be brought to a successful issue, we have none too much time, as the teachers will have to be sought out, the course of lectures arranged, the examination papers written, revised, and re-written probably two or three times before they are fully comprehensive, and embrace the whole of what a certificated beekeeper ought to know. Therefore, we earnestly ask all our readers to send in their opinions—the beginner stating he is going to support the scheme and attend the lectures; the experienced beekeepers sending in their suggestions, not necessarily for publication if so desired; and particularly those who will assist the Association by making the matter known in getting the beekeepers of their particular district interested in the scheme, so that classes can be started.

We on our part are only too anxious that the National Association should justify its existence to the very fullest extent, and this can only be achieved by a campaign on the lines of the above. We are willing to give a very great deal of time in rendering every assistance possible; but it is not a one-man job. It will require the help and co-operation of every beekeeper in the land, and we have the confidence in those who wish the National Association well that they too are willing to help in every possible way.

We publish elsewhere a copy of the report of the year's work carried out at the Ruakura Experimental Apiary, which is very interesting reading. It shows that at last the Apiary is truly an experimental one, and those engaged in the industry can profit by the experience gained in the use of the various appliances and systems. We also congratulate the Department on having such an excellent man as Mr. A. B. Trythall in charge, as this sort of work is not suitable to every one; but the position just suits him and he the position, so the result is good work done. Did you know he, like the others employed by the Department in the Apiary Division, is very poorly paid? He gets less than £30 a year above what a one-year cadet can obtain. We cannot but think the Department is ill-advised in not at once recognising that these officers are not being paid a fair wage for the work they are doing.

These experiments have been carried out under the supervision of Mr. G. V. Westbrook, the apiary instructor for the Auckland Province, and we desire to congratulate him also on the work done.

Crop Reports.—We received the following last month after we went to press:—

No.	Spring Count.	Increase to.	Crop. Tons.cwt.
35	8	12	0 7
36	4	24	0 9
37	1	26	0 0½
38	700	—	9 0
39	16	19	0 12½
40	22	50	0 12
41	5	7	0 2
42	100	106	4 0

This will close these reports for this season, and we tender our thanks to those who responded to our appeal. Next season we intend to supply a post-card with the Journal for May, and all you will have to do will be to put in the particulars and post it. We have had one or two readers commending this idea of getting reports of the crops obtained, and we too think it is a matter of interest to all.

In the July issue of the Journal of Agriculture an advertisement appears announcing the sale of Italian bees and queens from the Ruakura Apiary, and we are glad to note that it includes "untested" queens. A similar advertisement appeared last year, and the first month it appeared "untested" queens were offered for sale, but these were cut out in the second advertisement, and by the time the third appeared, the demand for queens became greater than the Apiary could supply, so the advertisement was withdrawn. On enquiring why the "untested" queens were withdrawn from sale, we learned that owing to representation being made to the Department from a leading authority in bee culture, who considered it should be the policy of the Government to supply pure stock only, and not have anything to do with the sale of mismatched queens, these were cut out of the advertise-

ment, although we believe the demand for these was considerably greater than for the two tested grades.

So the point under review is: Is it a wise policy for the Department of Agriculture to send out anything other than pure tested stock? If we were discussing any stock other than queen bees, we should say decidedly No! because it would indicate that carelessness was evident in securing purity by not exercising discretion in the mating of the stock for breeding purposes. But with queen bees, where it is absolutely impossible to control the mating, it is an entirely different thing. A buyer of an untested queen knows (or should know) that he is buying a queen bee whose progeny has not been tested for purity; she has been sold immediately she commenced laying eggs, and goes to the buyer simply as a laying queen, without any guarantee that she will be anything beyond that.

Seeing there is an element of uncertainty with these queens, why advocate the sale? It occurs to us this way. In the spring, when we are building up our colonies, we shall all come across some that have queens that should be replaced at the earliest opportunity, and if we can get hold of some young queens early, it is going to make all the difference in our crop of honey. The spring is the time to replace old and failing queens: the earlier you can get them the better, and it is just here where the advantage of being able to procure untested queens comes in. To wait and see if she be purely mated means another month, and by the time she is received by the beekeeper, her bees hatched out and old enough to be in the field, the chances are that it will be too late—the honey flow over, and you have a lot more bees than necessary to carry over the winter.

The time required to see if the queen is purely mated is going to increase the work of the officer in charge very considerably, as the number of nuclei he will want will run into hundreds. There is another aspect to be considered. If mismatched queens are not to be sold, what is to be done with them? Are they to be killed? If so, then your State Apiary is not going to be run on either economic or commercial lines; neither is it going to be the use to the industry it might be. The hybrid bees are in many cases better honey-gatherers than the pure stock, and serve every purpose except that to breed from. We should think a farmer mad if, because a Shorthorn bull by accident got amongst his Jersey herd, he killed all the calves, when they have a market value to those who want them, not for their breed, but for the capabilities of producing milk. Precisely the same argument applies with regard to untested queens. These are wanted for one purpose only—to furnish bees to bring in the honey, be they black, white, or yellow, and to refuse to sell them because they

are not tested for purity of mating—note it well, purity of mating, not honey-gathering—is to our mind foolishness. Queen-rearing is, as we all know, a very difficult and uncertain work, and if after you have got the cells accepted, and destroyed those that do not appear properly formed, queens safely hatched out, mated and laying, you are going to pinch the heads off a large percentage of them because they show a sign of black blood is to us an absolute and wicked waste of time and labour both on the part of the bees and beekeeper. Not only so, but you are refusing to give vital help at the most opportune time to those engaged in the industry, when they are only too anxious and willing to secure these (perhaps, and perhaps only) mismated queens.

The most widely known queen breeder in the country told the Editor that he lost about £150 last season in raising queens instead of honey, and that if prices for honey remain as firm next year, the probability is that queens for sale will not be raised. If this gentleman does stop supplying, then the industry is going to be very badly off as regards New Zealand queens, and we shall probably be forced to import from Australia, which should be unnecessary, and, for the control of disease, undesirable. The State Apiary can just here be of the greatest assistance, because we take it that all State enterprises are taken up for the benefit of the particular industry, not with the idea of making a profit; therefore, it could and would be able to supply queens at the actual cost in time and labour, and by the sale of untested queens would prove itself to be an absolute boon, and thus be acting for the greatest good to the greatest number.

As we have stated, the Department started advertising the sale of untested queens last year, then on representation being made withdrew them. This year, owing to representation being made from other quarters, they are again advertised. Now, as the demand for these queens will be made chiefly by the readers of our Journal, we ask all to send in their opinions on this matter. All the Department officials receive the Journal, and the views expressed would give them an indication whether they had been ill-advised or not. We advised the sale of untested queens. Do you support us? If so, why? If not, why not?

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. G. M. Doolittle, the eminent queen-breeder in America. Mr. Doolittle's book, "Scientific Queen Rearing," is a standard work, and one that all those who intend raising their own queens should read. One of his chief slogans was, "work in accordance with Nature," and his results in raising the standard of queens proved that he was on right lines.

We mentioned last month that we had heard a rumour that Mr. F. A. Jacobsen,

apiary instructor for the Wellington district, who had been passed by the Medical Board as Class A-1 some months ago, and ordered to camp, had for some unaccountable reason again been before the Medical Board and was placed in Class C-2, and we stated that it was probable the Department would be losing his services. We were led to believe this by Mr. Jacobsen, who stated to us in Wellington that had he not been going into camp he would be doing something outside the Department which would pay him considerably better. Therefore, we were rather disgusted to learn that no sooner had he got his C-2 certificate in his pocket, than he wrote a gentleman occupying a very prominent position in the National, asking him to endorse his (Mr. Jacobsen's) application for the position of Chief Apiarist. This strikes us as an attempt to secure an unfair advantage over the two other officers, neither of whom would adopt these tactics, and who are both more capable of filling the position, as they can at least claim to have been practical commercial beekeepers previously to entering the service of the Department.

Mr. Jacobsen certainly told us he was petitioning to get into the Flying Corps, and so he has successfully flown from Class A-1 to Class C-2 without any mishap, or even getting "winged." "Some" flying, that!

The Department has told us, and we are willing to accept the statement, that the appointment cannot be made just now because of the possible injustice to those who are serving their country. Therefore, it is only fair to point out that Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, the Auckland instructor, served his country in the Boer War, and at the outbreak of the present hostilities, as a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen, VOLUNTEERED his services, offering to supply own horse and equipment, which, considering he has a large family, meant a very great sacrifice. The fact that his services were not accepted does not alter the position; Mr. G. V. Westbrooke offered his services; Mr. Jacobsen did not render any service at all, but by some means evaded it, and if the applicants' services to their country are going to receive any consideration when the appointment is made, then Mr. F. A. Jacobsen has forfeited his right to be considered, because please bear in mind the other two officers are more capable men. The reason put forward by Mr. Jacobsen for his re-examination is that the military authorities lost his certificate! Well, well! Very careless of them! And "we have never heard the like!"

In any case, and we can safely speak for those who have the industry at heart, we do not want a man who feels it is necessary to get his application for the position endorsed by anybody. If the plain statement of his credentials, and proved ability will not secure him the appointment in a fair field and no favour, then

he is not the man we want, and the industry would be poorer by his appointment.

Having said this much on the appointment of a Chief Apiarist, we are compelled to say a little more, and we tender our apologies to our readers for bringing in the personal element. In February last we made a few comments on the necessity of the appointment, and a certain gentleman, who shall be nameless, commented to two others that the Editor "was not speaking for the industry; the industry did not want it, and the only object the Editor had was to create a position for himself." We so far have treated this statement with the contempt it deserves, as it shows a mind about the same calibre as that of an earwig. But although the statement was made some hundreds of miles from the Waikato, we find a rumour of it has filtered through to that district; therefore we feel we must clear the air. We have drawn attention to the salaries paid to the inspectors. Are we to be accused of trying to do so only that when the extra appointments are made we can perhaps secure a job? In this issue we are commenting on the salary of the officer in charge of the Ruakura Apiary. Are we trying to secure his job at a higher figure should he resign, oh ye brainy one? We quite realise that our friend would find it a hard thing to write disinterestedly, but we are not looking for the job in his favour.

Now we will get this unpleasant matter out of our minds by reading something good. Cast your eyes over our Roll of Honour, and in it you will see the name of J. Sillifant, Christchurch, and in the last list of honours awarded we find Lance-corporal J. Sillifant, D.C.M. Congratulations to our brave young friend, a beekeeper and a hero. Congratulations to his father, Mr. W. A. Sillifant, a beekeeper and a gentleman. Congratulations to the N.Z. beekeepers in having such a man amongst them. We hope to meet both father and son at the next Conference, and we will give them a "korero." President Barker will be doing some "high falutin'" over this, as Mr. Sillifant was working his apiary previous to enlisting.

Who can render help in this case?

"My husband goes into camp on 9th October, and we do not know what to do with the apiary. If you know of anyone who could or would take it over whilst he is away, please let me know. Whoever takes charge will, of course, take the profit from the season's honey, less expenses. I only want the apiary kept clean and in good order."—Mrs. Trownson, Springvale, Wanganui.

Mr. Trownson has had to sell his business, leave his bees and wife and child, so you see he is making a big sacrifice in serving his country, and we shall appreciate any assistance given in response to this appeal.

Owing to the impossibility of getting the timber, the Hawera Sash and Door Factory have been compelled to cancel their advt. for the sale of hives, &c., and whilst we were in the milling district of the North Island we learned that white pine is practically unobtainable. This means supplies of bee-hives, frames, &c., are going to be very hard to get; therefore we strongly advise all those who may be wanting these goods to place their orders with the manufacturers at once.

The Honey Market.—We were asked a short time ago if we had heard that the Food Controller of England had taken charge of the imports of honey and fixed the price at 8d. per lb. As this was news to us, we wrote the H.P.A., and their reply is as follows:—

Hawera, 2nd August, 1918.

Mr. F. C. Baines, Kati Kati.

Dear Sir,—The following extracts from a letter to hand from Major Norton dated 12th June are the best answer we can give to yours of the 29th July:—

"For some time past we have been suggesting that in our opinion sooner or later the Food Controller would be compelled to step in and put a check on the ever-advancing price of honey, but at the time of writing cannot obtain any definite information in regard to this matter; but we have it on excellent authority that within the next two months or so the long-looked-for control will take place. It is, of course, impossible for us to estimate at what price honey will be fixed, but it is quite likely something like 1/3 per lb. retail will be about the limit. If this is the case, someone in this country is going to be woefully left, because at the present price of the bulk honey it is necessary for retailers to ask at least 2/6 per nominal pound pot."

"We will advise you by cable immediately we have any definite news, both as regards sale to the Government and also in regard to control."

We have not received the cable, so presume the Food Controller has not taken action as yet.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. GILLING,

Manager.

A meeting of the Directors of the H.P.A. will be held in Wellington early this month, the exact date not having been fixed at the time of going to press. Any shareholder having any matter to bring before the meeting can do so by addressing the letter to Mr. Gilling, c/o Bristol and Dominion Producers' Association, Wellington.

You may be a dreadnought stoker, a millionaire stockbroker,
You may be a reigning sovereign, or have only half a crown:
Whatever is your station, you neglect your education.
When you do not take your ration
Of the Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

Experimental Work at Ruakura Apiary.

[On the transfer of the technical control of the Apiary at the Ruakura Farm of Instruction to the Horticulture Division of the Department, arrangements were at once made for the general supervision to be under Mr. G. V. Westbrooke, Apiary Instructor for the district. The Department was fortunate enough to secure the services of Mr. A. B. Trythall as Apiarist in Charge. The following is the first general report on the experimental work of the apiary, and is furnished by Mr. Westbrooke in consultation with Mr. Trythall.—T. W. KIRK, Director of the Horticulture Division.]

LAYING OUT AN APIARY.

The usual method is to lay out in rows, hives 8 ft. and rows 10 ft. apart. It is noticeable that when the apiary contains about eighty to a hundred colonies there is considerable mixing-up amongst the bees. Outside hives often become stronger at the expense of the centre ones. Different methods were tried at Ruakura, such as groups of five and three hives. The disadvantage of this system is that if one has occasion to divide the hives the groups become crowded or involved, and the conclusion we have come to is that the arrangement of hives is largely a matter of individual taste and method of management.

VARIOUS TYPES OF HIVES AND ACCESSORIES.

"Waters" Hive.—This hive is not likely ever to become popular, as it is difficult to handle, being so large; moreover, as all the entrances are to the front the bees have a tendency to go to one entrance. It could be improved by having the entrances to the end apartments at the sides.

Twelve-frame "Langstroth" Hive.—This is a really good hive for our mild climate, especially in the North Island, and it can be recommended to anyone making a start. But for the average beekeeper shallow supers only should be used with this type, as otherwise they would be too heavy to lift. The frames for this hive being "Langstroth" are interchangeable with those of the ten-frame hive of the same name. The New Zealand climate, with its mild winter and long spring, favours a large brood-nest, and the twelve-frame hive thus has an advantage over the ten-frame. The disadvantages are that the former is rather heavy to lift, and is itself not interchangeable with the ten-frame hives or supers.

"Dadant-Quinby" Hive.—This hive is quite unsuitable for New Zealand conditions, as it is too heavy and clumsy, and the double-walled supers are not necessary in this climate. It is off the standard size in frames and hive-parts, and would need a special extractor and comb-foundations, thus meaning extra expense.

"Dauzenbaker" Hive.—This is also unsuitable for New Zealand, as it is much too small and not of standard size. The "Dauzenbaker" comb-honey-supers, with

their 5 in. by 4 in. sections, in our opinion are an improvement on the New Zealand pattern, and as they are interchangeable with ours they can be recommended.

"Deadman" Super-cleaner.—A trial was given this past season of the drip-comb super-cleaner, and proved one of the best experiments carried out at the apiary. It is an excellent device for cleaning combs after being extracted; it prevents robbing and attendant evils. [This device was described by Mr. Trythall in the Journal for April last.]

Fence Separators for Sections.—These are good, and an improvement to the old-pattern [tin separators].

Metal-spaced Frames.—We have given the metal spacers for frames a trial, and are of the opinion that though they strengthen the frame and offer less surface for the accumulation of propolis, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. They take more time to fix, are more expensive, and are more difficult to handle.

Hive-covers.—American-pattern flat roofs are liable to be blown off, and are not recommended. The flat telescopic zinc-covered roof is highly satisfactory in every particular, is easily made, and absolutely dry. It is very durable, easily packed for storage, is removable, and is superior to all other makes.

Bottom-boards.—The American-pattern floor-board is fair, but could be greatly improved if it had a good entrance-contracting device.

"Hand" Bottom-board.—During the season the Hand bottom-board was given a good trial, and it has been proved to be an excellent device in securing almost perfect control over swarming. It lends itself to so many different manipulations that it will possibly solve many of the beekeeper's difficulties. Some fifteen hives were set apart to fully test this system, with the result that it can be confidently recommended to careful beekeepers.

Shallow Honey-supers.—These are past the experimental stage, and are an improvement on the full-depth type. They are light and easy to handle, and the bees ascend to them more readily. They are easy to extract, and a boon to women beekeepers.

Frame-wiring Devices.—We have found Doyle's frame-wiring block a very useful appliance, and the Stephen Anthony frame-block for putting together frames is a decided success.

Hive-stands.—The "Eternite" stands, on which are placed the bottom-boards in the apiary, are lasting well, and keep down the grass with a minimum of labour.

HONEY APPARATUS.

Gravity-straining Honey Tank.—This saves much waste in honey, time, and labour, and does good work.

Steam-heated Uncapping Knife.—This is a great help at extracting time, and fulfils all its claims, and once used would never be abandoned.

HIVE RECORDS.

Weight—We have had two hives on scales throughout the year, and the following are the results:—

		Hive No. 1.		
		lb.	lb.	Remarks.
1917.	April 1. Total weight of hive	92		
"	" 30.	87	Decrease 5	
"	May 31.	84	" 3	
"	June 30.	80	" 4	
"	July 31.	78	" 2	
"	Aug. 31.	68	" 10	Owing to brood-rearing.
"	Sept. 30.	77	Increase 9	Owing to daily feeding.
"	Oct. 31.	71	Decrease 2	In spite of daily feeding.
"	Nov. 30.	105	Increase 30	
"	Dec. 31.	134	" 29	
1918.				
"	Jan. 31.	179	" 35	
"	Feb. 28.	109	"	Honey removed, 70 lb.
"	Mar. 31.	107	Decrease 2	

The largest quantity of honey gathered in any one day of November was on 4th November, 4 lb.; of December was on 5th December, 5 lb.; of January, was on 3rd January, 4 lb.

		Hive No. 2.		
		lb.	lb.	Remarks.
1917.	April 1. Total weight of hive	84		
"	" 30.	79	Decrease 5	
"	May 31.	76	" 3	
"	June 30.	73	" 3	
"	July 31.	70	" 3	
"	Aug. 31.	66	" 4	
"	Sept. 30.	77	Increase 11	Owing to daily feeding.
"	Oct. 31.	76	Decrease 1	In spite of daily feeding.
"	Nov. 30.	120	Increase 44	
"	Dec. 31.	139	" 19	
1918.				
"	Jan. 31.	147	" 8	
"	Feb. 28.	112	"	Honey removed, 35 lb.
"	Mar. 31.	110	Decrease 2	

Largest quantity of honey gathered in any one day of November was on 29th November, 5 lb.; of December, was on 28th December, 2 lb.; of January, was on 3rd January, 1 lb.

Temperature.—A record of the temperatures has also been kept, the readings being taken daily at 9 a.m., noon, and 5 p.m. The following are the highest and lowest temperatures (Fahrenheit) recorded for each month:—

Month.	Temperature on any one day.	9 a.m.		Noon.		5 p.m.	
		Upper Storey.	Lower Storey.	Upper Storey.	Lower Storey.	Upper Storey.	Lower Storey.
1917.							
April	Highest	80	84	80	84	82	86
	Lowest	64	64	68	74	70	70
May	Highest	86	64	86	68	86	67
	Lowest	60	42	68	52	59	50
June	Highest	85	62	86	64	85	64
	Lowest	76	42	78	52	72	51
July	Highest	89	72	90	70	90	82
	Lowest	74	40	75	52	72	51
Aug.	Highest	93	68	95	76	95	74
	Lowest	90	59	90	60	89	58
Sept.	Highest	94	84	96	90	96	90
	Lowest	91	70	92	73	92	71
Oct.	Highest	94	90	95	92	94	94
	Lowest	92	86	93	90	90	78
Nov.	Highest	98	92	96	94	95	95
	Lowest	92	83	86	91	93	86
Dec.	Highest	96	93	95	93	94	95
	Lowest	90	90	90	90	91	89
1918.							
Jan.	Highest	93	90	94	92	94	92
	Lowest	88	88	86	89	89	89
Feb.	Highest	92	90	93	90	93	90
	Lowest	79	83	72	86	83	84
Mar.	Highest	80	88	78	88	88	80
	Lowest	71	81	70	82	72	84

WAX PRODUCTION.

An experiment is now in progress to ascertain the quantity of wax that can be produced by a hive worked for that purpose only. This test is not yet sufficiently advanced to report on.

Comments on Passing Bee Events.

By CRITIC.

[These Comments, be it understood, are not to be accepted in the light that "Critic" thinks he knows everything about bees, because he knows he does not, and never can. They are simply intended to help in some small way the development of our industry.]

August Number—Editorials: Chief Apiarist.—If it were not for the supreme importance of the subject so far as it concerns the skilful guidance of and special supervision over our industry, I would be inclined to let the matter drop rather than continue to confront the obvious juggling of the Department over the question. But to abandon the proposition just now, or to discontinue to agitate until the appointment is made, would convey the impression that we are content with things as they are until the authorities see fit to change their minds again. It is really past all comprehension why, after the Minister of Agriculture distinctly promising the deputation from the Conference that a Chief Apiarist would be appointed if a suitable man could be found, no attempt is made to ascertain whether such a person can be obtained. We are now just as distinctly informed that the question is turned down until after the war is over. There has never been a time when such an officer was more needed than now to oversee the work of the large number of local inspectors and the two new inexperienced ones just appointed. Why did the authorities not wait till after the war before appointing a horticulturist? I am sure there is more need for a Chief Apiarist than a horticulturist just now, and more to lose by delaying the appointment than would have been caused by the latter office being vacant till the war ended.

An addition to the inspectors' salaries has been gazetted, but not comparable with that given to officers holding much less important positions in the Department.

If the rumour be correct that Mr. Jacobsen, after he was medically passed as fit and was to go into camp in June last, has been medically turned down after a second examination, it would seem to denote some bungling somewhere unless in the meantime something serious had developed. If he is now exempt from service, it will give him an opportunity to develop the scheme of commercial bee-

keeping I understand he had in view, which should prove more remunerative than his present salary.

Although it may prove interesting to some to discuss the question of bee-farm boundaries, I do not for one moment think anything of a practical nature is likely to be suggested. The question, as I stated in the June number, has been so fully thrashed out in America without result in the direction aimed for, that I think it would be of little use to occupy space in the Journal that might be devoted to better purpose. The man who would deliberately set down a large number of colonies close to another commercial apiary of a size suitable for the district already established, would deserve the fate of some encroaching Californian beekeepers. About twenty years ago the Victoria Valley, California, became noted for its immense areas of lucerne, which latter yielded large crops of honey. The Valley was well stocked with bees, but as soon as the reports of big yields got abroad, beekeepers with their bees from distant parts began to flock into the Valley. Those already established there realised that if this went on they would be swamped, and neither they nor the newcomers would get decent crops of honey. A meeting of the original resident beekeepers was held, when they decided to swamp all newcomers. One of the latter brought, say, 100 colonies into the Valley. As soon as they were set down the old hands contributed between them 400 or 500 colonies, which were located as close as possible to the former. This very quickly had the desired effect—the newcomers cleared out, and no more came.

Well done, Mr. Editor, go for the National and its Branches, and wake them up to the need of providing good exhibits of honey for our A. and P. shows worthy of the status our industry has now attained. You are justified in commenting upon the miserable exhibits of honey, especially that of the Waikato district. I have never yet seen a decent one there outside that of the Department's exhibit. But what was to be expected when the beekeepers' own institution has been in a moribund condition for the last decade? Probably, however, it has been in no greater need of funeral-rites than most of the other Associations during that time. I am glad to notice a movement on the part of members of the W.B.K.A. to reanimate its dry bones, and I hope when this is accomplished there will be no further need for a watchman's call.

Movable Conferences and National Branch Meetings.—This question is of so much importance that it deserves a separate heading. I have already expressed an opinion in favour of holding Branch (branches of the National) meetings in different parts of the territory over which their influence is supposed to extend, and on the same lines I do not think there can be two questions about the benefits

that would result from holding the annual Conferences in different centres of commercial beekeeping. That would mean, say, Hamilton for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

With regard to the first move, if any centre has a claim over the others for the honour of having the first movable Conference held in its district it is the Waikato. After the Thames, the Waikato can claim to be the first district to adopt the modern system of commercial beekeeping in New Zealand. Moreover, the State Farm and Apiary is at Hamilton East, where it might be possible to hold the day meetings, and see all that is going on there. This suggestion is well worthy the consideration of the National Executive.

Page 116—Dealing with Combs of Unextractable Honey.—Any method that will conduce to the saving of combs, or parts of them, in these days of expensive foundation when dealing with dense honey is worthy of consideration. I have had a good deal to do with such combs, but would not have considered new combs the best for the purpose, as Mr. Benton suggests. New combs filled with dense honey and capped would be very delicate to handle, but if he has from experience found them suitable, nothing further need be said. The first beekeeper in New Zealand to save the mid-rib of dense honey combs was Mr. Joseph Karl, of Ohauupo, Waikato. He used to scrape the combs on each side down to the mid-rib with a spoon. Mr. Blackwell and Mr. Blair, of the Great Barrier Island, adopted the same method with success. A shallow tank heated would clarify the honey quickly.

Page 122—Export Honey in Wood.—When commenting in last issue upon shipping honey for the English market in boxes, I had in mind honey that is to be re-liquified, not for cutting into pats, as I always considered there is too much risk of it softening to be a success in that form, unless the pats could be handled direct from a cool chamber to customers. Good sound well-made boxes lined with waterproof paper should make good packages, and I agree with Mr. Rentoul that ordinary storage would be safe enough for boxes.

Page 123—Sweet Clover.—You ask if any N.Z. beekeeper has experimented with the above? I did forty years ago and since. If the seed is good, there should be no trouble in growing either the white or yellow variety (*Melilotus Alba* and *M. Officinalis*). It must be understood that they are biennials, producing their blossoms and seeds in their second year, then die. As a rule, they perpetuate themselves by falling seeds. I had one plant come up on the edge of a stony path, and its progeny flourished on the same spot for many years from self-sown seed. I have had plants of *M. Alba* 6 ft. high; excellent bee forage for waste places. There used to be large quantities of the plant growing in the swampy suburb of Napier.

Pages 123-4—Mr. A. V. Davis' Suggestions.—Mr. Davis, it seems to me, has made two very inconsistent remarks in the first paragraph of his letter. He tells us in one part that he "takes a very keen interest in the profession" [of beekeeping], and in another part that he is "neither a member of the National Beekeepers' Association nor a subscriber to the Beekeepers' Journal." Then, for goodness sake, wherein does his "keen interest" lie if it does not extend to either of the institutions that constitute the very backbone of the industry? Mr. Davis, I presume, borrows the Journal. I am afraid Mr. Davis' knowledge of what has gone before is rather limited, or he would have known that the subjects he has introduced have been well discussed previously in this and other Journals.

Beekeeping for Beginners.

MONTHLY INSTRUCTIONS.—SEPT.

[As these instructions conform to the seasons in the Auckland Districts, an allowance must be made for difference in latitude North and South. Average bee-seasons in the extreme North are four weeks earlier, and in Southland three weeks later.—Ed.]

This month the hives should show increased activity, and, providing they all are queen-right and have plenty of stores, no good is obtained by interfering with them.

Before breeding gets well under way, see that the bees can have access to clean water, so that they can locate it early in the season, else they will be found gathering it in all sorts of places—cattle-troughs, &c.—and possibly become a nuisance to your neighbours. A shallow pan with either wooden floats or stones as a foothold for the bees will answer splendidly; also the bees will appreciate a little salt added to the water.

If you have not already done so, order your supplies at once, as the indications are that it is going to be very difficult to get them; and if you wait till you want them they will probably be unobtainable.

An Early Spring Day's Work among the Bees.

ADDRESS GIVEN BY Mr. E. G. WARD
(CANTERBURY BRANCH), 14/7/18.

[Concluded.]

There are a number of ways of feeding a colony short of stores, but the one mentioned is the best of all. In case no sealed stores are on hand, it is a good plan to give cakes of candy laid on the tops of the frames. This way of feeding does not excite the

bees and start robbing, but under our present conditions—that is to say, our apiary being a long way from home and no facilities convenient for candy-making—we always plan to leave plenty with the bees, so that if any have an excess, we can always take from those with plenty to help any which may be short. We do not like keeping combs of honey in the honey-house, because we always find them granulated, and the bees do not seem to care much about using them. If we wanted to feed the colony to stimulate brood-rearing, we should give them sugar syrup. There are numerous feeders made for this purpose. The Alexander feeder is a good one. Doolittle's division board feeder is even better, but unless very carefully made and well waxed is liable to leak and cause robbing. There is also the feeder made on the pepper-box principle. It is a honey tin with a lever lid, in which a number of holes are punched. Fill with syrup, and invert over the frames. A jar with a piece of calico tied over the top answers the same purpose if set on a couple of sticks about $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thick. Feeding liquid feed is always a messy job, however, and unless done in the evening is apt to stir the bees up too much and induce robbing. Avoid it if you can. Questions: Clipping Wings. Foul-brood.

We will examine one more hive. It is our best. We find by the record that we have had this queen three years. Last year she gave us 262 lbs. of extracted honey. The average from the rest of the apiary was 100 lbs. per colony. We know from previous records that she has held a similar position each season. This is our breeding queen, and last season we reared about 35 queens from her eggs. We are hoping she will last another few weeks at any rate, as we want to get more of her stock. I need hardly tell you she is a pure Italian, and is without exception the best queen we have ever possessed. Her workers are all evenly marked with three yellow bands, are very good-tempered, do not use propolis excessively, and are extremely energetic. During the three seasons there has never been an attempt made to swarm, and we have had less trouble and better returns from this hive than any other in the apiary. This is the strain of bee we have evolved by careful selection of the best all-round queen during our eight years' beekeeping, and in wishing you all the best of success in the industry we will say this is the sort of bee you should try to rear.

I will now thank you for your attention and the interest you appear to have taken in my remarks, and shall be happy to answer any questions you have to put to the best of my ability. (Questions.)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As I seem to have aroused the interests of those present in bees, I should like now to say a few words on another matter very closely related to the same subject. Those who are present as visitors may

possibly never have heard of the National Beekeeper's Association of N.Z., and it is to this organisation I wish to draw attention. The organisation was established for the purpose of furthering the interests of the beekeeping industry, and the meeting held to-night is under the auspices of the Canterbury Branch of that body.

It would take a very long time to enumerate what has been done by the National in the many subjects relating to beekeeping in general, but I will mention a few.

Firstly, membership is open to any beekeeper on payment of a fee which is on the number of hives he possesses. Secondly, any number of beekeepers not less than seven may form themselves into a Branch, and by adopting the Constitution will be accepted as such. Thirdly, a Conference is held every year, when beekeepers from all parts of the Dominion attend, and discuss matters of interest to all concerned. A very successful Conference has just concluded. Fourthly, an excellent Journal is published by the National, which contains interesting articles written by experts on all sorts of subjects relating to bee culture. Market reports and prospects are issued, and everything possible which the beekeeper should be posted in is catered for.

I would like specially to mention that it is recognised by the Government as the only representative organisation of the beekeeping industry in the Dominion, and has for three years now been granted a pound for pound subsidy on the subscriptions. A sum of money has also been granted in addition to this subsidy.

It is hardly necessary for me to point out the advantages of unity. They are so well known, and it is with the hope of getting any who are not members of the National to join in with us that I am now appealing to you to do so.

An Amateur Bee Club was formed in Christchurch about twelve months ago, I think, and I specially desire to arouse the interests of its members in the National. I understand that several efforts have been made to get the Club to affiliate with the National, and I trust the Club will eventually decide to throw in its lot with the rest of the beekeepers of the Dominion and become a Branch.

There has been a good deal of criticism levelled at the Canterbury Branch for having allowed a second Club to be formed in the town, but I do not think it was deserved. There has never been any obstacle put in the way of anyone wishing to join, and if help has been wanted it could always be had for the asking. A good deal has been done to try to arouse the interests of members and attract new ones, but there have been a number of bad seasons, and honey prices have been low, consequently our efforts fell very flat. Now that prices and seasons have improved, there seems to be a desire for information and instruction, and as the majority of the experienced beekeepers are members of some Branch of the

National, it does not need much demonstration to show that by joining the National the desire would be satisfied.

Before I sit down, I wish to make it plain that there is no antagonism to the Christchurch Amateur Bee Club. The town is quite big enough for two Branches of the National if the members prefer to remain outside the established Branch; but I do most earnestly appeal to the members to join in by forming themselves into a Branch, and let us be a united and happy family under the flag of the National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

(Questions.)

District Reports.

WAIRARAPA.

The next meeting of the Wairarapa Branch will be held on 25th September at Eketahuna, which will be followed by a demonstration of handling bees.

T. H. BENTON,
Secretary.

CANTERBURY: ADDRESS ON HANDLING BEES.

There was a good attendance in the Trades Hall, Christchurch, on 10th August, when Mr. J. Chave gave an address on "Handling Bees."

In the absence of the President, Mr. E. G. Ward occupied the chair. Mr. E. A. Earp, the apiary instructor for the Canterbury and surrounding districts, and Mr. T. S. Winter, the newly-appointed inspector, were also present.

Mr. Chave commenced by saying that the keeping of bees in any old box and any out-of-the-way place was now out of date. To make it a success, it was necessary to keep bees in a proper frame hive and handle them intelligently. He illustrated his remarks with a model hive he had brought, and showed the folly of excessive smoking to subdue the bees, which demoralised them instead of making them tractable, and stopped them working for many hours. He stressed the necessity for keeping the hives snug and warm in spring, and deprecated the "spreading of brood," but showed that it was an advantage to reverse the frames in many cases. He showed that it was very necessary to closely observe the habits of bees to become a successful beekeeper. It was a mistake to spend too much time in manipulation. A thorough examination three or four times a year, and plenty of room given at the right time, was the best way to keep down swarming and secure a good crop.

Mr. Earp then gave a short address, and asked those present to co-operate with himself and the inspector in stamping out that "curse of beekeeping"—foul-brood. He urged everyone to take drastic mea-

asures, and not to tinker with it. The McEvoy treatment was the best known, and the disinfection of tools and hands and hives was of the utmost importance. He said it was his duty and pleasure to help and advise in every possible way, and not to harass the beekeeper, as some imagined. He expected to be giving open-air demonstrations during the coming season, and would make his remarks instructive rather than technical. He explained that the Department was short-handed at the present time, and asked for assistance by those who were able to act as local inspectors, who would be appointed, if suitable, on application. He desired to impress on those present the importance of producing the maximum of honey, to increase their apiaries or numbers of their hives, and so help to win the war. Every pound of honey produced would help in the food supply, and reduce the national debt of the Dominion.

Mr. Winter thanked the meeting for the welcome extended to him, and assured those present he would appreciate any help, and do all in his power to create good feeling.

A vote of thanks to the speakers terminated a profitable and instructive evening.

WAIKATO.

The programme outlined in last month's issue was duly carried out, and the movement promises well.

Te Kuiti, 13th August.

Messrs. C. S. Hutchinson, E. W. Sage, and F. C. Baines attended, and the meeting attracted nine persons.

Mr. Hutchinson stated the object of the visit to the district, pointing out the advantage of having a sub-branch there. He also touched on one or two other matters connected with the industry.

Mr. Sage also spoke similarly.

Mr. Baines spoke on the National's view of the question, offering all beekeepers every assistance possible.

After discussion and questions, it was decided to form a sub-branch.

It was decided to call another meeting early in September to elect officers, &c., and Mr. A. Copey offered to give a demonstration of driving and transferring bees from box-hives.

Here we must tell you a joke. One of the visitors got up, and said the object of his coming was to find out something on these lines, as he had about twenty hives in all sorts of boxes!

Mr. Copey was given a hearty vote of thanks for getting the beekeepers together, and the visitors were thanked for their attendance.

With feet soaked in a mustard bath,
Poor Grandma crouched beside the hearth,
And gasped so hard and looked so glum,
Despite three lots of steaming rum,
That Grandma, anxious grown for him,
Exclaimed at last to Uncle Jim—
"This dread suspense I can't endure,
I'll send for Woods' Great Peppermint Cure."

Papakura, 14th August.

Unfortunately the Red Cross Fund Carnival was fixed for the same date, and the crowning of the queen took place the same time as the meeting, consequently, although seven persons attended, it was thought desirable to postpone making any definite arrangements till a later date, and a member of the Waikato Executive was promised to assist.

Mr. M. P. Millett was thanked for the trouble he had taken in assisting the movement. He stated his willingness to do all he possibly could in the matter.

Rotorna, 16th August.

Mr. A. H. Davies took Mr. Hutchinson's place here, and the meeting attracted six members and others.

It was thought desirable to adjourn the meeting till September, as there were not a great many beekeepers in the district, and enquiries would be made if it was practicable to form a sub-branch.

This district is fortunate in having Mr. Banks, a keen, practical beekeeper, in its midst, and we think there is little doubt that if at all possible the National will be represented there.

Te Aroha, 17th August.

This meeting attracted about a dozen people, and a sub-branch was formed, Mr. C. F. Horn being elected Chairman, Mr. C. A. Grainger secretary.

As this district is one particularly affected by the apary boundaries question, and both the aggrieved and aggressor were there, naturally a good deal of discussion took place, and the outcome was that the parties agreed to appoint three disinterested beekeepers to go over the sites, and to make the best possible arrangements for each without causing undue hardship on either party, they having agreed to abide by the decision of those appointed adjudicators, who will be appointed at the next meeting in a fortnight's time.

Although these meetings have not caused any serious upheaval in the different districts, we feel that it has been a wise move, and at any rate some people have learned that we are in existence as an organisation, and according to the assistance we render them, so will these Branches become strong, and further interest taken.

"CANTERBURY TALES."

By E. G. WARD.

I am going to start "telling tales" again, and before doing so I want to appeal to anyone in the Canterbury district who is willing to help to send along any item of local interest which comes under his notice. Last spring I made a similar appeal, but the response was poor, and I practically played a "lone hand." I should greatly appreciate a little assistance of this kind, and a few lines on a post-card would be quite sufficient.

"Never prophesy unless you know" is a pretty good motto. Last year I felt inclined to go "nap" on a record season, but it did not come up to expectations. I

think, however, the prospect of a bumper crop this season is even better than last. We have had the heaviest snowfall that has been known in 23 years, and the rainfall to date is 21½ in., as compared with 17½ in. at the corresponding date in 1917. Provided we get suitable summer weather, I think we are going to have a good time. I am preparing for something out of the common, and am not very conservative about it. I learn from Mr. McKnight, of Cheviot, that his bees have come out splendidly, and breeding is well under way. Mr. Jacobsen, of Little River, has lost nine strong colonies through calves having broken in and upset the hives in the snow. I shall not know how my own have fared till next month, when I pay my first visit. In the Stavelly district, where Mr. Chave's bees are, there was 3 ft. to 4 ft. of snow, and he is rather dubious as to how his bees will come through.

Mr. Editor, you can count on me for one to help with that honey exhibit. If the bees "do their bit" I will do mine. Readers may remember I called attention to it last year, but nothing happened. I shall be interested to learn what form the exhibit will take, but why talk about "a job lot" of jars of honey from individuals. Surely it should be possible to procure a gross of suitable glass vessels somewhere in the Dominion. Let us do something worthy of the industry.

Sorry to learn that notices to discontinue the Journal are being received. Hope the shortage of honey spoons and other presents given have not had anything to do with it.

Mr. "Critic," did you have your tongue in your cheek when you wrote your letter headed "Traveller"? If not, you have unconsciously made the best joke I have read for a long time. What are we to do with Mr. Gilling? Surely he is the man to look after that Department. I may have misunderstood your meaning, but at any rate the H.P.A. is a trading concern, not a benevolent institution. I know a business where the turnover is equal to ours, and the "screw" considerably less. The manager does most of the travelling, and finds his own petrol, and he does not think he is on a bad wicket either.

What an unfortunate man I am! For the second time in trying to make a joke I have "put my foot in it." "A good name is better than riches" 'tis said, and, through trying to make a joke, I have lost a reputation for steadiness and sobriety. Well, I can only say in extenuation that although I "mist" the champagne, I did not get "fuddled."

I am now looking forward to peace and quietness in the Canterbury beekeeping world. Mr. Earp and Mr. Winter attended our last meeting of the Canterbury Branch, and were warmly welcomed. Mr. Earp's tact and ability are so well known that it is unnecessary for me to enlarge on them. He will soon increase his popularity when he comes to give demonstrations, which he stated would be part of his programme in addition to the grading of honey. He is guilty of having given

me my first lessons in beekeeping, but I do not bear him any malice for that, and shall always be delighted to see him, especially at the apiary, where, I am glad to say, he will need to be very "spry" to find any foul-brood.

Mr. Winter has what some people consider that unpardonable fault of being young in years and appearance, but he will grow out of it in time (we all have the same experience, and sometimes wish we could start off afresh). Circumstances have given him rather "a hard row to hoe," but I can safely promise him a fair chance, and his own tact will soon put him on good terms with everyone, I hope.

Benzine Tins.

The following was sent us by Mr. Gilling for publication:—

Wellington, 20th July, 1918.

The Manager,
N.Z. Co-op. Honey Producers' Assn.,
Ltd.,

P.O. Box 104, Hawera.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant on the subject of the continued use of benzine tins.

Whilst I do not like the idea of the continued use of benzine tins owing, as already informed you, to the fact that they are decidedly fragile, and there are too many raw edges of tin, yet in view of the representations made we will be prepared to allow honey to be shipped in benzine tins for this season. It must be clearly understood, however, that this relaxation applies only to the present season.

Yours faithfully,

T. W. KIRK,

Director of the Horticulture
Division.

Honey Crop Prospects.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the Apiary Instructors the following report concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Bees have so far wintered well, the unusually cold weather having prevented flying. Prices remain the same. There are many inquiries for bees for the spring, indicating a boom in beekeeping for the next few years.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—There is little fresh to report. Prices are firm, and honey is in demand. A number of small lines are still coming forward for grading. Sections are scarce, and pat honey is unprocurable. Clean beeswax, 2/- per lb.—E. A. Jacobsen.

Dunedin.—There is little fresh to report.

The bulk of the honey is now forward. The local market is bare of supplies. Prices are firm. Bulk honey for export, 9d. to 10d. Section honey is in short supply. Of pat honey there is very little offering. A strong enquiry exists for beeswax, and it is quoted at 2/- per lb.—E. A. Earp.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—“Critic” is much disturbed at being asked to part with his pet conviction. Let me try to comfort him. If he again refers to my paper he will see that in describing the action of the blood corpuscles, I say they constitute a circle of “almost” impenetrable density. This implies that a certain proportion of the poison may escape into the general circulation at once, as well as during the continuance of the fight. The whole descriptive picture shows this. Now, with a susceptible individual such as “Critic,” even a homœopathic dose may cause symptoms of poisoning, and it may be as well to remark that these symptoms do not always follow in the same order. But this break of the cordon—an essential point of the strategy—is a very different thing from “Critic’s” assertion that “the poison enters the circulation at once”—i.e., without Nature throwing any obstruction in the way. I emphatically deny this, except on these rare occasions when it enters a vein directly. Hypodermic syringes are familiar to everyone, and they are not bad imitations of the bee-sting. A dose of morphia ejected under the skin causes increasing drowsiness, and eventually sleep; but let the operator strike a large vein and he produces immediate symptoms so alarming that he is never likely to repeat the mistake. Analogous effects occur in bee-stings, the urgency of the symptoms depending on the rapidity with which the poison is received into the general circulation. It is received all “at once” only when the sting penetrates a vein, and of course the consequences are immediate and pronounced.

We live in stirring times, and the pathology which satisfied “a very eminent medical gentleman” a few years ago may not satisfy his more obscure successors. Nay, on the other hand, our little Bee Journal is out to move the world with a long, long lever, after the example of Archimedes, and our fulcrum is not going to be the dead hand of tradition either. That particular prop belongs to Mr. “Critic.” Please keep-off-the-grass.

To-day I had the curiosity to look up the A B C of Bee Culture to see what Root had to say on the matter, and was rather astonished to find these words:—“Friction diffused the poison more rapidly into the circulation.” How could friction or anything else do this if “the poison enters the circulation at once”? What is

quicker than "at once," I wonder! I read also this: "Those severe stings which draw the blood and show a large white spot around the wound." What is this "white spot?" Read my paper again, and you will see.

There are only two sorts of men who never change their opinion—daft men and dead men. Our friend "Critic" belongs to neither, and really, with his forty years' experience and his plastic conciliatory mind, I think we may contemplate his future with confidence and satisfaction. So rax me the Great Highland War Pipes, Mr. Editor, and I will

"Up and gie him a blaw, a blaw,
Up and gie him a blaw."

But meantime, Sir, keep an eye on that whisky bottle. From all accounts the spirit may enter his circulation at once. Then there might be table-turning.—I am,
&c.,

"UOMO SELVATICO."

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I notice by this month's Journal several letters dealing with apiary boundaries. Well, it is quite time something was done in this matter. What is the use of us having an Association if they can do nothing? It seems to me that a meeting is held occasionally, the matter is discussed in a half-hearted manner; several of those present will say nothing can be done, and the matter is let drop at that. I say something can be done, and should be done at once, and think that "D.R.'s" suggestion about a license would get over the difficulty. If a miner's right will protect a miner, why cannot our Government legislate to protect the commercial beekeeper on somewhat the same lines—the first in the field to have first right. I think also that a separate license should be necessary to hold each out-apiary any license to be cancelled where the beekeeper failed to keep up to a certain number—say, 50 or 60 colonies, and in good order.

I cannot agree with you, Mr. Editor, about the man who comes along and buys a ten-acre section close to an established commercial apiary. He certainly has no right to start beekeeping there, and a license would prevent him. A man like that is of no use to the industry; it is his sort who prevent it from going ahead. Now, take my own case. I have been here three years; have been increasing my colonies every year, this last season from 100 to 200; have cleaned up nearly every box-hive and a fair share of foul-brood within several miles of my apiaries; have put in an up-to-date plant to do the work; and now a party of outsiders come in to grab the benefit of my labour. They have brought several hundred colonies (about 400, I should say), and up to the present they have placed one lot within a half-mile of my out-apiary, and two others about a mile on either side of my home apiary. This same party visited me last season when the honey flow was on, and

got what information they required, and this is the way they repay me! They cannot truthfully bring forward one single argument in their favour for such an act.

Can anyone honestly say we do not want legislation to protect us?—I am, &c.,

R. WHITING.

Springdale, Waitoa, 14/8/18.

Beekeepers' Exchange.

ADVERTISEMENTS on this Page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion.

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Keep with your clients as much as you can. That's the wise plan for a business man; Absence through illness for orders is bad. Patrons soon drift when you're missing, my lad.

If in the winter with cold you take ill, Brace up your spirits and peg along still; At the first symptoms resolve to endure, Trusting to Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. M. (Massey).—Thanks for names. Journals have been sent.

J. F., Uper Hutt.—Good suggestion; will try and arrange it for next Conference.

A. E. L., Waibou.—Thanks for address. Journals have been sent.

Very sorry to hear of your indisposition, "Nebat," but "'tis an ill wind," &c., and we have benefited thereby. Trust you will soon pull round.

TO OUR READERS.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been reluctantly compelled to hold over an interesting article by Mr. J. Allan on "The Grading Schedule"; also a large amount of correspondence.

I find the Journal most instructive and interesting. Its breezy style makes it most welcome.—A. E. L., Waibou.

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Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears;
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears
Are all with thee, are all with thee."
—Longfellow.

- B. G. EDWARDS, late of Geraldine. Invalided home.
- L. D. CARTER, late of Springfield. Invalided home.
- E. A. DENNIS, Glenroy.
- W. A. HAWKE, Whitecliffs. Invalided home.
- S. R. SMITH, Woodbury. Killed in action.
- R. N. GIDLEY, Christchurch.
- J. SILLIFANT, Christchurch. Awarded D.C.M.
- P. B. HOLMES, Pirongia.
- T. H. PEARSON, Claudelands.
- R. E. HARRIS, Te Kowhai. Wounded.
- R. S. HUTCHINSON, Hamilton.
- J. P. IRELAND, Te Kowhai.
- G. R. WILLIS, Pukekobe.
- A. BECKROD, St. Albans, Christchurch.
- A. CURTIS, Porowhita.
- W. G. DONALD, Brookside.
- E. N. HONORE, Otakeho.
- E. JEFFERY, Opotiki. Died in Egypt.
- J. B. ARMSTRONG, Opotiki.
- G. ROGERS, Opotiki.
- C. HICKNELL, Greytown. Killed in action.
- P. OTOWAY, Featherston. Killed in action.
- G. NAPIER, Alfredton.
- N. C. NAPIER, Alfredton. Killed in action.
- W. J. JORDAN, Ngaruawahia.
- G. SQUIRES, Fairview.

- MURDO McKENZIE, Dunrobin. Killed in action.
- W. H. BLACKIE, Ryal Bush.
- JAMES IRVING, Albury.
- R. M. HAMILTON, Etrick.
- A. E. CURRIE, Maungatua.
- JAS. MARSHALL, Maungatua.
- C. BEAVAN, Waibou Downs.
- D. CRAWFORD, Waikoihoi. Killed in action.
- R. S. SUTHERLAND, Port Chalmers. Discharged; re-volunteered.
- S. G. HERBERT, Ruawai.
- F. W. LUNT, Addington.
- J. MORGAN, Dannevirke. Killed in action.
- H. SQUIRES, Hawera.
- ALEX. MAITLAND, Orari. Killed in action.
- A. E. BATES, Kaponga.
- C. E. QUAIFF, Russell's Flat.
- G. HARRISON, Waipahi.
- H. W. McCALL, Wallaceown. Killed in action.
- G. I. SHAW, Domett. Killed in action.
- D. McCULLOCH, Havelock North.
- B. CLARK, Westmore; invalided; severely wounded.
- M. J. DOBBING, Morrinsville.
- H. B. PENNY, Okaiawa.
- C. L. GRANT, Rockville.
- BEST BROS., Dannevirke.
- E. OUMNDSON, Dannevirke. Invalided home.
- E. PALLANT, Dannevirke. Reported missing.
- R. G. EAGLE, Rusedon.

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