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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, March 31, 1908

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.
Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 16. No 12

MARCH 31, 1908.

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NOT much work in our apiaries during the past month. The usual flow being over. Preparing for market and local shows took our spare time. We have sent some quantities both of honey and wax to Sydney. A very unsatisfactory way. If stock is sent to market returns with cash are prompt. But with honey is different. We have waited six months, both in Sydney and Melbourne, and then had to take what the agent chose to send with his statement about the state of the market

South Australia.

BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

On 6th March the half-yearly meeting of the Beekeepers' Association of South Australia was held in Adelaide. Mr. Mitchell, M.P., president, who was in the chair, read the report for the half year, which stated that almost 33 tons of honey had been exported through the South Australian Produce Export department since the inception of the association, returning to the shippers a little over 2½d per lb. The association's work was more of an experimental character than anything else, and although there had not been the enthusiasm they would like to have seen, yet, on the whole, there had been a good deal of encouragement, and the membership numbers were 44, as compared with 27 at the last meeting. It was known now that they could supply

in fair quantities a good, marketable honey, acceptable to purchaser in the United Kingdom. White, red and blue gum honey properly ripened would always find a ready market, netting the exporters about 2½d a lb. The Government, in order to assist beekeepers, have agreed to advance 1½d a lb. on all honey passed by them for export, which puts beekeepers in funds without waiting. The future of the honey industry in this State was well assured as far as markets were concerned, but there was always the shadow of the axe hanging over it, because of the ruthless destruction of the national trees being allowed. This was the most serious matter before the beekeepers, and some definite action should be taken to prevent the wholesale destruction of the timber. The Commissioners of the Franco-British Exhibition applied for 5 cwt. of honey to make a South Australian exhibit, and the contributions to this had been more than supplied. The balance-sheet showed that the expenditure had been a little over the receipts. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said that honey exporters had been much indebted to Mr. Norton and Mr. G. A. W. Pope (manager of the Produce department) for their efforts in connection with placing the product on the London market. The report and balance sheet were adopted. A discussion followed on the merits of the different honeys, and Mr. Pope, who had brought several samples of those kinds which were acceptable and otherwise in England, passed them round for opinion. Mr. Pope then spoke of the work which had been done in England by Mr. Norton, who, he said, had shown the honey from Bristol to Edinburgh. He had induced several firms in the mother country to take up and push South Australian honey, and there was a demand at present for about seven tons a month. There were 42 beekeepers who had exported honey through the department, and if there were any among them who did not belong to the

association he thought they could be easily be induced to join the organisation. Mr. R. M'Donald said that he did not think the association was doing its duty as it should, and was making no move to protect the producer from foul brood. The chairman said that the Foul Brood in Bees Act, was practically inoperative. He thought that they should represent to the Government that they were trying to forward the exportation of the product, and that the time had arrived when the provisions of the Act should be enforced for their protection. It was resolved that a deputation should wait upon the Minister of Agriculture about the end of April regarding foul brood and the cutting of timber.—*Leader*.

✻ CORRESPONDENCE. ✻

J. G., jun, Gunnary writes:—I am posting to you to-day, under separate cover, a sample of yellow box honey. I want you to tell me if you can, what grade of honey it is, whether light, golden or dark, and also your opinion of what it is like, as I am thinking of sending some to the Sydney show. Trusting you will oblige.

[The sample to hand is indeed good—dense, light, of good flavor, and ought to hold its own in any show.—Ed.]

J. F. B., Ogunbil, Dungowan.—We have just had the biggest flood here that we have known, and it has caused a lot of damage to crops and fencing. I have not been so successful with the bees as I once hoped to be, but I still keep about thirty hives. There has been a succession of bad years for honey, although we always have enough for home use, and sometimes a little for sale. If every family used as much honey as mine it would never be a poor price, we never seem to tire of it. In the spring there

was a bit of a flow from the red gum, the yellow box also bloomed, but there did not seem to be much nectar in the blossoms. About Christmas the apple trees yielded a little honey of good quality and lately there has been a good flow from messmate of fair quality, but not as good as white and yellow box or iron-bark. A few years ago I had 140 hives but they all died out to five or six hives, a good thing I didn't have to depend on them altogether for a living. Many about here who went into the bee-keeping business have given it up, and I suppose it is the same in other places, as I notice there are not so many correspondents to the A.B.B. as there used to be. I used to enjoy reading their reports, and I suppose others did the same. What has become of your Gunnedah correspondent? About the last report of his, some two years ago I think, he said he believed that was the worse district in the State for bees. I had a suspicion at that time that he had something good on and wished to keep it all to himself, as I happened to live there for a time about 35 years ago, and at that time it was the greatest place I have ever seen for bush bees, both the common bee and the little native bee. The only drawback was that at one season of the year the honey was of a very poor quality, inferior to apple tree honey at its worst. I use to think it was gathered from Bathurst burrs as the bees were working on them at the time. Has any of your other readers had any experience of that class of honey.

S. H., Telangatuk East, Victoria.—We are having a bad time with the bees here. No honey this season, the worst I ever experienced.

J. T. H., Nimbin, Richmond River.—Twelve months ago I gave up the agency business where you saw me in Keen-st, Lismore, and like yourself I moved out to go in for a little dairying (when I got the grass.) Shifted all out here last September. Lost a few swarms as I did not have all my queens' wings clipped, and

the trees here are very high. Last seasons burn-off was a failure, and I got a great crop of Scotch thistles instead of grass, but the former yielded a good crop of honey, so it was not all loss. Better burn off this time and have nice grass coming on. I am still pleased with the A.B.B. and admire you for not encouraging exaggeration, consequently I was rather surprised to see in a recent No. (Nov.), an article copied from "The Garden and Field," without comment. The writer stated that if a person stated that if a person started with 50 hives he ought to take 10,000lbs of honey and 150 lbs of beeswax. After 17 years' experience I have no hesitation in saying that such an article is grossly misleading and calculated to do harm. Imagine a novice chasing swarms, finding queens, learning to take off and uncap honey, etc. I think you will agree that 10,000 ozs., would be nearer the mark, besides there are not too many places which would give such a yield even if managed by a practical beekeeper. Hoping you are having a good season, and wishing continued prosperity to the A.B.B. P.S.—Too much rain for bees here lately, and it has spoiled some of the honey flows

D. C., Tylerville, Palen Creek.—We have had a very poor season here, it was too late before we got any rain. I think the honey will realise a good price this winter. Wishing you every success with your paper.

POETRY.

They stung him in the whiskers,
 They stung him in the face,
 They stung him in the eyes and nose,
 They stung him ev'ry place;
 They stung him on the ears and mouth,
 They stung him on the chin,
 But the way they peppered his bald head
 was certainly a sin.

Some of them went up his sleeves,
 Some went far down his neck ;
 But the number that crawled up his pants
 Must have been mor'n a peck.
 He jumped and pranced about the lot :
 How—oh how ! he slapped his pants !
 The bees kept at it all the same !
 And mercy ! how he danced.

He stumbled o'er the chicken-coop,
 The little chicks got out ;
 The woman came upon the scene
 (You ought to've heard her shout) ;
 He knocked the grindstone over,
 He broke the boy's toy sled ;
 Uncomplimentary you bet,
 Were many things he said.

He brought his hand against his face,
 With a tremendous spank—
 "Confound your ornery blooming bees !
 Blank ! Blank ! Blankety Blank !"
 The bees had him defeated,
 Something must be done—
 He did the only thing he could—
 He turned around to run.

SOLILOQUY.

"When I go near the bees again,
 I'll keep my hat on tight,
 For they get on too quick, you know,
 When I take it off to fight.
 If e'er another bee I get,
 'Twill be the stingless bee—
 They would try to find some hair to pull
 Instead of stinging me.
 About the bee's intelligence
 The poets like to harp,
 But this I know : At either end
 The bee is mighty sharp.

—"Gleanings."

The Bee.

Not a flower can be found in the fields,
 Or a spot that we till for our pleasure,
 From the largest to least, but it yields
 The bee, never wearied, a treasure.

Scarce any she quits unexplored,
 With a diligence truly exact ;
 Yet, steal what she may for her hoard,
 Leaves evidence none of the fact.

Her lucrative task she pursues,
 And pilfers with so much address
 That none of their odour they lose,
 Nor charm by their beauty the less.

Not thus inoffensively preys
 The cankerworm, indwelling foe
 His voracity not thus allays
 The sparrow, the finch, and the crow.

The worm, more expensively fed,
 The pride of the garden devours ;
 The birds pick the seed from the bed.
 Still less to be spared than the flowers.

But she, with such delicate skill,
 Her pillage so fits for our use,
 That the chemist in vain with his still
 Would labour the like to produce.

Then grudge not her temperate meals,
 Nor a benefit blame as a theft,
 Since, stole she not all that she steals,
 Neither honey nor wax would be left.

COWPER.

A Laugh in Church.

She sat on the sliding cushion,
 The dear, wee woman of four ;
 Her feet in their shiny slippers,
 Hung dangling over the floor.
 She meant to be good ; she had promised,
 And so, with her big brown eyes,
 She stared at the meetinghouse windows
 And counted the crawling flies.

She looked far up at the preacher,
 But she thought of 'the honeybees
 Droning away at the blossoms
 That whitened the cherry trees.
 She thought of a broken basket,
 Where curled in a dusky heap,
 Four sleek, round puppies, with fringy
 ears
 Lay snuggled and fast asleep.

Such soft, warm bodies to cuddle,
Such queer little hearts to beat,
Such swift, round tongues to kiss,
Such sprawling, cushiony feet;
She could feel in her clasping fingers
The touch of the satiny skin,
And a cold, wet nose exploring
The dimples under her chin.

Then a sudden ripple of laughter
Ran over the parted lips
So quick that she could not catch it
With her rosy finger tips.
The people whispered, "Bless the child,"
As each one waked from a nap,
But the dear, wee woman hid her face
For shame in her mother's lap.

— Our Dumb Animal.

CAPPINGS.

That old established bee journal, "The American Bee Journal," is now published monthly instead of fortnightly, but it is a splendidly got up periodical. Every page is full of good reading matter. Whilst congratulating the worthy editor, Mr. S. W. York, we most sincerely condole with him in the sad loss of his wife, who evidently was a splendid woman, not only as a mother, but a good help to him in every way, also useful in public matters as well, including church, being a splendid vocalist. She had been ill for twelve months with valvular heart trouble.

The best time to rear queens is during the short space of time directly following the close of the swarming season or honey harvest. The colonies chosen to construct cells should be those which have queens a year old or more, and usually colonies which have not swarmed. This is the season when the colonies are most in the mood of having a queen.

The swarming season and fever is over, they are then prepared to settle down to business of preparing for winter, and the presence of a good and suitable queen is the first and all important item. If we remove a queen from a colony after the swarming season, they go about the rearing of another with an increased degree of anxiety over any other time. If we make them queenless a second time, they will rear another, with still greater haste and anxiety than before, but each succeeding time they will choose older larvae and nurse the larvae in such haste that poorer queens will be the result. We must look after this part of the operation ourselves.

This energy or anxiety on the part of the bees is the high to be prized property. It causes the queens to be of larger size and better laying qualities. It depends upon how the bees desire a queen as to how good the queen will be. At this season there is the least variation in the queens from a single batch of cells. The cell-building colony must be fed one and a half pounds of feed per day for ten days or more before starting cells, and the nuclei must get a half pound a day for a few days, and that this feeding may be done with the minimum of labor and time is the excuse for this article.— "American Beekeeper."

TESTING FOR MAKING VINEGAR AND MEAD.—I should also like to draw your attention to another use for the hydrometer. In the making of vinegar, mead, etc., out of the washings of cappings, broken honeycombs, etc., we are told usually to test the strength by the floating of a new-laid egg, or sound potato, which is another rule-of-thumb business. The right proportions of honey and water to make vinegar is one and a fourth pounds of honey to each gallon of water. In this test glass I have put them in that proportion, and you see the hydrometer gives the specific gravity as 1.040, so that knowing this, you can easily make

correct tests of any washings you may have without there being any guesswork about it. The right proportions for making mead are 4 pounds honey to the gallon of water, so that by mixing half a pound of honey in a pint of water you will have the correct proportions for ascertaining the specific gravity for mead. — "New Zealand Farmer Stock and Station Journal."

Bees will discover their queenless condition generally within an hour. Doolittle says: A queen caged near the entrance at the bottom of the hive interferes less with the working of the bees than to have her caged elsewhere.

The two great beekeepers' associations of Germany and Austria-Hungaria have decided to amalgamate, sinking all differences which may have existed between them for the past ten years. The combined membership of the two societies is 100,000. The name of the society will be *Der Deutsche Imkerbund* (the German Beekeepers' Society). — "Gleanings."

In the U.S.A. National Beekeepers' Association there are 2500 members.

BEES RACE PIGEONS.—It is not generally known that bees are swifter in flight than pigeons—that is for short distances. Some years ago a pigeon fancier of Hamme, Westphalia, laid a wager that a dozen bees liberated three miles from their hives would reach home in less time than a dozen pigeons. The competitors were given wing at Rybern, a village nearly a league from Hamme, and the first bee reached the hive a quarter of a minute in advance of the first pigeon. The bees were also slightly handicapped, having been rolled in flour before starting for the purpose of identification. — "American Bee Journal."

The President of the New York State Association in his address to the members makes use of the following remarks: A beekeepers' society should be composed

of beekeepers exclusively; there should not be any exception to this rule. Lincoln once said "this nation cannot endure half-slave and half-free," the same principle applies equally as well to beekeepers' organisations; such to be of any use to the honey producers cannot be half beekeepers and half supply dealers. I would have you understand that I would not cast any personal reflection upon any of our self-styled "allied interests," the supply manufacturers nor their agents of whatever description, including those editors of bee periodicals who, fearing they will lose the advertising patronage of the supply dealers, trim their sails accordingly. If anything, the last mentioned are the most dangerous, we should, however, cheerfully grant them the rights we demand, the privilege of managing their own affairs. To say that such interests are "allied" with the honey producers' interests is the rankest heresy, on the contrary the chief interests of each are the very reverse; *yours was an honorable and important industry ages before the supply manufacturers and their agents were ever heard of, and yours will be an honorable and important industry ages after they cease to exist.*

It is possible, yea, probable, that many well-meaning but deluded honey producers have mistaken the supply dealers' "band waggon" for the apicultural industry and, attracted by the noise, are blindly plodding along after it in blissful ignorance of their mistake.—American Beekeeper.

THE HONEY INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.—There is a great shortage of honey in California and other heavy producing sections of the United States. Yankee beekeepers have gone down to Cuba, the land of perpetual summer, and with up-to-date methods are producing honey by car loads.

A systematic inspection of apiaries is to be made in North Canterbury, New Zealand. One of the main objects of the inspection is to get rid of box hives,

which are fairly numerous in the district, and are in many instances breeding grounds for disease. Under the act the use of the box hives is prohibited after the 14th of this month. In the Inspector's opinion, diseases in apiaries cannot be eradicated until the box hive has been finally put out of action. During his visit south, the inspector has been making a collection of honey, which the department proposes to send for display to the Franco-British Exhibition. Samples have been taken from every district, and forwarded to Wellington, from which port the shipment will be finally despatched.—*Leader*.

OPENING THE HIVES.—Do not open hives early or late in the day, or on rainy days. Select nice weather, for at such times the old bees, which are the field force, are then out in search of nectar and less bees are in the hive. Some people think the best time to take honey off the hives is at night when the bees are asleep, but do not try it.

HALF FILLED SECTIONS.—It is important at the close of the honey flow, to have all half filled sections finished up as soon as possible. Some colonies may be still working vigorously while others are slowing up. Take the super, bees and all, from the colonies that are not doing much and give to the strong hives. Mass all partly filled sections in the centre of the supers and they will finish them in a hurry.

AUSTRALIAN HONEY.—We take the following from the "British Bee Journal":—Are we to have an invasion of Australian honey? At a beekeepers' meeting at Adelaide the chairman intimated that about seven tons of Australian honey had been sold in London, that another ten tons had been cabled for, and that they expected a further order for twenty additional tons. The net proceeds were expected to work out at about 2½d per lb. to the consignees. A movement is on foot to inaugurate a Beekeepers' Asso-

ciation in each of the States, with a federal body representing the Commonwealth as a whole, to which the minor societies could be affiliated. The price quoted would lead us to infer that the honey already disposed of may have gone to the manufacturers rather than to the tables of even the working man.

IS IT "LICKING GOOD?"—A CURIOUS CUSTOM.—A curious custom in many Slavonic regions is given in *Praktischer Wegweiser*, page 380. After a marriage the band of wedding guests proceeds to the house of the brides' parents. At the threshold the mother greets the pair, and gives to the bridegroom, as well as to the bride, a spoonful of honey in the open hand. The bridegroom must now from the hand of the bride, and she from the hand of her husband, lick the honey, and so show the most intimate communion and love.—*Extract*.

In judging honey color always stands first, flavor next, and body last; this, at least, is my experience, absurd as it may be.

A writer on beekeeping in the West Indies, in the "American Bee Journal," says:—The great trouble in beekeeping here is the insatiable stealing propensity of the nigger. He will take anything and everything loose about an apiary, such as covers, bottom-boards, stands, etc. There is nothing the West Indian nigger won't take, from an old horse-brush to an old bottle of medicine. The hive alone he lets stand—on its own merits, I suppose. Bee-stings are evidently not much to his taste. It is even trouble to get help at extracting time, especially when one keeps hybrids as I do. The screaming and wailing that fills the air round an apiary on extracting days is enough to remind one of a Russo-Japanese battlefield.

Our average yield here is about 120 lbs. per colony. Our honey sells from 20 to 28 shillings per 112 lbs. This would correspond to about 5 to 7 cents per lb. in American money.

PRICES OF HONEY.

The Leader.—Honey.—The quantity available is more than sufficient. Prime clear garden lots are on offer from 2½d to 3d, medium to good, more or less congealed, being obtainable at from 1½d upwards. Beeswax.—Prime clear wax, which is in limited supply, is quoted up to 1s 2d and for medium to good sorts sellers are accepting down to 1s.

Australasian.—Honey.—Trade requirements are limited, and supplies are excessive. Prime clear garden samples from 2½d to 3d, from 1½ to 2½d, being mentioned for congealed lots and medium quality. Beeswax.—Prime clear wax is quoted at up to 1½, and medium to good descriptions at from 1s upwards.

Maitland Mercury.—Honey 1½d to 2d lb., small tins 1s 9d to 2s.

The Markets.—Honey producers, Dublin.—Sections, special 9s; 1sts, 8s; 2nds, 7s per doz. Extracted, 5d per lb. Cases and tins lent. Prompt cash.

HONEY.—

Sales are slack at the present time, but we expect an improvement in the near future. Choice Western district is selling from 2¾d. to 3d., medium and dark lots from 2d. to 2½d.

BEESWAX.—

This line is lower. Dark lots 1½; choice up to 1½.

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M. ARMSTRONG,
ROSAVILLE APIARY, THORNTON.

WEATHER INFLUENCE.

What remarkable influence the weather has got over the bees is more clearly evinced this season than ever before, to my knowledge. It would re-construct the opinions of beekeepers who still have the fad about the pollen theory,—Victorians included, if they could just see the difference the weather has made of late in our district and elsewhere. Our orange orchards, as well as our bush trees, are just one mass of blossoms, and strange to relate, but nevertheless true, my bees have been gathering less pollen of late, than when they were starving; but they gather honey now, and it is a pleasure to note the difference. No, friend beekeepers, the pollen famine is a fad, and it must remain such for ever. It is a strange thing that just after I wrote my last to you re the honey famine here, the Victorian expert wrote about a pollen famine in Victoria. Do Victorians imagine that so long as there is pollen in the hive the bees must prosper? Cannot they learn more by practice with their bees than by writing what is contrary to facts? If I had to write to all and sundry papers as some do, I would observe very little about my bees; but I observe first, and then I write. When others have kept bees as long as I have and observe them as carefully there will be more harmony between us. Until then they have to accept the experience of others, willing or unwilling. Bees of a good strain and without disease do their level best at all times, to keep up the reputation of "the busy bee." But when conditions are unsuited with the best of energy they can't give satisfaction. If it was not so, would they have responded as they did? I repeat it is a pleasure to see them at their work now, it was disheartening before. The queens are the same, the bees that suffered were the ones to make the start for the better as soon as they could.

What about the heat wave in Victoria, has it helped the bees? We have had it to, some seasons, and I have lost bushels

of bees. Could it be prevented? To some extent—yes, but not altogether. Feed your bees before 10 a.m. on very thin honey water, and you will save many. Never mind the pollen, or pea flower, etc. Moisture is wanted in the hive to keep the brood alive on such occasions.

I do not wish to get into any controversy just now, but I cannot help referring to a statement in a Victorian paper on "Bee Journal Controversy."

The context of it is that what some experts write is neither personal nor controvertible, but who writes against such expert phrasiology then the editor should shove that into the waste paper basket. And if you belong to an association and say or write anything that is not in accord with the general view—then expel him, etc.

There are editors who are following that rule. I have been informed by one that my last was rather "personal." Good. Here the matter ends. The editor is the best judge, or ought to be, and if ever I have written "personalities" without cause, I beg pardon; but to my simple knowledge on such matters I fancy still that I have treated my adversaries fair.

Now, Mr. Tipper, you may please yourself in regard to this, and if you think it best for the W.P.B. so much more peace for me.

I may mention also that I have withdrawn my advertisement from the C.W. bee paper, because I did not agree with certain other advertisements which appeared in other form. Nor do I agree with the tenor of the subject matter of the paper. Contributors tell the editor how to manage the paper. The editor hints to the contributors how queens reared in certain localities with inferior pollen, etc., not being suited to different localities, etc. Can you see the drift. I can. I have written to some parties that I can quietly look on, as I have kept bees long before any bee journal was in existence in Australia.

It has been hinted that I write to advertise myself. In my early writings, when advertisement would have been of value, you will find only valuable, useful and reliable information. Only when some wisemen from the East got controverting fever I had to show my credentials, but no one more than I regretted that at times I had to use expressions I did to show who is right. We cannot all be representing Australia. Victorian paper says they are sending the best man, treat him well." I hope they will. And when he comes back he may have learned a bit more about bees than he knows now. Such things cannot be learned by anything but hard graft, and a lifetime is not enough to grasp all. I have gone through the mill, so have others; but those who knew most have little time to write. The same here!

W. ABRAM.

Italian Bee Farm,
Beecroft, near Sydney.

Automatic Scales that Close the Gate when the Can is Full.

WRITER IN "BEEKEEPERS' REVIEW."

After much thought, I have devised, made, and put into actual use, an arrangement that not only rings a bell when the can is full, but it automatically closes a gate. First there are two platforms, suspended at the ends of a beam hung upon a pivot at the middle. This part of the machine is an almost exact duplicate of the druggist's balancing scales. Upon one of the platforms (the one at the left in the cut) is placed a 60-pound can *full of honey*. Upon the other platform is placed the empty can which is to be filled. When the can becomes full it balances the can upon the other end, and thus it *settles down*. As it goes down it draws down a small brass rod connected with that end of the balance. The upper part of this rod is not straight, but bends out from the standard of wood to which the various parts are fastened. Just in front of the

bent part of the rod is one end of an "elbow" of iron or steel, and, as the rod is drawn down, the bent portion presses against the end of the "elbow" that is in front of it, and swings it around, slightly, thus throwing the other end of the "elbow" to the right, and forcing it out of a notch cut in the side of an upright rod, the lower end of which is fastened to the upper part of the honey gate. When this last mentioned rod is thus released, it quickly shoots downward, closing the gate. The force that causes it to shoot down downward is a spiral spring, coiled around the rod between a "bulge" near its lower end and a projection from the standard that comes out just below the "elbow" above mentioned. As the rod goes down, a projection on its upper end catches the projecting lever of a little gong, causing it to give out a sharp ring. When the gate is opened, the rod rises, the spiral spring is compressed, the end of the "elbow" catches in the notch in the side of the rod, a little spring behind the left end of the "elbow" pulling the latter around and causing it to catch in the notch. The honey from the extractor, or from the tank, as the case may be, is brought to the gate through a rubber hose. When the gate is opened, it continues to run, of course, until the can is full, when it again descends, which pulls down the rod, thus forcing around the "elbow," again releasing the rod having the spring, when down it shoots, cutting off the stream and ringing the gong.

As a double precaution there is an electric bell which rings when the can descends and makes a connection. This bell will ring continuously until the full can is removed.

AMERICAN FORESTS.

In the various speeches of President Roosevelt in his trip southward, at different places he has referred to the awful waste of our resources in a way that should command the attention of the

entire country. In his Memphis speech he said, "We are face to face with the great fact that the whole future of the nation is practically at stake in the momentous decision that is forced upon us. Shall we continue the waste and destruction of our natural resources, or shall we conserve them?" Then he goes on to speak of the destruction of our forests and of the washing-away of valuable soil as a result of this levelling-down of the timber.

Accompanying President Roosevelt on this trip was Chief Forester Pinchot, a man who has given this subject a large amount and attention and thought. Indorsing the President he says, "The United States has already crossed the verge of a timber famine so severe that its blighting effects will be felt in every household in the land." So severe is this famine that he estimates that our supply of lumber at the present rate will be exhausted in about thirty-three years.

It appears that our forests, in addition to furnishing material that we may say is indispensable, has, until late years, prevented to a great extent the washings of the mountain-sides that at present carry away valuable soil, and these unrestrained floods rush into the valleys, bringing destruction and carrying away the fertility of the soil to an extent that is becoming to be alarming in some sections.

At present it is estimated that only about twenty per cent. of forest lands are under the control of the Government. The rest of it belongs to private capital that looks not to future gains but to immediate returns, no matter what the cost and hardship that may be entailed upon future generations.

But no timber in the world has been cut more ruthlessly than that which is used in hive and section making; namely, white pine and basswood. At the present time hive-makers have to depend upon the odds and ends that they can find in

the markets that are too short or too knotty to be used for building purposes; but by cutting around the knots they are enabled to make a fairly good hive; but the time is not far distant when even these odds and ends will be gone.

Not many years hence the supply-manufacturer will have to depend upon some other material of poorer quality, and yet which will doubtless cost even more than the present stock.

The Presidents' trip southward, accompanied as he has been with Chief Forester Pinchot, may have some effect in waking the public up to the importance of Legislation that will protect future generations from the waste that is now going on, on private lands. The duty, first of all, on lumber should be removed, and then some restrictions placed on cutting trees which in a few years would furnish treble the amount they now do.

In Germany for example, there are forest reserves from which it is allowable to cut only trees that have reached their best growth for lumber purposes. All the younger ones are carefully nurtured. Such a policy is being begun in the United States, but, unfortunately, it will be too late to prevent hardship on the future generation.

The great railroads are beginning to see the importance of setting out trees for their future supply of ties, for nothing in all the world is equal to wood for the purpose.—"Gleanings."

The Aspinwall Non-Swarming Hive.

BY E. R. ROOT.

The Aspinwall hive is different from any other that was ever invented. While it employs some well-known old principles, it uses one feature that is certainly novel. This is the slatted divider, a sort of frame in which are mounted a series of perpendicular slats $\frac{3}{4}$ inch wide, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick, and $\frac{3}{4}$ apart. One of these dividers is inserted between every alternate comb

First there will be a divider, then a comb, then a divider, then a comb, and so on. The practical result of this is that every comb is separated from its neighbour by one inch. There would be no need of having perpendicular slats bee-spaced apart except that these must necessarily be used to keep the bees from building comb between the two others. It will be seen that the brood-nest is broken up into a series of divisions, each division consisting of one comb of bees and brood; but these divisions are not separated, but are made homogeneous with the others by the cluster of bees reaching from one comb to the other between the slats. Just why this splitting-up of the brood-nest should stop swarming may not be entirely clear; but, apparently, these slatted dividers have the effect of keeping the bees all in the hive, no matter how hot the weather, where they do not seem inclined to swarm; but, on the contrary, work and store honey in the supers.

Last year and this year was rather poor, but Mr Burt, in order to bring on swarming conditions, jammed in the feed day after day, to see if he could not force out a swarm; but the bees stayed contentedly at work. While this with one colony is by no means a conclusive test, the fact that he could not force the colony to swarm, which was a powerful one, is somewhat significant. --Extract from "Gleanings."

Keeping Honey.

If honey is kept for any great length of time, especially during cold weather, it is apt to change from its original liquid transparency to a white, semi-granular condition; it is then called "granulated," or "candied" honey; the flavour is somewhat changed; though some prefer it in this form the average person prefers honey in its natural state. However, it is pretty good proof of the purity of honey when it becomes candied, because adulterated honey seldom changes. To

restore honey to its original liquid form, heat a boiler of water to 160 degrees; set the vessel containing the honey inside the boiler on top of pieces of wood to prevent the bottom of the upper vessel from resting on the other. Leave on the stove, but do not let the water boil, the honey may require half day or longer to become thoroughly melted. In time it will granulate again, when it must be again treated as directed.

The Bee Industry in New Zealand.

Basing his opinion on the great volume of sunshine which has flooded the Dominion the past few months, Mr. Hopkins, the Government apiarist, says that the honey this season will be of high quality. As to the probable quantity, he will not commit himself at this early stage. Mr. Hopkins, who has just returned from a tour of the northern bee districts, where he has been collecting jars for the Franco-British Exhibition of next May, has found almost without exception that the box hive keepers were complying splendidly with the requirements of the Apiaries Act in regard to the substitution of frame hives and other requirements. With regard to the Dominion exhibit at the Franco-British Exhibition, the intention is to send six dozen 2lb fancy show jars of honey for the New Zealand Court. The honey is to be supplied from a number of the principal apiaries, including two jars from the Government apiaries of Ruakura and Levin. The honey is to leave Wellington late in February or early in March. The Government is now initiating into the ways of beekeeping four cadets, one at Levin, and three (including two young women) at Ruakura. These cadets pay nothing, and receive no pay. They have merely to defray the cost of their board, which is about 12s 6d a week. They will at the end be examined for diplomas. The course extends from the end of September to March, and cadets are required to attend the whole course. There are

already several names on Mr. Hopkins's cadet list for next season. The number will not be limited, except by the accommodation available. One of the new applicants lives in Victoria. Mr. Hopkins's proposed queen rearing for distribution has been considerably delayed by the deaths of all the Italian queens imported. He obtained two consignments of seven and eight queens from America, and all arrived dead. Australian queens are nearer at hand, but it is desirable to begin with stock from a colder, or equally cold, climate. Mr. Hopkins has, however, laid a good foundation with some Italian queens recently reared by one of the new inspectors.—*New Zealand Farmer*.

The Best Queens.

Now Father Abraham,—In reply to your letter on page 238, who began this trouble, why W. Abram, by warning his fellow beekeepers regarding my Cyprian bees, he says for the benefit of the bee industry, why did you use my name, would it not have been very much better if you had written a useful article on the various races of bees, showing the good qualities and bad points of such races of bees that you are acquainted with. When I called on you to show the good or bad points of the Cyprian bees, you utterly failed to show any foundation. Show in what way I have abused you. Well, you may be sorry for me, when you try to destroy a part of my living. You evidently, from your own knowledge, know nothing about Cyprian bees. I have two apiaries, and have over 100 hives of pure Cyprians in my home apiary, and a small out apiary of pure Italians. I worked with Italians only for 12 years, and I have been working the Cyprians for five years; there are others in New South Wales and Victoria that have done likewise. When most watchmen undertake to warn their fellows, they point out why. Re Italians being best bees. Who said they were not the best? I believe the Cyprians are the

best in my locality, because 80 Cyprian hives will give me as much honey as 100 Italians. That means more honey and less cost. Will they do the same anywhere, remains to be proved. Now re the misprint! How can a beekeeper find out the traits of any bees without a trial.

If you cannot find a foundation to stand on, please leave me alone and I will not require your pity. If you can dig up any reasons by cappings from books, come along with them, and don't cry another man's goods down if you cannot show a reason why. It is no use you or I saying our bees are best. If beekeepers can manage an apiary they are capable of judging for themselves. I have had two letters from beekeepers within the last ten days, saying they are testing Mr. Abram's Italians, and Reid's Cyprians, side by side. This is the right way, more power to them, pity there were not more of them. I wish them every success, whether my bees prove best or not. We have hundreds of good men in Australia. One-sided bigots are not likely to bring about much good, and are blind to their own interest. Beekeepers, buy from every bee breeder advertising in "Bee Bulletin," and judge for yourselves.

Now, Father Abram, in future I intend to treat your remarks with contempt, except you bring something I believe of more public interest.

W. REID, SEN.

Honeyvale, Paupong,
via Dalgety, N.S.W.

Bees and a Broken Arm.

In "A" Court yesterday, before Mr. Van den Berg, M. Gerson, of the Mynpacht Hotel, Fordsburg, was charged with assaulting a lad of sixteen named A. J. S. Wishardt.

It was stated in evidence that on October 29 a swarm of bees escaped from an apiary on the Robinson mine, and swarmed on a tree in Gerson's property,

the branches of which were overhanging the street. Wishart saw them, and the idea struck him that his brother-in-law would like a swarm. Putting on a pair of gloves, he got a step-ladder and a tin can and went to the tree. A crowd of people assembled to watch him. Prior to that he had obtained permission from a woman living in the hotel, but when he was near the top of the ladder Mr. Gerson stepped out of the crowd and ordered him to come down. The lad, who was at a height of about seven feet, refused to do so, contending that it was a public place. Gerson thereupon pushed the ladder from the pavement, and Wishart, falling on the kerbstone, fractured his left arm.

Dr. Gilchrist gave evidence as to fracture.

Several witnesses were called for the defence, but although all of them stated that they had not seen Mr. Gerson push the ladder, none of them would swear that he had not done so.

Mr. Levy, who conducted the defence, informed the court at this stage that he would not call the accused, and on this decision he was informed by the magistrate that to do so "would not help him in the least." The accused was accordingly found guilty.

Mr. Thompson, Public Prosecutor, said that Mr. Gerson could consider himself fortunate in that he did not stand charged with a more serious offence.

The magistrate said that he would have seriously considered the question of allowing a fine were it not for the fact that civil proceedings for damages were to be instituted. In view of that fact he would inflict a fine of £20, with the alternative of a month's imprisonment. The fine was paid.—Rand "Daily Mail," Johannesburg, November 23. Per *British Bee Journal*.

Marketing Honey.

It is the thin honey that gives us the most trouble, and the fact is that the bees do not give it a body. The black bees do not gather much of the thin or inferior honey, but other strains do, and it often gives them a lot of trouble. I have seen the Italian bees recap it many times, until cappings were $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch thick. This is all they seem to know to do to it, when the trouble was that they capped it too soon.

I have always found this fault in the Italian bees, that they are too hasty about capping their honey. If there is a check in the honey-flow for a few days, they will cap the honey and not give it the attention they should.

Cotton is becoming a great honey-plant here. It is yielding better each season. I can remember when it was considered only a pollen-plant. Now we get from 25 to 100 pounds of surplus honey per colony from it, and our bees winter on it. But its honey is thin, and soon ferments, and is not wholesome.

The Caucasian bees are giving this and other thin honey a good body. This fact is not due to season or locality, for in the same yards, side by side, the honey of the Italian colonies had soured when we got around to extracting, while that of the Caucasian was as fine honey as we ever produced, and shows no sign of souring or granulating, and they gather more of it, too. It has a heavy body, and the flavor is very much improved.

In a previous article I mentioned some of their good qualities, and at the same time I noticed the care they were giving their honey, but only mentioned that they gave me a surplus of a few pounds of nice comb honey. Now that I have tested them extensively, I send another report.

I might also add that the Caucasians have as large a brood-nest as other strains of bees, but better compacted. They are very quiet on their comb while

handling them. They cap their brood and honey more evenly than other races, raise the caps about as the black bees do, and have a beautiful appearance. Also, they are great cell-builders. During the flow of our best honey, the Italians keep pace with them very well.—J. J. Wilder in *American Bee Journal*.

Extracts from "Beekeepers' Review"

I have by repeated experiments that the closer I extract the honey, in the midst of a good honey flow, the fuller will be the hive at the next extracting.

EXTRACTING FROM BROOD NEST.—In handling the crop as above described, two things have to be given the closest attention; first, while the condition of the honey in various hives does not vary a great deal, yet it will some, and it is necessary to become somewhat of an expert in judging its condition in order that any combs not sufficiently ripened may be left behind; and second, we must learn to discern at sight whether the brood chamber or any other part of the hive containing brood should be extracted or not. Some bee-keepers object to extracting any frames with brood in, because they say it disturbs the brood too much. Brood is destroyed in extracting from two causes: The first is turning too fast, and the second is turning too long. When I start a new hand running my extractor I first and quite readily get him accustomed to the proper speed, and then teach him the proper time to run for each set of combs. When he has his business learned he should not throw out over a gill of bees ($\frac{1}{4}$ pint) to the 100 colonies, in extracting from brood frames. Drone brood throws out the most freely, next comes the half-developed larvæ. Extracted as above, a small amount of honey will go back to the hive again, but not much.

As the queen is laying to her utmost capacity throughout the entire surplus season, I have to be constantly adding stories to accommodate the bees.

In tiering stories I find that bees work the best as to stories from the bottom upwards; therefore, I put all added ones on top, placing one on whenever they seem to be getting crowded. I use eight frames and sometimes only seven, in each ten-frame hive, used as an upper story. Where I have Hoffman frames this does away with any bother to the uncapper on account of the projecting sides of the frame, and also greatly lessens the number of frames to be handled.

After my first extracting I put on all new stories at the time of extracting, and always on top.

I do not find any advantage in tiering Langstroth hives four stories high, and hives with frames 12 inches deep not over three stories; and it is a question in my mind whether that is not one story too much; therefore, when they have reached that capacity and have again become crowded I find it economy to divide them.

As the honey season advances some of the queens in heavily tiered hives will desert the lower story and establish their brood nest in the next upper one. In such cases I usually divide the colony by placing the old colony on a new stand, and the queen with a couple of frames of brood with clinging bees in a new hive, filled out with frames of empty combs, with as many upper stories as they may need, on the old stand. This will end her deserting the lower hive during the full duration of the honey flow, and frequently for the entire season. The deserted lower story, with such brood as may be in it, which will be largely or entirely capped, I place as an upper story on the removed old colony.

There is an essential point in favour of the power-driven extractor, and that is, the greater speed leaves the combs much more dry. This not only gets more

honey, but the main point is, the combs are so dry that it is much less work for the bees to clean them when given back. Then, after the last extracting for the season, there will be no need of giving these almost dry combs to the bees to be cleaned before storing them away for winter. Another saving of labor.

Probably the worst mistake made in uncapping, is to hold the comb at such an angle that the cappings, after being cut off, fall back on the comb, necessitating going all over the comb a second time to scrape off the loose cappings, thus consuming more time than it took to uncapping in the first place. Then others, when they have run their knife, say, one-third the way over the comb, or when they think they have all the cappings their knife will hold, stop and scrap their knife on the uncapping tank, in fact it does seem as if some people in trying to uncapping honey, spend half their time scraping and cleaning their knife. The only time a knife needs cleaning is when one has been so bungling as to get some particles of comb daubed over the edge of the knife.

THE PRICE OF HONEY THIS YEAR.—What with the loss of bees last winter and spring, and the almost total failure of the white clover, together with the shortage in California, the prospects are that the price of honey will go as high as it is possible to induce people to pay for it.

I have used a heater for heating the uncapping knife, and would not think of doing without it, but I saw no need for two knives nor for the wooden rest. I used a common bread tin, such as are used for baking bread in. After a comb is uncapped, it is necessary to lay down the knife somewhere while the comb is being put aside and another comb taken up, and it is just as easy to lay the knife in the tin of hot water as it is to lay it down anywhere, and I have found this period of time sufficient to heat the knife to the required degree. I used a two-burner oil stove for heating the water.

RENDERING WAX.

It being now the end of our honey season we feel the necessity of rendering our wax fit for market. Of drone comb, cut out, old combs from hives and supers that have run down, we have a fair share. Our copper square boiler we utilise. The wax is put into a hessian bag. When well boiled, a board one inch thick, easily the size of the top of the copper, and with a number of auger-bored holes, is placed on top of the melted stuff. An upright board on top of that board, on which a long pole is placed with one end inserted in a loop on a perpendicular pole in the ground. The other end has on it a 56lb weight. This forces the main board with holes down on to the hessian bag, the wax escaping through the holes to the top, and the slumgum pressed into the bag. Left this way for a night a good cake of wax may be taken off in the morning. This is the first melting. Should very much escape through the holes it sticks to the bottom of the cake, and then can be scraped off. In No. 2 operation the cakes are put into the boiler with clean water, a little sulphuric acid dropped in and when well melted again the wax is dipped out with a tea-cup, and dropped into tin moulds made purposely for the wax. [We were called from home just as last issue was ready for press. To a few errors.—Ed.]

As to top Entrances.

Several years ago a friend of mine found a fine, large bee-tree, occupied by a mammoth colony. I assisted him in taking the honey. The combs were, by actual measurement, exactly eleven and one-half feet in length, and in the centre was 22 inches in diameter and filled solid with honey, which weighed 345 pounds. The entrance to this big colony was at the top, and indications were that it had occupied the tree about four or five years. —Elwood Bond, in *American Beekeeper*.

Dr. Miller's Double Queen Plan.

Put into a provisioned cage 2 queens, put the cage into a queenless colony, and after 6 days' imprisonment let the queens out upon the combs. That's all. This takes considerably less of the beekeeper's time than the Alexander plan, but takes much more of the bees' time. Moreover, it is doubtful if it is so safe. The queens with which he succeeded were 3 years old. He put into the same cage 2 queens that had been laying only a few days, and they showed fight. Possibly success might be obtained with any two queens, if, instead of being put in the same cage, they were put into two different cages and imprisoned in the same hive. Certainly there could be no fighting during the time of imprisonment in the cages, and at the end of that time they might be ready to be good to each other. — *American Bee Journal*.

The Marvels of Insect Life.

We crush with a careless foot a creature impeded by the dust. But supposing we knew that from egg to lustrous wing this beetle had made a journey more perilous and more miraculous than any Odyssey of Ulysses—that it had survived a chance of a million to one against its survival? Some such life-history as this is to be told of how many small creatures of the grasses and the brooks? It is laid, as an egg, anywhere in the earth; it must, when it comes forth, find a certain plant. Say a million eggs are laid; say a hundred thousand tiny creatures reach the plant. It must then ascend the stalks of that certain plant; it must reach the stamens of the flower, a dizzy journey in the course of which ninety thousand succumb to rain, to predatory insects, to birds, to the Will of God manifested in one way or another; there remain ten thousand in these flowers. There they must stay until a certain bee comes to gather honey: one thousand are able to hold the life till

then. When the bee comes they must grapple to a certain spot of the bee's hairy thigh; they must be carried by the bee home to its cell; one hundred may reach the bee's cell. There, at the precise moment that the bee lays its egg, the beetle larva must drop into the egg, maybe ten will do that; and maybe one, after having fattened on the life-juices of the bee-grub, will come forth to the air a beetle—one survivor of a million! And it has gone through these perils, it has endured the fatigues, the hairbreadth escapes, the miraculous chances of this great journey, to be crushed by a hob-nailed boot before it has travelled one yard one the face of the earth.—*Great Thoughts*.

Turning the Bees.

Seeing in "Capping of Comb" Mr. Crawshaw inquiries in regard to the "turning of bees" on death of owner in Devonshire, I recollect as a very small boy being present at my grandfather's funeral, and he, being an old skeppist, had a varied assortment of skeps. On the day that he died, as soon as the bees had done working for the day, I remember my grandmother going out to the hives and, tapping each skep in turn, saying, "Bees, you master is dead." On the day of the funeral, about an hour before he was carried out from the old home, the skeps were turned completely round on the stand, so that the entrance faced the path that the mourners with the body would take. Hoping it may be of some interest.—*Worker Bee*, Langford.

"Honey-Guides" for the Bees.

The following is taken from the New York Christian Advocate, which may interest the younger members of the family, even if it is quite fanciful:

"Mother, what are those lines on the morning-glory for?"

"Those are honey-guides," said mother. "Each one of these lines run into the centre of the flower where the honey is. God put them there, so when a bee lights on a flower it can go right to the honey; and that is what the bees go into the flower for, you know—to get the honey in the centre of the flower. Now go out and sit under the morning glory vines and watch the bees for a little while, and see for yourself."

So Nellie run out of the house. "Oh, mother!" she cried, "the bee did follow the line right up from the outside to the middle of the flower, and she got some funny yellow stuff on her, too."

"That was pollen," said mother; "the bee will take that home to feed the babies."

"Well, isn't that queer?" said Nellie, and she ran back to learn some more about the bees.

Extracts from "Gleanings."

Apis dorsata has been referred to as "the giant bee of the East." It builds truly gigantic combs in the open, generally dependent from the branch of forest trees. Mr. Benton considers these bees very promising, both as honey and wax producers; but up to date no one has succeeded in housing them for any length of time in a frame hive, and their reputation for fierceness has not favored the repetition of experiments. The honey is sought after as a medicinal agent, and collected only by the boldest of bee-hunters.

The "Irish Bee Journal," p 56, says that 2 oz. of saltpeter to a gallon of water is the right strength for paper fuel.

Herr Much reports in "Leipz Bztg.," 152, that 60 to 80 per cent of the young queens of American goldens are lost on their wedding-flight. He thinks the chief reason was that their bright color especially attracted the attention of the birds.

On the Pacific coast there has been an enormous number of eucalyptus-trees planted during the past year, and one of the nurseries actually asks its patrons not to order more than 20,000 trees at a time.

"All of my past experience says that for energy, and a great rush of honey to the sections, give me the colony whose queen begins to lay right in the height of the honey-flow, when said colony has been without a laying queen for about two weeks. I claim that this extra energy gives far more honey in the sections, besides feeding the brood, than can be gotten by any other plan where there is no brood to feed after any colony has been without a laying queen from two to three weeks."—*Doolittle*

The assertion is made by some that bees will supersede their queen if one of her legs is cut off. Well, last year I cut off a leg of an old queen, and the bees promptly superseded her; and this year I practiced it on two old queens, but the old ladies are still on hand. The colony last year was yellow Italians, three-banded. Those two this year are black hybrids.

CAPPINGS.

BULGARIA.—The soldiers in Bulgaria receive instructions in apiculture.

The *Brisbane Daily Mail*, Queensland, asks this question, "Why should we always look to America for the solving of problems in connection with beekeeping?" Then it adds, "We have just as brainy men here if they would only take the trouble to put the results of their research into writing."

KEEPING BUTTER UNDER HONEY.—Butter can be kept all winter, according to a writer in *L. Apiculture Nouvelle*, page 231. The butter is packed in 1-pound or 2-pound glass jars, thoroughly worked, and everything scrupulously clean. Over the butter honey ready to

granulate is poured to the depth of half an inch. Before the butter is put into the jar a small quantity of sulphur is burned in the jar to kill any germs.—“American Bee Journal.”

At a recent meeting of the British Beekeepers' Association the Finance Committee's report gave details of receipts and expenditure to date. It included a report upon three claims for loss and damage under the insurance scheme, viz.: one for £2 10s, the value of a dog stung to death at Epping, a second being for £8 4s, damages and expenses in connection with the stinging of a horse at Redruth; and a rather serious case in Cambridgeshire, connected with depreciation in the value of a horse, along with veterinary and other expenses during the period in which it could not be worked, amounting to £21 18s 11d. All these cases had been inquired into, and the claims admitted.—“American Bee Journal.”

If there is a fall flow, feeding late is a foolish waste of sugar and labor. If there is no flow of honey then the feeding should be for stimulation, and not for winter stores. So that in either case the winter-feeding should be postponed till brood rearing has ceased, and preferably till all brood has emerged. Then the feed should be given in such way that it will be taken and stored within about forty-eight hours. If feeding is thus practised, a very large percentage of the feed will be quietly stored in the brood nest where much of it will be capped over. What is not capped over will be largely consumed before the severest winter weather sets in. This plan brings the bees upon sealed stores after their last autumnal flight.—*Exchange*.

FIRST PRIZE FOR HONEY.—Writing on Nov. 8, the Commercial Agents reports:—At the present time we have a fine exhibit of honey at the Cookeries Exhibition at the Horticultural Hall, West-

minster, and I am pleased to say that South Australian honey has received the highest award possible, and the silver medal (no gold ones given). This will materially assist us in bringing our honey before the public, as we shall take every opportunity now of advertising this fact.

Seventy-five per cent. of the bees in Ontario had perished from one cause and another during the last year or two.

Alexander's method of introducing a number of queens to a colony at the same time, is as follows:—“The stock to which the bevy of queens is to be introduced is made queenless and broodless at one operation. The queen is placed in a travelling or introducing cage quite alone, and the eggs and brood are set over another strong colony. A pint or so of the bees are shaken into a box 5 in. or 6 in. square, with wire-netting on two sides, to prevent suffocation and allow of the bees being fed. A hole is bored in one end, to run in the queens. The hive is then half-filled with empty combs, on which the bees are allowed to cluster till sundown, the bees in the box being then removed with the queen into the house, care being taken not to place them too near each other. After five or six hours the bees in this box are placed within reach of some thin warm honey in such a way that they can eat their fill without daubing themselves with it. After they had gauged themselves, the box given a little shake, and as many fertile queens as desired are run in by the hole in the end. This is closed, and the bees and the queens are again placed in reach of the food till sundown. The queenless bees in the hive are now given all they will take of the same food. The cover is next removed from the box containing the queen with the attendant bees, and this is placed alongside the cluster on the combs in the hives. The hive is then closed, and the bees and queens allowed to join up quietly. They are left undisturbed till next day when the brood-combs are returned. The whole business is thus ended.

We acknowledge receipt of a letter to A. Gunn, the Chairman of the Council of Advice, on the Rabbit Pest in Australia by W. Rodier. It strongly recommends the Rodier Method of destruction of rabbits, and condemns the Council of Advice for not adopting that system instead of the Danyasz.

At a beekeepers' exhibition at Frankfort, Germany, a most attractive exhibit was a house apiary on wheels for seventy two colonies, constructed and owned by Wolfgarten.

The *British Bee Journal* says:—With regard to England the South is considered better than the North for the quality of the honey yielded by the ordinary forage growing there. Excellent honey is also gathered in Wales and some parts of Cheshire. Scotch heather-honey is admitted to be superior to English, particularly that produced in the Northern Highlands, where the "ling" grows in such abundance.

EXPERIENCES WITH THE AMERICAN GOLDEN BEE.—At the great congress of beekeepers held recently at Frankfort the value of these bees was thoroughly discussed. In the report of the meeting in "Praktischer Wegweiser" we read that Herr Muck, of Vienna, introduced the subject of the famous "long-tongued bees." The congress was unanimous in the opinion that these "long-tongued" bees had the shortest tongues. The conclusion of Herr Muck was that the golden bee was handsome and had a beautiful dress, but could in no way compete with the native bee. In the discussion Herr Hensel alluded to the swindle that was taking place in the commerce in American queens. Captain Muller also said for the second time he had denounced them. Freudenstein had imported them direct from America, and was entirely in agreement with what Herr Muck had said. He further said that through the importation of these bees they had learnt the value of their own race. Wankler had long ago proved that his queens were far

superior to the American. Pastor Ludwig said his experience was that breeding for color was a detriment. This important congress concurred entirely with Herr Muck, and has placed on record its belief in the superiority of the native race for Germany.—*British Bee Journal*.

DAIRYING.

Caring for Milk.

The secret of keeping milk is to cool it quickly, or heat it to a pasteurising or germ destroying temperature. In a small way the former can be accomplished by setting the milk can in freshly pumped water and stirring frequently. Well water is, however, seldom cooler than 50 deg., so ice water is almost a necessity. In addition a cooler and aerator should be used, in which the milk is made to flow slowly over a cold surface into a receiving can. Milk thus cooled will remain sweet a long time.

New skimmed milk was totally unknown, not in existence, before the advent of the centrifugal cream separator. Many persons incorrectly think of separator skimmed milk as the same old product, left after taking the cream from the top of the milk, but new skimmed milk, from the separator, is a totally different thing from old skimmed milk from pans or cans. New skimmed milk has in it the sweet nutritious sugar of milk, while in the old skimmed milk this wholesome sugar has turned to unwholesome lactic acid or vinegar. Lean persons take sugar to get fat; fat persons take vinegar to get lean; so one difference between new skimmed and old skimmed milk should be apparent. New skimmed milk fresh from the separator, has had the microbes and bacteria of disease removed from it by centrifugal force, while old skimmed milk, left after cream has been allowed to rise in the old way, has been a feeding and breeding bed for these same germs.

Think of the opposite character of the new skimmed milk, fresh from the separator, and the stale, flat, ready-to-sour, gravity skimmed milk; you will agree that each should have so distinct a name that they never would be mistaken for one another. The one should have a name signifying pure, sweet, nutritious, wholesome food; the other might be called *microbactovinegarus*—indicative of the microbes and bacteria in it, and the change of the milk sugar to milk vinegar.

Milk exposed to the air, as in setting, will absorb any evil odor that may be in the apartment; and in the cleanest apartment there is more or less odor and dust. The centrifugal separator almost entirely eliminates this exposure of the milk, thus producing sweeter, purer, better keeping milk and cream, and in butter of better quality. Only perfectly sweet, clean utensils should be used about the dairy. Milk should be drawn by clean hands (not wet with milk) into clean pails, from cows having clean udders, and poured through a double-thick or triple-thick cheese-cloth strainer. This is only fair treatment for the milk at the start. Whether the milk is to be set or separated, the operation should be immediate. Milk is not improved by "standing around." Milk enemies never rest for a moment.

Caring for Cream.

The centrifugal separator, more nearly than any other method, secures all the cream or butter fat from the whole milk. This is an absolute fact—experiments will at once prove it. Chemical tests show only a trace of fat left in separator skimmed milk. A properly constructed, properly operated centrifugal separator should not leave more than three one-hundredths of one per cent. of the butter fat in the skimmed milk, whereas gravity, or old method, systems lose from one-quarter to one-half of the cream. It is possible, with the best separator, to reduce this waste to below one-thousandth

part of the butter fat. This means a difference in favor of the separator of at least three-quarters of a pound of butter to every 100 pounds of milk.

With a good market at hand a very profitable way of disposing of dairy products is cream selling. Cream should command practically the full price of the whole milk required to produce it, thus leaving the sweet skimmed milk on the farm as a by-product of much value. Cream that is to be sold should be cooled to 40 or 50 degrees, immediately after leaving the separator, and held at that temperature until delivered. If it can be kept below 40 degrees it will improve its body by standing one or two days, becoming heavier and firmer and showing little or no disposition to turn sour. In large refrigerating establishments cream is often held a week or two for making ice cream or confectionery. Such cream whips to advantage, separator cream being superior for that purpose.

Cream should be cared for as soon as the separation is finished. If there is froth on the top it should be stirred down, otherwise it is liable to become bitter and injure the butter. If a simple bowl separator is used there will be little or no froth and the cream will have a smooth, velvety feeling, thus being in best condition for butter making and commercial purposes. If the separator has a complicated bowl, in which the milk passes through numerous narrow openings and over much metal surface, the cream will be quite frothy; this froth will not stir down readily, for it will consist of partially churned butter. It is best to remove this froth entirely, otherwise the butter will have a bitterish, metallic taste. There is loss by removing this froth from cream obtained by complicated bowls, but the quality of the butter makes it necessary. If for no other reason the complicated separator bowl should be avoided, as this loss will soon amount to large figures.

For butter-making cream should be kept in a clean, well-ventilated place, wholly away from odors. Immediately after coming from the separator it should be thoroughly cooled, then gradually brought to a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees and frequently stirred. In this way it soon ripens. The ripening process is hastened by the higher temperature; but when the temperature is above 70 degrees there is danger of hostile fermentation. When churning is done twice a week a temperature of about 60 degrees is about right for ripening. Stirring three times a day is essential to good ripening. New cream should not be added to old within twelve hours of churning time, as it has not time to ripen. If cream is churned less frequently, say once a week, it is well to keep the temperature as low as possible until a day or two before churning; if it is not then sufficiently ripe it should be heated to 70 degrees, afterward, at churning time the temperature being lowered. The proper ripeness of cream may be determined by acid test. Experienced butter makers, however, depend largely on aroma, appearance, and consistency.

The ripening process, as explained by science, is the development of certain species of bacteria or living organisms. These germs are propagated at will, are bought and sold commercially. They help in butter-making, somewhat as yeast helps in bread-making. It must not be supposed, however, that these commercial starters will insure good butter where any vital details are at fault; they simply insure a fair, quick start. Commercial bacteria are identical with those growing naturally in the finest, cleanest dairies, where all conditions favor the making of high-grade butter.—“*Australian Gardener.*”

J.K. McK., Beechwood.—I have been keeping bees this last seven years, and I find you can't have too much information about them.

H.N., Wellington.—Where could I get a few good Italian or Cyprian queens at a reasonable figure? Am just starting another apiary. Have had bad times for the last 8 years with bees here.

[Try our advertisers! Very sorry to hear of your bad luck, best wishes for its improvement.—Ed.]

T.B., Woodonga, Vic.—We have had two bad seasons, plenty of blossoms and no honey. Hoping you have done well.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

NEW ZEALAND.

The honey season for 1907-8 is now a thing of the past, but should the autumn rains set in while the weather and soil is warm, vegetation will spring up rapidly, and a good deal of honey may be gathered for winter stores during this and next month.

Unfortunately, the excessive dry weather, together with fires and the smoke-laden atmosphere has curtailed the output of honey very greatly, to the extent, I expect, of at least one-third, that is to say, there will be two-thirds of an average crop, or less. It is quite likely, however, that much of the loss in this respect will be made up by obtaining better prices for what has been secured.—“*New Zealand Farmer.*”

Candied honey should not be boiled more than 160 degrees.

A tablespoonful of honey, even measure, weighs $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce—24 spoonfuls to the pound.—“*American Bee Journal.*”

A syrup two parts of sugar and one part of water for late feeding. Dr. Miller says: All the syrup I ever fed late was $2\frac{1}{2}$ parts sugar to one of water, and it never seemed too thick. It may be well to remember that many excellent authorities in Germany strongly insist that continued sugar-feeding is at the expense of the stamina of the bees. [Possibly you are right, doctor, that a thick syrup given all in one feed should be two and a half to one.]

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