



# **The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. I, no. V**

## **August 13, 1892**

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, August 13, 1892

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# THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

VOL. I. No. V.

AUGUST 13, 1892.

PER COPY, 6d.

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## THE AUSTRALIAN BEE BULLETIN.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

E. TIPPER,  
High St., West Maitland.

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Booked, 6s 6d.

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Sunny Hill Apiary,  
Cardiff.

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*The Australian Bee Bulletin.*

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# *The Australian Bee Bulletin*

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

EDITED BY G. R. HARRISON.

WEST MAITLAND.—JULY 11.

## Have We a Remedy?

### ADULTERATION AND ADULTERATORS.

If adulteration is highly immoral, and inimical to the interests of the consumer and the honest producer, is it a thing for which we can find no remedy? According to the theory of constitutional government, which is, that the government is the true voice of the people, the remedy should be exceedingly simple. Thus, all interested in fighting this iniquitous state of things have only to instruct their parliamentary representatives to bring in a bill to abolish it, and lo, it is done.

If this is so, why is it that this blot still remains? Simply because the theory of our government is at variance with the practice. Instead of its being the true voice of the people it is the voice of commercialism only.

Then what is the practice? We find, upon critical analysis, that the democratic spirit, upon which we so much pride ourselves, is entirely a myth. The leading features of our government are principally that a man bedecked with much gold lace and hat of peculiar shape, is sent by the government of a small and distant

country to take charge of us and our government—in fact to govern us. But then we have autonomy—the power to govern ourselves. We have elective government. Does not that give the people the power to govern themselves? Let us see. We have the choice between two, three or more candidates, but all more or less representing commercialism. When elected, the successful candidate does not represent those who have sent him, but only himself, though occasionally he may try to give colour to the fiction that it is otherwise. Then the imported governor chooses one of the elect to be their leader, and his choice will naturally fall upon the one who will most forward the interests of *his* country. Then this leader chooses others to assist *him*, and they collectively, practically, control all legislation, and are called, not the *people's*, but Her Majesty's Ministry.

The modern parliaments throughout the world are representative only of commercialism, as shewn by their membership, which consists principally of importers, landlords, lawyers, bankers, auctioneers, proprietors of manufactories (not manufacturers)—all interested in buying and selling only, and not in production, while the *producer* is rarely to be found, and never in a majority. So, though divided into two parties, called in England Liberal and Conservative, in America Republican and Democrat, and in Australia Freetrade and Protectionist, we find that the parties are always ready to stand shoulder to shoulder if any blow

is attempted to be struck at Commercial interests.

Thus, our boasted constitutional government is a hollow lie, and until we can make our parliaments truly representative of the wishes of the people, we may look in vain for help from governments, unless we can combine with a solidarity which will make us, the beekeepers of Australia, an organisation which can command the respect and fear of governments, while every individual must personally work to bring about the democratisation of government.

Adulteration is but a symptom of the corruption of our social and commercial system, and the remedy must be radical.

#### **Foundation not Artificial Comb.**

For many years the beekeepers of America and of the world, with G. H. Newman at their head, have been chasing the "Wiley Lie" of artificial comb filled with glucose and capped with a hot iron.

Artificial honeycomb cannot be made, and is not likely to be.

Beekeepers, when showing foundation to the uninitiated should be exceedingly careful to speak of it as such, and never lend themselves to the accursed and groundless "Wiley Lie," by calling it artificial comb.

We speak thus because we have received a Cowra paper containing a description of one of the prize apiaries in which the apiarist is twice credited with thus giving the "Wiley" Professor a lift.

We will have the fight to carry on here, and every beekeeper must look to it that he does not forge bolts for the enemy.

No! call things by their true names. Foundation is not artificial comb, because it is not comb until the bees have made it so.

#### **The Doolittle Bees.**

We have had a great discussion upon the comparative merits of the Italian and Black bees, with evidence pretty strong on both sides, but in both cases the bees are as nature gave them to us, we have heard very little of either when taken by a master hand to breed to a high ideal.

Mr. G. M. Doolittle, early in his bee-keeping career, which has been a long one, began to breed queens to produce an ideal bee, which should possess every quality which is desirable, while eliminating every point which was objectionable.

This was, no doubt a large order, but over fifteen years of consistent, intelligent breeding, carried out by the most careful, practical, and observant, of beekeepers, could not fail to impress upon the bees of his breeding far more good points than can be looked for in any strain produced by *natural selection*.

It is not in the power of the average beekeeper to import direct from the great breeder himself nor is it necessary. We have in New South Wales an apiary stocked with Doolittle bees, that of Mr. T. H. Bradley, who, with the assistance of that enthusiastic and scientific apiarist, Miss Bradley, are following in the steps, and working up to the ideal of the master who has founded and is perfecting this world-famed strain.

The August number of the *Australian Farm and Home*, the Victorian Dairymen's paper, a department of which is run for the Victorian beekeepers, is to hand, and has an article with some new points, and some old points treated in a new way, on the foul brood scourge, by James Bennett, of Talarook; an article for beginners on extracting honey, from C. W., Pioneer apiary, Echuca; and a paper read at the late Melbourne Convention by A. Beuhne, of Garfield; a note upon native bees, which apparently applies to our solitary carpenter bees, and

not our little friends *Apis Tregonia*; and a notice of the fact that the Beekeepers' Supply Company have added a zinc perforating machine to their plant, with a sneer at the Protective tariff which has rendered it expedient; besides other good matter, while the Dairy Department is full of cream skimmed from many dishes.

The only house in Sydney which has hitherto made a speciality of bee goods is Hebblewhite and Co., of George-St. They are now well stocked for the coming season, you will find their specialities enumerated in their advertisement.

Major shallard, of the Blue Mountain Apiaries, Glenbrook, advertises especially select queens, which he is replacing on the Manum principle. He is also opening a commission branch, and will sell honey and bee products on commission.

Among the many new advertisers who are taking advantage of our columus will be found the W. T. Falconer Company, of New York, U.S.A., who make all standard American bee goods at standard rates.

We have received from Mr. L. T. Chambers, a copy of his Manual for beginners, entitled "The Colonial Bee-keeper," and also a neat simplification of the Porter bee escape. He is also advertising the cages and gear for 4 and 6-frame Stanley automatic reversing extractor, as well as full lines of supplies.

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### Rendering Wax.

READ AT THE JUNE MEETING OF THE  
H.R.B.K.A. BY M. SCOBIE.

Beeswax is very often much deteriorated while being rendered. Many bee-keepers wonder how it is that their wax which they had carefully rendered should be such a dirty color, while neighbour Jones, who certainly is very careless about this work as indeed in everything else, always gets a beautiful bright sample. The explanation is very simple: many bee-keepers use a vessel to render their combs or wax in, made of some

metal which injures the colour of the resulting wax, though it does not necessarily follow that the quality, beyond color, is injured. An old iron boiler is very often used in which to melt wax, with the uniform result of a dull, dirty looking article, which is a standing puzzle to the bee-keeper making it, as despite all his efforts, it will be of this objectionable color, and never of the desired bright yellow or pure white, which he recognises as his ideal. If a vessel made of galvanized iron should happen to be used then even a worse color may be expected. Bee-keepers, if you wish to get nice, clear, bright wax, never use iron or galvanized vessels to melt it in, but select those made of tin or copper, or even earthenware (a kerosene tin is suitable for small lots), and you will get nice wax every time so long as you do not let it burn.

Take the vessel off the fire as soon as its contents are fully melted if you wish for bright yellow wax, and let it stand to cool, when, unless some of the rubbish should be of the same gravity as the wax, it will be at the bottom with a cake of wax on top.

Should it be intended to melt combs in which young bees have been bred they should be well soaked in water before being melted down, as otherwise much of the wax will be absorbed by the cocoons, which each succeeding generation reared in the cells has left behind them. These cocoons will float in the wax, and means must be taken to separate them, and a plan often used is to put the combs, which should be well squeezed as well as soaked, into a bag made of some very open material, and sinking it below the water used to boil the mass. Care should, however, be taken to keep the bag from contact with the bottom of the vessel, by placing below it some strips of wood or the bag may be burnt, and also the wax discoloured. Always watch the wax when on the fire, or it is likely to boil over and the result will be an un-wished-for illumination.

Nearly every person keeping bees already has a plan of separating the cocoons and other rubbish from the melted wax, so there is no occasion to enlarge on this part of the subject, but the real cause of failure in getting good wax is, as stated, using iron or galvanized vessels in rendering the combs.

So far mention has been made of such methods as are adapted to the wants of the bee-keeper who only occasionally has wax to render, as in the case of the box hive man, or who has not much of it to do, but for those who are always needing to render wax there is the Jones' wax extractor and other makes, and that useful, always-ready appliance, which should be found in every well-regulated apiary, the solar wax extractor. By this every scrap of waste wax may be melted as soon as found, and none of it need be left lying round as a breeding place for bee-moths. It is just the thug for rendering cappings, and the amount of honey it will save from them even when they are apparently thoroughly drained is astonishing. This honey of itself would soon pay the cost of the extractor, though the colour of the honey is a bit darkened by the heat, and the flavour slightly affected.

The Gardens Apiary, West Maitland.

### More Seasonable Hints.

BY C. MANSFIELD.

I once saw a remark, made I think by the late C. H. Spurgeon, in speaking of the practice of muffling up the neck, that he "believed in taking care of his neck by putting nothing on it." In like manner for the present we shall be taking the greatest care of our bees by leaving them alone. But the Spring will soon be upon us, when we shall manage our little servants with the greater pleasure through having things in readiness.

In the June number of the *Bulletin* I had something to say about hives and frames, and as the provident apiarian will still be busy making these a few

more remarks may not be out of place. And as many are, I fear, deterred from the business by the expenses incurred in obtaining bar-frame hives, my hints will have an economical cast.

For hives, one of the most prominent beekeepers of the Hunter, uses common kerosene cases, purchased at about sixpence each. With a little alteration, these take his frames (three-quarter Langstroth) crosswise. But good colonial pine, cut to size at the mill, ought not to cost much more than twenty-five shillings per hundred superficial feet, and this quantity would make six Langstroth double-storey hives, costing about four shillings and sixpence each. Frame stuff (Colonial pine) can be had in Maitland at fifteen shillings per thousand feet run, and a hundred feet would be ample for a two-storey Langstroth hive, and the total cost, apart from workmanship, would then be about six shillings.

Again, many bee-keepers can not afford the time for wiring frames, nor the expense of procuring foundation comb. For such I would advise the following course; melt some wax in a tin with a spout, provide a smooth strip of wood, previously saturated with water, lay this strip along the under side of the top bar of frame (the frame being inverted, and held in a slanting position) and pour in at one end enough of the melted wax to run to the other end. In a few seconds this will set, and the strip of wood can then be removed, leaving a ridge of wax along the centre of the top bar to act as a starter. I find this to answer for ordinary purposes (especially for new swarms) as well as starters of foundation comb. Of course with starters the hives must be fixed in a horizontal position.

A brother bee-keeper informs me that the bees will build their combs so as to include parallel wires previously fixed in the frames. I have not tried it myself, but intend to do so soon.

While speaking of frames, I am reminded of an anecdote to the point. A

tyro in bee-keeping would have bees in frames, so made a frame hive and put a swarm into it without guide or starter. By-and-bye, he opened his hives, and essayed to lift the frames, when lo! the combs were built across the frames. He carried his tale of woe to a professional bee-keeper, who enquired as to the kind of bees he put in those frames. "Blacks," said the tyro. "Then what else could you expect from such uncivilized creatures," said my friend.

Hunter River Apiary, Largs.

## BLACKS V. ITALIANS.

[BY WILLIAM NIVEN.]

I wish to say a few words, with regard to pure Italian and Hybrids Versus Black Bees. For some time I have noticed Articles have appeared in print, the last by Mr. Shaw of Mudgee, all extolling the Italian to the very highest, and disparaging the Black Bee as not worth keeping. Having attained my success as a Beekeeper entirely with the Black Bee, I feel it my duty to make known the results obtained for the two past seasons, and feel sure they will compare favourably with either Pure Italian or Hybrids.

I commenced the season of 1890—91 with 66 hives, and increased them to 119. I may state that at the commencement of the season, many of those were no better than Neucleii, they having suffered from the Bee Moth and been much neglected. About 30 hives of the 66 had to build the combs in the supers. I do not use foundation merely giving them thin strips of wax, of my own Manufacture, as starters. Taking 92 hives out of the 119 as those producing surplus honey they gave an average of 165 lbs. per hive. I commenced the season of 1891—92 with 119 hives, and increased them to 142; taking 130 as producing surplus honey; the average has been up to the present time 139 lbs per hive, and I have considerably over a ton still to extract which makes the average almost the same as last season.

In reading Gleanings in Bee Culture, I have taken notice that in America, where the admirers of the Italian Bee, consider they have brought it to such perfection. Mr. Doolittle, who is considered a great authority on the subjet admits, that, at the present time 40lbs. per colony is the average yield per colony for the honey season, and it is from the progeny of these bees, that the admirers of the Italians in this colony, are looking forward to for such good results; There are many beekeepers who make a living from rearing and selling Queens, it is to their benefit to have articles in praise of the Italians continually before the public in the form of an advertisement.

In manipulation I find that I can work much faster with Blacks than with Italians. In the production of comb honey that produced by Blacks is far superior in whiteness and should at all times command a penny per pound more in the market. In January, 1890, I purchased a pure Italian queen from Mr Taylor, of Cowra, and had six hives of hybrids working side by side with Blacks, but as many of the latter were producing the largest quantity of honey I gave them all my attention. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I am not prejudiced against either race of bees, for I consider that, with care and proper management, good results may be obtained from either. Many who advocate the Italian bee would make it appear to the novice that in commencing beekeeping it is absolutely necessary to have Italians in order to be successful. This is not as it should be. I have already given authentic accounts of my bees for the two last seasons, and there are other gentlemen in this district who have obtained results equal to mine. In starting an apiary it is much more expensive to start with Italians, as they have to be purchased at a high price, and afterwards there is always an outlay in purchasing fresh queens. It is not so with the black. I have travelled the greater por-

tion of this colony, and in all parts that are suitable for beekeeping we find black bees already established in the bush in hollow trees. To start an apiary all that is required is to transfer them to hives. There are other points I could make on the subject, but do not wish to encroach on your valuable space.

Sweet Home Apiary, Engowra,  
18-7-92.

[Friend Niven, when our American brethren calculate their average, they take the result of the whole apiary, your average would look less if you divided your crop by 119 instead of 92, &c.

Doolittle is in an exceedingly poor place for honey, and runs for queens, not honey, and to get 40lbs. as an average over several years is not bad here.—Ed.]

## RAISING QUEENS & ITALIANISING.

BY J. E. TAYLOR.

(Continued.)

Now, say I to myself, those bees from below come up and don't kill these queens, why should they kill her if I take away their old queen and give them one of these? By Jingo! if I can only do this to each hive where I want to supersede a queen what a glorious victory. Which I assure you can be done; but now comes along this trouble; most of my queens that I want superseded are in different width hives, and as I had over a hundred such, I could not afford to buy two sheets of queen-excluding zinc for each hive, even supposing they were all 3-storey hives—which most of them are not,—and it would not do to be cutting these sheets to fit different hives (I now make all my hives to same measurement) and besides I did not want to be bothered to take off top frames to put in zinc excluder, how could I obviate this (mind you, though my hives are not all the same width, some holding eight frames in each storey, others as many as fourteen, remember all my frames are interchangeable.) Could I not make a frame that would hold my ordinary frame, and that I could put into any hive I wished?

Yes, I made several in different ways, with wood on each side like a division board feeder, tin nailed on the ends and a double bottom of perforated zinc. Hooray! said I, I'm getting at it now, but lo and behold when I want to bore the hole in upper storey the tin end of frame obstructs me. Well, I could make a hole in this tin to come directly opposite the exit hole in upper storey, but then I could not depend on these holes always coming exactly opposite, and the chances were that there was a space between the tin end of frame and the inside of the hive which would allow the old queen from below (mind you I have abolished the sheet of zinc between the two stories to save expense) to go into this frame or allow the young queen to go below and have a royal encounter. I was very much disturbed about this, so were a good many of my night rests—but all's well that ends well—so here goes for the grand result. Oh, wait a minute though! Doolittle has a sheet of queen excluding zinc over the bottom frames, then a queen-excluding division board; but, as I stated above, this is too much expense and too much trouble. His plan no doubt answers well for rearing queens for sale, but then I want to rear a queen in each hive where I want a queen superseded and those hives are not prepared for working his plan. How I am to utilize this method in my hives containing stocks without the trouble of taking out top frames and fitting queen-excluding boards—why simply enough. Make a frame of bare  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. stuff  $6/8$  wider than your brood frame if you only want it to hold one frame, or wider proportionately to hold two or more, tack on queen-excluding zinc top and bottom of this little frame, lay in on the frames of the bottom box close to the side of the hive, now put down a division board (of which you should have plenty not in use in summer), get any frame or frames that you please place them between division boards (not queen-excluding), place strips on top alongside of top bar of frame to

close space, insert queen cell whenever you please, have a queen hatch out whenever you please, and by letting her out through a hole bored into her royal apartment, get her mated, and after she is laying take away division board and small frame with queen-excluding zinc, if you require them for other hives, if not leave them there till you do, but transfer frame with young queen to the other side of the division board after you have removed the old queen, and then you have your new laying queen introduced (no, by the bye she wants no introduction—she has met them before).

Now I've learned a wrinkle from Doolittle (please remember that all the above experiments I carried out before I had

any idea of Doolittle's plan), if as he says by letting these young queens run down below she will be sure to supersede the old queen, why hooray! I can just let each queen run down into the hive below where she was reared, and need not trouble to find the young queen. I am rather doubtful about this, but intend to risk a few queens to try, and will report result. However it is a certainty that if you rear your young queen as stated above in the same hive as you want to introduce her, or rather where you want her to stay and take the old queen away at the time you liberate the young one there is no danger or further trouble.

Cowra and Coota Apiaries,  
Cowra.

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Write to DRUMFIN APIARY, West Maitland, for COMB FOUNDATION.

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### Adulteration and Adulterators.

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Blue Mountain Bee Farms,  
Glenbrook, N.S.W.

DEAR EDITOR,—I am very much pleased indeed to see you are taking up the subject of adulteration. This is a good practical step in the right direction, and I hope our brother bee-keepers will keep the ball rolling until either the Government take some action, or they succeed in educating the public sufficiently on the subject to prevent the sale of the injurious compounds now sold as honey. I am certain that the bee-keepers of the colony do not recognise the importance of this subject. They do not recognise that it is the adulterator who keeps prices down, and in fact cuts the foundation from under their feet. If they did they would not take matters so quietly. I know of seven firms in Sydney who are bottling and selling adulterated honey on a large scale, and there are *fifty bottles of these firms' honey sold for every one of pure honey*. If these people were not in the business look at the market you would have for your honey. You might imagine that pure honey would drive the adulter-

ated out of the market, but it will not. The adulterators have the inside running. Firstly,—because they can supply the grocers all the year round, bad seasons having no effect on them. Secondly,—they can sell cheaper. Thirdly,—they are often wholesale grocers, and the retail man gets his honey (?) with the other goods. We can get no help from the Government, as samples of honey bought at 7s 6d per dozen pickle bottles, at a time when *any* sort of honey was selling at 4d per lb., was pronounced by the Government Analyst *pure*, and as honey at 4d per lb., cannot be bottled at less than 9s per doz., therefore these parties were working for less than nothing and keeping themselves. I think that if the H.R.B.K. Association made adulteration a prominent feature in their debates, it would have a good effect if they could get them reported. On one occasion I sold two tons of honey to a bottler, which was too dark for my own trade, at 4d per lb. On visiting his place some time after I noticed he had some tons of sugar in stock. This party was selling a lighter honey than mine at 8s 3d per doz., and as you cannot bottle at 4d under 9s, he must have bottled at a loss if the honey

was pure, but as the honey he bought was very dark, and what he bottled very light it is plain he adulterated. I told him the bee-keepers were determined to stop adulteration. He said they would first have to prove that he used anything injurious. He did not pretend that he bottled pure honey. I sent a sample of his honey to the Government Analyst, and he said it contained six per cent. of sugar. If he had said six per cent. of honey he would have been nearer the mark. The H.R.B.K.A. could issue pamphlets warning people not to buy any honey unless it had a bee-keepers' label on it, but it is no use an individual doing so. I hope everyone will have a dig into this subject, and see if we cannot do something *at once* to educate people. The libel law of N.S.W. was not built to screen rogues, but it has that effect.

MAJOR SHALLARD.

◆◆◆◆◆

*To the Editor of the Bee Bulletin.*

SIR.—Do you know anything of the "Budlea Globosa" as a honey plant? It is a bushy shrub, growing to the height of about twenty feet, and from the beginning of July it commences to bloom most profusely. I do not know of anything to equal it for wealth of blossom. The flowers send off a very strong perfume, not unpleasant, and in the morning they are covered with bees, more or less during the day, and again in the evening. I have just noticed what to me appears somewhat peculiar. The black bees seek for the freshly opening floret, and after dipping into them once or twice leave for others of the same age; but the Italians take more time over their work, and remain for some time longer on each floret, and also work away at others that have been open for a longer period, endeavouring to extract everything obtainable from the flowers. I dare say you may have seen the shrub growing in some of the gardens about Maitland, or I would send you a spray of flowers. If it is any good as a honey plant it may be very easily

propogated by cuttings, and will grow into a large bush in about two years.

Yours truly,  
T. H. A. CHAPMAN.  
Manning River, Aug. 2, 1892.

P.S. Swamp mahogany, and a variety of brush flowering plants are now in bloom. I am endeavouring to introduce Italians on this river. Have received a couple of queens from Mr Mansfield and safely introduced them. Have you any experience with honey candying in the comb? What can be done with it?

[The "Budlea" is an old friend, but I have not experienced it as a honey plant, but have always suspected it to be good.

When honey candies in the comb it can only be removed by the bees if you wish to save the comb, otherwise you will require to melt it down.—ED.]

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly correct a couple of errors that crept into my letter in your last issue. Mr. W. Abram started his bee-keeping career on the 3rd June, 1867, not 1876, and Mr. Hopkins, of New Zealand, is Mr. Isaac Hopkins, not J. Hopkins.

I will have much pleasure in sending you three tins of honey for transmission to the Editor of the *London Standard*.

I am glad to inform you that bees are in great buckle here. The White Box trees are in bloom, to my knowledge, for over 100 miles. I have been out on the hills lately, the bush is a regular mass of bloom, and the trees a regular hum. One great drawback in White Box tree honey is its extraordinary thickness, from some combs it is impossible to extract it. If you take a glance down the extractor when the cage is revolving it puts you in mind of a lot of cobwebs.

If the present weather continues, we may expect some early swarms. Drones have been flying in number for some time past; in fact, from an odd hive they have been flying all through the winter.

I notice where Mr. Bray has been writing something about importing bees and queens in the *Daily Telegraph*. I sent a reply to his nonsense, but the editor seemed to labour under the impression that publishing anything practical would be a great mistake, and conse-

quently several letters from bee-keepers were condensed into a small paragraph.

Wishing you and the *Bulletin* every success.

Yours faithfully,

W. SHAW.

Write to DRUMFIN APIARY, West Maitland, for COMB FOUNDATION.

### Doolittle and Alley Queens.

DEAR EDITOR.—Will you kindly allow me to state through your columns the fact that I imported Doolittle and Alley Queens some four or five years ago. I would not trouble you only people have evidently got the impression that the recent importations were the first, which is not so. The season before last I got a dozen queens through Messrs. Dadant and Son, seven of which came through in splendid condition, and as I have had other successful shipments, I was rather surprised at *Gleanings* raising so much dust about their success. Please understand that I do not wish to detract in any way from the credit due to the gentlemen who have had energy enough to import these last lots, but I simply wish it to be understood that I was breeding from these queens years ago, and almost all my stock have that strain through them.

MAJOR SHALLARD.

Blue Mountain Bee Farms,  
Glenbrook.

### Answers to Correspondents.

Mr. James Cavanagh, Mt. Alford, Dugandan.—Ha ! ha ! ha ! you have the laugh this time. We have fixed it up.

Mr. R. Mankin.—Your suggestion of sending a good large sample to Her Gracious is good business, only, anything we do to bring forward the superiority of the Australian honey is playing into the hands of the glucose fiend, and gives him a new name to sell his poison under.

Mr. C. Burrage, Mt. Pleasant-st., Manly.—The candying of honey is a nuisance, but many people like it best in that state. Honey of high density does not readily granulate, and it is asserted that honey hermetically sealed while hot (say 120 deg. F.) cannot do so.

Earnest J. Kendall, Kendall Dale, Milton.—My own strainer is a wooden box, which will fit on a kerosene can. Instead of a bottom the box has a piece of fine brass wire gauze—this is quickly cleaned with a wooden scraper. We can procure and mail you two super feet of it for 2s 6d. Some use tea towelling. Cheese cloth is too open when used singly. The great thing is to have plenty of surface; any material will clog.

Scrudner and McClure, Five Dock.—As your hives would only be painted upon the outside, the fresh paint would not be likely to hurt your bees. I suspect that they have an attack of bee paralysis, for which McLain's remedy for foul-brood is recommended.—[ED.]

We have a good paper in hand by Dr. J. R. H. Gaggin, of Lismore, on introducing queens in winter by chloroform.

By invitation we went the other evening to the residence of Mr W. S. Pender, to see him imbed wires in comb foundation by means of electricity. He first shewed us the battery, which consisted of three cells. Laying a wired frame on a closely fitting board so that the wires rested about one-thirty-second of an inch from it, a sheet of comb foundation was laid on the wires. The poles of the battery were applied to the wires at the end of the frame, a current sent through them which had the effect of melting the wax round the wire, and sinking the foundation till the wire is in the centre of the wax, which cooling immediately the wire is firmly imbedded.

**OUR QUESTION COLUMN.****Use of Drones.**

Question 3.—Do Drones assist in Evaporating Honey?

No.—GEORGE GREEN, Palmers Island.

Will give this best.—W. SHAW, Mudgee.

I am unable to see how they can.—S. A. BRADLEY.

I hardly think so; am inclined to think otherwise.—GEO. KNIGHT, Kiama.

Do not assist in evaporating. They are of no use in this case—J. MURRAY WALLACE, Manager Garangula Apiary, Murramburrah.

Cannot say, but think the most they do in the hive is to help eat it.—J. WILSON GREEN, Logan River, Queensland.

Yes, but to a very small extent, not worthy of consideration from a practical point.—B. NAVEAU, The Osborne Apiary, Barrengeary.

I have seen nothing to indicate that they do. I am inclined to think their uses are for other intents.—J. TUCKER, Paterson.

Surely it follows—nevertheless, in a climate such as ours, I do not think they are worth their board.—G. R. HUMBLE, Warrah, Willow Tree.

No! Good job too! I don't want my *honey* evaporated. They assist to ripen the honey by increasing temperature of the hive.—J. E. TAYLOR, Cowra and Coota Apiaries.

I doubt if a drone ever replaces a drop of honey in a cell of honey comb. I believe the honey he has given to him he keeps.—J. F. Munday, Iona Apiary, Woodville.

I don't think they do, as they only increase when queens are getting old. I think they ought to be destroyed.—ADAM KIRKPATRICK, Blayney.

I cannot speak from experience, but I say that they are necessary in the hive, or the Almighty would not have placed them there.—P. S. GRUNSELL, Goulburn.

Not to the benefit of the apiarist; it certainly disappears, if there are many of them about, but in the wrong direction.—R. J. CRIBB, Brisbane, Queensland.

Yes, by keeping up the temperature of the hive. My experience proves that if drones are present in such numbers as to make any perceptible difference in the temperature of the hive, such hive has very little honey to evaporate.—A. J. C. VÖGELE.

Yes, but to what extent I do not know. I believe that the wholesale destruction of Drones is a gross mistake; the industrial bees require drones, and produce them; when not requiring destroy them—i.e., drones are useful to the bees apart from queen fertilizing.—PETER RIDDELL, The Bee Farm, St. Ives.

I think "not much." If you saw the quantity of liquid extruded by my bees when on their way home these dewy mornings, you would imagine their loads of honey would require very little further evaporation. There is not much use for drones in an apiary. But how to curtail them—there is the rub.—CHAS. MANSFIELD, Largs.

I cannot answer this question, but do not think that they answer any other purpose than that for which they are created. My reasons for saying so are these: that the drones do not even always feed themselves, but beg the food from the workers, and they have to feed them.—H. NAVEAU, Hamilton, Victoria.

Never saw any doing so, or assisting in doing anything else. There may or may not be anything in the theory of conservation of heat attributed to the drone. For my own part, I would rather have *honey gatherers* to do the evaporation business overtime instead of keeping any drones to do it. I have noticed that should the gathering be light, drones are not asked to assist in anything, but are relegated to a far corner on the bottom board.—L. T. CHAMBERS, Franklin-street, Melbourne.

Yes, I am inclined to think that they do when a hive is over-swarmed with drones. I have not given this question any great consideration, as I never allow my hives to have but a few drones in them. I cannot speak to the point on this question, but everything points to the fact that they do evaporate honey when it is coming in freely.—ALICK PARKER, Redbank Farm, Narandara.

I cannot reply definitely to this question, but will give a few questions that may cause a little thought. How do bees evaporate honey? Is it by the heat they generate by clustering, &c., and fanning the moisture laden vapour out of the entrance? Or is it by taking the nectar into their honey sacs and driving off the surplus moisture by respiration—this being done by them in transferring it from one cell to another until it is in proper condition for sealing? You see it depends on how the evaporating is done as to whether drones assist. How and from whence does honey get its acid properties?—W. S. PENNER, Drumfin Apiary, West Maitland.

The drone cannot be said to assist in evaporating the excess of water from honey, whether it is done as some observers contend, by the bees manipulating the honey, because the drones only handle to consume it, or whether it is done entirely

(as other observers maintain) simply by increasing the heat of the hive, and by forcing out the vapour from the hive. Undoubtedly the drones raise the temperature of the hive; but the trouble, during the time when they are numerous, is for the bees to keep *down* the temperature. Many beekeepers succeed in reducing the number of drones to less than 100 per hive, and some hives are entirely without. Is the product of these hives less dense as a rule?—EDITOR.

## Hunter River Beekeepers' Association.

### JULY MEETING.

The usual monthly meeting of the above was held in the Technological rooms, West Maitland, on Tuesday evening, the Vice-president (Mr J. W. Pender) being in the chair. The following gentlemen were also present: Messrs M. Scobie, W. S. Pender, J. Harden, E. Tipper, Patten, Munday, Tucker, Pullen, Boyce, Badcock, and J. Noad.

Several samples were placed on the table, including pepper tree honey from Mr Shaw, of Mudgee, and ironbark honey and honey vinegar by Mr W. S. Pender.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following letters were also read:—

Department of Agriculture,  
Sydney, 20th June, 1892.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 13th Instant drawing attention to the resolution, passed at the recent Bee-keepers' Convention held at West Maitland in favour of the inauguration of a Department, of Bee-keeping in connection with the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, and to say that, although the Department is entirely in sympathy with the proposal, the present is not considered opportune for its accomplishment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
HENRY CHAS. ANDERSON.  
Director of Agriculture.

M. Scobie Esq.,  
Hon. Secretary Hunter Bee-keepers' Association,  
West Maitland.

General Post Office

Sydney 27th June, 1892.

Sir,—With reference to your letter dated the 15th instant, further on the subject of the decision of

the Postal Conference recently held at Hobart that live bees should not be allowed to pass through the post, I have the honour to inform you that there is no doubt that the Conference was to a great extent guided by the action of the London Post Office in disagreeing with the optional clause of the Universal Postal Union as regards the transmission of liquids, oils, dye powders, &c, in which clause the provision for live bees is included. That office having refused to agree to this regulation the colonies, even should they agree to it, could not exchange live bees, &c., with Great Britain. The main objection on its part to exchange live bees, &c, at packet rate is understood to be the danger of damage to the rest of the mail, unless they are closed against inspection, and hermetically sealed, which is of course contrary to the packet regulations.

The following is an extract from one of the letters from the London Post Office:—“In the opinion of this Department the objection to the transmission of such substances is insuperable, because it applies to all methods of packing, the fact being that it is impossible to devise a method which will admit of an easy inspection of the contents and yet afford proper protection to the rest of the mail.”

In view however of the representations made to this Department a letter has now been written to the London Post Office, asking for reconsideration of this matter, and inquiring whether it is thought that live bees would damage the other contents of mails if sent at packet rate, that is sufficiently open for inspection, and if so whether there would be any objection to their being sent at letter rate if posted, that is, entirely closed, except of course for purposes of air or ventilation.

In the meantime, as already stated, any live bees arriving here will be duly delivered.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
S. H. LAMPTON.  
Secretary.

M. Scobie, Esq., West Maitland.

With regard to the letter from the Department of Agriculture it was stated the funds of the Department were at present very low, but there was no doubt the sympathy of the Department was with the proposal, and it would come immediately they had the means. The secretary was instructed to thank the Department for their courteous reply, and trust in a short time they would be enabled to take the matter up.

The letter from the G. P. O. was the cause of much discussion. Ultimately it

## The Australian Bee Bulletin.

was resolved, on the motion of Mr Pullen, seconded by Mr Munday, "That a queen cage containing bees be forwarded to the Postmaster-General to show the harmless nature of the package, and a letter be sent him at the same time by the secretary." It was stated that instructions had been sent to the various postmasters not to receive queen bees. The chairman having stated he would be in Sydney shortly, on the suggestion of Mr Patten, Mr Pender was asked, and very kindly consented, in the event of the queen cage not going through the post to interview the Post-master-General on the matter and submit a mailing cage.

It was resolved the future meetings of the Association be advertised in the *Bee Bulletin*.

Mr Patten reported having received a communication from the Sydney Sec., acknowledging receipt of the entries for the Chicago exhibition. He also stated there was time for further entries up to the 30th instant, and entry forms could be obtained from the secretaries.

Mr Munday said as spring was coming on he thought bee-keepers should have a known price for queen bees, and wished to know if a price should be fixed, or should each bee-keeper charge as he wished.

Mr W. S. Pender said they could not form a standard price for queen bees as for honey. A queen bee had its points. A hybrid was worth less than a pure queen. It was almost impossible to set a price on queen bees because they would be sold according to quality. They could say a pure queen should not be sold for less than a certain sum, but otherwise could not form a standard.

Mr Patten did not think it was possible for the Association to say whether a limit should be placed on the independence of the producer. If members of the association raised queens they would expect to get something above the ordinary for their name as breeders, and if we limited the price of queens it was tanta-

mount to regulating the purity of the queen.

After some discussion Mr W. S. Pender moved, and Mr Boyce seconded, "That the association do not adopt any price for queens, and that the rule re prices adopted at previous meeting re queens be rescinded."

Discussion now ensued on the paper read by Mr M. Scobie at the last meeting re rendering of wax, in which Messrs. Munday, W. S. Pender, M. Scobie, Tucker, and Patten took part, during which Mr. Munday stated the deeper the yellow the more pollen. Mr. Patten did not think pollen was the coloring matter at all. Mr. Tucker extracted by steam, and considered zinc gave wax a green color, and yellow wax was tougher than white. Tin was universally agreed on as best. Mr. Pullen said he had put cappings in solar wax extractor, which gave wax a yellow color, although there was no pollen in it, which makes wax of a dull color.

Mr Tucker suggested the color of wax as a question for the *Bulletin*.

On the suggestion of Mr M. Scobie that the association take up the question of honey as food instead of now it being only looked upon as a luxury, it was resolved the next meeting consider Mr Harrison's paper and it be discussed in conjunction with one promised on the same subject by Mr Munday.

Mr Patten called attention to a resolution at last meeting that samples of honey should be forwarded to the editor of the *London Standard*, and as he had a cousin leaving Sydney for England during the month he and Mr Pender had made up samples and sent them by him, and if the association wished he would have the samples submitted to the *Standard*.

This action on their part was heartily approved of by the meeting.

AUGUST MEETING.

On the evening of Tuesday, August 9, the members again assembled for business. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, for whose absence apologies were tendered. Mr. R. Patten was voted to the chair.

Minutes were read and approved, and some accounts passed for payment, amongst which was one for standard works on apiculture, to be placed for reference in the Association's library in the Technological Museum.

A discussion arose upon the subject of the various bee journals subscribed to by the Association, and which had hitherto been distributed amongst members. It was decided in the future to have them filed in the library. During the discussion, some warm eulogies were raised upon the *New Zealand Farmer*, which carries a splendidly edited bee department.

Some correspondence of local interest was dealt with, after which Mr. G. R. Harrison was called upon to read his paper on Honey as Food, which has for some time been circulated among the public by progressive bee-keepers in pamphlet form, in conjunction with some medical and culinary recipes, and entitled "What do you know about Honey?"

Mr Munday was then asked to read the paper which he had prepared more exhaustively upon the same subject, and which gave valuable information upon the physiological and medical action of honey upon the system, and which completed and supplemented the former paper, which had been written to give the fullest information in the most condensed and popular form.

Mr G. R. Harrison proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Munday for his valuable paper, which bore evidence of deep study and wide research.

Mr M. Scobie seconded, and said that both papers filled their purpose admirably, the first by the great amount of information packed in the briefest space, and the popular treatment of the subject,

so that it should be read by many who would avoid an article which seemed long and dry, and for which he believed his criticisms upon the long-windedness of the pamphlets hitherto in circulation were mainly responsible, and Mr. Munday's paper, which filled its mission by enlarging, proving lucidating and explaining.

After a good general discussion, the motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. R. Patten read some important correspondence from the World's Fair Commission.

There was a pretty general laugh indulged in over an effusion in the *Daily Telegraph* of July 23rd over the name of James S. Bray, upon the subject of drawing upon our wild bush bees instead of importing, to reinvigorate our stocks. One member suggested that when we wished to improve our strain of dogs, a few dingoes might be run in, or the blood horse be improved by getting a few brumbies.

Mr. W. S. Pender exhibited a Langstroth frame, in which the wires were embedded in the foundation by means of electricity. It was beautifully done, the wires seeming as though they had grown there.

Mr. Pender was then called upon to read an article on "Brood Combs," contributed by Mr. Albert Gale, of the Education Department, the article was in reply to one which had appeared in the *Australian Bee Bulletin*. The article was discussed rather adversely by those present, the feeling generally expressed being that it was more ingenious than ingenuous.—The meeting then closed.

Hunter River Bee-Keepers' Association.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held at West Maitland on the evening of TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.

The following Regular Meetings will be held on the evenings of Tuesday, October 11, and Tuesday, November 8.

MICH. SCOBIE, Hon. Sec.

**Glucose.**

We must do something definite about this adulteration business.

We are prepared to receive the names of all who are willing to form a Union of Australian Bee-keepers, on the lines of the American Union, to fight this destroyer of our livings. *Every* bee-keeper is interested in this, and if all will assist, a sum of 2s 6d per member should find powder and shot. In the meantime we will try and organize a head centre.

**COMB FOUNDATION.**

MADE from pure Beeswax. In any quantity. Prices—1 to 6 lbs., 2/- per pound; 6 to 12 lbs., 1/10 ;

**12 lbs. AND OVER 1/9 per lb.**

Honey, Bees, Queens, Colonies, Nuclei, etc.

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"The National Prize Apiary."

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G. A. Colquhoun, Homebush	..	5 0
Donald Campbell, Stawell, Victoria	..	5 0
R. L. Studdart, Boggabri	..	2 6
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Mr. W. H. Rogers, Mt. Elliott, Minmi	..	5 0
T. J. M'Gee, Public School, Yarralumba, Queanbeyan	..	5 0
A. C. M'Leod, Tamworth	..	5 0
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Ernest J. Kendall, Kendall Dale, Milton	..	5 0
E. Ezzy, Millthorpe	..	5 0
W. S. Pender	..	6 0
J. Gregory, Rugby Park, Rookwood	..	1 0
T. Brown, Ravensfield	..	5 0
Robert Colhoun, Kiamia	..	5 0
George James, Gordon	..	6 0
Messrs. Hebblewhite	..	18 0
Mr. F. J. Munday	..	1 0 0

**What is Honey good for ?**

From our Honey Pamphlet—*What do you know about Honey?*

Ah, what? Spread on bread and butter it is a great luxury; spread on bread without the butter, it is little less luxurious and more economical; as a substitute for the best butter it is excellent, and for poor butter is to be preferred every time. For taking the place of sugar in making jams, and sweetening stewed fruit, fruit pies and tarts, it is economical at a higher price than sugar, as its sweetening power is very great; and it is more wholesome than cane or beet sugar, as it is entirely digestible, and the sugars are not. For this same reason it is preferred by brewers, when it can be obtained at a price not more than a third higher than sugar. And this is where a great deal of the "bush honey," and carelessly taken "strained" honey, which is often auctioned for what it will bring—and that is very little—finds its way. Honey is also a medicine, and held in great repute, and deservedly so. But as the much advertised nauseous nostrums of the present day are costly and always in evidence, and honey is inexpensive, and therefore not boomed in every paper, is not valued at its true worth, below we give (with apologies to Mr. G. H. Newman, Editor *A.B.J.*) a few select recipes for the culinary and medical use of honey.

Remember that sugar may be substituted with advantage by honey in almost all recipes.

**Medical Recipes.**

FOR ASHMA.—Honey is an excellent remedy. Mix 1 oz. of castor oil with 4 ozs. of honey. Take one tablespoonful night and morning. A simple and beneficial remedy.

HONEY OF SQUILLS.—Clarified honey, 3 lbs. ; tincture of squills, 2 lbs. ; mix well.

HONEY COUGH SYRUP.—This is an excellent remedy for a common cough. One dose will often give relief. Stew half-a-pint of sliced onions and 1 gill of sweet oil in a covered dish. Then strain, and add 1 gill of good honey; stir it well, and cork it up in a bottle. Take a teaspoonful at night before going to bed, or any time when the cough is troublesome.

EYE WASH.—For Sore or Inflamed Eyes.—One part of honey to five parts of water. Mix and bathe the lids, putting a few drops into the eye, two or three times a day, until well.

BALSAM OF HONEY.—Take fine pale honey, four ounces ; glycerine one ounce ; mix by a gentle heat, and when cold add alcohol one ounce ; essence of ambergris, six drops ; citric acid, three drachms. This is intended to remove discolorations and freckles, as well as to improve the general appearance of the skin.

FOR BRONCHITIS.—Take extracted honey and dilute it with water. Wet the lips and mouth with it occasionally. This has proved an excellent remedy, even where children's throats were so much swollen as to prevent swallowing of food.

HONEY SALVE.—Take two tablespoonsfuls of honey, the yolk of one egg, and flour to make it to a paste. This salve is excellent for running sores of long standing, boils, or sores with proud flesh.

FOR COUGHS, COLDS, WHOOPING COUGH, &c.—Fill a copper or tin lined kettle with horehound leaves and soft water, letting it boil until the liquor becomes strong—then strain through a muslin cloth, adding as much honey as desired—then cook it in the same kettle until the water evaporates, when the candy may be poured into shallow vessels and remain until needed, or pulled like molasses candy until white.

GARGLE FOR SORE THROAT.—Very strong sage tea, one-half pint ; extracted honey, common salt and strong vinegar, each two tablespoonsfuls ; cayenne pepper, one teaspoonful. Steep the pepper with the sage—strain, mix and bottle for use. Gargle from four to eight times daily, according to the severity of the case.

HONEY COUGH MEDICINE.—The following is a recipe of a valuable remedy for obstinate coughs. It is especially valuable for longstanding coughs in elderly people, and useful in all cases unattended with a hot skin and very frequent pulse. Extracted honey, linseed oil and whisky, of each 1 pint ; mix. Dose, one tablespoonful three or four times a day.

HONEY, TAR AND COUGH CANDY.—Boil a double-handful of green horehound in two quarts of water down to one quart. Strain, and add to this tea one cup of honey, one cup of sugar, and a tablespoonful each of lard and tar. Boil down to a candy, but not enough to make it brittle. Begin to eat this, increase from a piece the size of a pea, to as much as can be relished or needed. It is an excellent cough candy, and always gives relief in a short time.

◆◆◆ AMERICAN ◆◆◆

# Hives, Sections, AND ALL KINDS OF BEE APPLIANCES

CAN be furnished CHEAPER than any others. We make all goods of Latest Patterns and Styles. By clubbing your orders you can get goods from us at low rate of freight, and we give you special low prices. Write to us for large Illustrated Catalogue and Price List, also a free copy of *The American Beekeeper*, a monthly paper. This House has been established 12 years, and is the largest in the world. Address—

**THE W. T. FALCONER MANUFACTURING CO.,  
JAMESTOWN, N.Y., U.S.A.**

MY Strain of ITALIAN BEES are Beautiful, Gentle, Prolific, and Hardy. Try a

Tested Queen, posted 8/-

Nucleus (1, 2 and 3 frames) Full Swarms, Bee Books, Section Boxes, Extractors, &c.

Prices on application.

**D. CAMPBELL,**  
Black Range, Stawell,  
**VICTORIA.**

**BLUE MOUNTAIN HONEY DEPOT, Sydney,**  
(Established 1887.)

I HAVE decided to run a Commission Business in connection with my regular honey trade, and as I do the largest business in Sydney in pure honey, I feel confident of being able to satisfy all who may favour me with a trial. I am requeening all my hives this coming Spring, as I have decided to follow Manum's plan of not keeping queens over one year old. I shall have some hundreds of choice pure bred queens to dispose of at 15/- each or two for 25/-. Here is a chance for you to get stock bred from the best imported strains at half cost. I have built up the largest bee concern in Australia, and I did not do it by keeping poor stock.

*Daisy Wheelbarrows, 25/-; Wax Scrapers, 1/6; Wire Embedders, 1/4; 5 'Billy' cans (nested) 1 pt. to 4 gallons, 2/6 per nest. Full line of other supplies equally cheap.*

**MAJOR SHALLARD,**  
BLUE MOUNTAIN BEE FARMS,  
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Gearing and Cages for Stanley Automatic Reversible Extractors.

4 Comb	.....	40/-
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IF you want Comb Foundation or Italian Bees for business and quietness combined, try **J. F. MUNDAY'S** strain, the result of over 5 years' careful breeding. Foundation 1/9 per lb. for 12 lbs and over. Queens from Oct. 12/6 each (warranted pure). Send for price list. Beeswax bought or exchanged for foundation.

## EARLY QUEENS

*Doolittle and Bianconcini Strain.*

ORDERS now booked for early delivery in September, perhaps sooner: Untested, 7/6 each; Tested, 15/-; Select Tested for breeding, 20/-. All are post paid to any address. I stand all risk through post only.

Aiso sole maker of the "Gallup" Hive—1½ storey, 24 frames and starters set up complete, 12/6. Boss Foundation Fasteners, 3/- each. The best fastener made. Try one.

A Trial Solicited. Make all Orders payable to

**George James,**  
BEE FARM, GORDON, N.S.W.

Mention *A.B.B.* when Ordering.

**B. L. GRAHAM,  
THE BEE-KEEPERS' TINMAN**  
HIGH-ST., WEST MAITLAND.

**BEE-KEEPERS!**

Why degrade your delicious honey by putting it into second-hand cans, when you can get NEW CANS from me, made for the purpose.

I make a stock article of 60lb., 25lb., 20lb., and 9lb. cans.

I make to order all kinds of Honey Tins, Honey Canks, Extractors, Uncapping Cans, and all BEE-KEEPERS' TINWARE.

The Cheapest Shop for Family and General Tinware.

Galvanised Tanks a Specialty.

Terms Cash.

Please mention the "Bee Bulletin."

**Honey Pamphlets,**

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CONTAINING an article on the Use of Honey, written by Mr. G. R. Harrison, entitled, "What do you know about Honey?" and also a large number of recipes, both culinary and medical.

Supplied to bee-keepers, with their own advertisement printed on the first and second page, at the rate of 30/- per 1000.

To push the Sale of your Honey these are Splendid.

Sample Copy forwarded by post on application.

**E. TIPPER.**

HIGH STREET, WEST MAITLAND.

 We Club the BEE BULLETIN with the Old Reliable AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL or GLEANINGS IN BEE CULTURE for 11s, and both for 16s.

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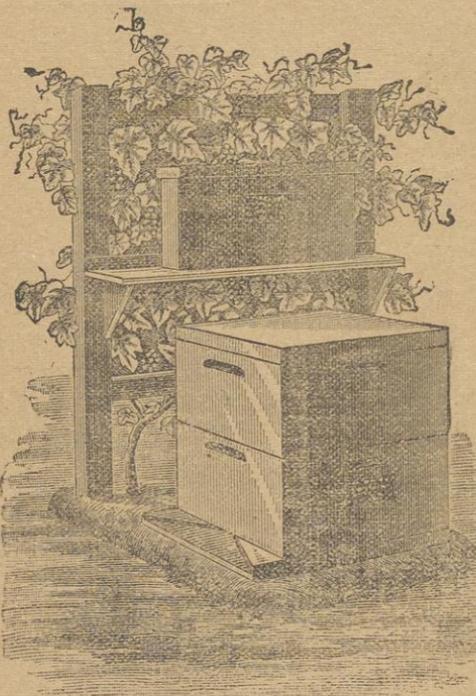
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