

News of General Interest

South Auckland Branch

A most successful field day was held at Hamilton on March 2nd by the South Auckland Branch N.B. Association, there being about 150 people present.

The President's address opened proceedings at 11 a.m. Interesting gadgets were then demonstrated.

An address on "The selection of a Breeder Queen" was given by Mr. P. A. Hillary (this will be published in a future issue).

A demonstration of the "Hand" and Demaree systems of swarm control (with model hives and "Hand" bottomboard) was given by Mr. T. S. Winter, and this proved extremely interesting to the gathering.

Addresses were given by Mr. A. Honeyfield (representing the Internal Marketing Division), and by Mr. J. Kentoul on "Handling and Blending Honey."

Humorous stories, question box, a sumptuous lunch, afternoon tea, and a general chat to old friends completed a most interesting day.

The arrangements were in the capable hands of the Secretary, Mr. A. H. Davies, and the committee of ladies was led by Mrs. Davies, to whom the thanks of the gathering was accorded.

Canterbury Field Day

Probably one of the biggest field days ever held in Canterbury, was held on January 22nd, at the queen-rearing apiary of Mr. H. Busch, Hornby, Canterbury, under the auspices of the Canterbury Beekeeper's Instructional and Social Service. Nearly 300 beekeepers were present from all parts of the province.

A great deal of interest was shown in the Caucasian race of bees, which Mr. Busch breeds for use in his own outapiaries. As this race of bees is new to the New Zealand beekeeper, much questioning was done as to its advantage over other races of bee, mainly Italians, which is the bee in general use in New Zealand. Although there was a drizzling rain when the demonstration was given, no one was stung.

A demonstration on the grafting method of queen-rearing was given by Mr. H. R. Busch, secretary of the Canterbury Beekeepers' Service, assisted by Mr. W. J. Fix, Apiary instructor for the Canterbury district. Other methods of queen-rearing were discussed. A demonstration on cell clipping and forming was given by Mr. J. Forster, of Washdyke, Timaru.

A side-show for the purpose of displaying beekeepers' supplies was held in conjunction with the field day. This was the centre of much interest.

A display by the Canterbury Beekeepers' Service included many things new to the New Zealand beekeeper, such as the "Brother Adam" feeder, package bee cage, improved queen introduction cages, as well as samples of honeys from many parts of the world.

A working display was given of a two-burner oil burning steam plant.

A display of interest to the ladies was that of honey cookery and preserving, kindly done for the field day by two local ladies.

A very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon was brought to a close when afternoon tea was served on the lawn by the ladies.

Hawke's Bay Branch

A successful field day was held at Mr. Donkin's Apiary, Havelock North, on February 19th.

The afternoon was fortunately fine and sunny, in spite of the fact that 3.95 inches of rain had fallen during the previous twenty-four hours. The apiary, which was situated in the garden, looked quite attractive with its well painted white hives and green covers.

Mr. A. Lowe, vice-president, presided in the absence of Mr. Walker, President of the H.B. Branch of the N.B.A. After Mr. Lowe's opening address, Mr. L. Riesterer, Apiary instructor, ably dealt with "queen rearing." After clearly explaining the procedure, Mr. Riesterer gave the reasons why some beekeepers preferred autumn queen rearing while others favoured spring queen rearing.

Mr. W. J. C. Ashcroft demonstrated the various methods of removing honey, and clearly explained the necessary procedure.

All present then retired to the house where Mrs. Donkin, assisted by Mrs. Jack, served a delicious afternoon tea. The next item was given by Miss D. M. Dalglish, who dealt with honey and its use in cooking and medicine.

Mr. R. J. Lynn, who has had beekeeping experience in Ireland and New Zealand, gave an interesting address which was appreciated all the more for its touches of Irish humour.

At the close of the afternoon, a very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. Donkin for their generous hospitality.