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## **The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 10, no. 10 January 28, 1902**

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, January 28, 1902

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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. 10. No 10.

JANUARY 28, 1902.

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SYDNEY.



# The Australian Bee Bulletin

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

Edited and Published by E. TIPPER, West Maitland; Apiary, Willow Tree, N.S.W.

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—JANUARY 28, 1902.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue:—

## Supply Dealers.

R. K. Allport, Chuter St., North Sydney.  
A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.  
The W. T. Falconer Manufacturing Co.,  
Jamestown, N.Y., U.S.A.  
Chown Bros. and Mullholland, Ltd.,  
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W. Abram, Beecroft.  
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A. A. Roberts, Muswellbrook, N.S.W.  
Jas. McFarlane, Lyndhurst, Victoria.  
Mrs. Jennie Atchley, Beeville Bee Co.,  
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J. W. Miner, Ronda, N.C., U.S.A.  
R. H. Jervis, Moss Vale, N.S.W.

## Miscellaneous.

A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only,  
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Allen & Co, 242 Sussex street, Sydney  
The Farmers' Co-operative Company,  
Ltd., Sussex street, Sydney.

## Foundation.

R. Beuhne, Tooborac, Victoria.

## WORK FOR THE MONTH.

The yellow box flow is over. It would not have been much had we not divided into three apiaries instead of one, but that took up a lot of time and running about. Our thoughts are now as to the future. There will be no apple tree bloom to speak of. Corn planted in December is pinched and poor. Pumpkins the same. So as far as we can see there will be no fall flow whatever. We have been careful, therefore, not to rob too

close, as what is left on, unless something very unexpectedly turns up, will have to keep them till next spring. It is now we are able to form some estimate of the value of the different queens, and know what to do in the matter of superseding. No queen cells, no swarming, though plenty of brood.

Sprigs of tansy are objectionable to ants. Also a chalk line.

Never destroy a reigning queen until the queen sent for is received.

Send us names of your neighbouring beekeepers who do not take the A.B.B.

Legs of stand for hives smeared with a mixture of corrosive sublimate keeps ants in check.

The A. I. Root Co., are going to supply small gasoline engines to work four or six frame extractors.

A slice of onion applied to a bee sting, renewed every few minutes. is said to afford speedy relief.

In Canada samples of honey can be analysed free of charge. If adulterated the Government prosecutes.

Honey is shipped from Canada to the United States under a duty of 1 and two-third cents. per pound.

Three thousand drones (no uncommon thing in a hive) would consume about 25lbs. of honey in five weeks.

We would remind editor Bennett that Sydney is not a free port now since the federation of the Australian colonies.

Will members of the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association who have not forwarded their nomination papers kindly do so at earliest.



A Singleton beekeeper tells us the past season has been bad, and not a single drone was raised, and if the dry weather continues he will lose all his bees.

Professor Cook says that the eucalyptus trees in California are in bloom every month of the year. Why do they do so away from home, and not here in Australia where they come from?

In the changes made in the Federal Tariff in committee of ways and means, before the Christmas holidays, we find the following:—Honey, jams, and jellies, from 2d to 1½d per lb.

Mr. Johns, of Brafield, reports that after introducing several untested queens some of his other hives swarmed, and all went into the weak hives where the untested queens were, destroying them.

A correspondent wants to know why, if he sends a bale of opossum and wallaby skins to Sydney he gets returns the third day, whereas he sent 20 tins of honey to a Sydney commission agent and got squared up four months after?

The N. S. Wales *Agricultural Gazette* for December gives a very interesting paper on "The History of a Grain of Wheat," by F. B. Guthrie. It is well written and should be of great interest to every grower of wheat in the colony.

In Richmond, U.S.A., a bronze statue of General Lee, horse and rider, a shell, half-an-inch thick, with only entrances at the horse's nostrils and the rider's mouth, bees have taken possession. It is supposed to be full of honey which cannot be got at without seriously injuring the statue.

We were very pleased to hear in one N.S.W. community the beekeepers (all small ones with an average of five or six hives) have decided not to sell any honey under 4d per lb. We will not publish the name of the place, as outsiders might try and take advantage of it with inferior honey.

With the Federal duty of 1½d per lb on all honey imported into the colonies, and the general failure of the honey crop, prices must go up. It remains with bee-

keepers themselves to hold out for fair prices. If sent to commission agents place your good reserve on, and note the prices in your local press are the beekeepers price not the buyers.

The subscription to the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association is not large—only 2s 6d per annum. It really does not cover printing and postage stamps, but the Secretary is satisfied. Will members kindly forward such and also nomination paper for the election at the next annual meeting in April. The work accomplished by the Association depends on the members themselves, and those they elect to office.

Honey in the Lion's Mouth.—At Princes Risborough (Bucks), England, a drove of bees have selected a curious hive, and are industriously depositing honey therein from day to day. Over the entrance to the Welch Brewery there is the figure of a huge lion with an open mouth. The bees have made this their refuge, and at the present time the jaws of the animal are filled with an abundance of honey. The unusual spectacle is an object of great interest to inhabitants and visitors alike.—*Exchange*.

The Newcastle (N.S.W.) press quotations for honey is 10s 6d the 60lb. tin. We would call the attention of the Newcastle district beekeepers to this. In justice to beekeepers of the colony generally they should see to it. All good honey is worth 12s 6d the 60lb tin wholesale, and none should be sold under that figure. The price of all kinds of produce, butter included, is on the increase, and why should honey hang fire in this abominable way. Newcastle district men look out for yourselves and your fellow-beekeepers as well.

The Californian beekeepers, under the leadership of Mr. B. S. K. Bennett, editor of the *Pacific Bee Journal*, mean business. Several beekeepers' organizations have started there without success, and now, it is intended to work with the Southern Californian Fruit Exchange. The new beekeepers' organization is to known as



the Southern California Honey Association, and anyone who owns, leases, or otherwise controls fifty stands of bees is eligible to membership upon signing the articles of the association and paying a sum equal to one cent. per stand of producing bees. The *Pacific Bee Journal* says:—"The gathering of the bee men on the call of this paper has had a good effect upon the price of honey. We may safely say that the move for better organization resulted in a raise of one cent a pound on the remaining honey." One speaker said he had lived in California twenty years, and had seen organizations spring up and none had succeeded except the California Fruit Exchange.

We are very sorry to have to record the death Mrs. D. G. Teys, of Murrurundi. We deeply sympathise with Mr. Teys, in his sad loss.

The Murrurundi Times says:—It is with feelings of the most sincere regret that we have to announce the sad and sudden death of Mrs. D. G. Teys, which occurred at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday last (New Year's Day) the cause of death being pneumonia. Mrs. Teys, who was a daughter of Mr. John Lane, an old and respected resident of Windsor, and a sister of the Rev. B. Lane, who was Wesleyan Minister in charge of this circuit some ten or eleven years ago, was most highly respected by everyone who knew her. She, like her husband, was a most earnest worker in the local Wesleyan Church, by the members of which her loss will be severely felt. As late as Christmas Day last Mrs. Teys took an active part in the services of that Church, taking some of the leading solos in the choral service held on that evening, and it was at that service that she caught the chill which led to the complaint which caused her death, in spite of all that medical skill and loving care could suggest. Mr and Mrs. Teys have been married 11 years last Christmas, and by her untimely death three young children the youngest about four years are left motherless. We tender our sincere sympathy with the bereaved ones in their sad affliction. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon, the remains being taken to the Wesleyan Church, where a short service was held and from thence to the cemetery at Haydon-ton where they were interred. The funeral was very largely attended, testifying to the esteem in which both the deceased and her husband are held by the people of the town and district.

The Farmers' Co-operative Association have again kindly placed their Board Room at the disposal of the N.S.W Bee Farmers' Association for their annual meeting April 1st and 2nd.

In reply to a correspondent who wishes to know the best way to send a single 60lb. tin of honey to England, the name of Sanders & Co., Carriers, etc., King-street, Sydney, is given us as likely to forward it cheapest.

Messrs. Hawken & Vance, of Sussex-street, Sydney, has sent us the following, dated January 22nd:—Honey has had a dull spell for a while, but is now spurting again, principally for export orders. A good deal of second quality gradually coming in keeps the market down, nor do we anticipate higher than present ruling prices, as our reports from beekeepers generally incline to more generous supplies during February and March. Beeswax scarce, 1s 1d, 1s 2d, 1s 2½d. Present values of honey: Northern 1¾d, 2d per lb; Western 2¼d, 2½d, 2¾d per lb.

## Storekeepers OR OTHERS WANTING HONEY,

IF you apply to E. Tipper, Willow Tree, will tell you where it can be purchased. Please send postage stamps for replies.

## TONGUES MEASURED.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

After I know pretty near what the results of the season was to be, I sent 12 bees from each of four colonies to Mr. Wood, of Lansing, Mich., and to Prof. Gillette, of the Colorado Experiment Station, at Fort Collins, to have their tongues measured. The bees in cage No 1 were from the colony which gave the largest yield here at the home apiary, which yield now proves to be 261 completed sections, 21 partly filled, or say about 12 pounds and they have 42 pounds in their hives for winter. These bees



were from a queen reared during 1900 from my old original stock that I have been trying to bring as near perfection, as to honey gathering as possible, for the past 30 years. No. 2 was from the poorest colony, as to honey yield, although I counted it the best during the first of the season, as it had more brood and bees on June 25th than any other colony in either apiary. The queen was from an Iowa apiarist, which I got during August 1900. This colony gave only 44 poorly filled sections, no partly filled sections, and had to be fed for winter, as it only had 12 pounds in the hive on October first. No. 3 was from my golden breeder, from which I took brood for queen-rearing three times every week during the whole of the honey flow; and for this reason I expected very little from her colony. But they gave 68 completed sections, and have 37 pounds in their hive for winter. No. 4 was from the famous long-tongued stock which so much has been written about. This queen was obtained on April 29th, and introduced to a colony from which a queen had just been sold. From No. 4 I took 65 sections, the cappings of which had that watery appearance so common with bees from imported Italian stock, and they have 29 pounds in their hive for winter. Now, from the above, it would seem that colony No. 1, which gave 315 pounds of honey, should have the longest tongues, if there was any truth in the fad of last winter and spring when such a breeze was raised over the superiority of long-tongued bees for honey gathering, but I'll let the figures tell. The average length of tongue, as given by Mr. Wood, was, for No. 1, about 24.9; No. 2, 25.1; No. 3, 25.5; No. 4, 25.6; the some being in hundreds of an inch. Mr. Gillette's

average for the same lot was, for No. 1, 25.4; No. 2, 25.6; No. 3, 25.6; No. 4, 25.8. I will not stop to make any comments, but leave the matter with the reader to decide how much there was in that long-tongue fad. I will close by saying that all four colonies were worked as nearly alike as was possible, with the exceptions I have mentioned.—*Progressive Beekeeper.*

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### LONG TONGUES.

REPLY TO MR. DOOLITTLE BY *Gleanings.*

In the record of your four colonies, the measurements of the tongues are so nearly alike that really there is no difference, at least for practical purposes—that is, honey production. Between the bees in No. 1 and those in No. 4 there is only four one-thousandth. This is so infinitesimal that it counts, for nothing. If, however, No. 1 showed a tongue-reach of sixteen-hundredth and No. 4 twenty-three-hundredth or twenty-four-hundredth then there would be a decided variation. It is evident, however, that colony No. 1 did not produce the 317 lbs. of honey, all told, because its bees had longer tongues than those of the others. Its honey-gathering qualities were dependent on some other characteristic or combination of them. Prof. Gillette's figures show tongue *length*. Now, it may be that actual tongue *reach* was much greater in the colony that produced the largest amount of honey than in the others. You will remember I have drawn a distinction between tongue *reach* and tongue *length*.

---

W. W., Woodhurst, Geurie Jan 10th 1902.—I am not doing much with the bees as other occupations which engage my attention are paying me better. They require too much attention for the return they give here, but I have no doubt that in good seasons they would pay well if properly looked after. Wishing you and your paper success.

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### 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.



# VICTORIA.

## VICTORIAN NOTES.

R. BEUHNE

**SPRAYING FRUIT BLOOM.**—I have received a letter in reference to this subject, the writer of which is a beekeeper and a fruit-grower as well, from which I extract the following:—

I note in A. A. B., this issue, that you are suggesting calling upon Fruit-growers' Association re spraying fruit trees while in bloom. I have often seen paragraphs in the papers referring to the same thing. As I am a fruit-grower and also a beekeeper I think I know something about it, and I say that in many cases the beekeepers alarm themselves unnecessarily on the matter. So far as my knowledge goes, the only sprays that can injure bees are the arsenical ones, Paris Green, London Purple, and they are only used on apples and pears for the Codlin moth. Where there is no Codlin moth these preparations are not used, and in a good many cases they are not used even where the moth is present, for example, there is no moth nearer to me than three miles, but on each side of me, at that distance, the moth is present and yet no arsenical preparations are used for many miles around, and I believe the same holds good elsewhere. The reason these sprays are not more used is that they are only partially effective, and putting bands around the trees is quite as good. In cases where these sprays are used they will not injure bees unless the arsenic gets in contact with the nectar in the flower, and if it does so the spray is a failure so far as that flower is concerned. Difficulty is caused by the fact that all the flowers do not open at once and to be effective the arsenic must be in or on the calyx of the apple directly after it is formed, and by that time the flower is of no more use to the bees so that to wait until all the flowers had set their fruit would probably mean that in many cases the spraying would be too late to be effective, and as the first set fruit is the best and most likely to hang on the grower must spray when the trees are partly at least in bloom or he might as well not spray at all. I have never used the arsenical sprays but I have used in wholesale fashion Bordeaux mixture and also tobacco wash, and neither of them do any harm whatever to the bees. I make it a matter of religion to spray my peaches when they are in blossom. I begin when the flower commences to open and by the time I am finished the blossoming is nearly over and I have yet to see any harm done to bees, to flowers, to the bees or the fruit.

**THE SEASON.**—So far the same state of things continues as reported in last issue. I have not heard of anybody getting any honey to speak of. I am getting orders for honey; I always do when I have none. One of our apiarists has just shifted his apiary to the third location this season; 40 miles at first, now 100 miles, and he means to shift again later on. I hope he has struck it this time, as up till now he had nothing. Another apiarist is away prospecting another State for bee-pasture, and a correspondent expresses himself in this way: "I am building everything on next season, or I must chuck the game, its no use going on like this. Last season was poor, the season before was worse, and this is even worse. Now its a poor business that only yields a crop once in 4 or 5 years, and practically nothing at all in the others; and from a business point of view it will be time to ask myself a few sensible questions if next season fails. What about cabbages or stone cracking as an easy way to earn a living as compared with beekeeping." Why does not my friend pack up and shift to Gippsland or the Coast? He evidently did not read the *Argus* of December 9, thus:—"Possibly in Victoria alone, 30,000 people might find employment in collecting wealth now going to waste in the coast districts and the Gippsland Forests, in the form of honey for which Europe, Africa, and Asia, offer a market, are precluded by reason that the tools of trade required to collect this wealth are protected out of their reach." As our friend has a fine apiary already, there is a fortune waiting for him there.

**WAX FROM DISEASED COLONIES.**—Judging from letters received occasionally there are still people who think that wax from diseased colonies is dangerous if made into foundation. They quite forget that the bulk of the wax which comes into the market is from box hives, and there is rarely a boxhive apiary quite free from foul brood. I have never heard of an authenticated case where



foul-brood developed from foundation. R. L. Taylor, in America, when conducting a State Experimental Apiary, demonstrated beyond a doubt, that wax if boiled cannot, does not carry life germs.

In *Practischer Wigweiser* of November 1, appears an article dealing with this subject. I extract the following from page 344: "On account of the extreme smallness of the germs of bacillus alvei and the consistency of wax, it may be assumed without a doubt that germs boiled with the wax are perfectly harmless as they can never again be liberated from the coating of wax, even the gnawing and working of the wax by the bees will still leave them with an immense coating of wax in proportion to their size and so long as they remain waxed, they are perfectly harmless and a development of the bacillus is altogether out of the question.

N. E. France, State Inspector of Apiaries in Wisconsin in his "Diseases of Bees" says Comb-Foundation as made by supply manufactories is free from life germs and perfectly safe to use. I have taken very badly diseased combs from various apiaries in Wisconsin, rendered them into wax and either made comb-foundation of it myself or taken direct to the wholesale manufactories and had them make this wax separately into foundation, then I placed this foundation in 20 of the best model apiaries of the State in 62 colonies where no disease was ever known and it has not shown any signs of it since."

If any one still has any doubts on the subject they can treat the boiling wax with sulphuric acid when making foundation, as I am doing with all wax to refine it.

## VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

W. L. DAVEY, SECRETARY.

I am glad to report that the Association is still increasing her borders. Nothing which savours of great deeds or big splashes has come our way, but a

steady, persevering growth and a gradual recognition of our position as representing the industry may easily be discerned amongst the powers that be.

The following report has been received from the Agricultural Department relating to a sample of beeswax:—

Agricultural Laboratory,  
Melbourne,

Oct. 24th, 1901.

Analysis of supposed beeswax submitted to  
Victorian Apiarists' Association:—

Specific gravity at 100° at	786
Melting point ..	48°
Acid value ..	0
Ether value ..	0
Saponification value	0

These results indicate that this substance is merely paraffin wax with a little colouring material.

A. N. PEARSON,  
Chemist for Agriculture.

This is the worst sample I have ever come across, and would never deceive an experienced beekeeper, but dealers in Melbourne were easily deluded into making large purchases of the concoction. The scoundrel suddenly made himself scarce when he got wind of the investigation of his product.

In answer to my letter of recent date to the Lands Department asking for information re Beekeepers Licenses on Crown Lands. I beg to submit the following reply:—

Office of Lands and Survey,  
Melbourne.

SIR, Adverting to your letter of 27th ultimo, I beg to forward herewith a copy of regulations under the Land Acts and an extract from Alterations of Regulations published in the *Government Gazette* of 16th July last, having special reference to bee farms.

(Signed) M. F. MORKHAM,  
Secretary for Lands.

Extract referred to:—

### CHAPTER IX.

Miscellaneous Licenses (Section 99, *Land Act* 1890.)

### BEE FARMS.

Every application for a licence for the purpose of a bee farm shall be in the form prescribed in Schedule 54 of the Regulations made on 4th July, 1899. Every licence for a bee farm shall be in the form prescribed in Schedule S, and shall be subject to such payment and such other conditions as may be fixed by the Minister.

To conditions 2 and 3 of Schedule S the following words shall be added after the word "officer"—namely, "or the lessee or licensee of the block on which the area comprised in this licence is situated."



The license fee has not yet been fixed, but I hope to be able to report the amount of the annual fee in next A.B.B. as I have written about it.

With the season's compliments to all our members and friends.

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R. BEUHNE, CORRESPONDENT

BEE DISEASES, HONEY SAMPLES, ETC.  
—Some months ago I requested the Department of Agriculture to obtain from America the reports of the latest Investigation of Bee Diseases, and I have just received from the Department "Diseases of Bees and Legislation," by N. E. France, State Inspector of Apiaries in Wisconsin. I expect to receive others and will publish extracts from time to time in "A.B.B."

The Department of Agriculture has lately been collecting samples of honey for London office, and I have pointed out to them the difficulties of getting representative samples this season, and the views of apiarists as ascertained by correspondence and personal intercourse.

Following up I have suggested that the Department of Agriculture should obtain standard samples of English honey in original packages for inspection and comparison here, and trust that they will be available for our annual meeting. The correspondence received and sent is somewhat large, too large for publication in A.B.B., but will be available at the Annual meeting together with the publications received referred to above.

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MY NOTE BOOK.

W. L. DAVEY.

What has happened to the Victorian beekeepers? Why are their pens rusting, are their literary abilities played out, or is it that their season is so good that their names are caused to become "conspicuous by their absence," because of a heavy honey flow, or are their hopes down to zero, and are they sick and tired of the "busy little bee," busy hunting for something to fill the cravings of an empty

stomach, busy carting water, fighting, robbing, busy dying, but not a drop of honey. If that is the experience in Victoria no wonder we hang our harps on the willow tree and stow our pens and paper until the dawn of better days, but surely we have some grit in us as well as that persistent Tooboracite, who always comes up smiling even when his bees forget to come home with a load of honey, or don't come home at all. Personally, I could not raise a decent queen until December, for want of enough honey to give the hives that vim that is necessary to good queen-breeding, and even now they have an uneasy manner, which one never notices in a good season.

I notice that friend Abram begs to differ from your remarks on prizes, and I beg to differ from you both. Friend Abram says shows are held and prizes given to foster and encourage production and manufactory, and his contention is "that such is needed." Now, I cannot subscribe to such a doctrine at all, it is simply absurd to ask anybody to do so. Take as an example the dairyman, fruit-grower, and manufacturers. Why does the one raise high-class butter, high-class apples, pears, peaches, etc.? or why does the manufacturer turn out marvellous machinery, ploughs, harrows, etc.? Is it for the paltry prizes that they win at a country show, that they one and all give the best of their lives, efforts, and sweat of their brows for? No, certainly not. The best is produced, because man must live. Bad butter is the farmer's loss, inferior fruit is the fruitgrower's loss, and so on. Self-preservation is surely strong enough in man to cause him to produce his best without the hot-house effect of "shows." We will suppose friend Abram has an apiary situated in a stringy bark district in full flow, and five miles away is a flow of equal dimensions from yellow box. Our friend would look up all the "show news" before deciding to shift his apiary, he would look for the show prize, but the average beekeeper would say, stringy bark honey 1d per lb.,



yellow box 3d, here goes for more, hang the show prize. I want as my prize some tons of threepenny honey, that's why I shift, and somehow I think friend A. would not be far behind. If the ambition to be successful is not in the bee-keeper, all the shows in the world won't make him so. But if I want to help production by showing at the different shows how should I go about it? Well, first of all we'll arrange to show bees, queens, and honey, and of course apicultural implements at, say Timbuctoo. We get a prize for queens, and that increases production "of queens," as far as we are concerned. Then we show bees and how they are worked, and, oh! such nice lovely honey all done up in its "Sunday go meeting togs." Yes, everything is so sweet and clean, and so easy to contemplate. Result, production of a large quantity of inexperienced beekeepers, who want queens, bees and hives, yes, more production. Yes, shows increase production, then follows the inevitable foul brood production, starvation production, and the final "don't know where he are" production. No, sir, I am honestly off shows which are only one-sided, give the ignorant public an insight into foul brood, bee paralysis, starvation seasons, back block life with water famines and isolation from civilisation, along with your frilled section of honey and your golden Italian. Do this, then you can put your honey before the public honestly, and use the show as a means of *advertising your honey*, not the *industry*. A show to my mind is only useful as a means of advertising your goods, and not an attraction which causes you to produce them. You produce those sections, those tons of extracted honey, you place them in the show because you have produced them and want a buyer, but the question each beekeeper has to ask himself is this: Is it an honest action to dispose of our goods in such a manner as to induce the inexperienced public to invest their money in the industry. They see at a show everything arranged on an elaborate

scale, and jump to conclusions that they could do the same, as everything seems so easy and nice, not knowing that possibly years of hard persevering work, of disappointment, of failure, of loss, all lie behind the success that leads the bee-keeper to show off his wares. I have small sympathy with shows, until we have a honey that will sell on the English market.

I have a plan of marking hives that I will enumerate next issue, which is far ahead of anything I have previously tried. Now, by training I am a book-keeper, and I carried my book-keeping into the apiary, but found it was a very objectionable plan and a useless waste of time, and much more so when you have to carry a mop and towel about the apiary, so I should imagine, "why not have a bath?" I always endeavour to do things by the best and shortest cut, and can now stand at the end of a row of 30 to 50 hives and tell the age of queen, and all the variable conditions of each hive, without moving an inch, but for the present "A Happy New Year To All."

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**SPRING DWINDLING.**

At the recent Buffalo (U.S.) Convention the subject of Spring Dwindling came up for discussion. As some of the *big lights* took part in it, and as the subject has been so much spoken of in our pages lately, we copy the discussion from the *American Bee Journal*:—

**SPRING DWINDLING AND THE REMEDY.**

"Is spring dwindling a disease? If so, what is the remedy?"

Dr. Miller—How many think it is a disease?

Mr. Kluck—Old bees, is it not?

Mr. Abbott—What do you mean by disease?

W. Z. Hutchinson, of Michigan—My idea of spring dwindling is imperfect wintering. They need to have good food. Good food is the pivot of successful wintering. If you have good food and protect the bees you will not have spring dwindling. I think spring dwindling is the result of poor wintering. I would not call it a disease, unless an overloading the system from confinement constitutes a disease.

Mr. Abbott—Doesn't a cold spring have something to do with it?

Mr. Hutchinson—I think it would have something to do with it.

Mr. Abbott—I would like to suggest that spring dwindling is frequently the result of foolish feeding. I have known a great many people to kill off their bees with feeding. Take the average farm bee-keeper and he is just as likely to cause spring dwindling by feeding his bees as to do them any good, if he feeds them late in the fall. A great many bees are provoked to fly out in the spring by foolish feeding, when, if they were left alone, and not fed at all, would not break the cluster, and the result is they wear themselves out before it is time for the queen to lay any eggs. Some people wonder why it is, and say they followed the bee-books, but the man who isn't intending to use brains in connection with bee-books would be better off without them, especially when it comes to feeding. Farmers come to me and say, "I thought

my bees were a little short, and I fixed them up some syrup and put it under the hive, and I have been feeding them for a long time," when the mercury was standing down below freezing all the time, and the man who feeds bees when the mercury is in that condition is simply producing spring dwindling; and if you should define disease as an abnormal condition, I should say it was a disease.

Pres. Root—As I understand Mr. Abbott, feeding in the spring has a tendency to cause the bees to fly out, and they become chilled and do not get back.

Mr. Abbott—Not only that, but the over activity of the bee exhausts its vitality.

Mr. Hutchinson—I thought it was the result of imperfect wintering.

Mr. Abbott—I don't believe it.

Mr. Hutchinson—Mr. McEvoy, in Canada, has very good success in wintering his bees, and he crowds them down on five or six combs of solid honey, and does that so that they cannot breed towards spring, and if those combs are not full of honey he feeds them till they are full, and will not take any more food. He feeds that in the fall.

Dr. Miller—I confess, to begin with, that I do not know what is the cause of spring dwindling. It is a matter of exceeding consequence sometimes to all of us, and I would like very much if we could get at what is the cause of it. In the first place, I think we all would be very likely to agree that it is not a disease. It is a condition. Not such a condition as would be called a disease, however, and the facts that have been started are all in the line with the observation of any one who takes pains to make any observation about it at all. It would be worth something to us if we could get down to find out what is the condition that is produced. Now, it may be true, for instance, that food of a certain kind brings about that condition, but what is that condition? Will feeding and making them fly out at inopportune times make spring dwindling? and is that all there is of spring dwindling? Is it simply



the fact that a number of bees have flown out and become lost? That is not spring dwindling according to my observation. It is something more than that. I don't know that I know what that condition is, but I will say this much about it, that when you find spring dwindling I think you will almost always find that the number of bees present in the hive compared with the amount of brood is always small. Now, I would like to know, as a matter of fact, whether the observation of my friends here agrees with that. Is that the common thing? It has appeared to me to be the case that, whenever I had a case of spring dwindling, there were too few bees in the hive to take care of the brood that was there. Now, if that is a common thing, I would like to know it.

H. L. Case, of New York—A few years ago, in the latter part of April and forepart of May, I lost 80 colonies of bees by what I called spring dwindling. The fall before my bees gathered a large quantity of honey-dew, and the winter was a severe one; it kept them in the hives perhaps four months without giving them a flight. Now, I believe the reason I had spring dwindling that winter, or that spring, was on account of improper food, and the conditions were improper for their prosperity; if they had had one or two good flights in the autumn, so that they could fly right out on a warm day, and have a good flight, I think it would have been better. I saved only 20 small colonies, and after the first good day that we had when the bees could fly out I didn't lose any more bees to speak of. Now, I agree with Mr. Hutchinson, that improper feeding and the conditions through winter, confining them to their hive and they consuming too much food, made them lazy, and they could not get out to relieve themselves, and the result was that I lost the 80 colonies.

Pres. Root—It is very evident that there are a good many causes that induce spring dwindling.

Mr. Kluck—Would the gentleman state the time when the bees gathered that honey-dew?

Mr. Case—It was the forepart of September. I went bee-hunting at the time. I spend some time in the fall hunting wild bees, and there was so much honey-dew on the forest leaves in my section that they would not pay any attention to honey. I could not get a bee to return to the box, and you could go into the forest and it would seem as if there was a swarm of bees, and they filled the hives full, from 25 to 30 pounds of that honey-dew in the course of, as I remember, five or six days, and they sealed it nicely, but I couldn't do much, and let it go, with the results that I have stated.

Pres. Root—How many have had experience with spring dwindling?

Dr. Miller Now I wish, Mr. President, you would ask how many have had cases of spring dwindling in which little or no brood was present in the hive.

Pres. Root—If I understand the Doctor, he finds a condition which we sometimes find in our apiary along in March, when the bees evidently see that their numbers are small, and that they must have some brood to keep up the animal heat, and the queen lays a little more than they can take care of, and they spread out too much and die on the outside edges. I have seen the bees so spread out on the batch of brood that they would all die.

Dr. Miller—Further than that, I have had a number of cases where there were too few bees, and they have tried to cover the brood, and have apparently had a consultation and decided it was too much for them, and then all swarmed out.

J. S. Callbreath, of New York—I had a colony very strong with bees. I sent for a good queen and introduced her the next spring. I happened to be there so that I could watch, and I looked in occasionally. I noticed, with that colony, that had so many old bees in the field, it began rearing brood much earlier than any of the others, and in a little while they were dead. It was a condition of exhausted vitality, as you have just said. They get in a hurry about rearing brood to see if they could not possibly save the colony.



Pres. Root—The remedy, it would seem, would be implied from the discussion. It would be protection, proper feeding, food given at the right time; and those are conditions that we can very well meet.

Dr. Miller—If there is anything like correctness in my diagnosis, then one thing in the remedy would be to have a large quantity of young bees in the fall, and anything that would tend to that—but I confess that I do not know whether my diagnosis is right.

Pres. Root—Proper feeding, proper protection, food properly given—and when I say protection I mean in double-walled hives or indoors, a proper indoor repository with sufficient ventilation. All these things may help to offset unusual conditions that we cannot control in the way of weather, and the cause suggests the remedy.

J. S. Barb, of Ohio—I had experience in spring dwindling, and I find that double-walled hives are not very much better than single ones. As a general thing you will have a lot of old bees to start with in the fall, and that condition prevents them from rearing brood in the spring.

Pres. Root—I have noticed that the colonies were liable not to get in condition without protection. Last winter, by oversight, we left out 10 small colonies without double walls, and nearly every one of them got down to a handful. Those that were right alongside of them in double walls got through all right. It all depends upon what we understand by disease. If we take Mr. Abbott's definition of abnormal condition, then it is a disease.

Dr. Miller—Suppose you had a colony with nothing but drones in it, would you call that a disease?

Mr. Abbott—A bad one, worse than a convention with no women.

Dr. Miller—How many think that spring dwindling is a disease?

Pres. Root—Let us have a show of

hands. How many think spring dwindling is a disease? Now, how many think it is not? Evidently the convention doesn't think it is a disease.

### Samples Of Honey For London.

[BY R. B. TOOBORAC.]

The Department of Agriculture is asking beekeepers for samples of honey in attractive packages, for display in Mr. Sinclair's office in London. Beekeepers, while appreciating the intention of the department to do something to assist their industry, regret that the effort now being made is, in their opinion, which is based on past experience, not likely to be of any appreciable benefit to the industry. Attempts have repeatedly been made in this State, as well as in others, to obtain a footing for Australian honey in the English market, but have in most cases proved discouraging, and in no instance does any advance appear to have been made towards the end aimed at. We are just where we were at the beginning. Most of those attempts were foredoomed to failure from their inception. The promoters entered upon their task with such confidence in the excellence of Australian honey that they completely ignored the disadvantage of the peculiar characteristics of Australian honey and the vagaries of our seasons, and scorned the opinions of English critics as well as the opinions and advice of Australian producers. The inevitable failure of these attempts was passed over as quietly as possible, but attributed to rings of London brokers and other ridiculous causes. Honey producers discouraged or ignored these illconceived attempts, knowing that every failure increased the difficulties for any future attempt to be made under the better auspices of a different method, and were in consequence accused of apathy and self-interest. Beekeepers have declined to bring forward a scheme for the opening of an export market, because they fear that the influence controlling the past efforts would prevent such scheme being carried out in the manner in which alone it is likely to be successful.



The difficulties to find a ready and permanent outlet for our surplus honey are great, but they are not insurmountable, and may be overcome if the obstacles in our way are duly recognised and dealt with. We cannot alter the character of our honey, which it derives from the flora that produced it, and, notwithstanding the claptrap of enthusiasts and some not quite disinterested people, our honey has a marked characteristic, not appreciated by consumers of honey from other countries. The sooner and more fully this is recognised here, the sooner will an attempt be made to systematically circumvent this and other obstacles.

Beekeepers do not differ from any other class of producers; they will support any effort likely to advance their industry, but they cannot be expected to welcome any attempt, however well meant, which will increase their difficulties, or initiate any enterprise, unless they have a guarantee that it will not, as in the past, be subverted to other interests, to the detriment of their calling.

In reference to the samples now wanted (at once), I would point out that the time is very inopportune. I have no doubt that sufficient of fair quality will easily be obtained, but whether honey could be shipped according to sample subsequently I doubt very much. The difference between honey in different localities, in honey in the same localities in different seasons, is as great as in the case of meat between beef and pork; and who would expect a consumer to take the one in place of the other?—*Leader*.

### THE GERMAN HIVE.

SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE BELEPSCH

The hives in use in Europe belong generally to one of two systems of construction. In one the frames are taken out from the top; in the other they are taken from the back of the hive, which forms a door adapted to that purpose. To us the idea of taking the frames from behind looks ridiculous and *would be ridiculous, sure enough*; but the majority of hives in Europe are yet kept in what

is called in French "*ruchers*." A *rucher* is not exactly a bee-house, it is rather a bee-shed. The front is formed of three or four strong shelves extending the whole length of the building. On these shelves are placed the hives. The first shelf is about eight or ten inches above the ground; the second high enough above the first to admit the hives between; the hives on the third (or fourth, if there are four) each nearer the roof. Between the shelves and the back of the building there is an alley or room four or five feet wide. The back and ends of the building are enclosed. A door is put at the most convenient place, generally at one end. A fair idea as to how a *rucher* looks can be had by looking at the engraving of Gravenhorst's apiary in the A.B.C. of Bee-culture. Generally the shed faces the south or south-east. All the manipulations, all the work is done from the alley behind the hives, that is, from inside. Under such circumstances the taking out of the frames from behind instead of the tops of the hives is simply a necessity. As the inside of the *rucher* is comparatively dark, few bees get in, the work can be done without a veil and there is but little danger of robbing. The work can be done in rainy weather as well as in sunshine. That item alone would be invaluable to a queen-breeder. Then, it is more agreeable to work under a shed than exposed to the hot sun. The protection is an advantage to the hives themselves. The exposure to the rain and then to the hot sun is not calculated to make a hive or any other wood-work last for ever. No trouble about covers warping or leaking; and it is undoubtedly an advantage to the bees. A mere box exposed to the excessive heat of the summer days, the coolness and dampness of the night, thoroughly soaked in rainy days, is not the most comfortable lodging that could be devised. One trouble, however, is if you wish to look for the queen, you have to take every frame and place in a barrow. You cannot take out one frame at a time and replace it as with hives opening at the top.



In the summer the hives in the rucher are protected from the excessive heat; in the winter they are sheltered against the high winds, the rain and snow, and are undoubtedly much more comfortable for their inhabitants. No need of the cellar. In the coldest parts of Europe all the packing done consists in putting straw between and above the hives and also behind the latter, kept in place by a few slats or any convenient arrangement. Somebody might ask, how about tiering up supers? Very little section-honey is raised, it is all extracted. The hives are either two-story, the upper one for surplus; or one story with twenty or more tall frames (a dummy is used) something on the Long Idea hive. Sometimes straw hives or mere boxes.

Mr. W. Abram, of Beecroft, is the only beekeeper in Australia who uses the above system, that we are aware of. Mr. Schroeder, who we understand, is a fellow apprentice of Mr. Abrams, did it several years ago near Gosford.—*Exchange*.

### CARNIOLAN BEES.

H. M. JAMESON.

I notice in the *Bulletin* for September, an inquiry about Carniolan bees. My experience here in mild Southern California is just the reverse of yours as given in your reply. Carniolans here are away ahead of the Italians. They breed up early in spring and are ready for the early bloom. In fact they are strong the whole year, a very great essential in all warm climates. They do not swarm any more than the Italians. They are out early and late, while the Italians are loafing. The common black bees are better here than the Italians for comb honey. The season opened with me in February, 1901, with 65 colonies of Carniolans and 10 of Italians. I harvested 10,000lbs. of comb honey, some of the Carniolans gave me 250 pound sections, while the best Italians did not exceed 100 sections. The Carniolans cap their honey white, while the Italians are daubing theirs up in a greasy mess. I received about \$1000 for the season's

honey, or what you would term £200 sterling. The season here was only fair, having had much better in the past. This amount to receive from 75 colonies may seem large, but it is not large enough. There is nothing in it I would like very much to have seeds of some of the trees you mention. We have many eucalypti. E. Robusta or swamp mahogany is now in bloom and the bees are very busy. We have had nice rains and moist warm weather following. The coming season looks hopeful, but we will know better by mid-winter or next spring.

### HONEY MEAD.

To 5 gallons of boiling water add 10 or 12 lbs of honey, stirring in the honey while the water is boiling, then set off the stove. For flavouring use one to two tablespoonfuls of vanilla extract, and a little ginger. Set the can in a box and fill up the space around the can with some kind of packing material to keep an even temperature. The can should have the top cut out and be covered with thin calico to give plenty of air. Set in a warm place and it will be ready to use in about a week. This makes a fine summer drink, and is as good as the best apple cider, but is not intoxicating. Or, on 20 pounds of honey, pour 5 gallons of boiling water; boil, and remove scum as it rises; add one pound of best hops, and boil for ten minutes; then put the liquor into a tub to cool; when all but cold add a little yeast spread upon a slice of toasted bread; let it stand in a warm room. When fermentation is finished, put in a barrel, bung it down, leaving a peg-hole which can afterwards be closed, and in less than a year it will be fit to bottle.

### Bee-Keeping on the Island of Sicily.

The peasants of Sicily, in particular those living along the Southern coast of the island, have followed bee-keeping as a business for a great many years. The movable comb and the divisible brood-chamber have been in use among them for centuries. Indeed, it would be



difficult to trace up who the originator, or originators, of their hives and methods were.

The bee-knowledge these people possess has been transmitted to them by the Greeks and Romans, and, according to their ideas, cannot be improved upon, putting Dzierzon, Langstroth, Hoffman and Heddon clear into the shade. From the following the reader can judge for himself. The Long-Idea Hive is *the* hive in use; and long it is—only about five feet long, single story, of course. The size of frame is eight inches by eight inches in the clear. The frames themselves are made of a sort of bamboo (species, *Ferula*). This bamboo is selected of such thickness as corresponds with the thickness of the combs, or about 1½ inch. It is said that the bees build their combs into these frames with regularity without any other comb-guide than the natural shape (rounding) of the material they are made of.

The peculiar feature of the hive is, that the frames form the hive. Nothing more simple could be thought of in the shape of a frame hive. Of course the frames must all be of exact size; they are fastened one to the other by small wooden pins. As many as 42 such frames are thus united, and all the interstices and joints are filled and covered with a mixture of clay and fresh droppings of cattle in order to exclude insects and rain. Only two small entrances at one end are provided for this 5-foot tunnel.

The method of managing these hives is as unique as are the hives themselves. It is a well-known fact that the brood-nest in a hive is generally located near its entrance, the honey being stored in the further end. So, accordingly, if honey is wanted, a part of the frames from the end opposite the entrance are separated, and empty ones are substituted; if increase of bees is desired, a part of the frames at the front are separated, and thus the division is made.

The dead-air spaces in the frame material, as well as the covering above

mentioned, seem to be sufficient protection to prevent the melting down of the combs, even in as hot as climate as Sicily.—F. GREINER, in *American Bee Journal*.

## CAPPINGS.

*From American and other Bee Journals.*

A New York (U.S.) paper says:—The introduction of Alderman Baker's bee ordinance marked another step in the effort to rid the city of nuisances. Its repeal by the Common Council last night, *The Times* believes, was an ill-advised step and one that will be regretted. Why anyone should wish to keep bees in a city is a mystery. Anyone who has ever watched bees at work around sewer openings, street gutters and damp, filthy places of every nature should be in full sympathy with Alderman Baker's project.—*American Beekeeper*.

I agree heartily that black combs will discolor the inclosed honey somewhat; yet I fear that the attempts to soak them clean are entirely unpractical. The situation is this: Many layers of dried dirt, separated by many exceedingly thin layers of silk or wax. The best we can do is to keep the whole thing dry. The first soaking removes part of an outer layer, and makes the whole wet and nasty. With each successive soaking more, and always more, dirt keeps coming "from away back." Ram a two-quart can one-fourth full of dirty handkerchiefs (such as are found in a beekeeper's trouser's pocket at the end of a hot week); fasten them down so they cannot be moved about; and how long ere the bottom layer will be cleaned by turning water in and out the top?—E. E. HASTY, in *A. B. Journal*.

As to introducing it is a well-known fact that the bees of a colony recognise each other by the sense of smell. Smoke a colony with ordinary smoke, when robbing is in order, and the colony cannot resist an attack, because of the inability to recognise the robbers. Tobacco has a



two-fold effect. It is a powerful narcotic, besides, owing to its pungent character it renders all of one scent much more so than ordinary smoke. Then again from its narcotic effect, the bees are so stupefied as to stop all efforts at quarreling; or in resenting the intrusion of a queen; and by the time the effect has subsided they are all of a happy family. At the beginning of my bee-experience I clipped my queens by holding them in one hand, using the scissors with the other. All young queens were so treated as soon as found laying. I soon found a large proportion (half or more) missing, and either cells started or a new queen, with wings, reigning. This set me to thinking; and I finally arrived at this conclusion: the handling of the queen so changed the scent that the bees did not recognise her; they killed her and then raised a new one. I then clipped all without touching them, while they were running over the combs, a proceeding which can be accomplished with perfect ease after a little practice. The result was what I anticipated.--B. F. JONES, IN *American Beekeepers Review*.

Another periodical ghost, also appearing in the bee-papers of all nations, is whether bees destroy their old combs and build new ones in their place. Notwithstanding the fact that the question has been fully settled and proof has been given several times (*Revue Internationale*) that combs have been in existence ten, fourteen, twenty, and even twenty-five years, some smart Aleck bobs up occasionally, saying that he knows better; that practice is better than theory. But suppose it is fully proved that some particular combs have not been renewed for a long time, that is not the same thing as saying that bees never tear down their old black combs and build new ones in their place. Several of our Colorado beekeepers assert the contrary with great positiveness. It occurs when the colony finds itself without brood in the way, at a time of year when comb can be built. In one case the apiarist had dequeened a row of ten or twelve colonies some weeks

before, and one day was astonished to observe a pile of refuse, just such as a mouse makes in gnawing old combs, in front of each hive. Investigation showed that the bees were tearing down and carrying out the cell walls of their old black combs. They did not tear down the septum. Of course, the new comb built later on the old black septum is quite dark in colour, and it may be this feature has misled those who assert that bees use old combs indefinitely.—F. L. THOMPSON, IN *Progressive Beekeeper*.

I used to think that the shallow frame would be very nice for nuclei; but after trying it for years by the side of deep frames it does not suit me nearly as well as the latter. I can find queens much quicker on a deep frame, because they are not so apt to hide in the space between the lower edge of the brood-comb and the bottom-bar of the frame. Particularly is this so with black bees, as they are inclined to run off the comb and take the queen with them. When taking a deep frame out of a hive the bees have not time enough to run off, while with a shallow one they would. I have decided to decrease my shallow-frame colonies gradually, and change back to the deep frame.—F. GREINER, IN *Gleanings*.

Some years ago I abandoned the practice of clipping queens' wings because I found it advantageous to do so in spite of losses. I was puzzled to understand why some clipped queens would disappear and others would not. At first I attributed it to handling, as Dr. Jones does, but the results were much the same after I clipped queens as they stood on the combs. I am now satisfied that the chief, if not the whole trouble, lies in the *frightening* of the queen. Get the queen to running from fear, and the bees will chase and grab her at once. Upon the severity of her treatment then, depends the period of sufferance before she is superseded. In my investigation of the conditions between bees and queens I have noticed that the attitude of "fear" or lack of "fear" largely governs their



mutual relations. We may term the disturbance "panic," "fright," "excitement," or use any other expression which will convey the idea.—A. C. MILLER, in *American Beekeeper's Review*.

**EXCEPTIONAL QUEENS.**—Mr. Simpson thinks that since an exceptionally good queen is necessarily more or less of a freak, and therefore liable to give an irregular progeny, it would be well not to use her for breeding. It depends upon what the queens are raised for. If it is for sale, it might be best not to take any chances; as a very few worthless queens are enough to ruin a breeder's reputation. But if the object is to improve the stock, I should say, use her by any means, and select the best of her progeny until the strain is fixed. It is a matter of fact, that all of our best varieties of vegetables and flowers are freaks that were selected, or, sometimes, accidentally found, and perpetuated by close breeding. Many of our fancy breeds of dogs, chickens and pigeons originated also in that way. The silk wool merinos are descendants of a ram that was a freak; and now the race is well established.—ADRIAN GETAZ, in *American Beekeepers' Review*.

Laurel, Del., Aug. 4.—Edward Hopkins, sixty years old, sexton of Colfax Chapel, Accomac County, is at the point of death from bee stings, and the village is in a turmoil over his strange case. This morning the chapel bell refused to sound when he pulled the rope, and Hopkins climbed the ladder to the belfry to investigate. In the lofty tower, at the top of a twenty-foot ladder, he was set upon by a swarm of angry bees that had taken possession of the belfry tower and were disturbed by his vigorous pulling of the bell-rope. In his haste to escape the bees, Hopkins missed the ladder, and fell to the timbers of the tower belfry sustaining serious injuries which, together with the poison injected by the stings of the bees, make his case hopeless. The villagers fumigated the belfry, drove out the bees and secured a large quantity of honey from inside the chapel bell.—*American Beekeeper*.

Charles A. Wieting, Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of New York, appointed Mr. Frank Boomhower as his agent for bee inspection, to exterminate the disease in Schoharie county. Mr. Boomhower went to work and inspected apiaries, and he caused a great many colonies to be burned, hives, honey, bee-stands, etc., wherever he could find the first trace of the disease. The apiarists became more and more alarmed and they were dissatisfied with the inspection which caused so much destruction to their bees and bee-fixtures that many of them would claim that their very best colonies were unnecessarily destroyed by fire. Many apiarists who knew they had diseased brood would not admit it, and they considered the bee-inspector an enemy who delighted in destroying their bees because the law gave him the opportunity to do so. In 1899 the law was amended, giving the apiarist a chance to cure his own bees, and if he was successful the bees were not destroyed.—*American Bee Journal*.

W. L. Coggs shall has 1,517 colonies in New York, 200 in Mexico, and 300 in Cuba. He thinks that if he had possessed his present knowledge of beekeeping, some 15 or 20 years ago, he might now have been the possessor of 5,000 colonies.—*Exchange*.

Schachinger thinks bees possess herculean strength. He observed at a time a very small cluster of sixty-four bees hanging from an alighting board and only two of the bees clinging to the wood; all the rest were hanging on the two, thus each one of the two bees carrying or holding in suspension thirty-two sisters.—*German Bee Paper*.

An effective and cheap paint for hives: Take cabinet-makers' glue, cover with cold water, let stand twenty-four hours, then pour off all water that has not combined with the glue. Now add linseed oil (quantity not given) and boil slowly till all has become a smooth mass. This paint will become very hard and withstands all influences of moisture.—*German Bee Paper*.



## QUESTIONS.

17. Should a leading prize at shows be given for honey displays in grocers windows or counters?

T. JOHNSTON

17. I certainly should believe in such a prize. And it should not necessarily be given to the most expensively got up, or the largest. Say a dozen or less 4lb. tins, nicely labelled, a tin case painted, with glass front, that would hold 12 sections, and be ant proof, opening at back, which need only cost a few shillings, and a few glass jars to show the quality of the honey. A very nice attractive show could be made with such, that would help the sale materially in any grocer's shop.

LOYALSTONE.

17. Do I understand from this question that a prize should be offered for the best way of setting out honey, wax, etc., in a grocer's window. If so I do not think such a prize would be of any benefit. Many beekeepers know how honey should be set out in a window or counter, but the grocers very seldom care to take up so much space to make a display of one article alone. A small neat case to rest on the counter with a glass front is one of the best things to attract attention to honey. A prize for a case of this sort would not be out of the way at shows, but we do not want expensive cases exhibited, which would cost a fair amount of money, and which struggling beekeepers could not afford to have on that account.

F. W. PENBERTHY.

17. Mr. Abram is right so far as he is concerned himself, and a few others around Sydney, as their honey goes before the public with their own labels. But as for me, and I may say 95 per cent. of the honey that goes into Sydney, it goes before the public with the middleman's labels. If a grocer won a prize with my money it would do me more good than if I won ten prizes at the Sydney Show, because my honey does not reach the consumer with my labels. We take off just what the bees bring in, and if it is a good quality it is just our luck, the only thing we can control is the putting up. It is the quantity we want consumed, and the grocer has ten times the chance to increase the consumption of honey, than we have, and should be offered a prize in proportion. Mr. Abram is competing with the grocer which accounts for his feelings. The Sydney show is supposed to be a national affair, but so far as the beekeepers are concerned it is only local. The queens should be in the hands of the stewards at least three days before the judging to give a up-country beekeeper a chance to win a prize. If a queen is off laying she has not the slightest chance to win.

## QUESTIONS NEXT MONTH.

18. Give suggestions for practical work at the Annual Bee Farmer's Association meeting in April?

W. AGER.

19. Which are the best rules to follow in judging queens both for show and general purpose?

20. What should be the minimum price of queens?

## CORRESPONDENCE.

J. Y., South Gippsland, Vic., Jan. 6, 1902.—I am having an extra good season, the colonies, about 60, are as level a lot as a Doolittle would wish for.

T. S., Eskdale, Vic., Dec. 7th, 1901.—I am afraid by the look of things here that I shall not have to trouble you for any more labels this season. Hoping you will have better luck in other quarters.

J. G. C., Kangarilla, S. A., Jan. 2, 1902.—Matters are very quiet so far with the bees so far this season, spring dwindling being the raging fashion, and finding more empty hives than there is young swarms to fill. A light flow is now coming in from a white box bush. This being the first honey flow with us about this part in the off season, is looked forward to with great interest, especially by the bees.

D. G. T., Murrurundi.—My bees have the hives full, but I have not much heart in doing anything with them just yet. We have not one quarter the bees in this district now, but I suppose the ones that are left will thrive better. Mr. Gale told us one time that it did not matter how many bees were kept in a community the honey results would be the same, but I find like everything else on the farm, the more cattle the less grass, the more bees the less honey, in proportion.

J. A., Hexham, January 13th, 1902.—I had bad luck with the bees this year, there is no honey down this way. I have not got one swarm out this year, and lost a lot of the bees. Water is very scarce down here. I am sorry to tell you I got very bad luck with my tomatoes this year, and the crop of potatoes was a failure



with the dry weather. I hope you will have good luck with your bees. I think the honey will be a good price this year. I will go to Sydney if I can. I see you are getting a good few on the Bee Farmers' Association list.

S. T. M., Dungog.—I have had much discouragement with the bees; they wintered well, but spring dwindling set in during September leaving most of the colonies very weak, and my experience was similar to that of others mentioned in "A.B.B." though I came off much better than some, lost five hives out of 36. The ironbark flow very short one, the weather very hot and dry during December. Hope to get a good flow from spotted gum, if we get rain, which is now threatening. Bees now strong and doing well, but only one swarm to date.

A. P. H., Henty, Dec. 30th 1901.—This year I expected a good flow of honey from red gum (swamp red gum), the buds were very large on account of wet spring and now they should be coming out. There is only here and there a straggler bloom, and those have a little green grub in before they burst open, and each bloom is as dry as chalk while the balance of buds are at a standstill this last month. Of course we have had no rain since spring and that accounts for it. I have only extracted 18 tins ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ton) from 60 hives, but expect another robbing in two weeks' time.

P. M., Howlong, January 15, 1902.—I am sorry to say we are in for a bad season round here, there being no bloom on the river gums, and that is our main flow. There was some box bloom, but the bees were too weak to take advantage of same, and now that they are in good condition there is a failure in the gum. It is the same all along the Murray River, and I think honey will be very scarce this season, and that prices will go up later on. It is a pity that all beekeepers are not members of the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association and then it would be possible to get all of them together, especially during a bad year and regulate prices, a little because

there is no doubt but that there is a good deal of cutting of prices in the industry, and all that is wanted is co-operation amongst beekeepers, and that end could be attained by joining the B. F. A. Wishing you a good year and prosperity.

F. B., Broadwater, January 7th.—I have been away from home since last July with the exception of a few Sundays. I have only been through my bees once in the last 12 months, and lost all the best of the spring and the clover honey flow. What with sickness in the house and myself down too, everything has been neglected, but I am thankful to say we are all well here again now, and looking forward to better times. The swarming season is over I think now, the first two months they swarmed pretty freely, but stopped suddenly. The weather has been very dry, so trusting for a better season and a happy and prosperous new year to yourself and the Association.

W. B., Tumack, Tas., Jan. 6th, 1902. In sending my subscription for 1902 I wish to say that I am able to make good use of the information which the *Bulletin* supplies from time to time. To the busy beekeeper, who has no time to try experiments, and who needs to know what to do as occasion requires, such a paper is really valuable. I have had a good deal of trouble with the swarming business this season, but have them pretty well under control now. They are gathering honey nicely at the present time, and I expect a very good season if it doesn't become too dry, as the different varieties of eucalypti are blooming this year. Wishing yourself a good season and a Happy New Year.

J. L. S., West Tamworth, Jan 19th 1902.—Just a line to let you know I am not dead yet although I have been very ill and been away for a holiday. I think you mentioned something about the experience of someone always having yellow box honey candy, any honey will candy if it is not proffed in the hive or out of it, that is the reason that a summer flow is superior to an autumn or winter



flow. I have not got above two or 3 wwt this year and expect a pretty hard winter. I find that honey is scarce in Sydney and Newcastle and I do not wonder at it, as these droughts are appalling. I see nice blossoms between Newcastle and Sydney in spots where the bush fires have not ravished the country. It seems to be an excellent spot for an apiary, shrubs and trees of all kinds. We are getting all our trees rung here and will have to seek for new fields.

H. H., Waitahuna Gully, Otago N. Z. —I am only a small beekeeper, 6 or 8 hives spring count. We have no forest near, bees have to depend on orchard trees and white clover. Some sixteen years ago Foul Brood made its appearance here and then I bought Langstroth hives off the late Mr. Brikell of Dunedin. I tried all sorts of remedies but without success. I never left an old swarm for a second season but always the best young ones, and now for the last two years Foul Brood has disappeared. When putting on top stories this spring, having no gloves, I rubbed some carbolic powder over the hands and also sprinkled a pinch over the bees, which made them disappear rather quick. Would that powder falling between the combs be of injury to them? Our swarming season commences at middle of November, but it is new year and not a single swarm as yet, for every day it is rain and cold as if it was midwinter.

[Would not care to use the Carbolic Acid. Would it not be better to learn to do with the naked hand?]

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### To Preserve Drones.

To preserve drones, gather all the drone-brood you can find from the queens you have decided shall be the drone mothers, and mass this brood in one hive, tiering it up, if necessary, to accommodate this brood and an abundance of honey; for, the larger the hive and the more honey it contains, the better your chance of having the drones preserved in large numbers. When this drone-brood

is massed, the queen should be taken away from the colony and as often as a new queen commences to lay she should be taken away also, and this colony kept supplied with sufficient worker-brood to keep it in a prosperous condition, for on its prosperous condition depends the freeness of the flight of the drones on every suitable day. If you wish all of the drones which your queen are to mate with to be strong, robust fellows, on some cloudy day when the bees are not flying so as to endanger robbing, look this hive over and handpick the drones, killing all which you think are not such as you may desire. To do this best, take out the first comb and pick out as above, when it is to be put into an empty hive set on the stand originally occupied; and thus when you have gone over every comb, and such drones as may cling to the sides and bottom-board to the hive, your colony is just where you want it, without any extra handling of frames. You are now, in a measure, quite sure that the queens reared will come as near perfection as is possible along the line of right mating, and were it not that this plan requires much extra work, and care in feeding the queen-rearing colonies, so that fairly good queens may be reared out of season; and, also, that this late manipulation of colonies forfeits our chances of successful wintering, this would be the plan above all others to use. And with this plan I have reared queens which have proved of great value to me. Another plan is to take a hive containing only the best hand-picked drones to some locality isolated 5 miles or more from all other bees, and as often as may be, take a load of nuclei, supplied with virgin queens from the best mother, these being from 3 to 5 days old, to this isolated place, leaving them there from 8 to 10 days, when they can be brought home with laying queens, which will, as a rule, be all mated with the desired drones. With a proper rack fixed on any light spring waggon, from 12 to 25 nuclei can be carried to and fro at the one time, so



that this is not so very laborious as it at first appears, and it has this advantage: The queens can be reared at a time when nearly every queen will be perfection itself, as in this way all can be reared in the height of the honey season, when the best queens can be reared with the least work. Still another plan is to rear the queens and drones in the best part of the honey season, and, when ready, take the drone colony and as many of the nuclei as have queens of mating age, to the cellar, or some darkened, cool room, carrying them in before they begin to fly in the morning, and leaving them there till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, or till after all other drones have ceased flying for the day. If each nucleus and the drone colony are fed a little warm diluted sweet just before setting out, and the hives face the western sun, queens and drones will fly something as they usually do in the early afternoon, and the results will prove quite satisfactory.—G. M. DOOLITTLE, in *American Bee Journal*.

**FINDING BLACK QUEENS.**—The usual way is to look over the combs till the queen is found, and I suppose that is the way you mean you have done a hundred times over. After you have looked over the combs two or three times without finding the queen, it is hardly worth while to continue. Close up till some future time, not sooner than half-an-hour, and you may then find her the first thing. Another way is to put the combs in pairs. Put two of them into an empty hive, the two close together, but an inch from the wall of the hive. Put another pair at the other side of the hive. Dispose of the rest in the same way, using another empty hive, only leaving one pair in the hive on the stand. Now look at the first pair, lifting out the frame nearest you. If the queen is on either of these combs, you may be sure she is on the side next the other comb, so as to be out of sight as much as possible. As you lift out the comb glance over the side of the comb

left in the hive, and if you do not see the queen on that comb look quickly at the comb in your hands on the side from you. If unsuccessful in your search through the different pairs, let them stand for a time, and you will find the bees showing signs of uneasiness when the queen is missed. The pair that has the queen will remain quiet, and your search will now be brought down to those two combs.—*American Bee Journal*.

**TARRED PAPER FOR PACKING.**—Last winter I had two colonies, each in a ten-frame dovetailed hive, with a half-story full of sawdust over the enameled mat, and the whole hive from the under edge of cover to the ground surrounded by a single thickness of tarred paper. This was secured by strips of wood tacked around where the paper lapped. The entrance, of course, was left open. The results were all that could be desired. The two colonies wintered perfectly, were strong in bees, stores sound and combs dry, and were the first to have supers put on. So well pleased am I with the results that I shall try the experiment on a larger scale this fall. The tarred paper is virtually air-tight, at least it is wind and water proof; but when the sun shines on it its blackness causes it to absorb much heat. I often saw bees at the entrances of these hives when none could be found stirring in any of the others, and during the winter months I began to fear that the results would be disastrous, but they were quite the contrary.—A. C. MILLER, in *American Beekeeper*.

Do bees gather honey from corn? If you would determine this "corn honey" secretion for yourself, go out in the corn field before sunrise; walk in among the stalks, and watch the bees. You will find them fairly swarming over the tops of the corn. Step up closer, and you will observe that they insert their heads well into the bell-shaped cups, and work most industriously. Now pick off some of these cups, and strip them between the



thumb and finger nail, and you will see exuding a starch-like liquid, sweet to the taste. Return to this same corn-patch an hour after the sun has shone on it, and the bees will be absent. If the bees were simply after pollen they would continue their trips throughout the day; but as they are in search of nectar they discontinue their visits as soon as the sun has evaporated the nectar from the flowers. Since the corn nectar is to be had only in the early morning, the bees naturally gather from other sources throughout the day, and, in consequence, the "corn honey" of one section will not be of that of another section, as the mid-day sources of honey will differ. Corn, more than any other plant, closes its flow of nectar early, in consequence of its flowers being all exposed on the extreme tops of the stalks, and is, therefore, more in the direct rays of the sun. Go out into a corn-field and test the matter for yourself.—S. M. Schaeffle, in *Gleanings*.

My plan of operation to secure all capped sections at the end of the season, as nearly as may be is as follows: When the bees show by lengthening out the cells along the top bars to the frames that they are securing honey from the fields, I put on five wide frames of sections, each wide frame holding four one-pound sections each, so we have room to the amount of twenty pounds capacity to start with. These are left like this until the bees are well at work in them, when I add two to four more wide frames, placing these at the sides of those first given. When this room is fully occupied I give more room at the sides, to about the same amount given the last time, and where I use the tiering up plan I have it so arranged that I can expand in a small enough capacity so that the bees are not discouraged by having too much room given them at once. By the time the bees fully occupy the room last given them at the sides, the first twenty sections are ready to come off, and when this is taken off the partly filled sections on either side are drawn together over

the centre of the brood-nest, and wide frames of empty sections given at the sides again to the amount which I think they will need. Thus I keep taking off and putting on sections, or rather wide frames of four sections each, taking the finished ones from the middle and putting the empty at the sides, until the season begins to draw towards its close, when, as fast as full wide frames are taken from the centre the others are drawn up till the space is contracted to the original twenty sections, or even less if I think it necessary. In this way the bees are given all the space they require at any time, while the chance for many uncapped sections in the Fall is reduced to its minimum. In order to succeed even in this way, the locality we are in must be fully understood, else we may be still expanding at the very close of the harvest. No beekeeper should rest easy till he is fully conversant with the locality he is in, and being thus conversant he can use all of his plans so as to meet the requirements of his locality.—S. M. DOOLITTLE, IN *American Beekeeper*.

In Austria the best wax is found or produced in the southern portion, equalling the wax produced in buckwheat localities. The provinces Bohemia, Moravia and Galicia produce a soft wax, although a distinction has to be made between the wax from the western part of Galicia and that from the eastern. That from the first-named locality has a pitchy odor, while the other possesses the common odor of wax; is red or brown-yellow and fairly hard. The best of all known waxes is that from Turkey; it is red in colour and demands the highest price. The wax from Greece and its islands is nearly equal to it in quality. The southern part of France produces wax of better quality than the north. The wax from Spain is about as good as the best produced in France. Italy produces much good wax. The wax of India is of grayish-brown and has almost no odor. The wax production upon the Islands, as Timor and Flores, etc., is of importance,



Quantities of the product have been exported to China, where a great deal is consumed, and also produced. Egypt, Morocco and the Barbary States furnish a considerable quantity of very impure wax. Beeswax from the Senegal is rather poor and dark-brown in colour, accompanied by an unpleasant odor. Very good wax is produced in Guinea; it is hard and yellow, about as good as Russian wax. The American wax is usually dark and difficult to bleach. From Guadaloupe black wax from wild bees is brought into the markets. It cannot be bleached out.—*Illustrated Bienen Zeitung*.

A swarm has issued, and the old home seems deserted. A German writer thus goes on:—"And for all that the moment may appear gloomy, hope abounds wherever the eye may turn. We might be in one of the castles of German legend, whose walls are composed of myriad phials containing the souls of men about to be born. For we are in the abode of life that goes before life. On all sides, asleep in their closely sealed cradles, in this infinite superposition of marvellous six-sided cells, lie thousands of nymphs, whiter than milk, who with folded arms and head bent forward, await the hour of awakening. In their uniform tombs, that, isolated, become nearly transparent, they seem almost like hoary gnomes, lost in deep thought, or legions of virgins whom the folds of the shroud have contorted, who are buried in hexagonal prisms that some inflexible geometrician has multiplied to the verge of delirium."

I have harvested much alfalfa, also quite freely of sweet clover, and a little cleome. Because of irrigation keeping some fields of alfalfa in *prime* condition every year, we seldom fail to get more or less honey from it; but that it yields a *paying* crop every year is not true. In 12 years I have not taken at most more than six fair to good crops, and of these, generally speaking, I may say two were alfalfa, two red clover and two sweet clover. But, while two were almost ex-

clusively alfalfa, four were mainly so, and all were more or less mixed. Two seasons, if sweet clover had not come to my aid, my crop would have been a failure. Three and four years ago sweet clover gave me my surplus, while this year and last alfalfa was almost the entire crop, sweet clover growing in abundance but almost a complete failure so far as nectar was concerned.—E. C. AIKEN, in *American Bee Journal*.

Apis, in the *New Zealand Farmer* says:—The present season, which gave such favourable promise of turning out unusually good for apiary work, has proved more than disappointing. For several weeks past the weather has been very unsettled, with an abundance of wind storms, and big variations in temperature. There has been more than the average of clover blossoms about; in fact, I have heard from two or three quarters that there has been, and is now, an unusual quantity, and that a large yield of honey is expected from this source. There is certain to be a glut of nectar after the weather becomes settled again.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED,

*The Navy League Journal*, the official organ of the Navy League, published in Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W. London, England. It is devoted to criticisms and suggestions on the state of the British navy, and the necessity for its being in every way up to the highest state of efficiency.

*The Australian Poultry Keeper, Kennel Gazette, and Fancier's Review*, published by F. F. Hoddnett, 45 Palmer-street, Balmain.

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Entomology "The Life History of Two Species of Plant Lice, inhabiting both the Witch Hazel and Birch."

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture "Farmers' Bulletin No. 130, The Mexican Cotton-Pool Weevil," and "Some insects injurious to the violet, rose, and other ornamental plants."



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1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.
2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.
3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.
4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.
5. That every member with more than 50 hives shall be allowed an extra vote for every additional 50 effective hives.
6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.
7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.
8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.
9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.
10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.
11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.
12. Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.