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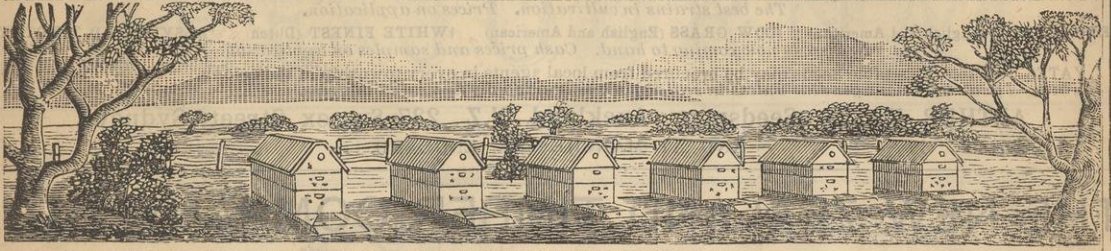
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*A. G. Bible* 4/7/88

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

THE AUSTRALASIAN

# BEE JOURNAL



No. 1. Vol. II.] AUCKLAND, N.Z., JULY 2, 1888.

[ PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
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if we tried to do so, the demand would fall off at once. We must not look for more than a fair payable price. What we consider a fair payable price for good extracted honey is 10s. per dozen 2lb. tins, or about  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. in 60lb. tins, and it should never be less. We are, of course, now speaking of good table honey; exceptionally good should be worth 11s. per dozen, and 4d. in bulk. Bush or mixed honey should never be put up for table use; for manufacturing purposes it should be worth about  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound. If these prices could be steadily maintained, neither beekeepers nor consumers would have cause to complain, and we are certain the industry would progress much more satisfactorily than it has done for the past four years. There is, without doubt, a much brighter outlook for beekeeping than there has been for a long time back, and it is to be hoped that our beekeepers will see in what has already been accomplished by the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association the advantages of co-operation, and decide to give it their earnest support.

### THE N.Z. FOUL BROOD ACT.

THE Executive Committee of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association have reason to congratulate themselves upon the evident desire on the part of the majority of New Zealand beekeepers to render them aid in their work of dealing with the foul-brood question, as shown by the large number of signatures appended to the petitions. Four hundred and seventy signatures were forwarded to Wellington, and twenty have been received since, making altogether 490. Now, as the signers knew that an Act was being drafted by the Committee for presenting to Parliament, and that the petition was merely to strengthen their hands in getting it passed, it speaks well for the confidence placed in the Committee, that the Act would be in every way a fair and impartial one, that so many have given their support. The Committee fully appreciate the honour, and have only the one desire—to do everything possible to promote the general welfare of the beekeeping industry. The Committee have only had one objection to signing or getting signatures to the petition sent them, and this, we are sorry to say, came from a quarter that we least expected any opposition from. For though there may be a difference of opinion as to the best steps to take to rid ourselves of a direful pest, there can be none as to the necessity of doing something that may be beneficial, especially when that something is what the great majority of us approve of. However, we hope those who have not helped the cause may never be troubled with diseased bees; if they are, they will, no doubt, change their opinion.

As will be seen by Mr. Lawry's letter in another column, he anticipates no difficulty in the passing of the Act, and at the time of his writing, the second reading was set down for the 14th of June, but up to the present time of writing (the 18th), we have seen nothing about it in the press. No doubt it has been delayed through the tariff debate. We have received a printed copy from Wellington, and find it almost word for word with the draft sent by the Association. Should it not be altered much in Committee, and we get permission in time, we shall publish it in this issue.

### THE PROPOSED DUTY ON IMPORTED HONEY.

THOUGH we incline very much to free trade principles, we believe there are times and circumstances when one may depart from them without being considered inconsistent. The action of the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association, in taking steps to get a duty placed upon imported honey, we quite agree with—not so much for protective purposes, to enable our beekeepers to compete with pure honey of foreign production, for we scarcely think they need this, but to check or to prevent the importation of cheap spurious honey. We know that in times past a great deal of adulterated honey has been sent to our colonial markets from America, and that a leading English trade journal recommended the sending of "manufactured honey" to Australasia; and though of late, owing to the increased local production of honey and its cheapness, there may have been but little demand for the foreign article *as now made*, still in these days of chemical science we cannot tell what to-morrow may bring forth in the way of cheap substitutes. In fair competition our industry would have little to fear; but if we are not protected against fraud, we may be at the mercy of unscrupulous dealers at any time. As we have no system of protection against the introduction into the colony of adulterated articles, the best thing that can be done is to make the cost of introducing them too heavy to be profitable.

In this instance consumers will not suffer, as the competition between our beekeepers will be sufficient to keep the prices within reasonable limits while the former will not run the risk of being imposed upon.

### FIXING THE SELLING PRICES OF HONEY.

IN an article on co-operation in the May number of the *Journal* of the National Association of Queensland, the editor of the Apiary Department, Mr. J. Cribb, favours the idea of fixing the selling prices of the different grades of honey, and suggests the advisability of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association adopting the plan. Now, the plan was tried here by the former New Zealand Beekeepers' Association some four years ago, and proved a complete failure, and our object is to warn our Queensland friends of what they may expect should they adopt the suggestion. Perhaps a brief outline of the course pursued here, and the result, will be the best way of explaining the matter.

For the first three or four years after the introduction of improved apiculture, honey sold at good prices in Auckland. The retail prices were for extracted, from 9d to 10d per lb., and for comb honey in sections, 1s. With increased production the prices rapidly fell to about one-half the above rates. Now those who had enjoyed the top prices had evidently been looking forward to an uninterrupted prosperity, at least for a number of seasons, so that when prices came down so quickly, instead of



attributing it to the true cause—increased production—they blamed the ‘middle man’ as the guilty party. Much dissatisfaction was expressed at the Association’s meetings, and it was at last decided to fix the selling prices at what was then considered fairly payable rates. Section honey was not to be sold for less than 10d retail, and extracted at 15s per dozen 2lb. tins, or 8s. per dozen 1lb. Ten per cent. was to be allowed on wholesale orders. Up to this time the secretary of the Association had been selling most of the members’ honey at the Association’s depôt, and had worked up a very good trade, but directly prices were fixed the whole of the grocers boycotted the depôt, and in a very short time, they succeeded in buying direct from non-members all the honey they required, the members’ honey was now lying as dead stock at the depôt; but the committee, with a determination not to be outdone if they could help it, employed hawkers to take the honey from house to house. This, however, did not answer, as the grocers could undersell them, and the whole scheme collapsed, but not before a deal of harm had been done to the industry and the Association.

The prices of honey must be governed, like those of everything else, by the supply and demand, and any attempt to bolster them up will result in failure. Let the Queensland Beekeepers’ Association encourage the proper grading of honey for market, and induce its members and others to put it up in the best marketable form. Let it encourage the use of honey by distributing pamphlets among the general public similar to those issued here, or by other means, but don’t attempt to tamper with the prices.

## PAINFUL EFFECTS FROM BEE STINGS

SOME short time since Mr. F. Hooker, son of Mr. S. Hooker, member of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Beekeepers’ Association, while on a visit to his brother in one of the suburbs of Auckland, amused himself assisting in the manipulation of his brother’s bees, Mr. S. Hooker also being present. The day being cloudy and dull, the bees were very irritable, and Mr. F. Hooker received rather suddenly two or three stings about his head, but thought very little of it at the time. In a few minutes, however, serious symptoms of blood poisoning set in. He experienced a fiery heat throughout his body and broke out in an irritating rash from head to feet. So intense was the feeling of heat that he took off his shirt and requested his brother to throw cold water over him, which, fortunately, was not done. The latter and Mr. S. Hooker now became alarmed, and decided to call in the nearest doctor, but suddenly thought that we would probably know the best treatment in such a case; so, instead of going to a doctor, called upon us. After Mr. S. Hooker related the

circumstances and described the symptoms we advised giving the patient as quickly as possible a strong stimulant in the shape of half a tumbler of neat brandy or whisky, and, if necessary, to repeat the dose after a short interval. We assured Mr. Hooker that this treatment had been found to answer well in similar cases, and it was one that we should unhesitatingly adopt ourselves.

Mr. Hooker drove home as quickly as possible, and gave his son about three parts of a small tumbler of brandy, which acted favourably at once, and he felt much better. About half-an-hour after, however, distressing symptoms again set in; this time he turned cold, while a clammy perspiration flowed from his body; he became almost powerless, his flesh turned blue, and he had great difficulty in breathing. A drink of water was given to him at this time, and shortly after he gradually came round. The next morning he was much better, but his throat was very much affected; it, however, gradually assumed its normal condition.

It may be as well to mention that Mr. F. Hooker is about 35 years of age, and we believe they were not the first stings he had received. The brandy had no effect upon him whatever so far as intoxication is concerned, though he took as much as would at ordinary times have made him thoroughly intoxicated, particularly because he is almost a total abstainer. Mr. Hooker, we think, came quite near enough to death during the relapse, but we feel convinced that had another dose of brandy been administered before it came on, he would not have felt any further inconvenience beyond, perhaps, some irritation of the bronchial tubes for a short time. The bee sting poison is very quick in its action, causing in some cases utter prostration, and in such as that described, a strong stimulant is the best thing to prevent collapse.

Mr. Hooker, learning that there is an account of a similar experience described in the *British Bee Journal* for 1885, page 235, wishes us to publish it, together with the editor’s remarks, for the benefit of others. We gladly do so in another column.

## THE NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—

“Have you noticed that in the new tariff there is no duty on foreign honey? There is a duty on glucose double what it was previously. Under these circumstances the foreigner has the advantage, and we shall not be able to compete with him, besides bringing the price for our pure honey down.”

We are aware that honey had been left out of the new tariff, and if our correspondent will turn to the proceedings of the N Z B.K.A., in this issue, he will see the steps we took immediately the tariff was published, and the letter it drew from our President. Since then the telegrams have announced the fact that 2d. per lb. has been imposed upon imperted honey. The extra duty on glucose is all in our favour, particularly as it was this stuff that we had most to fear owing to its cheapness.



## NEW ZEALAND BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Hopkins, Hayr and Co.'s office on Friday, June 1st, at 7.30 p.m.; Mr. O. Poole, vice-president, in the chair. The routine business having been disposed of, the sub-Committee appointed to inquire into the matter of railway freights on honey and bee material reported that they had gone into the question, but desired an extension of time, and would be prepared to give in a full report at the next monthly meeting. An extension of time was granted.

The Secretary stated that the majority of the foul-brood petition sheets had been sent in, and the number of signatures attached thereto was 470. He (the secretary) had forwarded the petition, together with the resolution passed at the last meeting *re* the advisability of putting a duty of 2d. per lb. on imported honey, to their president, Mr. Lawry, M.H.R., at Wellington. When the new tariff was published, the secretary seeing that honey was not among the dutiable goods, at once telegraphed to the president of the Association drawing his attention to the matter, and he (the secretary) had since received a letter in reply, which he would now read:—

DEAR SIR,—I have just received your telegram *re* the omission to place an impost duty on imported honey. I have seen the Premier, who has expressed deep regret at the inadvertence, and promised to use his utmost endeavour to rectify the error, and I have reason to believe that he will succeed in doing what we require.

*Re* the Foul Brood Bill, I think it will pass, as I have been offered a very large measure of support. I do not know whether it will pass exactly in its present form, but I do not apprehend any material alteration, more especially so far as it applies to the general principles of the measure, which is one calculated to suppress the disease, if, indeed, not to eradicate it altogether. The bill is now in the hands of the printer; the second reading comes on on the 14th inst., when, of course, I shall make a speech explanatory of the disease, and the serious drawback it is to the beekeeping industry in this colony.—Yours truly, F. LAWRY.—Wellington, May 30, 1888.

The Committee expressed their satisfaction with the way matters were progressing, and it was resolved that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Lawry and to all those who had obtained signatures to the petitions.

On the motion of Mr. Poole, seconded by Mr. Hooker, it was resolved, and the secretary was instructed, to obtain the two volumes of Mr. Cheshire's late work, 'Bees and Beekeeping,' to form the nucleus of a reference library for the Association.

Mr. Herbert's offer to microscopically examine suspected diseased bees and combs, and adulterated honey sent to the Association for that purpose, was then discussed, when a cordial vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Herbert for his generous offer. Mr. Herbert also promised to present to the Association a cabinet for keeping specimens of bees, combs, honey, and anything else in that might be desirable, as a sort of apiarian museum.

Mr. Poole gave notice that he would move at the next monthly meeting, 'That the whole matter of

marketing honey be discussed, with the view of arriving at the best and most economical means of packing and placing members' honey on the market for sale,' and he would prepare a short paper on the subject.

The usual vote of thanks concluded the meeting.

## VENTILATION OF HIVES.

BY T. J. MULVANY.

(Conclusion.)

THE calculation about the changing of the air in a hive owing to difference of inner and outer temperature, as given in No. 10 of this *Journal* (p. 150), seems to me to be also based upon assumptions which are incorrect. In the first place, the conditions of a Langstroth hive, whether of one or more stories, with very small openings both below and above, differ so entirely from those of a heated chimney, with an open fire-place below and a free opening at top, as to forbid the application in the one case of formulæ which may be quite correct when used for the other. It is true that the writer makes a considerable allowance to compensate for retarding causes in the case of the hive; the paper says it is assumed that these "may diminish the theoretical rate (of velocity) by some 200 per cent." I take for granted that this must be a misprint, probably for 20 per cent., though, as far as I can follow the calculation for the table, the allowance made seems to be nearer to 40 per cent.; but in any case such an allowance must be quite arbitrary, and the truth may lie as near 95 as 5 per cent., so that the result of the calculation can be nothing better than a rough guess. Secondly, the inner temperature of the hive is assumed to be pretty constant at 85°; but in point of fact it varies, without any fatal effect to the bees or brood, from below 50° up to 110° or even 120°. Thirdly, the calculation appears to be applied to the hives as if they were quite open *above the mat*, whereas the limits of the upward openings for ventilation in hives, as now generally constructed, are not to be found in the interstices of the mat material, whether they amount to one or to six square inches as assumed in the table (p. 150), but in the two round holes of  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. diameter each, in the ends of the wooden cover, which when covered by perforated zinc, if not further artificially contracted, offer a clear opening equivalent to less than half a square inch. From this cause alone I should say that even if the formula for the calculation were in other respects strictly correct, the results under column A would require to be reduced to one-twelfth, and those under column D to one-half, at the least.

At p. 168 (No. 11 of the *Journal*) J. R. M. comes to the following conclusions:—"Now, a well-known writer has pointed out that the whole air inside a hive has to be changed at least every half-hour when the temperature inside is 41° Fahr., and when the bees are most quiescent. In a temperature of 84° and upwards, it would be well to change it every half-minute."

The writer referred to in the first part of the



paragraph is, I presume, Mr F. Cheshire, who, in the second volume of his "Bees and Beekeeping," has given an interesting calculation of the quantity of fresh air required for a colony of bees when hibernating in a cold climate. It being impracticable to actually measure the quantity of air respired by a certain number of bees and under certain circumstances, Mr Cheshire has endeavoured to arrive at it in a very ingenious way by ascertaining the quantity of honey consumed in a given time, and calculating therefrom the amount of carbon requiring to be oxydised, the bulk of carbonic acid gas produced, and, ultimately, the quantity of fresh air necessary to dilute that quantity of carbonic acid so as to render it innocuous for the bees. In this way he arrives at the conclusion that the air in the hive may require to be changed once every half-hour under the most favourable circumstances for hibernating in a cellar, where the air (of the cellar, not that inside the hive, as above stated) is kept at an uniform temperature of 41°. He assumes the temperature in the hive to be kept up by the bees to be 65° at least, within their cluster. There are, necessarily, so many arbitrary assumptions in this case, that the calculation cannot possibly lay claim to anything like strict accuracy. It may be as nearly correct to say that the air should be changed once every hour; indeed that would be the result if Mr Cheshire had assumed, as he tells us he did in a former work of his, that 10 per cent. of carbonic acid might be allowed in the volume of air, but he now assumes that 5 per cent. is a safer assumption. In the case he had in view it would also appear that no upward ventilation of the hive was provided for at all, but that it was left to the bees to effect the necessary change of air through the entrance opening. This seems to be the rule with most apiarists who winter their bees in cellars, or in chaff hives in the open. Mr Root in his "A B C. of Bee Culture," says:—"The most prosperous colony I ever owned was one that was so completely enveloped in chaff that they sent a stream of warm air out of their hives during frosty nights in March strong enough to melt the frost about one side of the entrance." Mr Cheshire also says in his vol. ii., p. 530:—"Very strong colonies, if visited at an early hour on chilly spring mornings, will be pouring out a stream of condensed vapour—popularly steam—while the water from it will continue to drip from the alighting board, and if a lighted candle be placed in the outcast of air, it will be at once extinguished."

Now, I think it may very fairly be questioned whether this state of things indicates that the ventilation of the hive is properly cared for, or whether it would not be better to provide for such an upward *leakage* of ventilation as would carry off the carbonic acid and watery vapours along with the over-heated air, by slow degrees, just as they are formed, and without producing such a current through the hive as would injuriously affect the temperature. Mr Cheshire says that in former years he strongly advocated "that ventilation should be allowed through the top cover; further developments have made it doubtful

whether this is so necessary as was supposed." However, he concludes by saying, "I prefer *slow* upward ventilation." It is at all events evident that there is still much difference of opinion on this subject. Even the question of the best temperature for bee cellars is by no means quite settled. Mr A. C. Tyrrell, in the March number of the *American Apiculturist*, gives his experience of careful experiments made in three successive winters, with the result that he finds a constant temperature of 41° to 50° much too high, "that from 32° to 38° is the proper temperature of a cellar or cave," and that he does not fear for the safety of his bees if it drops occasionally to 28°. He finds also, by actual observation with "a thermometer laid lengthwise on top of the brood frames (*not among the cluster*)," that when the temperature of the cellar was 32°, that in the hive was 78°, or 46° higher. But however interesting this question of wintering in cellars may be, it is of no practical importance here in New Zealand, at least in the North Island, where our bees cannot be said to hibernate at all, though they may sometimes be confined to their hives for two or three days at a time, during heavy rains or high winds, but where the mean temperature in the coldest months of the year is seldom below 50°, and the minimum seldom below 40°, and when the bees can and do work well and gather both honey and pollen on every sunny day of the winter months.

As to the second conclusion come to by J. R. M. in the paragraph above quoted, that in a temperature of 85° and upwards it would be well to change the air in the hive every half-minute, I do not consider, for the reasons already given, that it has been at all proved, and I cannot conceive how it should be desirable under any circumstances.

The temperature of 85° and upwards is taken to be "the usual state of things under the direct action of the sun's rays, that is, not in the shade," but I think it is an error to take the reading of the thermometer in the sun as indicating the temperature of the free air. Surely the reading in the shade is the correct guide, while that in the sun is only varied by the direct rays of the sun acting upon the mercury as they do upon all solid surfaces directly opposed to them. During one summer, some few years ago, I registered daily the readings of two thermometers placed in our apiary, one in the sun and the other in the shade, and found that whenever the former showed a heat exceeding 85°, and up to 105° (the highest reading in the sun observed), the latter showed only 70° to 82°, or differences varying from 15° to 23°, the thermometers being within a few feet of each other. I conclude then that the outer air was not warmer at any time during that period than 82°, and generally not above 70° at midday, and that therefore the temperature of the outer air in this locality cannot be expected at any time to be higher than that in the interior of a working hive. If it should be so, the result could only be that the air within the hive, being heavier than that outside, would flow out through the entrance at the floor board, and be replaced by fresh air; there would then be the same temperature both



within and without until the bees should raise the inner temperature, when it would again equalise itself by reason of the warmer air rising, and passing out through the upper ventilation holes, if any such were provided; but in no case could a lower temperature be retained within the hive than that of the outer free air, whether there were an upward ventilation provided or not.

I assume therefore that, in point of fact, the temperature in a working hive, in good condition, is always higher than that of the outer air, even in our warmest summer days; and I believe that a slow upward ventilation will always take place in such circumstances, with the Langstroth hives as used here, sufficient to carry off the vitiated air according as it is formed, and notwithstanding that a thermometer placed in the sun's direct rays may read even so high as 105° or something more. The question appears to be, how far that upward ventilation may require to be increased, under certain circumstances, in order to obtain the most desirable degree of inner temperature? As I have said, I cannot conceive that it is ever desirable to change all the air in the hive every half-minute, or in anything at all approaching that rate; but I am not prepared positively to deny it, and with the limited information at present at command I don't know that even the most experienced apiarists can decide the question authoritatively.

Neither will I venture to assert that there would be no advantage, in this climate, in the use of double-walled hives with cork packing; but I am strongly inclined to think so, and to believe that well-constructed hives of seven-eighth inch wood are sufficiently non-conductive both for our winter cold, and for the direct heat of the sun in summer, especially as regards the latter, when they are well painted in white. I have not made any observations to ascertain how far the direct heat of the sun affects the interior temperature in summer; but I have done so on a bright sunny day in the midst of winter, and found, for instance, when the readings of the thermometers were 84° in the sun and 56° in the shade at midday, another thermometer placed over the mat and under the cover of a hive fully exposed to the sun, and containing a strong colony of bees, registered 65°, being 9° more than the outer shade temperature, and 19° less than that in the sun; and that at sunset and again at near midnight, when the outer temperature had fallen to 40° and 34° respectively, the thermometer in the cover of the hive showed 64° and 54°, or only 1° and 11° respectively less than at midday. I think this shows that the cover of the hive was sufficiently non-conductive for practical purposes.

The question whether there would be any advantage in adopting the mode of hanging the frames transversely to the entrance of the hive (which the Germans call the "warm system), was discussed in the *New Zealand and Australasian Bee Journal* in January, 1884. I then expressed the opinion (having tried both systems) that the longitudinal, or Langstroth mode, was rather preferable here, as aiding a better ventilation in summer and swarming time when it is most

wanted. I am still of the same opinion; but if it can be proved desirable to adopt the one system in summer and the other in winter it can be easily done by merely providing new floor boards of such dimensions that the hives may be turned at pleasure so as to present the long or the short side to the sunken entrance space in the floor board.

With these few remarks I wish to be understood, not as putting forward any fixed views of my own, but merely endeavouring to show how desirable it is to excite inquiry, and seek to obtain reliable observations of facts as a groundwork for the formation of any correct theory of hive ventilation.

[The proper ventilation of hives is a matter of very great importance, and one worthy the study of those who have a knowledge of the principles of ventilation sufficient to guide them, and leisure to pursue the necessary investigations. At present we lack that scientific knowledge of the matter that we should have, and, as Mr. Mulvaney says, we are guided by the "rule of thumb." We must admit, however, that for all practical purposes the rules laid down in most modern bee books, which are the outcome of practical experience, are not far wrong, when mischief arises it is through the non-observance of them. It would certainly be an improvement to have some arrangement by which the ventilation could be regulated automatically, but we doubt whether it would prove to be any more useful than the present system, except to careful beekeepers, as the careless among us would allow the arrangement to get out of order and remain so. However, the interesting articles on the subject by "J.R.M." and T. J. Mulvaney, treated as it is from a scientific point of view, cannot fail to draw attention to the matter, and induce those who read them to give the subject the consideration it deserves.—ED.]

## JOTTINGS.

BY LAHM DEARG ERIN.

IN the last number of the *Journal* I note an earnest appeal to the beekeeping fraternity by Mr. O. Poole, and also our worthy editor, to keep this journal going. It has been uphill work on his part to keep alive an interest in apiculture, and all credit is due to him and to those who have done their best to assist him; still we want more members, and a little canvassing by every subscriber to this journal, to add another to the list, will, I am sure, meet with success. If we want to keep the *Journal* alive we must individually look up fresh subscribers. It is bad enough to have all the hard work and trouble in editing and publishing, but it is still harder times to run the *Journal* at a loss. No beekeeper can deny that it has done good work in furthering the interests of beekeeping, besides being the means of disseminating valuable information; and, in my humble opinion, the recipes given for the eradication and treatment for foul-brood alone are worth a year's subscription to any beekeeper. To the member of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Beekeepers'



Association who has come forward and offered his services gratuitously for the examination of foul-brood and adulteration of honey, etc., I beg to tender my warmest thanks, and I shall eagerly look forward to seeing the result of his examinations in the *Journal*. I know well what these examinations mean, the hours of patient care and delicate manipulation that investigations of this kind will entail, and a generous offer like this, will indeed be fully appreciated by all intelligent beekeepers. The Secretary, too, is not behindhand, as I see he is in direct communication with Mr. Frank Cheshire, so if foul-brood does not 'back down' after this it won't be the fault of the Association.

[Our friend L.D.E. has given practical proof of his earnest desire to assist the *Journal* outside of his pleasant contributions by sending on three subscriptions for the ensuing volume, for which we express our gratitude.—Ed.]

## VICTORIAN EXPERIENCES.

BY C. FULLWOOD.

MY experiences in this locality (Hawthorn) have not come up to my anticipations, so far. But hearing all around that the past season was anything but a good one for the beekeeper, I am content to wait for the better one, and be thankful for whatever has been realised.

I trebled my number of colonies, although one swarm absconded, one colony vanished unseen, and one succumbed to disease. Merely trebling colonies is of very little moment unless it puts one in a better position for another season. I am not sure that in my case it is so to any great extent, excepting that all my queens are young and vigorous instead of old and effeminate.

Last season I had three imported queens. They are all superseded, and I now have their daughters, whose progeny are a motley crew, of varying tempers and qualities. Some of them will doubtless do good work next spring, unless the scourge foul-brood despoils them. But some of these hybrids are about as unprofitable stock it is possible to hold, and it appears to be almost impossible to secure pure impregnation about here. I will need to obtain new blood from some source next season in order to have a fair show of yellow jackets in my yard.

I extracted about 100lbs. of honey at end of last season, and certainly as fine a sample as could be wished for, coming nearer to the Matamata "Tower" brand than any I had before extracted. I believe the greater proportion of it was from clover. If I could ensure only a moderate income of such honey during the season, I would be fully satisfied. There would not be any difficulty in disposing of it at good prices.

At the last meeting of the Victorian Beekeepers' Association, a sample of the honey (?) that is now occupying the market, and labelled "Pure Garden Honey" (?) was put on the table for the beemen to pass their opinion upon. The conclusion arrived at was that not only the sample before us, but the

great bulk of the so-called honey being offered in the Melbourne shops, is perfectly innocent of any beehive: no bee ever had the handling of it. The sample was a most sickly, unpleasant compound, sticky, and leaving a peculiar taste in the mouth, the flavour intended to imitate orange-blossom honey.

This and other abominable compounds, and honey reduced by the addition of common sugar and water by some, I learn most of the beekeepers about here, who put their honey on the market, thus adulterate in order to keep it from becoming too thick to run out of the bottle. This is the stuff put up in bottles, 1½lbs., labelled and sold at 9s. per dozen to a 'cute, discerning Melbourne public for pure honey.

The Association is taking steps to expose and prevent this fraud upon the purchaser and libel on our little friends.

The honest beekeeper is thus handicapped, and a dislike to honey is produced by such dishonest practices.

We hope to see large exhibits at the Exhibition of Appliances and Honey from the sister colonies. The Association will assist intending exhibitors. Arrangements have been made by the President so that live bees may be exhibited.

So much for the present. Bees are put up snug for winter.

[Your Beekeepers' Association should lose no time in satisfying itself and the public with regard to the genuineness or otherwise of the various suspected brands of honey sold in your markets. If it is correct that beekeepers are mixing sugar syrup with their honey to keep the latter in a thin state, they have adopted what will prove in a very short time a suicidal policy. Such practices will eventually destroy the honey trade, and your Association should do all in its power to stop them. The public we know look upon granulated honey with suspicion, till they are educated in the matter. This was the case in Auckland, but now people do not care to purchase honey in a liquid form, think it may be adulterated.—Ed.]

## BEE GOSSIP.

BY O. POOLE.

KOEBE'S NEW COMB FOUNDATION.—Koerb's new comb foundation, mentioned by me in a former communication, and of which so much was anticipated, has turned out to be quite a useless affair. It is merely, says the *American Bee Journal*, comb foundation made on glass, wood, tin, cardboard, or other material, with the impression of the cells in wax on one side, the other being left smooth. The intention is to have the cells of double length, the midrib or foundation being at one side. As the editor points out, it is undesirable to have longer cells, because of the slower ripening of the honey, and the consequent hindrance to the bees.

ARTIFICIAL COMB V. COMB FOUNDATION.—The editor also complains that some periodicals have been injudicious enough to announce it as a new



*Artificial Comb* instead of *Comb Foundation*, thus giving some colour to the celebrated "Wiley lie." I fear that I must plead guilty, but it was a slip of the pen that the word "foundation" was omitted after "comb" in my last communication on this subject.

\* \* \*  
**THE WILEY LIE.**—It has always been a matter of astonishment to me how any person with a grain of common sense could swallow the absurd statement promulgated by Professor Wiley in America some years ago, viz., "That honey comb, after being manufactured, filled with glucose and sealed over, all by human skill, so nicely done as to escape detection, is largely sold as genuine bees' honey, when the bees have had nothing to do with the whole process."

\* \* \*  
 Coming from a scientific man, the statement was generally believed by the public, and incalculable harm was done to the honey trade in America, and the fable is still believed by many persons. On the professor being called to account, he excused himself by saying that he meant it only as a "scientific pleasantry," amusing, no doubt, to himself, but decidedly unpleasant for the unfortunate beekeepers with tons of comb honey on hand.

\* \* \*  
 The circulation of this falsehood has done and is doing so much harm to American beekeepers, notwithstanding the efforts of the various bee journals to refute it, that in the April number of *Gleanings* Mr. Root made the following offer:—"I will pay \$1,000 dollars in cash to any person who will tell where *comb honey* is manufactured by machinery, or I will pay the same sum to any one who will find manufactured comb honey on the market for sale." Mr. Root, your dollars are safe.

\* \* \*  
**HIVING SWARMS.**—Mr. C. W. Hellams, in the *American Bee Journal*, describes a novel way of hiving swarms. Being in his 78th year, and getting too old to climb trees after swarms, he adopted last season the following plan, which he thus describes:—"I planted a pole in about the centre of the bee yard about 50 feet high, with a tackle block at the top of it, and a cord to reach to the ground. When the bees began to come out to swarm, I ran the hiving box up as high as most of the bees were flying, keeping the box moving slowly up and down a few feet, and often by the time the bees were half out of the hive they would begin to gather in the hiving box. As soon as they were settled I lowered them carefully, and took them to the hive already prepared for them." In a large apiary I should imagine that several poles would be necessary.

\* \* \*  
**SPANISH BEE JOURNAL.**—Apiculture seems to be progressing with great rapidity in every quarter of the globe, and a new journal (the first of its kind) has just been published in Spain. It consists of eight pages only, and is entitled the *Apicultural Review*.

\* \* \*  
**DEATH OF MRS. TUPPER.**—I regret to have to

record the death of Mrs. E. S. Tupper, at one time a great American authority on bees. Of late years the deceased lady had been suffering from mental aberration, brought on, it is said, by pecuniary difficulties. To her is attributed the axiom, "Bees do nothing invariably."

\* \* \*  
**COD LIVER OIL AND HONEY.**—For the benefit of any of your readers who may have to take this nauseous medicine, I clip the following from the *American Bee Journal*:—"Take one-half pound each of cod-liver oil and extracted honey, add the juice of two lemons, and shake it until it is thoroughly mixed. It will be found a pleasant as well as a beneficial medicine." It may be explained that the oil and honey will not mix without the addition of some acid, hence the lemon juice.

\* \* \*  
**HONEY FOR HOME.**—The value of the honey imported from the United States of America during the year 1886 into Great Britain amounted to £27,107. How much longer are New Zealand beekeepers going to look quietly on, whilst another nation is monopolising this legitimate trade?

\* \* \*  
**THE HONEY MARKET.**—I notice with much pleasure a rise in the price of first-class honey in the Auckland market. Now, I think this is entirely to be attributed to the publication of the honey pamphlet by the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association and through the influence of this *Journal*. Now, in a case of this kind it is not only the subscribers to the *Journal* and the members of the Association who are benefited, but the *whole* of the beekeepers in New Zealand, all of whom, if they want to see the honey industry take its proper place in the commercial world, will not hesitate a moment in joining the Association and becoming subscribers to the *Journal*.

\* \* \*  
 We should not in any case allow the committee to become hampered and circumscribed in their work from the want of funds; if beekeepers would only turn up and become members, giving us an income of something like £40 or £50 per annum, I think they would soon find the honey trade to be a vastly more payable concern than it is at the present time.

\* \* \*  
**A MODEL BEE FARM AND ITS ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT.**—I have just had the pleasure of reading the above highly interesting book, by Mr. Samuel Simmins, of England. It is highly interesting, and deserves a place on the shelf of every beekeeper. I hope to be able to notice it at greater length in your next issue.

\* \* \*  
**TWO-OUNCE SECTIONS.**—Mr. W. Harmen, of Mainstee, Mich., has devised a plan whereby a Langstroth frame may be filled with forty two-ounce sections made of shavings or veneer. The whole process is described in *Gleanings* for April last. I trust you will be able to reproduce the article and illustrations before the coming season sets in, as I consider the idea a very good one. Mr. Harmen sells these small sections when filled at



five cents each, or 1s. 8d. per lb. He says they are readily bought by children instead of sweetmeats or candy, and that there is no nuisance of daubing or leaking in cutting up. I should imagine they would also do capitally for samples; in fact, for that purpose you could almost afford to give them away.

**ERRATUM.**—In my communication for May, page 170, line 6, for "lime water" read "brine water."

## Correspondence.

*[These columns are open for the discussion of all matters connected with Apiculture, but the Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed by his correspondents, who will please give their name and address, not necessarily for publication. When referring to any previous communication, please quote month and page.]*

### NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE JOURNAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I am sorry to see by your leader in this month's *Journal* that you have been working the concern at a loss. This cannot be expected to continue, and therefore those amongst the beekeepers of Australasia who really attach importance to the existence of such an organ for their industry as you have furnished them with, must stir themselves a little to prevent its possible collapse. If each of your present subscribers can succeed in getting another to subscribe, well and good; but I confess I feel not too sanguine on that point, knowing as I do how many people keep bees who will scarcely give themselves the trouble to read a bee-book or a journal, much less to subscribe for one. It seems to be rather a matter of pride with some that they are *too practical* to spend their time or money in that way. On the other hand, I think there are probably few of your present subscribers who would willingly let the *Journal* die if they could prevent it at a cost to themselves of much more than double the trifling amount of their subscription, and I would suggest to those who think with me in this matter, that if they cannot easily find you a new subscriber, they can at least themselves subscribe for two copies for the next year, and distribute the second copy from time to time amongst non-subscribers, who would very possibly be led by that means to become regular readers and supporters of the *Journal*. Please put us, Mulvany & Son, down as subscribers for two copies for the ensuing year.

THOS. J. MULVANY.

Bay View Apiary, Katikati,  
June 13, 1888.

[It is a very generous act on the part of Mr Mulvany, after gratuitously assisting to make the *Journal* instructive and interesting by contributing the able articles which have appeared under his name, to subscribe for a copy that he has no need for. It is more than could have been expected, and it shall not be forgotten by us when the time comes—and we believe it will—that the *Journal* is paying its way. We thank him very much, and take this opportunity to thank Mr O. Poole, who also takes a deep interest in the progress of the *Journal*.—Ed.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I feel sure that following your appeal for assistance in obtaining new subscribers you will have a large increase to your list. After what has been accomplished during the last twelve months through the aid of the *Journal* it is not at all likely now that you have put the matter plainly before them, the beekeepers of these colonies are going to allow their organ to languish for the want of sufficient support, when with a very little exertion on their part they can secure it for you. I can send one to a beekeeping friend in the old country, so you may send me two copies of the *Journal* in future, and I hope to secure you two new subscribers shortly.—Yours truly,

O. POOLE.

## BEEKEEPING FOR PLEASURE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—With the exception of a very short interval, I have had the pleasure of keeping and looking after two or three hives of bees continuously for the past 30 years. I say pleasure, for to me, who am passionately fond of studying insect life, beekeeping has been a real and lasting pleasure, though I have had an eye to profit at the same time in the shape of honey for home consumption. Since the first slab of honey, cut from my first hive (a straw skep), was laid on our breakfast table, we have rarely been without a supply of that delicious sweet in the house. I claim to be nothing more than an amateur beekeeper, as the extent of my beekeeping never got beyond four hives at the most, but two or three were the usual stock, for my regular business pursuits prevented me extending my apiary. After getting thus far in my letter, you will probably ask yourself what all this is leading up to; be patient and I will tell you presently. My straw skep experience was in one of the midland counties of England, but the skep was quickly changed for the Woodbury hive when I came to know the difference, and it was in a Woodbury of my own construction that my first swarm was domiciled in New Zealand. Comb foundation, as we know it now, had not at that time been invented, nor did I know of it until I read a copy of the first edition of your *Manual*. Since then my small apiary has been fixed up in the orthodox fashion—Langstroth hives, comb foundation, sections, and all the other et ceteras that go to make up a complete fit out, and I must remark that I don't begrudge the outlay for these appliances, for they have increased the pleasure and the profit of my beekeeping.

You are no doubt aware that I was a subscriber to the old journal conducted by yourself, and, like many others, was very sorry when it ceased to exist. It seemed to me that I was shut out from the beekeeping world, that I was left to potter along as best I could, without a chance of learning what my neighbouring beekeepers were doing, and I can assure you it was with real delight I learned of the advent of this *Journal*. I now look forward regularly to the coming of the *Journal*, and should miss it more than ever if anything happened to prevent it paying its periodical visits. I am sure that every intelligent beekeeper must admit your contributors to be men of good sound reasoning powers, capable of leading in all cases of difficulty, and while we can command such men, and a medium of communication for learning their views, I have no fear of beekeeping in this country going back upon us.

You, however, cannot be expected to keep the medium going at a loss to yourself, and putting all sentimental feeling on one side, those interested as a matter of £. s. d. to themselves *must* make it pay. It is no use saying I cannot afford to subscribe; if you are a beekeeper looking for pleasure or profit from your bees, you will get little of either, unless you know what is being done by others, and this you cannot know without a journal. There is probably not one of us who now subscribe to the *Journal*, but what, if we try, can secure at least another subscriber, and some perhaps more than one. So let us all do our best and give the Editor and proprietors the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts in our cause is entailing no loss upon themselves.—Yours truly,

W. T.

Wanganui.

[We have to thank our correspondent for his kind remarks, and we do not doubt that all our old friends will do their best for the *Journal*.—Ed.]

### NOTES FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AUSTRALASIAN BEE JOURNAL.

SIR,—I have now gone through what I may call my initiation into the art of beekeeping, having completed my first year at the business. I cannot boast of being very successful so far as securing surplus honey is concerned, the total yield only averaging 30lbs. per hive. But then I have met with adverse circumstances, which I suppose to a greater or less degree are inseparable from beginning. In the first place, the colonies I bought were in all kinds of odd domiciles, and many of them were of little account, and in the next



place I lost some through lack of time to give them the proper attention. My best colony gave me a yield of 177lbs., after building out all their combs from strips of foundation, and enough honey was left in the hive to serve for winter food. I may mention that all the surplus honey was secured during March and April, and some colonies were not deprived at all, but all have a good supply for winter; in fact I expect to have to do some extracting in the spring to make room for brood.

There has been a great rush into the beekeeping ranks in New South Wales of late, and the market has been glutted with honey for some little time past, consequently the prices are much lower than formerly. From 2½d. to 3½d. seems to have been about the ruling figures, but things appear to be improving a little. The policy of beginners is to rush their honey into market as soon as secured in any kind of packages, regardless of style or taste. There is a great deal put up in pickle bottles, and in this style used to sell at 10s. per dozen bottles, but I hear they have lately been sold as low as 5s. 6d. per dozen. I have sold very little yet, and as I haven't very much, I shall not trouble about packing it this year, though I am quite certain that tastefully put up honey will command a ready sale, when slovenly packages will lie on hand. No doubt a good many of our beginners will drop out of the beekeeping ranks when they find they are not so successful as they anticipated.

I see you did not quite understand my communication *re* honey board in the *A.B.J.* for March. I have tried the plan and I like it very much, and shall construct all my hives in future in a similar manner.—Yours truly,

ROBT. FRANKS.

Parramatta, N.S.W.

[Thirty pounds a hive is not by any means a bad average for the first season, considering that you had all the difficulties of transferring and working up weak stocks to cope with at the start. We are rather at a loss to understand what you allude to. Kindly explain.—Ed.]

## Reports.

### FROM KENT APIARY, N.S.W.

My last season was a very successful one. I started in the spring with 25 colonies, increased to 59, and took 6,866lbs. of honey, a trifle over 274½lbs. per colony, spring count. I think you will say that my report is a very good one. A. J. LURCOCK.

Gosford, N.S.W., May, 1888.

[It is indeed a good one, and we hope you may be successful in disposing of it all at a good price.—Ed.]

## Queries and Replies.

QUERY.—*Bees building comb over wire.*—I wired some frames and only put in starters of foundation, and the bees built out the whole of the combs over the wires very satisfactorily. Is this uncommon, and are the combs for practical purposes as good as if the wires had been embedded in foundation?—ROBT. FRANKS, N.S.W.

REPLY.—It is not new to have bees build over wire, but as it is not so profitable as supplying them with all the foundations for their combs, it is not very often practised. We see no reason why such comb should not be of equal value to those built on foundation. When wires are exposed at the base of the cells, the queen will not lay in them, hence such combs lose much of their value for breeding purposes, but when the wires are covered the combs are all right.

QUERY.—*Breaking combs in extractor.*—While extracting in hot weather I had several combs break from the frames. Is this a common occurrence?—ROBT. FRANKS, N.S.W.

REPLY.—It should not be a common occurrence. See whether there is any fault in your extractor. The wire cloth against which the comb rests in the extractor should be perfectly flat and rigid; if it gives ever so little when the basket is spinning round of course the comb will follow it,

while the frame will be held in its place by the stiffer framework round the wire-cloth, hence they part company. When extracting from heavy combs, be careful to turn the extractor gently at first to lighten the comb a little, then turn the comb round before you have emptied the first side completely.

## TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

THE *Journal* is posted to every subscriber on the day of publication, but should any go astray, we will gladly post another copy if notified before the edition is exhausted.

Those who have not received the whole of their copies in due course please notify us at once.

## Extracts from Foreign Journals, etc.

### THE DRONE.

OUR POOR, SLANDERED DRONE ASKS FOR HIS DAY IN COURT.

[1615.] 'Virgil, who was a great poet, but not enough of a practical beekeeper to know a laying from a virgin queen, was the first writer of much note to have his fling at me. To him I was only an idle knave, born to consume the fruits of others' labours, and deserving no better fate than death, by ignominious expulsion from the industrious commonwealth. Ever since he so grossly libelled me, to compare one to a drone is the most orthodox form of denunciation for laziness, gluttony, and what has been called "general cussedness."

Now I am proud to say to this Court, that I can disprove every charge brought against me by simply proving that, to the best of my ability, I fulfil the express object for which I was born. Surely no creature can do better than this, and excuse me for thinking that few men do as well.

CHARGED WITH LAZINESS.

If any of my enemies had authority to call the roll of my demerits, he would surely begin by accusing me of being too *lazy* to gather any honey. But an expert in points of this kind could remind him that if he examines my proboscis, he will see that it is much too short for sipping nectar from the opening flowers.

MAKES NO WAX.

I am free to admit that I make no wax, but even Cheshire himself, whose microscopes have fairly turned me inside out, will tell you that I have not a single wax-secreting gland, and am also without those plastic, trowel-like jaws, which enable the worker-bees to mould the wax into such delicate combs.

GATHERS NO POLLEN.

Now do not insinuate that I might at least employ some of my leisure time in gathering pollen. Can you not see that my thighs have no basket-like grooves, in which it could be packed, and are quite destitute of the hairy bristles by which the workers hold the pollen in place?

ACCUSED OF BEING A LAZY COWARD.

No doubt you have often denounced me as a big, hulking coward, that leaves to the women the whole defence of the State. Are you not aware that I have no sting to fit me for acting on the offensive?



Would that I had one proportioned to my bulk! if only that I might make proof of it upon all who berate me for not accomplishing impossibilities!

I am not at all ashamed to admit that I spend the most of my time not given to eating, either in sleeping, or in what you are pleased to call listless moping about the hive. Has it never occurred to you that if I should try to assume the restless activity of a worker-bee, I could be nothing better than a meddling busybody, perpetually interfering with the necessary business routine? I guess the silly meddler who would put me up to such nonsense ought more than once to have had a dish-cloth pinned to his rear, to teach him not to bother the women in their work!

#### MISUNDERSTOOD.

I am sorry to number Shakespeare among those who have misconceived me, by calling me 'the lazy, yawning drone.' But as one of my maligners have likened me to Falstaff, I may be allowed to quote in my own defence what this great braggart, when accused of cowardice, says of himself to the Prince: 'Was it for me to kill the heir apparent? Why, thou knowest I am as valiant as Hercules; but beware instinct; the lion will not touch the true prince. Instinct is a great matter; I was a coward on instinct. I shall think the better of myself and thee during my life. I for a valiant lion, and thou for a true prince.' I lie not, like the false knight, when I say that what you call my laziness is a matter of pure instinct.

With all your boasted reason you seem to have entirely overlooked the doctrine of the conservation of forces. You upbraid me with consuming so much of the precious honey, to the gathering of which I contribute nothing! Well, if I made a single uncalled-for motion, would not that necessitate an extra consumption of food? What better can I do, then, than to keep as quiet as possible? There is nothing either inside or outside of the hive which calls for any other line of conduct until the young queens are on the wing, and as they do not sally forth until long after noon, why should I go abroad any earlier? I can assure you that if bridal excursions were in order as many hours in the day as the flowers secrete honey, no worker would ever be earlier to rise, or later to go to bed, than myself.

#### MISREPRESENTED.

I, an idle, lazy, listless loungeur, forsooth! Does any one wish to witness the most perfect embodiment of indefatigable activity? Let him then look at me, when at the proper time, with an eager, impetuous rush, and a manly, resonant voice, I sally from the hive! See with what amazing speed I urge, what our old friend, Samuel Wagner, called my 'circumvolating' flights! For aught you know I may cover greater distances in describing these vast circles than the busiest worker in the longest summer day. There is great need, then, that I should be abundantly provisioned for such exhausting excursions, and it is only a law of nature that on my return from them all that I carried out with me should be found to have been used up. If you taunt me either for the full or the empty stomach,

I merely ask you if you have never heard of honeymoon trips among your own people, which began with extra-full purses, to end only with uncomfortable-light ones?

#### SAVAGE DELIGHT OVER MY DEATH.

To cap the climax of your abuse, what savage delight you take in seeing the workers drive me from my pleasant home! And how glibly you can moralise over what you call a righteous judgment upon a life spent in gluttony and in glorious ease! Just as if you did not know that the whole economy of the bee-hive is founded on the strictest principles of utilitarianism. Is not a worker-bee, when disabled by any accident, remorselessly dragged out to die, because it can no longer contribute to the general good? Even so exalted a personage as the queen-mother herself, as soon as it is plain that her fertility is too much impaired, she has a writ of *supersedeas* served upon her, in favour of one of her own daughters.

Knowing well the law under which I was born, I urge nothing against being put to death when Shakespeare's 'pale executioners' deem the day of my prospective usefulness to be over. Truly the sword of Damocles is suspended over my head, and from the hour of my birth till that of my death, it may fall at any moment. Many bitters are thus mingled with my sweets.

I have time to mention only one more. While I know that most of the young queens come safely back from their wedding excursions, I cannot help sometimes foreboding the worst when I see that no drone ever returns to tell us of his experience.

#### APPRECIATED BY BONNER.

I will close my defence by reminding you how the good father of the great Scotch beekeeper, Bonner, showed his appreciation of our persecuted race. It was his custom to watch every year for the first flying drone. Its cheerful hum so filled him with delight, as the happy harbinger of approaching swarms with their generous harvest of luscious sweets, that he called an instant halt on the work of his busy household, and devoted the rest of the day to holiday feasting. The patron of the drones ought forever to bear the honoured name of 'Saint Bonner.'

#### THE DECISION OF THE COURT.

Sir Drone:—This Court having heard your defence, declares it to be a true and manly one, all those to the contrary notwithstanding, who would further injure you by calling it nothing more than crafty, special pleading. It only regrets its want of power to punish adequately your slanderers. But, alas, my worthy fellow! you must not expect too much from this acquittal. Remember how difficult it is for Truth to overtake a Lie that has got a start of only a single day. No doubt the time will come when those who have been stigmatised as the

#### 'LAZY FATHERS OF THE INDUSTRIOUS HIVE'

will be held in due honour by the world; therefore console yourself with this bright hope for the future of your race, while you protest against the lies that have had so many centuries the start of your true story, that you may well despair, in your short lifetime, of ever overtaking them.



## MORALS FROM THE DRONE'S PLEA.

It were easy to draw more than one good moral from the drone's plea, such as, 'Do not give even a dog a bad name unless you are quite sure he deserves it;' but the moral which I think at the present time can hardly help suggesting itself to well-read beekeepers, may be very fairly styled the

## MORAL OF THE PROFESSOR WILEY SCIENTIFIC-PLEASANTRY LIE.

It is only too well known, to the sorrow of most of our large honey-producers, that some years ago Professor H. Wiley, an entomologist in the service of the Government at Washington, published substantially this statement, viz.: That honey combs, after being manufactured, filled with glucose, and sealed over, all by human skill, so nicely as to escape detection, are largely sold as genuine bees' honey; when the bees have had nothing to do with a single step in the whole cheating process. This absolute falsehood having got a good start, as coming from a *scientific man* (?), has widely, at home and abroad, prejudiced the public against buying the purest honey in the most beautiful combs.

Many times have I heard the above story spoken of as either undoubted truth, or have been asked if it were not the truth. It has been refuted again and again, and large sums of money have been offered by responsible parties to anyone who will produce even a small specimen of such a man-made product; and yet the story is constantly appearing in print in America, Europe, and not long ago even in Australia. It has found its way into a periodical of as high repute as the *British Bee Journal*, and it sometimes seems to have a greater vitality for *mischief* than when it first started on its hurtful career.

Professor Wiley, when called to account for fabricating such a story, thought it a sufficient excuse that he meant it only as a '*scientific pleasantry*.' Could anyone wish him a harder task than over his own signature to try to stop the march of such an inexcusable utterance? Could there be a stronger condemnation of his conduct in this matter than the words of Holy Writ?—'As a madman who casteth firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am I not in sport?' (Prov. xxvi. 18, 19.)—L. L. LANGSTROTH, Dayton, Ohio, March 8th.

## EFFECTS OF STINGS.

LAST evening, at the outset of the operation of removing some sections from one of my hives, I received a sting on my left wrist owing to the coat-sleeve having risen above some too short-topped gloves I was wearing. The sting was at once carefully withdrawn, and I proceeded with my work, avoiding any rubbing or pressing on the wound. In less than half-an-hour I became conscious that my feet had grown too large for my shoes, and that my upper lip had swollen and become rigid, and, from the feeling I had, that I should be much more comfortable than I was could I be divested

of all my clothing. I suppose the process of expansion must have gone on from 'top to toe.' In less than another half-hour a violent irritation had taken possession of my whole body, resembling, I may say, what I would suppose to be the result did one in a state of nudity fall headlong into a bed of stinging nettles; and it was with difficulty that I could withhold my fingers, and even my thumb-nails, from perpetrating dermatic abrasions on every part of my body. In a little time there supervened a bodily agitation which I could not control, the action of the heart being much quickened, and there being also a very threatening sensation of sickness. This stage of progress was succeeded by frequently-recurring incipient cramps in the legs, which by brisk walking about I could with difficulty restrain before reaching their most painful degree of tension. The pleasant (!) experiences were parts of the sweets of my honey-taking for between three and four hours, at the expiration of which time I became nearly myself, except that the irritation to some extent remained, and except also that 'tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep,' would have nothing to do with me that night; and so left me the more leisure to ask you if you will be kind enough to let your other readers and myself know whether these are common results of bee stings, and whether, if they are, when the wound has been once inflicted, there are any certain means of staving them off. I am the more interested in the reply that can be given to these questions, having last year gone through the same process as that I have detailed to you from a sting in my left whisker. The virulence of the poison, that from so small a quantity can in so short a time affect the whole mass of the blood as in my case it apparently does, is something marvellous.—B.D.

[The symptoms which you so graphically describe are, fortunately for beekeepers, not very common. It is known in medical language as *Urticaria*, or 'nettle-rash,' and often follows from eating shell-fish, cucumber, mushrooms, etc., as well as from taking medicines like nux-vomica, turpentine, etc. It is also caused by the bites of insects like gnats, or, as in your case, by the sting of a bee. We should advise you to try carbolic acid on the wound, but it must be applied at once. If, however, this is not done, or if in spite of it the 'nettle-rash' appears, sponge the parts affected with the following lotion:—

R. Glycerini	...	...	One ounce
Liq. Plumbi Diacet	...	...	Two drachms
Sp. Rect.	...	...	Four drachms
Aque ad	...	...	Eight ounces

—ED. *British Bee Journal*.]

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