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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, June 28, 1900

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# THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY E. TIPPER.

VOL. 9. No. 3.

JUNE 28, 1900.

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## The "Australian Bee Bulletin"

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# The Australian Bee Bulletin.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

— Edited and Published by E. TIPPER. —

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—JUNE 28, 1900.

HERE is no doubt there is something wrong about the honey industry in N. S. Wales. We read assertions made in American, German, and English bee journals, that it does not pay to produce honey under 3d per lb., and there the large masses of consumers are and no big expense to send to market. In New South Wales the markets are small, and distances and expense of conveying to the big centres are very great. Yet even with the past year's failure, it is only during the last week or so has honey advanced in price, one farthing—the quotations having been from 1½d to 2½d., and honey is reported as plentiful. The season ahead looks as if it will be an abundant one; can we therefore hope for much further increase in price? It is not a question now of how the honey is formed in the flowers, or how many bands the queen or her workers have; the question with too many will be, Is it worth bothering with bees? What has brought about this state of things? And are the conditions and circumstances that produce this state of things to continue? Perhaps we had better leave our readers to form their own opinions. We have given the value of honey in N.S.W. In Victoria, a denser population and a helping tariff gives an average of 1d to 3d a lb. more. In New Zealand, which produces bad and good honey, just the same as the Australian colonies do, £45 per ton has been secured in the English markets for honey, that when put beside yellow box, and judged impartially, was considered second to the yellow box. Shall we say the importation of N.Z. honey was managed in a better way than was that from the sister colonies. Was it that the ven-

erable Isaac Hopkins was first in the breach and sent only the best away, and so got a name for it that Australians will have hard work to secure?

What are the remedies? To us there are seemingly three.

(1) Let things alone, to right themselves naturally. The indifferent, the man in bad country, the hopeful amateur, the faddist, may all gradually drop out as they find there is "nothing in it." The few practical, energetic men will survive.

(2) Let every beekeeper with sufficient faith in the industry, join the N.B.K.A. a meeting of which takes place in Sydney on July 4, and take an active working interest in it.

(3) Form a new association of practical beekeepers only, as is now being done in Victoria.

We ask beekeepers to seriously consider the above plans.

And while on this subject we invite correspondence. In doing so we ask correspondents to bear in mind the limitations with which the press is surrounded, and not to be hurt if we feel it our duty to modify or soften any expressions they may use. We are certainly not under censorship as in some countries, but the libel laws in Australia are, to say the least, annoying. It is the duty of the press to watch and safe-guard the interests of the public. Personalities must not be indulged in. The work of Government officials, inasmuch as it affects the welfare of our industry, most certainly should be the subject of discussion. We are practical beekeepers ourselves. This year has been a total failure to us. Our sympathies are with a lot like our



selves. We write feelingly, and ask for the counsel and help of our fellow beekeepers as to what is best to be done.

There are said to be 16,000 Reiche presses in use in Germany.

Honey poultices are excellent for reducing inflammation in cuts, &c.

See article on brush made foundation, elsewhere.

A poor honey season anticipated in Canada this year.

Bees five days old have been seen carrying in pollen.

Mr. Parry's article has some sensible remarks on Foul Brood on another page.

A Mr. Poppleton uses a naphtha engine to move his apiaries from place to place.

Doolittle hints that ladders are inducive to increased surplus in the supers.

In selecting colonies for section raising, choose such as produce the whitest cappings.

With small hives, and not following up the timely giving of room, you never find out your very best queens.

For pollen, oats and corn ground together, put in a box six inches deep, is recommended by a Michigan writer.

Time now to paint hives, especially tops, filling up all cracks with putty first.

For horses, etc., stung by bees, apply wet blankets, and keep such wet with cold water.

Europe is said to produce annually 40,000 tons of honey, value £2,200,000 and 15,000 tons wax, value £1,350,000.

We shall be in Sydney, July 4 and 5. Our address will be People's Palace, 404 Pitt street, Sydney.

Rubbing a hot laundry iron over top cloths, so diffusing propolis, is a preventive of bees gnawing them.

A grocer's clerk, named Sands, was fined recently at Boston, U. S. A. \$25 for selling adulterated honey.

Slacked lime, scattered at entrance, has been reported as effectual in stopping robbing.

Disturbing honey, by stirring, is said

to hasten candying. So comb honey resists granulation larger than extracted.

Carpet with newspapers over, is a grand way of keeping warmth top of cluster in winter.

Send us names of neighbouring beekeepers who may not take the *A. B. Bulletin*.

The price of honey in New South Wales is hardening, some lately sold by auction at Produce Sales realising over 3d per lb.

When necessary to fasten bottom boards to bodies,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tobacco staples, or double pointed tacks, are very useful.

A little school girl described an apiary as a place where they grow *apes*. An amateur, however, said beekeeping was no *monkey* business.

A German bee journal relates how three queens were given to a queenless hive, and all remained peacefully together.

A California beekeeper, named Richards, is said by a French newspaper to have got 65,000 *tons* of honey from 1000 colonies!! Missprint, we suppose.

If small implements connected with the apiary are painted red, it will save much time in hunting about for them when lost, as they are often liable to be.

The tea plant in China, a species of camelia, white blossoms, with a centre of many yellow stamens, is said to be a good honey yielder.

Be sure and have no moisture above your bees. If blankets or what is on top of cluster becomes damp, change for dry ones immediately.

An American writer says, beekeepers lose money by not having the grit to ask what their produce is worth. It is the weak kneed fellows that lower the price for the rest of the fraternity.

In working for sections the brood chamber should be of such a size by contraction or size of hive, that while allowing room for all brood, all surplus honey must go to the supers.



In selling honey, well work at your local market before sending to larger centres, and maintain your price. If all beekeepers did this, honey would not sell at the low price it does. Unfortunately too many beekeepers are amateurs, with incomes from other sources, and they sell their honey for any price, to the injury of the man who is struggling to get a living by his bees.

Are we wrong in conjecturing from looking over bee papers in different parts of the world, that N. S. Wales is the only place where awards are given for best queens? Such queens are judged by looks only, no honey producing capabilities can be taken into consideration. We do not choose our college professors from the nicest looking boys, or the finest looking soldier, to be the commander of an army.

J. & E. T., South Lillimur, Victoria :—  
The season has not been good here.

C. E. R., Goulburn River, 2nd June :—  
The bee business has been a failure with me this season, no honey. I see by A.B.B., I am no worse off than others in that line.

W. L. D., Melbourne :—Bees working on yellow box have had 8 or 9 splendid days weather, and yellow box is out thus early ; rather peculiar for June is it not.

**VICTORIAN BEEKEEPERS HAVING HONEY OR BEESWAX** are invited to Send Samples, stating price delivered in Melbourne, to the SECRETARY of VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

### NOTICE.

**M**R. R. BEUHNE, Tooborac, is appointed Agent for Victoria for the AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN, and is authorised to receive subscriptions and advertisements for same.

E. TIPPER.

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## VICTORIA.

**TO THE BEEKEEPING FRATERNITY,**—Friends, I am still breeding and selling choice Italian queens. In fact I am devoting most of my time to this branch now. Having sold my dairy herd I intend making queen breeding a specialty. I import fresh breeding queens every season and from different places, so as not to inbreed (a great factor, I think, in preventing foul brood.) My bees have averaged me over a cwt. surplus honey each colony past 12 seasons (summer count.)

Prices as follows. Satisfaction and safe arrival guaranteed.

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**LYNDHURST, VICTORIA.**



## N. B. K. A.

A committee meeting was held on June 11.

Present—Messrs Albert Gale, President in the chair, H. R. Roberts, J. D. G. Cadden, J. J. Branch, and J. Trahair Hon. Sec.

Correspondence was read from W. Handcock, "Ringbarking"; W. Abram, "Export"; E. Tipper, etc.

Re W. Handcock's letter. It was decided that the committee wait on the Minister for Lands, as a deputation in company with Mr. J. McGowen, M.P., and others, to enter a further protest against wholesale ringbarking.

Mr. J. Cadden gave notice of motion to be placed on business paper of Annual meeting, to change date of latter to Thursday next following Easter Monday in each year.

That the annual meeting of National Beekeepers' Association be held on Wednesday, the 4th July (3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.) at Technical College, Sydney.

That a circular be sent to all members of the Association re the annual meeting and those unable to attend, requested to nominate officers and committee.

Several accounts were passed for payment.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

D. M. M., Deep Lead, Victoria:—Dear Editor—It's a good while since I dropped you a few lines about the bees, not that I had anything to complain about. It's been a very good season in this part of Victoria. I started the spring with a good swarming, and took one ton and a half up till Christmas, then I bid farewell to my old stand, and took up a new position, 6 miles nearer market. Honey has been coming in fairly well since I have settled here. I have taken for the season, within a cwt. or so of 6 ton from 100 colonies, and going to winter in good condition. We have had it very wet since March, otherwise we should have had a heavy flow. Still I am well satisfied, as its our off season, and honey is

fetching a good price. Sorry to hear you are having a bad time across the boarder, it's to be hoped you will have better luck this coming season.

H. S., Moss Glen.—Things are quiet with the bees now, frosts are pretty heavy now. No news this time.

Mr. H. L. Jones, Goolina, writes us:—Ernest Root is wrong about bees *not* dying after loosing their stings (see last A.B.C., page 277). I have made my experiments, and will probably send you something in time for June A.B.B.

R. D., Boonoo Boonoo, 5th June:—I'm only a beginner in the bee line. I've only a couple of hives now, but I hope to get more next spring. Have found your little paper very useful and interesting. There are lots of bees in the bush here, can you recommend any way of finding their nests. The past season has been a very bad one for honey, hoping next will be better.

[Copy from rv, page 156, 2nd column, 16 line, "The blackfell" to end.]

F. B., Toronto, June 20th:—Re the black deposit covering inside tops of honey tins, also extractors, and other implements used in extracting, I have a sure remedy for all this, which I found out through being troubled with same complaint. It does not matter how moist the weather is, no more trouble with cleaning extractors, etc., to have them like new inside, also sure in tins for long standing. It can be rinsed over with warm water or cold, quite harmless, and left to dry without wiping. It speaks for itself. Been in use in my apiary the last six years. The honey is both improved as regards flavor and colour, which it loses on contact with metal; where used always clean and ready for work. If it is worth your while to investigate, should be *something* in it for a time.

Thanks, we shall be very glad to do so. Can you send us particulars.

Mr. R. H. Jervis, says:—People often say bees are fine paying things. I notice they are a financial failure with nine out of ten. As far as I am concerned



I put lots of work in to my bees and make it pay. I had one little lot 12 full colonies, made £23 10s. and increased to thirty.

R. J. G., Coolac.—We are having a glorious autumn in this district for grass, the like has rarely been seen.

E. J., Berwick, Victoria.—The past season has been fair with me, about 1½ tons of honey. Next season promises good. Honey is a fair price in Melbourne at present, and likely to rise.

### FEEDING.

Requisites.—A few empty combs, a quart jug with a pointed lip, a large tin dish—flat. A milk dish will do.

Fill the jug half with honey or sugar, half warm water. Well blend.

Take empty frame in left hand, hold in dish at an angle of 45 degrees. Hold lip of jug near upper part of frame, and let syrup gently trickle down it. When one side fairly full reverse. You will be astonished how much syrup will be taken into a comb this way. As they are filled place in empty hive. In evening, if space has been prepared during day, A will open hive, B will bring say four frames in hands; A takes frame from B's hands and puts in prepared place, immediately closing up. The bees are very little disturbed, and no robbing. In filling combs with syrup drone combs take more and are easier filled than worker comb.

W. REID.

Having occasion to feed two hives of my bees last month, and not being satisfied with last season's feeding result I decided to hunt up an entirely new plan, something different to anything I had either heard, seen or read about. Here is the result.—

Take a kerosene tin, split it. Punch 12 very small holes in it from the inside even distances, so as to reach nearly from end to end. Take this to your starving hive. Move the frames from

top story; place two pieces of wood crossways on the frames; cross ends; rest ends of your dish made from kerosene tin on these pieces of wood. The bees can now crawl on the bottom of the dish between the dish and top of frames. Now place packing between sides of dish, and your top box so as to prevent the bees from passing up or down. Now fill your dish with honey or syrup (say 25lbs.), cover the dish, say with a chaff bag, pressing it down on every side so as to prevent the possibility of bees finding their way into the honey. If you place some clear honey in a dish, as directed above, you will see the bees poking their little trunks through the holes

of the dish. Lift the cover in a few days, you will find the stock of honey reduced in the dish, combs partly filled, and that you have, well, "The Acme Feeder."

No drowning of bees, no possible chance of robbing, no exposure to cold, one operation and the job is done, the bees can take the honey as they require it. The cheapest and best known to me.

Mr. Tipper will you please try above Feeder, and report result. I propose sending you a letter on Ants, and how I remove Foul Brood (not cure it) if worth the candle.

Have no doubt with a few hives it would answer capitally, but would cost too much for tins in a large apiary. We are very pleased with the idea, however. Send along your letter on ants.

### HONEY PRESS and WARMING TANK.

We have received from Mr. Penberthy photos—and by the way Mr. P. has become an amateur photographer—of his honey press and tank for rendering honey liquid.

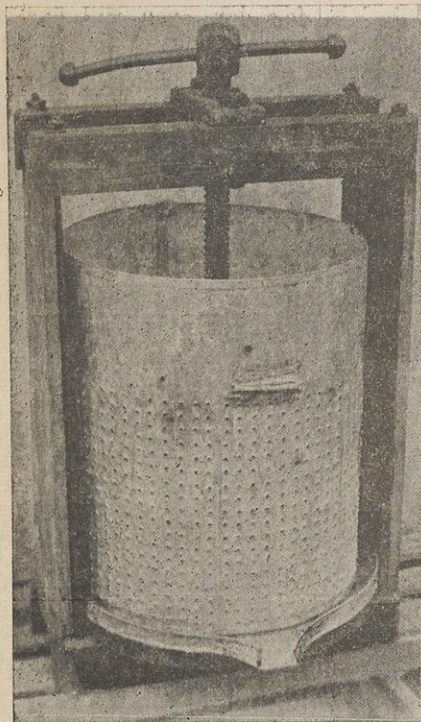
Mr. Penberthy writes :—

The photo I sent you is a wax press. I put in a day's capping that has drained over night, and get about 30lbs. more of honey from it, and the loaf is stacked



away until there is time to treat it. A year's slum gum will go into it in one charge, which should be boiled in an open pot before putting in the cheese-cloth bag for the press. There is no cheese-cloth used in pressing the cappings.

The four cross pieces are 3 x 2, 18 in. long, 4  $\frac{3}{8}$  bolts, 27 in. long, 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  boards shouldered for the sides to keep the top cross pieces in place, a 1 in. thick disc nailed on the two cross pieces at the bottom, the perforated can 13 in. in diameter, and 17 in. high,  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. holes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. apart for the honey to drain through, the tray under acts as a bottom for it, both moveable, the tray discharges the honey by the spout in front. A disc, the



size of the can go in the top for the screw to act on, made of 1 in. hardwood, spring made of 4 x 1 in. battens, 12 in. long, with a piece  $\frac{1}{4}$  x 1 in. across, under each end of the first, and one under the centre

of the second, and so on, as many as you can get in, which saves a lot of attention, being able to screw down more at a time.

That melting tank was made mostly for cleaning kerosene tins, but is often used for melting candied honey. Having stored several tons in 60 lbs., in '98, I am just falling back on them, and they are solid. As you see there are 8 tins in it. I cannot see how a beekeeper with over 20 hives can do without some such thing.

The brick wall is single, without mortar, 5 iron bars 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  x  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. go across from wall to wall to support the tank, two thin battens go under each row of tins, so as to allow the water to circulate under them. I don't believe in putting honey in tins straight away, at least not all of it, and still I don't see how you could do otherwise; as for myself, I would not think of putting it in a tin while I had a tank such as I have.

I have a call for granulated honey, and would have more if I encouraged it, but liquid honey is less trouble to me. If you want honey to granulate, leave the cover off during wet weather for a day or two.

## CRUMBS.

### AUSTRALIAN YANKEE.

Have you ever tried closed end frame hives. I don't mean closed end frames in a hive. But closed end frames whose ends form the end of the hive. If you have not you have missed a treat. They are just the best kind of hive to work that ever I used. If Mr. Editor wishes I will describe mine in a future number, they are the coming hive.

How are your bees off for stores for winter; mine have an abundant supply. It never pays to scrimp your bees. I believe in natural stores, even when honey is on the rise as it is this year.

Covers for hives have always been a trouble to me, nearly all of them will wind in summer and leak in winter. The best that I know of is one made after the Elwood "hood" pattern. I'll explain it in conjunction with "my hive."

Chaff cushions are O. K. in a cold location. I'll have to take back a little that I said about "Mollycoddling" my bees. I don't want any chaff packed walls but a good cushion on the top of the frames is all right.

In a late number of the *A. B. K.*, Mr. Munday asks if an entrance to the upper story



is an advantage. I have tried them on a number of colonies, some will use the mothers will neglect them, whilst still others will stop them up with propolis. I have had them fill a one inch augur hole up. Perhaps Mr. Munday's close top frames has something to do with the matter. It is easy to try any hive by setting the super back, so as to leave room for the bees to go out, but I would not advise cutting entrance in the supers.

[Kindly send description along. We are feeding with cheap honey we had to buy.]

## HIGH-CAMP PLAINS.

"HONEY-COMB."

This place is near Kilmore, to the northward of that township. Last season was a poor one, but the bees swarmed well, and one of my hives filled 9 L frames with brood and honey-comb, and two others filled 8 frames, and made a few sections. All have sufficient to go through the winter well.

A fearful bush fire passed over this locality. Luckily, I had made good preparation for it, else I would have lost most of my hives by burning. Many valuable trees were burnt down, and thousands on a range near me were denuded of every green leaf. This place is gradually being bereft of the timber.

Many good trees have been cut down to make posts for the miles of fencing destroyed by the fire. There are various species of trees—red gum, white gum, (or black butt), yellow box, white box, and another early flowering species of same, peppermint; and a shrub locally called the king tree, which grows in the granite ranges, and bloom with bunches of white flowers annually. The cape weed flourishes in spring.

I believe that beekeepers should endeavour to get their localities planted with the most suitable trees. I can recommend the sugar gum as being an excellent tree, and one that people will readily endeavour to make grow. With a little care farmers may be got to see the value of having young trees of suitable species growing on their farms, to replace the old ones that are so fast disappearing in many places, and many may be got to plant pepper trees, etc.

The beekeeper could get a list of most useful plants and become an authority on the different valuable plants, valuable to the farmer as well as to the beekeeper.

Many people are willing to do others a good turn, and some will willingly protect a few trees when they know it grieves the beekeeper's heart to see them ring-barked. Some may be led to wonder whether this action is wise for many reasons.

Well, I think that a beekeeper should have something else to attend to when his time is not taken up fully (as it surely is not in poor seasons) by his bees. I have read the accounts of the fortunes which may be made by beekeepers, but I have not seen yet any man who has made one. We may judge of the fortune owned by a man by looking into his home, and I have not yet seen a palatial residence which has been erected by the proceeds of the sale of bees and honey.

I feel that every beekeeper deserves 3d a lb. for his honey, and never under that price. I am very sorry for them when I see it low in price. I live in hopes that an export trade may be opened up. It is annoying to read of Australian honey being so inferior. I do not believe that better honey could be got than the wide world o'er than pure unadulterated Australian of best quality.

Should a depot be established in London as suggested, it would be well, I should think, if large beekeepers could dispose of their honey under their own name and description of the article. A good deal of jealousy appears to be felt of the amateurs, and a certain amount of annoyance with those who try to advance the bee industry, in the matter of causing many more to keep bees. It is no great wonder when honey becomes a drug in the market at times. How is it that such a valuable food should not be more sought after? One source of hope is in the fact that honey hardens in price with the poor seasons, and could a profitable export trade be brought into existence, there may be yet room for all. I must confess my surprise at the failures hither-



to export profitably. It appears to me that it will be an impossible matter to prevent people from keeping hives, and bees will always fly off into the bush and make their honey, so that there must always be times when the market will become glutted. These gluts, in themselves, cause many people to give up beekeeping, and only the most ardent will continue it.

So many people fail to realise what they had hoped for by beekeeping, and in fact, it is so difficult a matter to manage bees with profit enough to live on solely, and it is such arduous work, that I think the large attempts at keeping of bees, will be left to the experts. It is very true, also, that many people destroy their bees through their ignorance of how to keep them, or through their anxiety to get a quick return from them; or to get honey for their own table and their friends.

Many people who make money otherwise easily, take little interest in the bees, lose them, and are often so much bothered with the sticky work, and the disagreeable part of robbing the bees, that they soon have no hives. Rabbits are too nomadic often to keep them, and so it is really only a limited number of individuals who keep bees. Everyone, in my opinion, has that right, or should have it on equal terms with others.

Were a license fee required, no doubt the number of beekeepers would be considerably reduced, but who would agree to pay the license, and would a farmer think himself fairly treated, were he not allowed to keep bees as well as poultry and stock. Of course, the supply dealers are benefited by the many entering into beekeeping—many of the novices not knowing anything of the bees, and foredoomed to failure—but they are more benefited, by the greater the number who keep bees; and no doubt many people keep them, and get small profits in pursuit. So it has been, and so it seems to me, it will be. It is a splendid thing to see men able to go and win their living by their own exertion in bee management

alone, and I have every sympathy with such men. It is a pity that our prices of honey should fall so very low at times, as I have said so often in this letter. This is the most disagreeable fact that faces all beekeepers, big or little. I believe that the big men can always command better prices by getting regular customers.

There are many people who will pay a good price for a good article, and this a man in a big way can guarantee. His methods are cleaner, and his supply is greater, hence he leads the way. I do not despair of the men in a big way making big profits yet, for by holding back their supplies, if they can do so, prices usually reach a payable figure periodically. I am firmly of opinion, that to most men, an orchard, or poultry, or sheep, etc., should be kept in addition to the bees. The idea of beekeepers obtaining leases of Crown Lands, appears a splendid one. Could the beekeeper only find enough capital to fence and stock his land, a profit should be made both ways, and he would not have that annoyance of seeing the trees disappearing (perhaps against the law), by ring-barking. But I really have no time to devote a long correspondence on the subject of beekeeping much, though I love the busy little insect. I feel my letter may contain errors and be badly put together, so I will conclude with the hope that you may amend it for me, and that I may become educated in the art of beekeeping, and some day may have more time to devote to writing concerning it.

"Honey-comb" sends his contribution for which accept many thanks, also 5/6 subscription to *A. B. B.*, but has not signed his name. Kindly send it on or else we shall not know who to credit the 5/6 to.

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In next issue, article on "Flowers that Feed the Bees," from *Home Garden*. Unavoidably left over from this issue.

Also excellent articles by "Honey-comb" and G. R. Harrison.

We do all kinds of Honey-label work in one or more colors. Beekeepers' Catalogues a specialty. Send for prices and samples at *A. Bee Bulletin Office*.



## FOUL BROOD.

## REPORTS &amp; OBSERVATIONS.

J. J. PARRY.

This paper really is the out-come of reports and theories, from the various bee journals.

It is a most important subject, and I am afraid I cannot treat it entirely with that completeness that I would like. I must tell you I shall not attempt to set at rest the question of the origin of foul brood, but by these reports I think we may gather further material upon which to work.

Some of this matter is original, but I desire to play the part of the middle man, and present those theories, experiences, of some of the most practical bee-men throughout the World. These reports I shall condense, and present them with other matter in their most simple form, so that those who have not the facility as myself, with regard to getting these works, will then be able to see the views held on the subject by some of the most prominent beekeepers.

THE CAUSE.—Many reasons have been given for the appearance of the disease, some say it is generated by the decomposition of dead brood in the cells, some say weak colonies with mildewed combs late in the season. Then again there are those that say that it cannot originate without the germs or spores being brought by some means or others from another apiary or locality where it prevails, and so we go on, and find them that believe its an infectious microbe that, always floating about in the air ready to lay hold of anything suitable for its development, and to establish itself whenever it gets a suitable place for its propagation. It is also stated by some, that there are grounds for believing that those lice or scale pests, from reasons which are not easy to explain, cause among the bees in a bad season disease. Some of these parasites secrete a sweet liquid, but of course the bees would not go for this, so long as there was any nectar coming in at all. This sweet watery stuff may possibly produce disease in

the winter, but perhaps could be gathered in the summer time without any perceptible effect. These insects may transmit it from themselves through the medium of this sweet stuff. There can be no doubt that moisture induces fungus growth, this again disease, so to be on the safe side, keep your bees *warm, strong and active*.

Others again believe in spontaneous generation, and say that living organisms are evolved or built up out of the non-living matter, but this theory is of course not at present accepted. By the same theory they say we are taught to reason, because what the chemist of to-day calls an element, to-morrow it might be proved to be compound, and so these difficulties are becoming more possible every day, by these powerful microscopes under which we can observe exceeding minute pieces of structureless protoplasm, that are at present our simplest forms of living matter, and anyone that sees this will recognise that the step from them to to non-living is but a brief one. Nature, the great mother of matter and force, is ever changing conditions, by compositions and decompositions, and her movements are gradual and continuous. There are important forces which we must recognise although we cannot explain, and I must say we cannot understand.

When our bees' conditions or surrounding environments are not advantageous to them, that is the time their most insidious foe sets to work, then disease sets in, and this unbuilding of the one thing means a corresponding construction in something else, and as the effect of light and heat has upon the growth of plants and animals, so the absence of these has a responding stimuli in the opposite direction. There must be a place or condition where or under these germs or spores multiply or grow, and to find these conditions are of a great importance. We are told that a knowledge of phenomena leads to prevision, and prevision to action, or in other words, when we can foresee what will happen under given circumstances, we can provide against



it. I also find by reports that the disease makes more progress in the damp cold weather than in the warm, and also one is often able to hold it in check in the summer more easily than in the winter. Different authors or writers have different theories, but they all seem to agree bees are better warm and dry than cold and wet. And so it is with our bees, the same as ourselves, oxygen and nitrogen are conducive to the health of our lives, and to avoid disease and keep healthy, there is no doubt we must partake as much as we can of that vitality, which alone fresh air and sun can give. Nearly every text book recommends shade for each colony, but give me the open for them, once they get damp and cold in the shade, especially in the winter time, it is very difficult to get them dry and warm again.

To sum up, by these reports I think we have learnt two apparent factors of safety, namely *warmth and dryness*, although I have not been able to make any experiments myself for the purpose of verifying these statements, but I feel certain they contain a lot of facts. After carefully studying these germs and find the heat which they can stand before losing their vitality, also find there are conditions in which these spores bud out. Then again, I find these cells or bacillus must be brought into contact with nourishment in a suitable condition for its growth, otherwise it cannot multiply much. So I have come to the conclusion myself, that these diseases are not mere accidents as it were, but the consequence of the operation of some natural law.

Speaking of these little bits of protoplasm, do these not owe their origin to the mutual affinities of the Atoms of Carbon, Nitrogen, etc., of which they are built up. Just as crystals are built up owing to the affinities of their elements, and when decomposition is taking with any body, the various elements are liberated, and perhaps life in some other form will spring up, if conditions become favourable. Well, sometimes one is almost led to believe so; it also seems

that death is nowhere to be found, when a living organism dies (as we call it) life has not gone or lost, but only changed its form.

And so I could go on for a long time with the various theories, but I shall leave off abruptly, as it would take up too much time to discuss the respective worth of every one. What we want is to get some way of inducing the spores to bud out, then apply chemicals. The non-success of drugs has been through applying them at the wrong time. These Bacilli are easily killed, but spores or seeds are different, and to prevent the spread of the disease every beekeeper must pay attention to his bees, and so all those that keep bees should be careful, in the first place to try and rid their apiary of disease instead of letting it get a good start, which means a deal more labour latter on, not only for himself, but perhaps for his neighbours.

What we want is to manage our bees according to the scientific views of Nature. A certain force of Nature may be very useful to us, or may mean destruction if not applied rightly. Mon. Cure De. Conway, said "that Nature is a great machine which will remorselessly grind men if they be given it, or if they command it, it will grind them bread and weave them raiments." Of course we must work our bees for the best results, and with the least amount of risk possible.

In conclusion, if I have not virtually helped you, perhaps I have given you some food for thought, and will cause some of the readers to become more interested in what I have written, and by perseverance and determination, pursue the subject further, gather each link of facts and phenomena, which will eventually lead you to connect the chain, and the advancement of science.

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Professor Hodge gives in *Gleanings*, an instance of a queen being mated twice, going out a second time, 15 minutes after the bees had removed filament of drone from first mating.



### Can a Bee carry its own weight in Honey?

Observations made to test this question showed that bees can carry with ease twice their weight in honey. Several bees were caught as they returned to their hives laden with honey, and after enclosing them in a little box, they were carefully weighed. When the bees had unloaded their honey they were again caught, placed in the same box and weighed a second time. This experiment showed that the bees when laden weighed three times as much as when empty. It was therefore demonstrated that a bee can carry twice its own weight of honey, and can fly very considerable distances with that weight.--*Tit Bits.*

### PREPARING BEESWAX FOR SALE.

W. H., in *Beekeepers' Record*.

For casting wax into 4oz. blocks I use a tin mould exactly 12 in. square and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep. This will hold 6lb at a time. The sides must be quite perpendicular, or the blocks will not be true. To divide the mould into twenty-four equal parts I have five strips of tin 12 in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., with a notch cut out half-way through the strip exactly at 3, 6, 9 in. from the end; and three strips the same size, but with the notches cut at 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 in. These strips, if cut correctly, will fit together, and will divide the mould into  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. sizes. For my own use I have a 3lb. mould, with divisions for 2oz blocks; but the above mould can be used for this size by having the notches in the five strips cut  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. apart instead of 3 in., and by having seven strips instead of three, with the notches cut every 2 in. You then have a mould that will give any size from 2oz. upwards.

When casting, the mould should stand on a dead level, and must be filled with the liquid wax to within  $\frac{1}{8}$  in. of the top. Raise the crossed slips slightly from the bottom of the mould when pouring in the wax; this will facilitate the filling

of the respective divisions. When full press down the strips and place a board with a heavy weight on the top, to prevent the mould from buckling. When the wax is quite cold say, after twelve hours, the blocks will come out quite easily by turning the mould upside down. The raised edges round the top of each block should be cut off with a sharp knife, and your wax is ready for marketing. It is as well to test the weight of the blocks at first, as they must be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. thick to be full weight. If they are found too heavy they may easily be reduced, but it should be borne in mind that the wax will lose a little in weight by keeping, and as the retailer cannot sell *nominal* weight without risk of a fine he ought to be supplied with full weight by the beekeeper. I got 1s 8d per lb. for my wax, in 2 and 4oz. sizes, selling a dozen pounds together. Even more than that may be got by some of the craft, I doubt not; but as mine was not of first class colour I was very well satisfied.

### POISONED WITH HONEY.

A peculiar case of poisoning from eating honey is reported from Onewhero, Lower Waikato, N. Z. A party of young men had found a tree with a hive of bees lodged in it, and they felled the tree to obtain the honey. The honey was obtained, and some of the members of the party tasted it, and were almost immediately attacked with the most agonising pains. Walter and J. Morgan, sons of Mr R. Morgan, East Pukekohe, were the worst sufferers, and their agony was so great that it produced fits with frothing at the mouth. Fortunately for them one of the party, Bagley, had declined to taste the honey, so that his services were soon required as nurse. Matters, however, took a serious turn, and Dr. Dalziel, of Pukekohe, was sent for, and on arrival administered an antidote and injected an alkali solution into the arms of the sufferers. One of the Messrs. Morgan, in one of his paroxysms, fell and cut his face. The sufferers are



however, now nearly well. The tree containing the honey was a pukatea.

#### Otago Witness.

Several years ago a laurel in America was said to yield poisonous honey. We would like to hear some experiences and opinions.

Since seeing the above we have received the *New Zealand Farmer*, which says: It seems there are three plants in New Zealand that yield poisonous honey.—(1) The Wharangi, a plant about 5 feet high, bearing white flowers in the early spring. (2) The Puawangana, a climbing plant, described as the white clematis, and also as the white vine, bearing white flowers in the spring. (3) The Whauriki, a small plant resembling water cress in its habits, but bearing a yellowish flower like the yellow buttercup in autumn. It grows by the edge of swamps and running streams, and flowers in the autumn when the water goes down. The poison seems to be volatile according to the testimony of the natives, and disappears after a time. The danger is only in unripe honey, as when sealed it can be eaten with perfect safety, the bees evidently extracting the poison before sealing. The two lads alluded to had eaten unripe or unsealed honey from a tree they had felled.

### BRUSH MADE FOUNDATION,

Get sheet of foundation size of inside of frame you use.

A board size of same, to which attach sides one inch high.

In box thus formed place sheet of foundation, wetted.

Then get plaster of Paris, mixed with a little fine sand, blend with water, pour in said box, and leave for a time, when it will be hard, can be taken from box, and will have perfect impression of foundation. This slab so formed can be placed inside hive frame. Portland cement will do as well as plaster of Paris.

Melt your wax just above melting point only. Well wet your slab with water. Get a flat brush, three or four inches broad, dip in melted wax, and brush on slab, connecting same with frame top, also over wire in centre.

When wax sets carefully remove. The impression will not be alike on both sides but sufficient for bee purposes.

The following arguments are given in favour of such foundation:—

Young queens and poor seasons produce only worker comb, in which case it answers the purpose as well as the most perfectly formed cell foundation.

Comb once so built lasts for years.

This foundation, being made as required, the wax is not dried or hard as bought foundation is likely to be, and therefore the bees take to it quicker than old foundation.

### CAPPINGS.

*From American and other Bee Journals.*

The French tariff on beeswax is reduced one third.

Stirring honey hastens granulation, so says *Gleanings*.

1/8 per lb. was given for wax in Herefordshire, England, recently.

Poultices of honey every three or four hours are recommended as a cure for erysipelas.

Foul brood bacteria will live at a temperature of 216 degrees below freezing point.

Last year sections were marked for sale at 9d and 9½d each in shops in West of England towns, and sections 5/- per dozen in Belfast, Ireland.

In some parts of America honey is allowed to candy in a barrel, then put in a shop, the staves taken off, and the honey sold in chunks.

A mixture of roller flour and pea flour in equal proportions makes a good substitute for natural pollen.—*Beekeepers' Record*.

F. J. Hooper gives in *Gleanings* description of a smoker, slung by a band on the wrist, giving operator use of both hands for manipulating.

275 dollars have been collected towards a monument to be erected to the Rev. L. L. Langstroth, with which it is believed a suitable shaft can be erected.

The inability to foretell the honey flow in any given locality is the greatest obstacle in the way of successful migratory beekeeping. W. T. Hutchinson in *American Bee Journal*.



*Gleanings* says.—"Under some circumstances queens will lay in queen cells; but I believe that, as a general rule, the cells are supplied by the bees, with eggs or young larvæ removed from worker cells.

Mary C. Porter gives the following recipe in *Gleanings* for making honey candy:—Boil extracted honey in cold water until it hardens. Pull until white. Any quantity may be used. One pound requires about twenty minutes steady boiling.

Bees gather most water when the honey flow is not on, especially when brood rearing, at such times is at its height. When a heavy flow comes, the watering places are largely deserted, and when you see bees again at the water, you may count the flow as letting up.—Writer in *Gleanings*.

Frank L. Aten, says in *Southland Queen*, his bees carry water and put it in the cells on the granulated honey, and cluster over it until it becomes liquid. If they did not do that they would starve to death, as the granulated honey was all he had in his hives.

Some years ago a honey company was formed in England, with a capital of £20,000, a depot in London, and several travellers constantly employed, and yet so great were the difficulties in getting a constant supply of produce that after two or three years the project had to be abandoned.—*Beekeepers Record*.

Frank Coverdale, in *A. B. Journal*, says a large portion of the queens sent out by American breeders are behind the average black stock. The same writer says:—I often think it would pay me to do as the hog-breeders do—go right to the bee yard where the owner is producing honey, during the main flow, and make a selection, buy a queen from an extra hustling colony, and take her right home with me."

Chas D. Peterson, in the *American Beekeeper*, relates how a queen lost most of her legs on the right side, in a royal battle, and in laying eggs did not put her body in the cell, but crawled over

and dropped her egg into it. There was no drone brood, but all apparently worker brood. He maintained therefrom the size of the cell made no difference as to the queen laying drone or worker eggs, and that she fertilized them at will.

If you desire to make a hot blast from a cold blast smoker, just get a good wad of hardwood coals in the furnace, and the heat of the smoke will not be much more augmented if a hot blast smoker is used. Now let us fill a hot-blast smoker with fine shavings, straw, or gunny sacking, and after the smoke is well developed insert a compact wad moistened with water, and the smoke will be as cool as any one need desire.—Old Grimes in *Canadian Bee Journal*.

FORMING NUCLEI AT SWARMING TIME.—Have a lot of small boxes (say holding  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck) with wire cloth on one side, and when the bees are clustered put a quart into each box, close up bee tight, and put them in cellar (or dark room). In an hour or two they will be "howling" for a queen. Separate the meshes of the wire with a spike or other tool, slip a virgin queen in and close up the hole. When they become quiet, hive them (preferably after sundown) where they are to stand, and the job is done.—*Southland Queen*.

Rotten brood, dead from freezing, starvation, or other causes, remaining in the cells, much of the poison generated, as well as the germs themselves or their spores, remain adherent to the sides of the cell. These develop when the rich nitrogenous substances supplied to the brood by the nurse bees is brought in contact with them, when a luxuriant growth obtains. This produces a fermenting, decomposing food, unfit for the brood, and sets up a ferment or decomposition within the bodies of the bees, thus destroying their lives.—Dr. Howard in *Canadian Bee Journal*.

Mr. Root, in a recent number of *Gleanings*, mentions he had some lucerne honey so dense, a spoon placed in it would lift honey, vessel, and all. We



know lucerne honey well, and would much like Mr. Root to have said a little more about this dense lucerne honey. We have always found it a thin honey. It can, however, be made dense with a lot of trouble—put to evaporate in shallow trays. Such trouble would only pay in order to get prizes at a show—It could never be produced in bulk—the morality of which method we would like to see discussed in some of Mr. Root's excellent articles.—“Our Homes.”

Mr. C. A. Hatch, writing to the *Canadian Bee Journal*, urges the foundation of a Beekeepers' Exchange. Too many things should not be attempted, say the united shipping of honey per carload, to save freight, the united purchase of supplies, hives, tins, etc. Recommends the shares should be at a low figure, say one or two dollars, and a person be entitled to buy and vote one share for each 50 colonies of bees he owns and no beekeeper owning less than 25 colonies be allowed a voting share in the organization, although the product of the small producers should be handled for them when desired.—Is not this what is wanted in New South Wales and Victoria?

At a recent meeting of the Devon (England) Beekeepers' Association, a resolution was moved:—“That in view of the failure of the British Beekeepers' Association to take direct steps for securing the better and more certain disposal of British honey, it is not desirable for the Devon Beekeepers' Associations to devote sums of money that can be ill-afforded to the payment of an affiliation fee; that Rule No. 13 be rescinded accordingly, and that the substance of this resolution be communicated to the Council of the British Beekeepers' Association.” The following resolution was ultimately car-

ried. “That this meeting of the Devon Beekeepers' Association wishes to draw the attention of the British Beekeepers' Association to its published statement of its aims as to establishing a market for honey, and to state that the meeting is of opinion that the Council of the B.B.K.A. should take steps to carry out this object.”—*Beekeepers' Record*.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

T. H. Morrisett.—This has been a trying year for my bees, only extracted 1 cwt of honey from them since spring. I had 18 hives last spring and I lost 5 out of them, but whats left look quite strong and healthy. They are getting a small flow of honey from the grey gum which I think will keep them going through the winter.

E. T. C. Tarrawingee.—The season with us has been very poor' pretty well throughout Victoria. Foul Brood has not visited us this season, I hope it never will again, as it swept almost my whole apiary away in the season 1895, only 20 colonies left out of a 100. Our bees are clean and healthy. At present we have about 50 odd hives. Wishing your little Journal a successful future, etc.

H. J. Dungog.—It is one of the worst years for honey that I have seen. I have only extracted fifteen tins of honey this summer. I extracted last year three hundred and sixteen tins of honey. It is a great lot of difference. The bees are well supplied for the winter. They are gathering a little honey off the gum trees. The weather is turned very cold now.

T. E. W., Moruya:—At the present time our bees in this district are dying wholesale, apparently poisoned. I enclose several dead bees picked up from the front of the hive with grains of pollen on them. The one without the head, I picked up just after it reached the hive, I could see it was very sick. I thought possibly you might through the pollen, be able to give us an idea of the source of our trouble.

[We take it to be dysentery produced

## PHASES OF THE MOON.

JULY.

First Quarter, 5th, 10.14 a.m.

Full Moon, 12th, 11.22 p.m.

Last Quarter, 19th, 3.31 p.m.

New Moon, 26th, 11.43 p.m.



by the pollen. We cannot recognize the source. Perhaps you may know what they are gathering it from. You will most probably find it to cease when the source ceases to blossom, or it may be the hive is not a good one, admitting too much cold or damp.

E. T. H.,—I have started in bees, and wish to get a few queen bees and some few things that are wanted by degrees. I have only eight swarms yet, as it is a bad season, so I want to get the Italians, to do away with the black sort. Let me know how you sell them, and whether I let them loose in the box or leave in the cage till they eat her out; the price of a smoker, and if you can sell swarms and send by Newcastle steamer to here; price of boxes, bees in boxes, and the queens by themselves. Is it good to feed bees when moths are bad, and what is best? They are better since the ti-trees are in blossom.

In the *A. Bee Bulletin* you will see the advertisement of supply dealers who sell smokers, &c., all of whom we can recommend. If your hives have no honey you had better feed by either of the plans recommended in last A.B.B. When you Italianise you will not be bothered with moths. Meanwhile look over your frames occasionally and kill all you can. A hive of good Italian bees is now worth at least 30s.

S. T. Fish and Co., Chicago, write us:—Your postal card received. We have asked our Government what the duty is for importing honey, and when we have their reply will write you. We have never tasted honey from your locality, and before we could buy, it would be necessary that we saw a sample by mail. To save you expense, you might describe the honey as to color, flavor and package. We would want to figure a profit on our present market. Prices today are higher than we have had them for sometime. Comb honey is sold in 1 lb frames, sections having been made with separators, and weigh about 15 ounces. Combs are straight and do not bulge, selling at 15c a lb. Dark comb honey to light amber in color, selling at from 10 to 12c. Extracted honey dark, 7½c, Amber 8c, White 9c. On the above prices, we must have a margin of 1c per lb., and on the white extracted, 2c per

lb., as the new crop in California will be ready for market in June or July and we look for lower prices at that time. You can judge from the prices we quote whether there is any chance to export to this country. We could not use the adulterated at any price. Glucose selling here at about 3c per lb. Thank you for reply if there is a chance to do business.

J. K., Mount Cole:—There is no doubt you would like to hear from me. We get your paper regular now, and we find it very useful, and has good news; a great help to any beekeeper. Should not be without it. As for my neighbours, there is only a gin case man with two or three swarms about, except myself and son. We have 46 hives and our home is a mile and a half away. Have 40 all in the Standard hives, eight frames. We kept on in the gin case for about 20 years, but we transferred into the Standard hive, 1898-99, and we have found out to our sorrow the gin case is a cheap delusion, for when we transferred we had three 60 lb. tins instead of one, and it was late in January when we started extracting. This year we have had no honey at all to extract, but we shall have a few frames to spare any weak hive during the winter, and our bees are nice and strong and healthy, so we live in hope. What I should like to know are all our bees coming hybrids. We have bought no queens from any one neither have we done anything else to them. I hope some of your readers will kindly inform me. We bought an Italian swarm in a ten frame box about a fortnight ago, and we are thinking about buying some Italian queens next spring, but that has nothing to do with my bees turning hybrids. You can see the three yellow bands on them easy, and the nearest Italian bees are four miles away. I was always in dread of hybrids, but not now, although their stings are a bit severe some times. Not seeing any trees out in bloom, or very few, we think they have done well. We hear the gin case men are dying out fast.

Hybrids they are sure to be under such circumstances.



## AT THE APIARY.

First Woman.—“Have you any honey.”

Apiarist.—“Yes.”

First woman.—“What do you charge a pound?”

Apiarist.—“Threepence.”

Second Woman.—“There now. Didn't I tell you so. You cannot get pure honey under threepence a pound. That stuff they sell at twopence a pound in the town isn't honey at all. 'Tis rubbishing adulterated stuff.”

The above conversation really took place and ought to be a hint to beekeepers to keep up their price.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

E. F. STEVENS.

As far back as my earliest recollections, I always had a strong ambition for beekeeping, and when at the age of 14, being the year 1888, I was the owner of 15 box hives, most of which were the descendants of a small swarm which I found on a bush when going home from school two years previous. Those 15 swarms before mentioned, were placed in Langstroth bar framed hives, in March 1889, and from that time forward all my spare time and stolen hours and minutes were bestowed upon them, but as the season was rather a poor one for honey, and the bees transferred rather late and only having foundation starters, they failed to secure anything like a winter's supply and the result was that they were reduced down to the number of four weak colonies to start with the following spring. At this the neighbours, said, “ought to have left them in the old boxes and they would have all lived.” However I fed those four colonies, and by the end of the summer 1890, I had four strong colonies without any increase. In the spring of the same year, number rose to 25 and I took 16 tins of honey; in the spring of '91 they increased to 84, and I extracted 37 tins; in spring of '92 the number was reduced to 36 colonies and no honey; in spring of '93 the number was further reduced to 14, no honey; in spring of 94 they increased to 32 the condition of which I will describe further on; in spring of 95 they increased to 64 with 48 tins honey; in spring 96 number rose to 106 colonies, 2 tons 5 cwt honey; and at the end of the season I sold 40 colonies, leaving me 56 for the following spring of 97 with no increase and 1½ tons honey; in spring 98 increase totalled 144 and extracted 13 tons honey; in spring 99 no increase or honey; and this year 1900 the bees have gone into wintering strong, with good stores and splendid condition with every prospect of a good long honey season before them. I would now desire my readers to follow me back to the spring of 94. Immediately after the

## BEE WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA.

We clip the following from a South African newspaper kindly sent us by a Port Elizabeth beekeeper:—

£5 REWARD.

Will be paid to any one giving information that will lead to the conviction of the Scoundrel or Scoundrels who deliberately wrecked seven (7) of our Bee Hives in the Kloof near Mr. Tipper's House at the Zwartkop's mouth during the past two weeks, by willfully breaking the Hives with stones, carrying away the Frames, scattering the Hives, destroying the Bees, and stealing the Honey in comb. Anyone living in the neighbourhood who may have had Honey offered to them for sale, are kindly requested to communicate to

TIPPER & DOLD,  
Beekeepers, Zwartkops.

For a good farm, garden, and family paper send for the *Martin's Home and Farm* advertised on another page.

A subscriber in “Yangan,” Queensland, getting two copies, sends his subscription, tells us bees have done well there, but does not sign his name. Will he kindly send name so we can credit him in the book.

Seen the latest! What? Those sample Labels from the *Bee Bulletin* Printing Works.





swarming season was over, when manipulating some of my old colonies, I noticed that there was something rather peculiar in the appearance of the brood from one of them, and that a very disagreeable odour came from it, which alarmed me, and I was persuaded to believe that I had the foul brood amongst my bees, which I had heard so much about, but practically knew nothing of, as at that time I had read very little on bee culture, and an article on foul brood had never come under my notice, and in this green state I lived on until the discovery was made: When on examining the rest of the colonies I was quite satisfied that I had not only foul brood but foul broods, as nearly all were affected more or less. Its presence in some of the young colonies could only be determined by minute inspection, while the disease in some of the old ones was far advanced. What to do I knew not, no more than I knew something had to be done or lose my bees. After ascertaining the nature of the disease and the necessary steps to be taken to eradicate it, I thought to act on the advice given me would be too costly, which was to burn hives, frames and their contents and place the bees in new hives. I was not in a position to get new hives and frames, so I thought I would take a course of my own and after a deal of consideration I fixed on a plan that I would try. I took dry combs from the outside of the brood chambers affected, placed them in a hive free from cracks, at a distance scarcely touching each other. I then found a sandy piece of ground, dug out a hole, large enough to insert the bowl of a gridiron which was made hot and placed in its position. I then poured about a dessert spoonful of carbolic acid into it, and the hive, etc., containing the frames was placed immediately over the bowl before any fumes escaped. Mats and sacks were then placed carefully over the frames to prevent fumes escaping through the top. The sand was then brushed up against the sides of the

hive to insure no ventilation. They were left as described for half-an-hour, by that time most of the fumes would have evaporated. The combs when taken out smelt very strong and I found that the bees would not stay in them even if exposed to the atmosphere for several days. I therefore laid them out on the grass in a shady place for about a week, turning them over every day. I then made a balm by boiling a quantity of Penny-royal (so called growing here on pasture lands which resembles mint in smell and growth) in sugar syrup made about the right consistency for syrup feeding. This was boiled steadily for about 15 minutes, and well stirred to prevent burning, then taken off and cooled to about milk heat. The mixture was then strained and the Penny-royal placed aside for further use. I then washed the combs with the balm, allowing about a pound of the liquid to remain in each comb. The affected hive was boiled for 10 minutes with about a dessert spoonful of carbolic acid to the gallon of water, in a copper; when taken out was well rubbed on the inside with the Penny-royal, which after being boiled is very pliable and sticky, and gives forth a pleasant smell. Four of the disinfected combs were then placed in the centre of the hive with empty frames on the outside. This done the hive was placed on the old stand, and the one containing the diseased colony was placed on top (which three days previous had been deprived of all comb and stores, and confined to the hive with empty frames and starter). I then disturb the bees with a little smoke to start them running down to the syrup, which they take greedily. The top hive would soon be empty as regards bees and can be removed. The hive containing the bees must then be made secure to prevent robbing. The best time I have found to do this transferring is the evening, especially when only a little honey was coming in, and besides the bees would settle down to the cir-



cumstances during the night. The quantity of syrup given to them at the time of transferring depends on the strength of the colony. If very strong, additional combs of syrup could be given them at the time or next evening, and in all cases I think it a good plan to give them a frame or so every evening for a week if they will take it. I find a cure more easily effected when only a little honey is being gathered. I think it also a good plan to destroy the queen prior to the period of confinement, and provide them with two or three advanced queen cells, about a week after being transferred. As regards brood combs that are full of diseased brood, I cut it out and bury it and the frames are boiled in the same way as the hive, and only the dry combs that are free from brood or much pollen are subjected to the treatment. If a strong colony is made queenless some time before being transferred, nearly if not all the comb can be treated. If I think the combs to be disinfected at any time are rather a bad case, they are subjected to a second fumigation before being washed. I have no foul brood now, so have great faith in my remedy, and will be pleased to answer any questions with reference to it through these pages, and would like others to try it and report accordingly.

### Export of Honey from New South Wales, 1895—1899.

Mr. Coghlan, Government Statiscian, has kindly furnished us with the following. Some of our readers might be able to supply us with remarks respecting same. Now 1899 was a far better season than 1898, yet in the latter half as much was exported. Query—Did the exportations pay?

Year	Quantity	Value
1895	12,504lbs.	£157
1896	24,437	314
1897	20,294	234
1898	164,003	1657
1899	93,689	883



### VICTORIAN CONVENTION.

R. BEUHNE.

In accordance with the wishes of a number of Apiarists, an informal meeting of Beekeepers took place at 346 Flinders street, Melbourne, May 23rd, the day before the meeting convened by the Rural Industries Association, to consider the position of the Bee Industry in relation to the Rural Industries Association.

There were present: Messrs. Bolton, Bennett, Beuhne, McFarlane, Willyan, Garnett, Colstan, W. L. Davey, Wills and Hollis.

After full discussion, it was decided unanimously that severance from the Rural Industries' Association was the only course possible in the interest of the Bee Industry. Several letters were received from Apiarists unable to attend, expressing their sympathy. The meeting then adjourned till the following day.

The meeting convened by the Rural Industries Association, was held at the Temperance Hall, Russell street, at 10 a.m. Mr. A. Brown occupied the chair, 400 invitations had been sent out, but only about 25 people were present.

The Chairman in his opening speech said that the Rural Industries Association had called them together to hear the Annual Report read; to elect five members to the Council of the Association; and to transact other business. Mr. Brown laid great stress on what the Association had done for beekeepers, they had obtained for them the use of the Hall to meet, as well as cheap railway fares. He was aware there was a hostile element present, but whatever these people said, thought or did, would not make the least difference. These people were trying to keep the industry exclusively for their own benefit, their motives were selfish; this was met by a chorus of cries, "false."



When the Annual Report had been read, a resolution was moved by Mr. Beuhne, that the report be not adopted. An amendment by Mr. Yates, that the report be adopted, on being put, the vote was lost by two votes. The chairman then took the unusual course of asking for a second vote, inviting every one present in the room to vote, which included the paid secretary, and several outsiders, with the result that the former decision was reversed. The chairman, with some show of ill-feeling, asked those beekeepers who had voted against the report, to leave the room, and refused any statement to be made. The request to leave was promptly complied with, with a few exceptions. During the discussion on the report, Mr. Cox asked for an explanation of the fact that reports and letters had been published in the press over the signature of the Convenor of the Beekeepers' Committee, of which that gentleman denied all knowledge. No answer whatever was forthcoming, the point evidently being unanswerable.

The seceding beekeepers met at the Federal Coffee Palace, Collins street, at 2 p.m. Mr. R. Beuhne was voted to the chair. The chairman said, that with many others, he had for some time back, been of opinion, that no good could come from their connection with the Silk and Rural Industries Association. When that body invited beekeepers to join them 11 months ago, we were told that the advice and experience of beekeepers was wanted to show them how best to assist our industry, and put it on a better footing. That advice had been given, but had been ignored, and the recommendations of the Beekeepers' Committee voted down by the Council of the Association, on which beekeepers were represented by 5 members, as against 15 representing other industries. Beekeepers claimed to know in what way their industry could best be promoted, and therefore refused to be over-ruled by people knowing nothing about our industry.

Beekeepers could not even elect their committee, but only nominate 5 members

to the council, the council appointing the beekeepers' committee. He therefore moved, that the beekeepers present form themselves into an Association, to be called the "Victorian Apiarists' Association." Mr. W. L. Davey, in seconding the motion said, that having been instrumental in bringing about the formation of the Beekeepers' Committee, under the Rural Industries Association, he felt somewhat humiliated at the policy that Association now followed, and felt compelled to oppose that policy. The motion was carried unanimously.

The question of Membership was next discussed, and on the motion of Mr. Garrett, seconded by Mr. Willyan, it was decided that all engaged in beekeeping, be eligible for membership upon approval by a member of the Advisory Committee. The annual subscription was fixed at 2/6. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Willyan, Mr. Bolton was unanimously elected President. The following other officers were next elected:—Vice-Presidents: Messrs. R. Beuhne, Tooborac, and R. Miller, Sonth Melbourne; Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. W. L. Davey.

Messrs. C. Willyan, E. Cox, E. Jackel, E. Garrett, J. Bennett, S. Gregson, and W. Murray, together with the President, Vice-Presidents, and Secretary, were constituted an Advisory Committee, with power to add to their number. To the Advisory Committee will be submitted all questions to be dealt with by the Secretary, members of the Advisory Committee in turn conferring with members in their respective districts. As this will entail a considerable amount of correspondence at times, Mr. R. Beuhne was appointed correspondent to the committee.

On the motion of Mr. W. L. Davey, seconded by Mr. Willyan, *The Australian Bee Bulletin* was appointed the official organ of the Association. The objects and the policy of the Association were then discussed at length, and a motion proposed by Mr. Colston, was carried; that the policy of the Association be the



promotion of the Beekeeping Industry. This definition will enable officers to further the interests of the Association whenever an opportunity offers, and deal with questions not foreseen or decided upon.

It was next resolved that a deputation wait upon the Minister of Lands to put before him the views of the Association, on the question of Apiaries on Crown Lands, and grants by Government to aid Rural Industries, and to request that the Apiarists' Association be communicated with, when any proposal to open markets or expand the industry in other ways is submitted to the Government. The following members were appointed to the deputation: Messrs. Miller, Beuhne, Cox, Garnett, and W. L. Davey.

A resolution was carried unanimously, that the thanks of beekeepers be conveyed to Mr. Tipper, of *The Australian Bee Bulletin*, for the fair and open-minded way in which he has acted towards them, taking himself the stand of a beekeeper, rather than a newspaper proprietor. A vote of thanks to the chairman for his actions on behalf of the Industry, was carried with acclamation, and the formal meeting then closed. A majority of beekeepers stayed for some time for a friendly chat and interchange of experiences.

The deputation appointed by the Apiarists' Association, waited upon the Minister of Lands, May 25th, to bring under his notice the several matters they were instructed to lay before him. Mr. McColl said, in reply, when the new Amending Land Act was passed, the Government would reserve small blocks such as asked for by beekeepers. In regard to the other matters, Mr. McColl asked that they be submitted to him in writing.

#### BEEKEEPERS' CONFERENCE.

M. W. BURKE, SEC. V.S.O. & R.I.A.

A conference of beekeepers was held on 24th May in the Temperance Hall, Russell-Street, under the auspices of the Victorian Silk and Rural Industries' Association.

In the absence of the President Mr. T. K. Dow, the chair was occupied by Mr. A. Brown, who welcomed the delegates, and expressed the hope that the conference would result in some practical good to the honey industry.

The report presented by the National Beekeepers' Committee was read by Mr. Harry Davey, which disclosed that during the year the committee had interviewed the Forests Commission Board respecting the wholesale destruction of timber on Crown Lands, specific cases being given, the evidence obtained from beekeepers that the destruction of timber was a serious menace to the future of the industry. On the suggestion of Mr. Thos. Bolton, of Dunkeld, the committee interviewed the Minister of Lands (Mr. McColl) in December last, and obtained a promise from him that in the next session a clause would be inserted in the Land Bill giving beekeepers a right to establish apiaries on Crown Lands. Representations had also been made to the Minister of Agriculture, who had promised to do all in his power to assist the industry, and had already sent six samples of honey, obtained by the association, to Mr. Sinclair in London so as to obtain reliable information of its value. The report was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Yates (Whitelaw), seconded by Mr. A. Ballinger (Nurrabeil). Discussion then ensued on the question of the right to entry on Crown Lands. Messrs. Bolton, Hallam, Ballinger, and Cox pointing out that it would be necessary to obtain water supply, ingress and egress to the reserve. It was agreed, on the motion of Mr. Wilson, that Messrs. Bolton, Davey, Ballinger and Brown wait upon the Minister of Lands and explain the requirements of the apiarists with reference to the reserves.

A central depot in Melbourne for sale of honey direct to the consumer and a registered label to guarantee its purity was then exhaustively discussed, also the unsatisfactory way in which some agents treat those living far away from Mel-



bourne; instances were given where accounts sales had been delayed for months before cheques were forwarded to the producer. Some delegates stated that it was the small and struggling beekeeper who suffers most. The chairman stated that the association would assist in difficulties of this character if they were apprised of the facts. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Yates, it was resolved that a registered label be obtained by the Rural Industries Association for the use of beekeepers who are members, and that a central depot be established in Cromwell-buildings.

The question of railways freights for honey tins and honey was then introduced by Mr. A. Ballinger, who submitted particulars of charges made by the Railways department, which were in some instances equal to the first cost of the goods. Resolved that the association be requested to approach the Railway Commissioner, and endeavour to get charges reduced, especially with regard to small consignments. Mr. Bolton undertook to compile a simple scale of rates, if the association would print them for distribution.

Nominations to the National Beekeepers' Committee were then received as follows:—Messrs. T. Bolton (Dunkeld), A. Ballinger (Narrabeel), M'Farlane (Lyndhurst), Dowling (Heidelberg), Eastlake (Bairnsdale), Cozens (Great Western), Yates (Whitelaw), and Freeman (Alphington). The chairman suggested that advisory committees be formed in the country districts to act in conjunction with the central committee. This was adopted, and Messrs. Hollis (Bacchus Marsh), Eastlake, (Bairnsdale), Yates (Whitelaw), Ridgway, (Lang Lang), Bolton, (Dunkeld), Dowling, (Heidelberg), Hallam (Telangatuk East), and Cozens (Great Western), were appointed hon. correspondents for their respective districts, with power to organise local committees. Resolved on the motion of Mr. Harry Davey, that the Minister of Agriculture be requested to bring the scheme of Mr. J. Taverner

for a central depot for colonial produce in London before the Government. A paper on the Sale of Honey in London having been read, the conference closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

## VICTORIAN NOTES.

R. BEUHNE.

A NEW KIND OF FOUNDATION.—Those who have interested themselves in the invention and gradual improvement of comb foundation, will have noticed that most efforts to perfect it have been in the direction of making it as like the natural comb as possible. Gradually the cell walls were raised more and more; but it was soon found that these high cell walls were no positive gain to the beekeeper, it made the foundation too heavy, and therefore too expensive.

By carefully watching bees building comb, or drawing foundation, it will be found that the cell walls are not started straight and smooth, but always more or less corrugated or wavy. The bee does not work like a mason or bricklayer, putting stone upon stone, but rather like a sculptor. Upon this fact is based the invention of the new *Altonsus* foundation, the manufacture of which has already been taken in hand in Germany and Austria.

In this foundation the cell walls are corrugated in exactly the manner in which bees make them in commencing comb building. It is claimed that bees will work this foundation much more readily than the ordinary kind.—*Practischer Wegweiser*.

HONEY CHOCOLATE.—According to "L. 'Abeille et sa culture," a benevolent citizen of Amsterdam, forwarded to South Africa, 1000lbs. of honey chocolate for the Boers, from the factory at Hautmont, in France. A Mr. Tamber asks in the paper referred to, whether chocolate is absolutely necessary to increase the fighting spirit, in which case the honey chocolate spoken of, should surpass that sent by the Queen of England, to her troops in South Africa. In any case the benevolent donor of the honey



chocolate is somewhat late in the day.—*Rheinische Bienenzeitung.*

HONEY REPORT.—De Rougemont, in the May Apiarist's column of "Austral Culturst," referring to that part of the honey report from Leader, April 28th, which alone he sees fit to reprint, says: "This is not fiction, but fact." To most people this will convey the meaning that the things usually published in that column, are fiction, not facts.

Even this is only a third of a fact, the other two thirds may be seen in last A. B., page 32.

### NATION BUILDERS.

W. L. DAVEY.

I notice that these gentlemen, like blowflies in summer time, are as plentiful in New South Wales as here. How they buzz and fuss about a small carcase; to hear them one would think they were Italian bees gathering nectar from a yellow box-tree, but it turns out to be nothing but those noisy flies making merry over a dead creature.

J. J. B., in the last issue tries to prove the representative character of what has been termed Mr. Gale's Association, and he succeeds in a most startling manner. It represents "the Clergy, the Press, the Agricultural Department, the Government Chemist, the Education Department, the Horse Dealer, the public, and one Beekeeper" (from Queensland.)

J. J. B. might tell us how many New South Wales Supply dealers were represented, and how is it that he makes no mention of the beekeepers themselves. Where are they?

J. J. B. made a very good buzz, but I think it's some sort of a skeleton that attracted him.

Our Melbourne Silk Association seems to be a bit ahead of the one just referred to; they represent "the Amateur Beekeepers (nothing much larger in the bee line) the Scent Producers (where are they?) fowls, geese, turkeys, ducks, fish, I believe," and other venomous animals.

Of course, I have not mentioned the Silkworm; there's a probability of the

Silk-moth being useful to us beekeepers, once we can get them mated to our Bee-moth, we can get honey and silk out of the beehive, and then friend Beuhne's cockroaches are to mate with queens. Great improvements ahead, eh?

But to come to the point, they advocate bee-farming as an adjunct to other farm work, though they buzz never so loud, beekeepers know it's only the dead calf again.

J. J. B., and the rest wonder why the beekeepers don't rush to what they, "the middle mongers, horse dealers, nothing-arians, and what nots," think a fine fat beast; they are deceived by the smell. Bees know the true honey scent, and don't need to be tempted by calves' skeletons, etc.

I am not a poet, but I take the liberty of enclosing a few lines for a few gentlemen to digest.

Beekeepers, our own Masters, we  
Can do without the help of J. J. B.,  
Beekeepers may the Nation builders be,  
But J. J. B., who the de'il is he.  
Ye men who live by the busy bee,  
We're much the better you'll all agree,  
When minus such as J. J. B.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS ASSOCIATION.—Seeing that 15 men of no knowledge in beekeeping whatever, vote on matters of vital interest to beekeepers, when dealt with by the Silk Association Council, and that a motion was passed by the Silk Council contrary to the best interests of the Victorian beekeepers, we decided for this and other reasons to form a purely Beekeepers' Association; and I feel satisfied with the results so far. The position of the Apiarists' Association with regard to the Silk Association, will be found under the official announcement on another page. I refer to the letter (published in this issue) from the Apiarists' Association to the Silk Association.

Only the few essential rules necessary to the commencement of the Apiarists' Association have as yet been adopted, any other rules necessary will be left until the next Annual Meeting. In conclusion, I wish to say that I am willing



to do my best for our cause, any matters that beekeepers need help or advice upon, send me word and I will consult the committee if it's outside my own powers of action. Beekeepers please write short, sharp, and to the point, on any matter you wish attended to, as my time is very limited, to keep in touch with 150 colonies of bees, do office work in Melbourne for 5 days a week, does not leave any too much time to spare, without attending to the work of the Association. I cannot say more than I have already said, I am fully willing and ever ready, aye ready; will you please help the thing along and do your share.—W. L. DAVEY.

#### VICTORIAN APIARIST'S ASSOCIATION.

President—Thos. Bolton, Esq., Dunkeld.

Vice-Presidents—R. Beuhne, Esq., Tooboroc; R. Miller, Esq., Clarendon street, South Melbourne.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. W. L. Davey, c/o J. Kitchen & Sons, 346 Flinders St., Melbourne.

Subscription—2/6 per annum (payable to the correspondent Mr. R. Beuhne, or the Treasurer.)

Objects—To promote the beekeeping industry.

Membership—Those engaged in beekeeping as a business.

#### TO THE VICTORIAN BEEKEEPERS.

Gentlemen,—I beg to draw your attention to the above, and to ask you to support this Association. The office bearers, including advisory committee are all genuine beekeepers, seeing they are interested in this association by representing fully 2,000 colonies of bees, every beekeeper should feel quite safe in placing his confidence in the above association. The names of Mr. John Bassett of Wodonga, and Mr. E. P. Penglase of Fernbank, have been added to the advisory committee.

Mr. Gwyllan in last issue, quoted as a member of the committee should read Wyllan, not Gwyllan.

You will find our attitude towards the Silk Association, in the letter following.

W. L. DAVEY, Sec.

Melbourne,  
31st May, 1900.

"The President,"

Silk & Rural Inds. Assn.

Dear Sir,

I beg to draw the attention of your Council to several matters connected with the Beekeeping Industry.

First and foremost, I would point out that the efforts of your Association, and the needs of the Industry, do not harmonize, and therefore the leading men of the beekeeping fraternity are not in sympathy with your policy.

The encouragement of beekeeping as an adjunct to farm work, is one of the gravest errors your Association has as yet committed, because beekeeping is a business of such scientific depths, and so exacting in its characteristics as to treatment and punctuality of different attentions demanded to make it successful, that the average farmer could not possibly bestow the attention beekeeping must necessarily receive, therefore it never can become the valuable adjunct you expect of it. An expert can make it pay at present prices, but he must devote the whole of his time and energy to the business. Of course there are exceptions.

I wish also to inform you that the beekeepers as a body strongly object to any person unacquainted with beekeeping, voting on matters of importance to the Industry (such as your Council members are.)

What is still more to our distaste, is the fact that we have actually no vote on your Council, although 5 beekeepers are made members of the Committee, and also of the Council (could they possibly attend they would be outvoted by 4 to 1), but they are debarred from attending the monthly meetings, by the great distances they have to travel, which allows the Council a free hand, and reduces the beekeepers' committee to a farce. Under these circumstances we have, as a body, decided to unite for our own advancement and protection, and have as you already know, taken steps to place our Industry on a better footing.



Your Council takes up a false position when it regards itself as the mouthpiece of Victorian Beekeepers; it is not such, and I am afraid never can become so as at present constituted.

We are not afraid of competition, as the men who have already spent the necessary capital in establishing, will be the ones that can best stand the strain of low prices, but we are afraid that those whom you may induce to commence beekeeping, will do so under a false influence, that influence being your Beekeepers' Committee? Run a committee as you please, but be good enough to leave our name out of it. Call it a Bee Committee if you will, then the public will not be misled in thinking we are their advisers, and will rightly blame those responsible for bringing about the same condition of things in Victoria, that already exists in New South Wales, where honey is almost unsaleable.

In conclusion, let me say I regret personally having to publicly oppose your Association, but the position of our Industry warranted me in taking such a step, but at the same time it affords me pleasure to say that upon matters where our views accord, you will find no heartier co-operation than that of this Association.

I have the honor to be,  
Yours faithfully,  
W. L. DAVEY,  
Secretary.



270.—Will bees gather honey from poisonous plants?

271.—When does Ironbark come into bloom in your district? and how long is it in bud, before blooming?

E. F. STEVENS.

272. What distance would need to intervene to insure safe mating with choice drones?

273. How far is it thought that a virgin queen will fly from her hives if she fails to meet with a drone at a near radius.

#### AUSTRALIAN YANKEE.

270.—Yes.

271.—None around here.

272.—About three miles.

J. SMITH.

270.—Yes, no doubt of that.

271.—The forest trees are very irregular, and we have never been able to fix the time when any kind came into bloom. It depends entirely on whether the season is wet or dry, and also whether the previous season there was a good show of bloom or very little. December, January or February are the most likely months. Many beekeepers have tried to fix the time when our forest trees come into bloom, but have had to give up the task as hopeless. Better apply to the "clerk of the weather" who bosses the job.

F. W. PENBERTHY.

270.—It is not likely the honey would be poisonous from poisonous plants.

271.—From early autumn to late spring, according to position and age of tree.

272.—Five miles was not far enough for Mr. G. M. Doolittle's bees.

273.—I think a virgin queen will mate with a drone at a near radius only, when she fails to mate at a far radius. With the bush bee, mating at a near radius would cause a lot of in-breeding, but nature don't do things that way.

R. H. JERVIS.

271.—A few in August, out thick in September. Buds six to nine months before blooming.

272.—To make the thing positively certain, three miles. If no other bees are nearer than a mile you will have few mismated queens.

273.—Don't like guessing, always like something to guide by.

GEORGE KELLY.

270.—I think not.

271.—Bud in February and bloom from November to January following, being in bud from nine to eleven months.

272.—I think about six miles.

#### QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

274. Would there have been any other cause, atmospheric or otherwise, for the honey failure the past season, irrespective of deficient rainfall?

H. SMITH.

275. How far do bees fly and gather surplus?

CYNIC.

276. Is it true that New South Wales is the solitary country in the world where queens are judged by appearance at shows?

Seen the latest! What? Those sample Labels from the *Bee Bulletin* Printing Works.



**The Early Bird Gets the Early Worm.**

AND those who send their orders early get the early queens. Look through your apiary and see what queens you intend to replace with vigorous young ones. Then book your orders with **ROBERTS** who guarantees satisfaction. I have a large shipment of new blood to arrive in August and September, quite unrelated to my present stock. So now is your time, don't miss this chance of securing new blood. Send your orders early and save disappointment. I have already a large number booked. Add yours to them and pay on delivery. I have hundreds of testimonials and have taken over 200 prizes for bees, queens, and honey.

My catalogue will be out in August. If you want one send me your name and address.

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	1	3	5	10
Untested Queens ..	5/-	13/-	20/-	39/-
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Honey or Beeswax will be taken in payment for **QUEENS** (if preferred) for all orders of 10s. and upwards. Safe arrival guaranteed to any Post Office in the Australasian Colonies.

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**MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.**

BEEVILLE, BEE CO., TEXAS, U. S. A.

"The queens that we have received from Mrs. Atchley are doing well, and I am well pleased with them.—E. TIPPER.

**NOTICE**

**S**HOULD any beekeeper have a doubt of the genuineness of any honey sold in his neighbourhood, send a sample to the Chairman Board of Health, Sydney, who will cause it to be analysed, and take proceedings if necessary.

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