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West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, March 28, 1905

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THE AUSTRALIAN Bee Bulletin.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

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

Circulated in all the Australian Colonies, New Zealand, & Cape of Good Hope.

VOL. 13. No 12.

MARCH 28, 1905.

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(OPPOSITE HORDERN'S NEW PLACE,)

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APRIL 26TH, 1905.

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E. TIPPER,

WILLOW TREE, N.S.W.

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Vice-Presidents:

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E. TIPPER, J.P., WILLOW TREE.

Committee:

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RULES & OBJECTS.

1. The careful watching of the interests of the industry.
2. To arrange for combined action in exporting honey to relieve local glut when necessary.

3. To advise members as to suitable localities for establishing apiaries.

4. Any beekeeper can become a member on approval of committee, subscription 2/6 per annum.

5. That every member with more than 50 hives shall be allowed an extra vote for every additional 50 effective hives.

6. No member be eligible for office who has less than 50 effective hives, or his subscription is in arrear.

7. The Association to consist of a central body and district branches affiliated with it.

8. The principal officers be such as will undertake to meet each other in committee at least once in twelve months.

9. The officers shall consist of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and Executive Committee.

10. After the first election of officers, arrangements to be made by the Secretary to call for nominations for office-bearers, and issue ballot papers prior to the next annual meeting.

11. Supply dealers or commission agents cannot become members.

12. Members unable to attend meetings or conventions can authorise or nominate any member they know will be present to vote for them on any subject brought forward. Such vote or votes to be in addition to the member's present own vote.

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tisements for same.

E. TIPPER,

"A. BEE BULLETIN."

NOTICE.


SHOULD any beekeeper have a doubt of
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A MONTHLY JOURNAL
Devoted to Beekeeping —
Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of
Australia — New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope

EDITOR & PUBLISHER.
WEST MAITLAND & WILLOW TREE.



MAITLAND, N.S.W.—MARCH 28, 1905.

The following is a list of advertisers in our present issue, all of whom we would recommend our readers to patronise:—

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A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket, Sydney.
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W. J. & F. Barnes, 174 & 180 Albert-street, East Melbourne.

Honey Tins.

Chown Bros. and Mullholland, Ltd.,
Thomas St., Ultimo, Sydney.

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A. Hordern & Sons, Haymarket only, Sydney.
P. J. Moy & Co., 161 Sussex St, Sydney.
Prescott Limited, 336 & 338 Sussex-St, Sydney.
W. L. Davey, Station-St., Fairfield, Vic.

The best remedy we have found for stings is a wet rag.

A popular honey plant in England is the Chapman honey plant.

In the South of England, 8/6, 9/-, and 10/- per dozen, is charged for glazed sections.

An American Biscuit Company recommends people to eat their biscuits "spread with honey."

The total failure of the white clover has been the remarkable feature of the latter part of the honey season in England.

First class comb heather honey in Great Britain, will easily fetch 1/6 per lb. The past season has, however, been a failure.

We acknowledge receipt of the A. I. Root's Catalogue of Beekeepers' Supplies for the year 1905. It is as usual very complete.

The beautiful honey labels, in gold and colors, executed at the Bee Bulletin office, contributed much to the beauty of Mr. Bryant's Champion Honey Trophy at Tamworth.

A Sydney commission house writes us: The supply of honey new forward is so heavy that the market is very dull, and sales are difficult to effect, except at low figures.

One writer says: Unlike our southern brethren, with their huge takes of clover honey—weighing anything from 50 to

300lb. from a single hive—we are well contented with an average of 30 to 40lb. per hive.

Many people use peppermint for uniting. When a fresh hive altogether is used, placed between the two to be united, and frames from each hive placed alternately in the fresh one, we use no scent at all.

In Ireland, I regret to note that the pursuit is anything but a paying one the past season. Indeed, too many set this year down as the worst of the three past ones, all rather disastrous to the industry. Reports from every individual county are gloomy in the extreme.

We acknowledge receipt from "Swarthmore," of his pamphlet "Baby Neuclei." It is a system of small neuclei for queen-rearing; recommended by some and looked on doubtfully by other American queen-raisers. We shall be pleased to lend it to any of our subscribers who would like to read same.

The Secretary, Mr. E. Tipper, Willow Tree, has supplied railway concession forms, for Easter week to Sydney, to all members of the N.S.W. Bee-Farmers' Association who could avail themselves of them. Those who have received such and cannot use, will please return them to the secretary, Mr. E. Tipper, Willow Tree.

A very influential beekeeper writes us:—Those that has the most to say about the English market want others to try it without risk to themselves, and come in for the advantage of it after it is established. Why don't they try it themselves? Remember, an export market can be obtained *only* by a glut here, and the future success of beekeeping depend on export.

FRENCH HONEY MUFFINS.—One and one-half pints flour, one cup of honey, one-half teaspoon salt, two teaspoons baking powder, two tablespoons butter, three eggs, and a little over one-half pint milk or thin cream. Sift together flour, salt and powder; rub in butter cold; add beaten eggs, milk and honey. Mix smoothly into batter as for pound cake;

about half fill sponge cake tins, cold and fully greased, and bake bread in good, steady oven for eight minutes.

We have lately had a great visitation of that bee enemy, the bee martin. We might shoot and kill, but it was all the same. The banks and bed of the creek, the sandy places where bees were in thousands to drink, were constantly being overlooked by them. Their visit lasted several weeks. We see from the "Irish Bee Journal, the swallows are great feeders on bees in that country.

Mr. Pemberthy writes, in answer to letters written, the N.S.W. Bee Farmers' Association never pretended to represent the combined opinions of the beekeepers of N.S. Wales, only its members. An Association is what its members make it. The greatest fault in Beekeepers' Associations are, the members do not take enough interest in it. Rule 10 provide members the right to elect office-bearers whether they are there or not, voting by post, but there is nothing to prevent them sending in their nomination paper in blank with their signature, to any person they trust to fill in. The proxy represent the member that is not present which he has a right to, being a subscriber. He has enjoyed the privilege of receiving empty tins by rail ever since Mr. Rawes-Whittell was secretary. If office-bearers were elected by members present at the meeting it would be only a local Sydney Association practically. There is a good foundation laid, and it wants plenty of live members to make the Association what they wish. The whole of the fault is in the beekeeper. They are blind to their interest in not doing a little for a good cause.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I protest against a paragraph in your last stating that the matter of areas for beekeepers (referring I suppose to last Victorian Conference deputation and plea to Lands Department) is got up by "supply dealers and their confederates." To the best of my knowledge, it was our

secretary and executive brought up the matter last year. Now Sir, our secretary does not *love*, let alone "join in" with supply dealers (see his reply to "open letter" as to this) and the rest of the executive are keen beekeepers with level heads, and to describe one of their most important matters of policy, to which year by year attention and careful thought are being given as essential to the future well being of apiaries is on your part, I consider a grave mistake and hindrance. As an individual beekeeper, I have had some little to do with the subject of forest areas and beekeepers' privileges, and I positively deny any mixed motives such as you insinuate. I have never spoken to or consulted with supply dealers as to my advocacy of such. I also repudiate, as far as I am concerned, the suggestion you have recently made that some figures of big crops were false or inflated, and designed to get men into the business for supply dealers to exploit. Such I believe was the meaning, writing from memory, if not the exact wording of recent paragraphs in your journal as I understood. If so meant I give a flat denial. I published figures at a time of extreme urgency to draw attention to forest honey values as an aid to stopping the reckless ringing arising out of ignorance of these values on the part of officials. I have heard on many hands that such information went far in educating folk to this aspect of trees to more sensible views. I had not intended to notice these remarks of yours, but for the official journal of the association to misrepresent the policy of that association as you appear to have done in this instance is deserving of outspoken protest.

I am, Sir,

Yours, etc.,

THOMAS BOLTON.

Hamilton, Vic.

[If Mr. Bolton refers to the paragraph in the January number, page 214, he will see it is only a natural question asked. There can be no doubt one of the incentives to the opening of the blocks in question, was the desire to make trade, whatever other ideas actuated. And beekeepers, with very few exceptions, had no idea bee-

keeping was possible to be overdone in the face of the vaunted English markets as it is at present. We are not aware we even insinuated those returns of big crops were false.]

READ THIS!

Lismore, Mar. 14.

Mr. E. Tipper,

Dear Sir,—I appreciate your outspoken notes in A.B.B., they are none too strong. I have intended writing you ever since that letter appeared in the *Daily Telegraph*, re beekeepers up here making £300 per year, &c., I only know of two who are *at all likely* to have made that amount and I would give both of them credit for better sense than to blow about it. And besides they both have a good amount to pay for help, &c.

As to land being easy to get, it is all moonshine. 11 pieces were thrown open and there were 211 applicants, and the price dear too. This is a good district for *dairying*, but both land and cattle have been boomed.

It is cruel to try and get unemployed to rush into an industry already overcrowded, and one that requires intelligence and practical knowledge. It has been well said "Any fool can keep bees, but it takes a man with brains to make bees keep him."

I was in Casino lately, and taking up their local paper, I read as follows:—"Exceptionally good honey in 60lb. tins may be obtained at — store for 8/6." And then we are told about beekeepers making £300 a year!! I say 300 shilling would be nearer the mark, and great papers like the D. T. ought not to lend themselves to circulating such *unreliable* information. "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

12/6 per 60lb tin is my price for good honey—although I have to do other business, I keep up the price. I expect to be in Sydney at Easter, and may drop in and have a chat with you at that Coffee Palace. Wishing you and A.B.B. every success.

Yours faithfully,

J. T. HUTCHINSON.

TRANSFERING IN WINTER FOR THE CURE OF FOUL BROOD.

(BY J. C. HOBBS, NEW ZEALAND.)

For five years I have successfully cured foul brood by transferring in winter time, so I think it will be of some benefit to the beekeeping fraternity to make it known.

First of all I will tell briefly the experience of my brother and self in our attempts to cure foul brood by the use of drugs. Fourteen weeks ago when we first found foul brood in our apiaries we attempted to cure it by feeding carbolised syrup made as directed by Cheshire. We fed about three tons medicated syrup to 200 hives by filling combs and putting them into the hives. This treatment not only did not cure the foul brood, but spread it more rapidly than if we had left the hives alone, for in our third apiary where foul brood started at the same time, it spread very slowly. The two apiaries we treated we had to boil down in four years time, while the apiary we left alone but avoided mixing the combs of the different hives as much as possible. We worked profitably for nine seasons, and then boiled it down.

Now let me degress for a minute right here. We never have burnt a frame, a piece of comb or a hive as many advocate, but disinfect by boiling alone. We find this plan quite satisfactory. We boil the hives from three to five minutes, the frames until all the wax is thoroughly melted off, and the honey from one to two hours. If we had burned our combs, etc., we would without a doubt have been out of beekeeping long ago.

We have tried formic acid with no better results than carbolic. We don't use any drug now for anything. If our hands or tools seem to want disinfecting we wash them with ordinary soap and water.

The first year we had foul brood, we transferred nine colonies on to foundation,

but this demoralised the bees so much that it frightened us of transferring. Most of the colonies absconded or united with other hives; to avoid this we now shake the bees *into* the fresh hive instead of in front, or else we catch and cage the queen; this makes sure of the bees.

Our next plan to get clear of foul brood was to take the swarms to a fresh site, and put them on foundation after confining them for two days. This cured about 95 per cent of them.

The next winter my brother took these healthy hives some 360 miles south, and started a fresh apiary. With swarms and 10 healthy hives I got from a neighbour, I worked up a healthy apiary of over 200 Italian colonies, and whenever I found a case of foul brood I took the infected colony to the old apiary which had foul brood; by this method I kept this apiary free of foul brood. In the old apiary every hive of which had foul brood I extracted the bees as clean as possible in the autumn (some of the honey was candied and would not extract.) During winter when no brood was in the hives, I took away all the combs except enough to cluster on; united the weak hives; provided clean hives and mats; also three empty frames for each hive. I then caught and caged queens, shook the bees into these hives after putting them into the place of the old hives. I then placed a good sized piece of candy on top of frames, put on mat and lid, and left the bees for a week or a fortnight on the candy, at the end of that time gave them combs and honey from healthy hives. In my first trial, I cured eleven out of twelve, and have often cured hives since by this plan.

My brother-in-law has also worked this plan successfully.

Any fresh cases that appear in the spring, I transfer in the usual way onto starters or foundation. Transferring onto foundation straight away I find to be the least effectual way, in one batch I only cured one in six.

Whatever plan consumes the foul brood ~~honey~~ in the bees before they

Beekeepers, show those who do not take the *A. Bee Bulletin* your copies. Let them learn the true state of the industry.

begin storing or brood rearing is the most effectual in curing the bees.

Three months ago, I gave seven hives a three days fast, up to the present there are no traces of foul brood, so I consider them cured. They were very bad cases too.

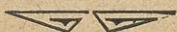
We use our swarming boxes now for transferring. These swarm boxes are made as follows: Take good sound boxes anything in size from a candle box to a kerosene case, cut out squares in the ends from three to six inches or more according to the size of the boxes. Nail pieces of netting or perforated zinc over these openings from the inside, with strips of wood over the edges to keep them from buckling up and letting the bees out in hot weather, or if the boxes happen to be left in the weather at any time. Nail sugar bag round the mouth of the box with thin laths or bits of old frames to make it secure, while nailing it on make a pleat at each corner so it will pull over the box when needed. The seams in the sides may be done with a packing needle or the sewing machine before the bagging is put on. A piece of stout string sewn in the bagging near the mouth with ends hanging will always be ready to tie up a transferred hive, or secure a swarm. These boxes are invaluable for transferring hives, and for swarm catching, I would not be without them.

After this I intend to starve the bees in these swarming boxes until they begin to drop. Just before a spell of bad weather is a good time to transfer. If the transferring is done in winter or early spring the bees are not wasting their time so much as if it is done during the honey flow, and the beekeeper is not so much pushed for time either.

I know that it is extremely satisfactory to have all the foul brood that has shown up in the summer and autumn out of the way when the honey flow begins. With me foul brood is like a weed, it can be kept well under with care and vigilance, but up to the present I have failed to thoroughly eradicate it.

A Sensible Letter.

R.S., Narrawa,—I still keep some bees. I have reduced my number down to 50 effective hives and get more honey than I did from twice that number previously. Of course I still keep a few "passengers" for queen raising and building worker combs. I escaped very well from the bush fires which were all around me. I had all the grass chipped all around the hives and during the scare had a kerosene tin of water standing at each hive ready for use in emergency. It seems all right in theory, I don't know how it would work out in practice. This has been a very good year here, a continuous flow right through to the present, and the stringy bark and apple trees are coming out now and will provide a splendid flow till the cold weather sets in. And what is better I have no difficulty in selling it all in kerosene tins at 3d per lb. According to accounts in your paper beekeeping seems to be overdone everywhere. And it must gradually get worse. The Australian market is done and English consumers don't like our honey and we can't force them to like it. One can lead a horse to water but twenty can't make him drink. If they really liked it private enterprise would soon find a way of adjusting matters between the Australian producer and the English consumer. The only remedy that I can see is for each beekeeper to study what is the next best thing to take on along with bees with the ulterior view of making bees a secondary matter. Take pig-farming for instance. Very little outlay is required to take it on with bees, and unlimited market for bacon and hams both here and in England. In poultry the egg raising and duck-farming branch pays well with good export advantages. If favorably situated for market strawberry culture or tomato culture pays well if carried out systematically. For my own part I've been gradually drifting into sheep-farming, the bees furnishing the capital for a start and keeping me while the sheep branch of the business is growing and developing



and with ordinary luck I can let the bees take pot luck in a very short time.

✻ CORRESPONDENCE. ✻

C. P., Fyans Creek, March 6th,—Bees working well again on Black But and and Stringy Bark, but weather rather bad for extract.

F. A. McK., Combara:—My bees are only doing middling, the season has been very unfavourable for anything out here. Wishing you every success.

F. M. Palmerston, March 26,—This season has been an off one in this part of the world. The spring and summer were so wintery that the bees did not breed up strong enough to take full advantage of the honey flow which came six weeks or so late. I have extracted 2 tons only from 200 colonies but by retailing the honey I expect to get from 5 to 6d per lb for it. We find that by retailing some of the honey we are not forced at any time to sell wholesale below its value. We fed nearly 2 tons sugar and 7 syrup, which we would not have had to do in a normal season.

L. M. Tomago,—I hope you have had a successful season, we have not had much luck. I suppose owing to the dry weather. What do you think of the plan of fitting a larissa bee escape into the wire gauze of the windows of the honey house, we always get some bees inside with the honey? I thought last time that perhaps one could let the poor little things cut again through a larissa escape which would not let them come in. I do not suppose they would find the way out though.

[The larissa bee escape may work well. We have never tried. A window on a swivel is a good idea. When the bees accumulate turn it in-side out. If a flow is on we extract in the open. If no flow is on you must be most careful not to cause robbing.]

R. J. M., Fair View, Oberne.—I lost a lot of my bees with the late bush fires,

and with difficulty saved my residence, sheds, etc. Trusting you have had no losses with fires.

A. C., Neerim S, Vic.—Beekeeping has proved quite a failure here. Once in a number of years we have a plethora of honey, which is followed by seasons that just give a living to the bees but not to the beekeeper. I did think of shifting to some other locality, but for the present I intend keeping to the production of butter and not honey. I think there is more to be made at it, although my tastes lie in the honey line.

F. H., Glenorchy, Vic.—We have had a very good season so far, but there is a break on at present. The bees are hardly gathering anything, but we expect a late flow from grey box next month.

J. M. W., Binalong.—I have had a very heavy loss with the recent bush fires. I had a splendid flow up till Xmas, but the bush fires have left everything at a standstill for two years. Will have to shift camp in the spring to where the timber has not been burnt.

— writes:—I have simply been struggling on for the last five years, in fact for nine years now. I had a very serious illness, which has left me partly disabled, although, thank God, I can manage to work by taking care of myself. Five years ago I took to market gardening and the first three seasons were almost failures, the fourth one being a drought, and what with laying out money in starting, etc., it nearly finished me altogether, and to keep out of the Insolvency Court I borrowed money. But I am thankful to say that the tide has turned, and the last two seasons have been fairly good, and I have succeeded in paying off all except yourself and two others, under £40 altogether, and if the present season is only as good as the last two, I shall be free from debt. We are having good rain now and I am very busy getting in our winter crop, and it takes all the cash I can get to buy seed, manure, etc. Last autumn I went to a good bit of expense in planting, and just as it was coming on well the river rose and destroyed

it nearly all. I lost over £40 worth, but that was no worse than the drought, for then we had not got anything to lose. This summer has been very dry till the last two weeks, or I could have had a crop coming in and money coming in as well. We can never depend on a winter crop, I have known splendid ones, for several years before 1900, but seasons seem to have altered since then. I am not a large beekeeper, having only 20 hives. I saw some years ago that beekeeping was overdone, but I find the few I have come in very handy, in fact we should not have been able to hold out only for the bees; they done very well till last year. This season is very good, but honey is not so good a good a quality; it has been very good for the four previous seasons. I notice that black butt is just blooming, some seasons I have seen it bloom in August; our timber here does not appear to have regular seasons for blooming. So far I have not known any disease in the bees, nor have I heard of any in the district. I always use a solution of carbolie, 2 tablespoonful of Calverts No. 5 to a quart of water, have some in a bottle, and keep a small brush; it wards off disease, and will also quieten the bees, and drive them out of supers, etc., also cure bee stings. I see a good many are complaining about over-production of honey, and would wish to limit beekeepers, and prevent others taking up the pursuit. In fact a kind of trades unionism, which may be all very well for those who are already in the business, but I do not see any difference in their case from that of any other profession or calling, as for example, say a carpenter. When some others start business in the district, and there is not enough work for all then some one goes under, and it is just the same in beekeeping. Some again blame the supply-dealers for the over-production, but it is their business to sell all they can as they too want a living, and if people are foolish enough to buy everything a supply dealer advertises for sale, it is not the fault of the dealer. One way I have effected a saving is in *not* using founda-

tion comb. Formerly I used whole sheets and would do so again if honey was the same price. Now I paint a thin strip of wax about an inch wide, and as thick as brown paper, on the top bar, which does not take as long as fixing foundation would, and my combs are as true now as they used to be, and answer quite as well as formerly, and makes a considerable difference in expense.

Swarms settling on a tree for good

This year a few of my colonies swarmed sooner than I expected; in fact, much sooner than usual. One of the swarms settled on a tree during my absence. The schoolboys passing by dislodged it, and it went to the top of another tree in an almost inaccessible position. There it remained several days. Finally, somebody undertook to steal it, or disturbed it in some way or other during my absence, so it left that place and clustered on the end of a high, long, and thin limb of a cedar-tree. The space being clear under the limb, I hoisted a bucket with some honey close to it. The bees settled in and around the bucket. The honey bucket is away ahead of any shaking or raking arrangement, as it does not anger the bees, and always gets them, while shaking or raking a swarm very often results in making it take wing and leave for good.

This is the third time I have had a swarm, *with a queen*, remain hanging on some tree in the neighborhood. It seems that when a swarm fails to go away during the first, and perhaps the second day, the bees decide to remain in the neighborhood. The only explanation I can see is that when by some cause or other the cluster has moved somewhere else, the scouts sent out fail to find it when they return; and that the swarm, after waiting a certain length of time for the scouts to lead them away, concludes to make the best of the situation as it is.



PRICES OF HONEY.

Maitland Mercury.—Honey, 1d. to 1½d. per lb. Small tins 1s 6d to 1s 9d.

Melbourne Leader.—Honey.—Inquiry is limited in this department. Prime clear garden honey is to be had in large quantities at from 2¼d to 2½d, up to 2¾d being asked in some cases. Congealed lots are offered at 2d. Beeswax.—Prime clear wax is wanted, supplies far from sufficing. Purchasers offer 1/3 for best samples. Medium shades, more or less discolored, are to be had at from 1/- to 1/2.

Melbourne Australasian.—Honey—Demand dull, and values lower, even prime lines slow of sale, at from 2d. to 2½d., cloudy and inferior lots difficult to quit at lower rates. Beeswax from 1/2 to 1/3.

Garden & Field, S. A.—Honey, slow of sale, 1½d to 2d per lb.

Tamworth News.—Honey, 60lb. tins 8s 6d to 9s; 7lb. tins, 1s. 6d.; bottles 4d to 5d.

S. M. Herald.—60lb tins prime extracted 1¾d to 2d, some choice lines 2¼d lb. Beeswax, dark 1/1½, prime clear 1/2 to 1/2½

HONEY.—

The market shows an improvement. Owing to the high price of Jam, consumers are buying more freely. We can do with some choice lots, which would realise about 2½d. Inferior lots are still unsaleable.

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Good demand. Light 1/2. Dark 1/- to 1/1

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BEE PARALYSIS.

(Paper read by Mr. Poppleton at the St. Louis Conference.)

Early one season over 20 years ago, while keeping bees in northern Iowa, I noticed that many of my colonies seemed strangely affected, and in most cases seriously so. I examined leading text-books, as well as our periodicals, but could find no reference whatever to anything like it. A sample of the affected bees was sent to Prof. Cook, but it was all new to him. About this time inquiries commenced coming to our editors from various and widely separated localities about this same trouble. It came to be known as the "Trembling Disease," "Nameless Disease," afterwards as "Bee-Paralysis," which is more appropriate, and will probably be its permanent name.

The disease seems to be widespread, not only found in nearly all sections of our own country, but also in foreign lands. There is quite a general belief that it is confined to the South, but this is a mistake, as with one exception, the most serious loss I have had from it was in Northern Iowa. The fact that it is almost impossible to winter a diseased colony in the northern part of our country, prevents it becoming very serious there, and for that reason only it is more common in the South.

Is the disease contagious? If so, how, and in what way is it communicated from one bee to another, and from colony to colony, and, if not, what causes the disease, is one of the problems yet to be solved. This problem must be solved, and correctly so, before we can fully control the disease. I am not at all sure I am right, but think the disease can be, and is, communicated from diseased bees to well ones. Careful experiments seem to prove that it is not passed along by means of combs, honey or brood, and I now transfer them from sick to well colonies without bad results, being careful not to give any sick, well or dead bees from an infected colony to a well one.

Whether queens can and do transmit the

disease to their offspring is one of the points not yet determined, and is, in my opinion, a most important one. Giving a diseased colony a new queen has not with me been a success, yet many facts which have been carefully observed lead one to the theory that queens are largely responsible for the spread of the disease, and it seems to me much more prevalent in certain strains or families of bees. One fall, some years ago, I purchased quite a lot of young queens from one of our best breeders. The following season, nearly all of the diseased colonies in my apiary were those to which one of these queens had been given, over half of them being affected. The breeder, whose honesty and truthfulness cannot be questioned, tells me that so far as he knew there was none of the disease in his apiary at the time he reared those queens. Another time I obtained two or three queens from one of the noted breeders in this country. There seemed to be no trace of the disease about them or their colonies at first, but part of them, and nearly every colony of their royal daughters were diseased the following season. I had to purge the apiary of every trace of this strain. Same also occurred with another lot of purchased queens, while the descendants of other purchased queens have been free from the malady.

This question of the transmission of the disease through queens, and the fact that when once diseased the colony will continue so after a change of queens, looks as though queen and contagion both aid in spreading the disease, and opens up a wide field for theory and experiments.

The sign of disease is readily seen and recognised. Should any quantity of dead bees be seen outside the entrance to a hive, a few struggling and dying bees will usually be seen among them. If not too badly diseased, well bees will be seen on the entrance-board, tugging and hauling at sick ones, trying to drag them out of the hive. At first glance one may think that robber bees are being fought,

but a little closer observation will show the plain difference between driving off robbers and dragging out sick ones that don't seem to want to go. On taking covers off of hives the sick bees will try to come to the light, and after a little time can be seen crawling on the top of frames. Their motions are slow and laborious as though weak and partly paralyzed. They cannot take wing, but cling tightly by their feet to anything they are on. This tight clinging by their feet is the surest sign of the disease and very readily noticed.

The disease is exceedingly erratic in its course, sometimes commencing suddenly, sometimes slowly. It may destroy the colony in a few weeks or it may linger an entire season, or it may recover suddenly, with or without some seeming cause for doing so. This last trait has caused many who have seen only one or a few cases to conclude that they have found a sure cure because a colony happened to recover soon after something had been done. This erratic character of the disease has not only led many to wrong conclusions, but makes it much more difficult to reach right ones. Observing scores or even hundreds of cases is necessary before coming to any definite conclusions at all, and we know too little of the disease yet to think we know very much about it at the best. Let us hope that some competent scientist can give us more definite knowledge than we now have.

Several methods of cure have been suggested, nearly all of which I have tried. None have given satisfaction except the use of sulphur. A single application of this has always affected a cure, except in two instances, when a second application was required. The method of treatment was to go to the colony to be treated some time during the day, and remove all the combs containing any eggs, or unsealed brood, giving them temporarily to other colonies. In the evening as soon as all the bees are in from the fields, sprinkle all the bees, combs and in-

side of the hive very lightly with powdered sulphur, trying to get a little on all of the bees. I never measured the amount of sulphur used, but think about a tablespoonful to a small colony. Usually the bees will die off quite rapidly for a few days after treatment, then cease doing so quite suddenly. The original combs of brood taken away, or others, should be returned the day following treatment. Reason for having this brood out of the hive during treatment is because sulphur kills all unsealed brood that it touches. It is very important to observe this point in actual work.

While this treatment has always succeeded with me, yet I prefer an entirely different method. That is, to make a new nucleus with young queen, building this nucleus up into a strong colony by giving it the brood from the diseased colony, a comb or two at a time, as rapidly as it can use them to advantage. A cured colony is always very weak, so much so as to be of little or no value during the season of treatment. A nucleus built up by combs or brood from a sick colony will be in fully as good condition at the close of the season as would be a cured colony, with the added advantage of having a young queen with no known taint of the disease. While a cured colony is not apt to be again diseased, yet my experience makes me very shy about using the queens of such colonies for breeding purposes; and the best way of being safe from danger of that, is, not to keep such queens.

I hear reports of two other diseases known as "bee paralysis" in the localities where they exist—one of them from California, the other from Wisconsin. Whether these are really types of that disease or are new diseases, is more than I know.—"American Bee Journal."

I moved 35 colonies about 300 yards by closing the entrances. I plunked them on an old wheelbarrow, jarred them over the gravelstones, placed them in position,

opened the entrances at once and got out of the way. I don't think a hundred bees came back out of the lot.—*Exchange*

BEEKEEPING IN RUSSIA.

Little has been known about bees in the greatest country of all Europe; and great was our surprise to know of the possibilities of beekeeping in that land. There seemed to be a general opinion that it was a land of eternal snow, cold, darkness, and horrors. This was a great myth. The conditions of beekeeping in Russia were fully as favourable, as in the United States; and the demand for honey and beeswax was and would be greater, for the reason that the Greek Church in celebrating her religious rites forbids meat being eaten during the fast, and that during such times great quantities of honey were eaten; also that wax was used in immense quantities for wax candles in the church. He did not believe there was any country in the world where the possibilities for the sale of honey and the development of apiculture could be greater than in his own fatherland.

Up to the 17th century bees had never been cultivated, and so honey, if secured at all, was, as one might say, the product of the chase. This one fact went to show that, *because* bees could thrive in a wild state all over the country, they could certainly do well under intelligent cultivation.

The early history of Russian bee-keeping was about the same as the history of all European countries. In the beginning of the 19th century there was a general awakening on the subject. One of the first to give an impetus to it was Peter I. Prokopovitch, who, in 1828, established a special school of apiculture, and for 22 years he carried on this work, graduating 596 students.

Another energetic personality was Alexander M. Buttleroﬀ, who took the liveliest interest in everything pertaining to beekeeping. He wrote several hand-

books on apiculture, which for years formed the text-book of the majority of the Russian apiarists. He founded the Russian *Journal of Apiculture*, and established a model apiary at the All-Russian Exhibition at Moscow. He was instrumental in formulating the scheme for a floating apicultural exposition, which was mounted on a barge, sailing for thirty days on the river Moscowa, making ten stops to acquaint the people with scientific apiculture. This floating exposition was visited by over 60,000 people. A similar exposition on the Oka River a few years later was also planned and carried into effect.

In this respect I desire to add, by way of parenthesis, that Russia has gone away ahead of any other country; and the scheme of teaching apiculture or any other industry to its people by means of a floating exhibition whereby daily demonstrations could be made is not only novel, but something that is deserving of the emulation of other countries. In the United States they have great expositions, but the people have to go hundreds and even thousands of miles to see them. The result is that millions of poor never have an opportunity of having their eyes opened to the wonderful possibilities of latter-day science and progress. But Russia makes it possible for everyone to see—in other words, she takes “the mountain to Mahomet.”

But this was not all. An exposition for apiculture was in Moscow in 1890. A special school for the study of bees was inaugurated in 1894. In 1896 there was established at St. Petersburg The First Society of Russian Apiculturists, several branches of it being opened in various parts of the country. This organisation started a monthly magazine, arranged for exhibitions, conventions of apiarists, apiaries for instructions, and courses in apiculture for teachers in the people's schools. In imitation of this organization new societies were established, of which there were 38 with eight divisions, with the promise of several more in the near future. Apiculture, including both

theory and practice, was taught in 80 agricultural schools, the teachers attending to the culture of them. In many provinces the Zemstvos (an organisation consisting of elective representatives of the several classes of population) have been active and energetic in the matter of elevating apiculture.

There are over 300,000 persons engaged in bee culture in European Russia to-day, and 5,000,000 hives of bees, comprising all of Russia and her possessions. This would make a total valuation of \$12,000,000.

The Russians have adopted a rather novel form of selling comb honey. Beautiful tin boxes, lithographed in colours, are made of various sizes. Great cards of honey are produced in extracting frames, and from these are sliced out chunks just large enough to go inside of the tin box. These are put out under the name of "Exquisite," selling at the fancy price of 25 and 30 cents. each. —M. Titoff, in *Gleanings*.

AT ST. LOUIS CONVENTION.

Dr. Bohm.—What is the best method of fastening comb foundation in shallow frames?

Mr. Hall.—Get a common machine oil-can, one that has a good deal of spring in the bottom, put a short snout on it or cut the one off that is already on it. Then have a frame to put the extracting frame into so that there will be a little board just to fit the inside of the frame that will come just half way up or half the depth of the frame, right up to the edge of the groove. You must keep that can filled with a mixture of beeswax, and I put a slight bit of rosin in it to make it a little harder. I put the frame on this other frame, slip the foundation into the little groove, take the little oil-can which is sitting on the foundation fastener to keep it warm. You don't want it too hot because if it is it will melt the foundation, and if it is too cold it will freeze in the nozzle of the can. When you get

the foundation into the little groove turn the frame up slightly so that the weight of the foundation will fall into the groove and stay there. Take the can and run down a little drop on the end of the foundation and right down to the bottom. Then tip it the other way and let it run back to cool, and then take it off, and thus continue until it is finished.

YOUNG QUEENS.

Mr. Gill—I buy all the queens I can't rear from natural cells. Of those that are produced under the swarming impulse, I use all I can, and if I need any queens out of season or any other time I buy them. I produce honey, and I always want a laying queen under every super, and if I haven't got one I buy one.

Dr. Miller—He said that the ordinary honey-producer should not use certain nuclei because he should buy his queens. I want to know whether he buys more queens than he rears himself.

Mr. Gill—that is pretty hard to tell. I bought more queens this year than I made increase. I use all the best selected stock I can from natural cells that are built under the swarming impulse at the swarming season, and what I can't use I throw away. At any other time of the year if I want a good queen I get one from a man whom I know rears good ones. My bees are being worked for comb honey and I have no time to rear them. I bought last year nearly 300 queens, and this year 200. I think a good queen will pay for itself in ten days in a good colony of bees in producing comb honey. I don't aim to make much increase because I am working for comb honey, and I want big swarms, and I don't want any queenless bees. I have orders for queens all the time I use them that way. If you need a queen it is better to buy than to rear; you can't get along without her.

Dr. Miller—In the first place, as to buying queens in certain times of the year, instead of rearing them myself, I don't believe that a queen-breeder can tell better than Mr. Gill what kind of

queen is good for the work. I believe if he will breed from his best honey-producing queens he will get a better queen than he will get from the average queen-breeder.

Mr. Gill—I don't buy from the average breeder; I buy from the best.—“American Bee Journal.”

WINGS OF BEES.

The wings of the bee are four in number, one pair on either side of the body. These are so fashioned that they enable her to travel long distances at great speed, to fly backwards as well as forwards, to stop with surprising suddenness, and to carry heavy loads.

In flight, the four wings act as two wings. This is accomplished by a contrivance belonging to each wing of a pair, by which, when one wing is raised for flight it passes over the other wing, and by a “flap” is caught and held by a number of minute hooks. When the bee alights, the wings are released, and they lie one upon the other, so that the insect is able to move freely in quarter inch spaces, and even to enter worker cells of one-fifth inch in diameter.

The rate at which the bee flies depend to no small extent upon her mission. Leaving the hive on a foraging expedition, her progress is astonishing in its swiftness, but as she returns heavily laden, after a journey of three or four miles, her movements are much slower. Everyone who has worked among them has had experience of the rapidity with which bees, when exasperated, can dart from alighting board to nose-tip; but not everyone has tested for himself the rate at which the bees of his colonies will travel when, unladen and frightened, they hurry home. Yet, by simple experiments this may be discovered with some degree of accuracy, and, perhaps, during the investigation it may be found that, under similar conditions, the speed will vary with different colonies; in which case the question may arise whether, especially in our fickle climate, the skilful

beekeeper who makes a point of always breeding from his best queens, and he who breeds for colour, for tongue reach, for vigour, or for gentleness, may not find it useful to test his bees in flight, and to breed for speed.

The following experiment has a certain amount of interest:—Three bees that had delivered up their burdens were taken, one each from hives A, B, C; they were marked white, red and green respectively, and were placed in a match-box. The operation was twice repeated, the nine bees being confined in three matchboxes. Then the owner, having set his watch with the watches of two friends left at the hives, cycled a mile on a straight road, opened the first match-box and threw out the bees. This he did, at intervals of ten minutes, with the two remaining trios. The time was marked as carefully as possible. The average time for hives A, B, and C were 4 minutes, 8 seconds; 5 minutes, 11 sections; and 3 minutes 2 seconds, from which it was calculated that the bees of hive C travelled 20 miles an hour, of hive A 15 miles, and of hive B 12 miles an hour. The results cannot be said to be absolutely accurate, but it is announced that the unfortunate queen of hive C is to be kept breeding like fury next season.—“Irish Bee Journal.”

TAMWORTH.

There was a nice apiarian display at the annual Show of above on March 1 and 2. We cannot do better than give the account of same from the *Tamworth News*:—

In the apiculture section the most attractive exhibit was that shown by Mr. E. H. Bryant. It was the only entry for the best collection of products of an apiary, and although it was Mr. Bryant's first attempt, it was very meritorious. It was arranged in pyramidal shape; the bottom layer was composed of working bees, and honey-comb in frames, the next was tins of liquid honey, then came bottles, tins, jars of liquid and granu-

lated honey, sections, and different designs of wax, the whole surmounted by a nicely made crown of wax. There were also candles made from beeswax, and the exhibitor told the writer that they were exactly the same kind as they use in Rome during ecclesiastical demonstrations. The exhibit was good, and was awarded the Champion Prize, and "The Peel Apiary" under which titular cognomen Mr. Bryant conducts his apiary, bids fair to be a strong competitor among all-comers. In the classes in which there was competition, Mr. A. J. Pankhurst, of Duri, was the most successful, with some excellent specimens of the little winged workers' industry, while Miss Kelman, and Messrs. Jno. Pender and D. Carter also won prizes.

CAPPINGS.

Rendering wax in a small way does not call for any elaborate appliances. Put the old combs into a gunny sack, tie the mouth securely, put the sack into an ordinary wash-boiler, set it on a stove, fill it two-thirds full of water, and then, while it is boiling, take a common garden hoe, and push, and punch and turn the sack of combs about. By throwing a good share of the weight of the body upon the hoe, quite a lot of pressure can be brought to bear while the combs are hot and under water. Finally set off the boiler, and lay some stones or bricks upon the sack to keep it down in the bottom of the boiler. Nearly all of the wax will rise to the top and form in a cake.—Exchange.

In comparing the relative merits of bee poison with that from wasps, Mr. Wathellet, editor of *Le Rucher Belge*, says: "It cannot be that the poisons of these two insects are identical. Several days ago in seizing a small wasp that was trying to enter a hive, I was stung on the finger. The pain was very great. I rubbed the wound to get the poison out, but the pain would not abate. An hour after, the finger was greatly swollen and painful. For three days I could not bend it. I

have received thousands of stings from bees since I have been in the beekeeping business, but I never before felt such pain. I should rather have 50 stings from bees than one from a wasp. Ten minutes after being stung by bees I do not know that I have been stung; but for eight days I felt the sting of that wasp.

A Cuban beekeeper says:—Prevention of increase in Cuba soon becomes a problem, and it is not unusual to see an intelligent apiarist increase from a comparatively small number of hives up to the thousand mark. Another writer says:—As for hired help in the apiary, I should like to call attention to the fact that we have to have to hire all kinds of help to do the work with 5000 colonies of bees; and what kind of spacing would take place with frames not self-spacing?

It could hardly be said that the Irish Board of Agriculture was in great favour at present, for, according to the Chief Secretary's statement, its chief claim to support was that last year it had been instrumental in giving 719 lectures on bees, poultry, and other subjects. These, however, cost £18,000, which works out at about £25 per lecture. Many of these lectures were very poorly attended, so that the expenses on their account were out of all proportion to the work done.—"Irish Bee Journal."

SHERLOCK HOLMES TO BECOME A BEE-KEEPER.—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle says that "the famous detective will retire from public life at Christmas, and will go in for bee-keeping." This should make robber bees sit up.—"Irish Bee Journal."

In keeping with the peculiar title of the work, "Meditations and Observations, Theological and Moral, in three Centuries upon that subject," by Samuel Purchas, Master of Arts, and Pastor of Sutton in Essex, London, we have his opinion of the bee government. "Bees are political creatures and destinate all their actions to a common end, one common habitation, one common work, one care, one love to their young and queen. They have all the same common law,

common food, and common generation. All these wonderful creatures are naturally skilful in all labours, and interchangeably perform them. Here is a magnum in parvo, a little in quantity, but much in worth. That in a body so little, the joints should move so actively, wings stir so nimbly, the sense penetrate so deeply, the senses utter forth themselves so sharply, is a marvel. What artificer is so various, what painter so true, what geometrician can match her work? They express, if not great reverence, yet I am sure great love to their Commander, without whom they will do nothing, and with whom they will be everything, go any whither, stay any where. They express not more love to their keepers than to strangers, but they being used to them with greater confidence venture among them. In value and magnanimity bees surpass all other creatures, so great hearts do they carry in their little bodies. For their queen they will hazard death, and warring for her and home they seem content to die. Their geometry appears in the fabric of their combs, and their astronomy in their knowledge of the weather. In fact in this little creature is found such sagacity and industry as is not seen in so great quantity in any other insect."--Exchange.

There is a new foundation, called Columbus foundation, now having quite a boom in Germany. It has a metal base, that is, a thin sheet of metal is in the centre of the septum. But in the centre of a brood-frame it was drawn out and occupied by the queen with reasonable promptness, all but a little at the edge, where the bees dug the wax off the metal. One who tried such in the 70's says:--He found that the bees would gnaw the wax from the metal, and then leave it bare. It was a conductor of heat and cold to an extent that, in cool weather, the bees seemed disposed to cluster on something that was warmer. The bees would draw it out into comb, a good portion of it; but when the metal was once bared it would stay so.

In the Japanese pavilion at the St. Louis Fair there was a Japanese hive, some chunks of beeswax, and some bottled honey.

Bee stings, as well as bees in alcohol, are now being used, and have been used for many years, in many different ways, in medicines and medical preparations.

Mr. E. R. Root's latest attempt is the management of a kinetoscope, by which moving pictures are thrown on the screen, pictures in which every motion is shown just as if the very pictured thing itself were in actual operation before your eyes, the hiving of bees, looking for the queen in a colony, and, in fact, every motion made in the manipulation of a hive and colony, or the hiving of a swarm, are presented in perfect life-likeness.--Exchange.

Those who are so infatuated about the grand English market for honey should read the following from the "Irish Bee Journal":--Take up any statistics or bee journals and see what are the imports of honey into the United Kingdom from month to month and year to year. The value of imports for last August was £2,250; for the year 1903, £30,349; and for six years (1898 to 1903) over £180,000 has left the country, of which vast sum the greater part could have been kept at home. Looking at these figures, one may ask why should the industry be neglected? Better by far to encourage it. There is room enough and to spare for all. Why not beat the "foreigner" at this business? The value of Honey imported into the United Kingdom in the month of October, 1904, was £658.

A simple and inexpensive way for rendering small quantities of beeswax is as follows:--"An old dripping pan (of course a new one would do) has one corner split open and that makes the extractor. The dripping-pan is put into the oven of a cook-stove, with the split-corner projecting out. The opposite corner, the one farthest in the oven, is slightly raised by having a pebble or something of the kind under it, so that the melted wax will run outward. A

dish set under catches the dripping wax, making the outfit complete. Of course the material to be melted is put in the pan, the same as in the solar extractor." To clean wax perhaps all that is easily practicable for you is to keep it liquid for a considerable time, so that the impurities shall have plenty of time to settle. One way is to put it in the oven of the range or cook-stove, let it melt, then let the fire die down, close the oven door, and leave it all night, taking out next morning before starting the fire. Then scrape the impurities off the bottom of the cake.—Exchange.

On how few of the tables of hotels and boarding-houses do we see honey? An American writer says:—The keeper of a boarding-house is not in the business for her health. She experiences hard-scrabble and small profits; and her first look-in at the proposition is: "Here's an extra expense for no purpose." Is she right? Well, she's not altogether wrong. Honey, to get into her house easily, must offer itself as a substitute for something. Extracted honey is the natural substitute for syrup; and the abominably poor quality and lack of sweetness realized in grocery syrups is one of our strongest helps. Why won't this avail at the boarding house as well as at the private family? With patience and perseverance it will, to some extent in time, but not much just now. The habit of never buying honey is among the greatest of all adverse winds. Let us consider a little. She don't want to fuss with two different kinds of liquid sweets on the table at the same time—what will happen if she leaves off the syrup and puts on extracted honey? One-third of her crowd don't eat honey, some claiming, either as a whim or as a reality, that they can't eat it without pain, and they will complain bitterly at the substitution. He we are "up a stump;" and it's a big stump not easy to pull.

There are at least three varieties of phacelia known. The tan variety is less showy than the "Parryi" and the rest; hence florists would naturally select the

latter for their trade. Yet, as a forage plant, none but the tan is of any value. In one of the widest circulated bee-journals of Central Europe, there appear twenty-six paid advertisements of phacelia seed by as many different individuals. The prices named are by the pound and by the hundred-weight. Now, the reasons why these offers are made is because there is a demand for the seed—and a growing demand. And the reason back of the demand is the knowledge of its value gained in former years by extensive experimenting. There are probably ten thousand acres planted with phacelia tan, in Germany alone this present year. Direct reports of the forage value of the plant made by a great number of people in various parts of that country, are not unanimous, and not as good this year as last, but still favourably enough to warrant farther and extensive cultivation. A special feature of the usefulness of the plant agriculturally, as well as apiculturally, is only lately being discovered, namely: sowing it in fallow land in the fall for a late honey-flow, and then ploughing it under for green fertilizing.

A good many times a queen is found balled by her own bees—not immediately after being handled, for at that time she is allowed to run down among the bees, and the hive is immediately closed—but she is found balled when the hive is first opened, when human touch could not have defiled her for days, or for months. In such a case I don't know for certain why she is balled, but she is certainly *not* balled because handled. If the hive is promptly closed, and the bees left in quiet the queen will be found all right at the next visit. That looks as if the bees had been frightened at the opening of the hive, and balled her to protect her.—"A. B. Journal."

An empty frame between full ones will be worked straight out by the bees themselves. We have found it so. Of course a small starter of foundation will be an advantage.

N. S. W.
Bee-Farmers' Association.

ANNUAL MEETING

WED., APRIL 26th, at 2 o'clock.

CRESCENT COFFEE PALACE, GEORGE ST., SYDNEY.

➡ **PRELIMINARY MEETING, MONDAY, APRIL 24.** ➡

OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

ELECTION TAKES PLACE AT EASTER MEETING.

PRESIDENT :

HASSELL HALL, M.A., F. W. PENBERTHY, J. E. TAYLOR.

VICE-PRESIDENTS :

F. W. PENBERTHY, T. BRADLEY, J. F. DONNELLY, E. J. RIEN.

SECRETARY & TREASURER :

E. TIPPER, J.P., WILLOW TREE.

COMMITTEE :

MESSRS. E. J. RIEN, J. PENNINGTON, F. BOLTON, J. R. W. GAGGIN, E. DOWLING,
J. R. IRVINE, J. ANDERSON, W. GEE, P. RIDDELL, W. E. BAGOT, W.
NIVEN, BUSHELL, LATIMORE, HEWITT, J. E. TAYLOR.

➡ Members who cannot attend can obtain Proxy paper on application to the Sec.

SUBJECTS SUBMITTED TO BE DISCUSSED :

JOINING CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

SALE OF HONEY.—Where are we to find a Market for our Honey, and what is the wholesale price to be in the future?

BUSH FIRES.

GRADING OF HONEY IN SYDNEY.

REGULATING OF PRICES OF HONEY.

THE HONEY EXPORT SCHEME.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A HONEY DEPOT.

THE PASSING OF AN ENACTMENT making it compulsory for all honey intended for export, to pass through the graders hands in order to a better and greater development of the industry, and to ensure the consumer of getting better satisfaction at all times.

VICTORIAN APIARISTS' ASSOCIATION.

VOTING FOR CONFERENCE.

Melbourne	20
Stawell	13
Ballarat	13
Wodonga	3
Bendigo	2

21 Voted for June.

8 „ May, April, July, September.

The Conference will probably commence on the last Wednesday in June, which will be the 28th.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Executive Council held its quarterly meeting on March 1st, a vast quantity of correspondence was received and dealt with. The following resolutions were carried:

That this council cannot but agree with the Lands Department in their view and contentions, as brought to light in the decision as relates to the matter of ringbarking, Penglase v. Fakhey, (see A.B.B. page 240.)

That Mr. Penglase be asked for an explanation as to the matter contained in the letter from the Lands Department.

That Mr. Thompson, M. L. A., be thanked for his sympathy and interest in securing an extension of beekeeper's licences from 1 acre to 10 acres.

That this council is of the opinion that the establishment of a Federal Department of Agriculture should command the early attention of the Chamber of Agriculture.

A lengthy discussion on the Rules as drawn up by the President then ensued, when the following were accepted as being suitable for adoption by the Annual Meeting.

W. L. DAVEY,
Secretary.

The Victorian Apiarists' Association.

RULES.

1. The Association shall be called the Victorian Apiarists' Association.

2. The objects of the Association shall be:

(a) The advancement of apiculture by the dissemination of information amongst members as to local and foreign markets, source of beekeepers' supplies, available bee pastures, &c.

(b) The protection of the natural native honey resources, by vigilantly watching and preventing the illegal destruction of the native honey-producing flora, and ensuring the planting of honey producing trees and plants.

(c) The safeguarding of the interests of members as honey producers by regulating the distance between the apiaries of members.

(d) The fostering of harmony and good will amongst members by holding an annual conference, enabling an interchange of opinions and experiences.

3. The Association shall consist of persons engaged in beekeeping, and such other persons as may be elected as temporary or life members by vote of the annual meeting.

4. The Association shall be managed by an executive committee, elected by the annual committee, including office bearers, three to form a quorum.

5. The office-bearers of the Association shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer, hon. correspondent and members of executive committee.

6. The Executive Committee may fill up any casual vacancy till next annual meeting.

7. The Executive Committee shall hold at least three meetings during the year, the date, place and hour of meeting being arranged by the secretary. Minutes of such meetings to be kept.

8. There shall be a secretary and treasurer appointed at the annual meeting, the remuneration, term of office, etc., to be fixed at such meeting.

9. There shall be an honorary correspondent elected, who shall attend to correspondence outside the ordinary routine, between the Executive and members and the press.

10. During the absence of the Secretary at any executive or annual meeting the secretary shall provide a substitute approved of by the executive.

11. An annual meeting shall be held during the winter months. Time and place to be decided by vote of members.

12. All questions at an annual meeting shall be decided by show of hands; but if five or more members demand a ballot it shall be taken.

13. The ordinary rules of debate shall be observed at all meetings of the Association or the executive council.

14. The financial year of the Association shall end May 31st each year.

15. Any person wishing to become a member of this Association must be engaged in beekeeping and be recommended by a member before being eligible.

16. The membership fee shall be: Life members (not commercially engaged in beekeeping) £2 2s.; honorary members, 2s. 6d. per annum; ordinary members, 5s. for first 30. Colonies of bees above that number 1d. per colony per annum. New members shall be admitted on payment of 2s. 6d. for first year.

17. In the establishment of apiaries by members of this Association it shall be recognised as a rule that a distance of at least three miles shall be kept from any other members' apiary unless otherwise mutually arranged.

18. That 25 full colonies shall be deemed to constitute an apiary or an effective occupation of a bee site.

19. In any dispute between members of this Association as to the locating of apiaries, in accordance with Rule 17, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Council for decision, any member disregarding such decision shall be disqualified from membership.

20. Any member proved guilty of adulterating the products of the apiary, or convicted of any fraudulent dealings shall be struck off the list of members.

21. These Rules may be added to, altered, or rescinded by the annual meeting upon 14 days notice of motion in writing being given to the Secretary.

CAPPINGS.

The paper bag for extracted honey is taking well and is of especial value in Idaho, both on account of the "tin trust" with a high freight rate and also because our clover honey granulates so readily as to make it an easy proposition compared with the eastern product. Honey in this form tested from last season has lain in an ordinary room and retained its condition as perfect as when put up, which will guarantee the grocers against loss and make it a ready seller in a compact, convenient form.—S. Western Bee Journal.

The way I requeen when I take away a poor queen is as follows: I hunt out the queen with as little disturbance as possible, and as soon as I get her away, I fill the smoker afresh with fuel, and pour the smoke on the bees until they fill up, and then smoke again until they are well scented with smoke, then smoke a little the queen to be introduced, and let her run in amongst the bees, and close

the hive and leave it a while. I prefer making the change in the evening.—*Exchange.*

An American engineer says, a bee flew in and out of his cab window for a distance of half a mile, and that while the train was making 65 miles an hour.

Mr. Townsend winters his bees in Northern Michigan on a plan that commends itself very much to me at least. In the porous sandy soil he makes a V. shaped trench. Rails or other suitable sticks are laid crosswise of the trench. The hives of bees, with sufficient stores, no top or bottom boards, are placed on these rails. All the dead bees and other trash drop down between the rails at the bottom of the trench, there being no bottom in the hives. The bees have most perfect ventilation. Trash or boards are put over the trench, resting on the rails laid on top of the hives. Then straw is put on, or other trash, and the bees are buried exactly as they bury potatoes in that region. A little ventilation is allowed through the trench; and under the snows of Northern Michigan the bees winter perfectly. Even during this past severe winter, the vegetation in the woods and in my ravine garden shows every evidence of not being frosted at all. I dug half a bushel of nice potatoes while cultivating around my peach trees, and they were just as good as they were last fall. Many of them were not more than an inch below the surface of the ground. They never felt 28 below zero at all. In such a locality it is a simple thing to fix the bees so they will be perfectly safe from the time the snow falls until it goes off in the spring.—*Progressive Beekeeper.*

Baby nuclei are the latest thing in America, but opinion is much divided as to their practicability. Shallow frames just long enough so that they will hang inside and crosswise of an 8-frame super. Thus they are kept when not in use. When you want to use them, after you have the cells ready, take a strong colony that is to be used for the purpose, and with a little cup dip a cupful of bees into

each of the little nuclei. A cell is stuck on each of the little combs, and then the whole is closed up. Virgin queens can be put in instead of cells if you have them. When you have fixed all of them they are taken out into the country several miles away from all undesirable drones, and there they are simply thrown under bushes or along the fence where they are out of the hot sun. The entrances, of course, having been opened. Here they are left until the queens are mated, when they are taken out after they have laid a few days, and new ones are run in if virgins are to be used. Otherwise cells are given. In this way several hundred queens can be mated with the bees from a single colony. This is said to be far superior to the old way of having large nuclei. These are too expensive to use. The little nuclei were left out for months and all through the winter. —*American Bee Journal*.

Bacteria are simply a class of low plants. They are the active principle in many of nature's processes and are as necessary to our life as the blood in our veins. They are the cause of putrefaction or decay of all animal and vegetable substances. They enrich the soil by a process of nitrification in a way that cannot be done by artificial means. They are the curing agents of the farmer's hay in the mow, as well as his fodder in the silo. In the dairy they are of great importance, the souring of milk being caused by the action of bacteria, converting the sugar of the milk into lactic acid. The ripening of cream and its changes into butter, and the ripening of cheese are the direct results of bacteria growth. It is to their powers of producing chemical changes during their growth that they owe their importance in the world.—R. M. Bundy in the "American Beekeeper"

You don't have to have water in order to heat honey properly. You can heat honey with a dry heat just as well as you can with water; in fact it is better. I have been dealing in extracted for 20 years and I have bottles that have been heated up a half dozen times; some of

them are just as white as the day they were first put in the bottle and the flavor is not injured in the least. We used to use water; we don't do that any more, because we don't want our labels destroyed. As soon as it granulates in the store the wagon takes it up and it must be liquefied and go back in that condition, and if we used water we would have to put on new labels every time. We do it with dry heat, but the vessel which contains the honey must not come in direct contact with any fire. —*Exchange*.

At the present time the greatest failing of professional bee-keepers is of too few bees—of clinging to some other hampering pursuit. Many keep enough bees to furnish them a fair living in a good season, but when winter losses, and poor honey seasons follow one another in quick succession, there is suffering, or, at least, inconvenience. If a man is going to follow bee-keeping as a profession, his only hope of success is in a good location, a good stock and the keeping of bees in such numbers that when a good year comes he can pile up the honey ton upon ton—enough to keep him several years. The larger a business the more cheaply can it be conducted in proportion to the results; not only this; but the very fact that bees are scattered about in out-apiaries several miles apart, adds to the certainty of the crop; as one locality often yields a fair crop while another a few miles away yields nothing. —*Exchange*.

The best cure for bee stings is to grin and bear it. Rub the sting out smartly with the thumb-nail held at an angle, or strike the hand, if it is the part affected, sharply against the clothing, giving the stroke obliquely, and then forget that you have been stung. In five minutes it will be impossible to tell where the thrust has been delivered. Never in any case rub the part affected, as you are simply spreading and disseminating the poison through the system. And never press the sting between the fore finger and thumb, as is generally done when withdrawing it, for thereby you greatly aggravate the sore.

It sometimes occurs that when a piece of drone-comb happens to come in the middle of the brood-nest of a colony with a vigorous young laying queen, the bees deposit wax on the edges of the cell-walls making the diameter at the mouth of the cell the same as the diameter of a worker cell, such cells being then occupied with worker-brood.—*American Bee Journal*.

Dr. Miller—at the Louis Convention, I believe I was the first one that started the bottom starter. One of the advantages of the bottom starter is that you are sure that the bottom of the starter will be in the middle. Another reason is that you are sure the section will be fastened to the bottom. In many cases if the honey is not coming in plentifully, especially towards the close of the season, a section will have a passage-way under it, and that bottom starter prevents everything of that kind. In other words, that bottom starter gives you a section fastened in all round. Before I used bottom starters, very often I had the starter swing clear off and fasten on to the separator, and it took me three or four years to find out why. I hadn't sense enough to know it was that bottom starter that held it there and didn't allow it to swing over the side.

When one has a choice of location in which to place his apiary, the spot selected should receive his first attention. If circumstances permit it should be near the dwelling house for convenience at swarming-time, and fairly well sheltered. It matters little whether the hives face east or west, although preference may be given to a north or north-west exposure. The ground should, if possible, be level and kept entirely free from weeds, with sufficient room to work comfortably round the hives. It is better also to be fenced around. A neat, well-kept apiary is always a sign that the owner is a successful bee-keeper, or, at least, that bees are a favourite hobby there, although when one gets older at the business and the apiary grows, he is apt to get more careless and economise labour of his time.

SAINFOIN AS A HONEY AND HAY PRODUCER.—Sainfoin is largely grown in England for hay; and if the land is suitable, very large crops are obtained; and as it roots deeply in the soil it stands a drouth better than most crops grown for hay. Sainfoin yields a large amount of most excellent honey; in fact, many prefer it to white-clover honey, and it seldom or never fails. The second crop comes at a time when there is little else for the bees to gather from. In England it is more universally grown than lucerne or alfalfa, as it is called in the United States. I feel sure if some of your readers would try an acre or two of sainfoin they would be pleased with the result. Being a perennial, when once established it lasts for years if a little top dressing is given occasionally.

Columbus-Comb of Doubtful Utility.

The new foundation with tin-foil base, made in Germany and called "Kolumbuswabe" (Columbus-comb), was heralded as a great acquisition; but reports of success in using it are singularly lacking. Foersto Klauke, in *Praktischer Wegweiser*, reports having tried a hive filled with the new foundation, also single frames put in the middle of the brood nest, but the bees made such bad work with it that he concludes by saying that it has only given him something more for the lumber-room.—*American Bee Journal*.

Bee-Culture in Arabia.

The Arabians are more skillful and fearless as bee-keepers than many of the French people. When working at the bees they have a vessel of glowing coals upon which they throw smoke-producing seeds. Though often trouserless, they are yet seldom stung. The hives, generally on the ground, lie horizontally in two rows, one on the other, the whole covered with boughs and weeds. The hive is a cylinder 8 inches in diameter, and 3 or 4 feet long, both round openings closed with a cover woven from straw, or

a piece of cork. He takes the honey by removing the hinder cover, cutting out the combs as far as he can reach, then doing the same thing at the other end. In a good season he gets 3 or 4 quarts of honey from a colony, which he sells on the market. After pressing out the honey the combs remaining are pressed into balls and sold or traded for trash to Jewish peddlers. The Arabian is fond of honey, and when he entertains foreigners he melts together butter and honey, and each guest, sitting on his mat, dips his piece of bread in the dish.—*Exchange*.

To get rid of laying workers.

Go to a colony which can spare three or four frames of bees—the more the better, for fertile-worker colonies are usually weak. Be sure you leave the queen behind. Place in an empty body, and put back frames of honey in place of those removed. You take the body and bees to the fertile-worker hive. Place a wire screen over the fertile workers, and the frames and body over the screen, the same as is done in uniting. As soon as the bees in the upper story find they are confined and queenless, give them a queen which they are in just the condition to accept. After three days remove the screen and the job is finished. If you are in doubt as to the result, just watch the little fellows carry in pollen where they before were idle—this being, of course, on the supposition that the queen has been accepted in the story above. *Exchange*.

SWARMING OBSERVATIONS.

As nearly 99 per cent. of the bees in France are yet black bees, the difference between the different races can hardly be of any importance. But in the same race, some colonies or strains are endowed with more vitality or procreative powers.

In twenty years, 42 per cent. of the original colonies of an apiary disappeared themselves and their swarms or descendants; 18 per cent. remain either them-

selves or are represented by one of their descendants; 16 per cent. are represented by two colonies each. Another 16 per cent. are represented each by three to ten colonies. The remaining 8 per cent. may each have all the way from 20 to 30 or more descendants present.

During the flow, no colony will swarm unless drones are present. But it is very seldom that a colony is without drones, notwithstanding all that the apiarist may do to prevent their production, or to destroy them.

If there are drones, it matters but very little if they are few or many. Fifty-four per cent. of the swarms observed came from colonies having numerous drones, and 46 per cent. from those having but few.—*American Bee Keeper*.

Publications Received.

"The Australian Tobacco Journal," the only Tobacco Trade Journal published in Australia, from the editor and proprietor James Webb, 76 Pitt-street, Sydney.

Copy of "Kingsburg Recorder" (California). It is edited by Mr. P. F. Adelsbach, of the "Western Bee Journal." It is a very newsy interesting publication.

QUESTION.

Shall I introduce a queen to a laying worker hive?

No! Get a fresh hive and put in the place of the laying worker one. Get a frame of larvae and put in it. Remove the laying worker several hundred yards away, shake every bee off all frames, they will return to the old stand, all except the laying workers. Place the empty combs in new hive. Be sure no bees are carried back on the frames.

Second-hand kerosene-cans have been cleaned with strong lye or a solution of caustic potash. The cleaning mixture should be boiling hot when poured into the can. The cans should be shaken violently, emptied out, and then rinsed thoroughly with boiling hot water. Some have tried them to their sorrow. It seems


to be very difficult to remove the kerosene odor; as honey is very susceptible to foreign odors, the least trace of kerosene taste or smell practically ruins it for the market, especially if it be fine table honey. After the cans are washed out they should be left out in the sun unstoppered as long as possible before filling them again with honey, for the purpose of letting any kerosene odors that may be in the cans escape. Lemesne recommended washing soda; but whether using soda, caustic potash, or strong lye, one should remember that after a certain number have been washed it is advisable to make an entirely new solution, for the reason that the washing mixture will become impregnated very strongly with kerosene, making a sort of soap.—*Gleanings*.

POULTRY JOURNAL GUESSING COMPETITION.

The Proprietor of the *Poultry Journal* will give 10 UNTESTED ITALIAN QUEENS to the first person who can guess the nearest to the told number of eggs laid by the winning pen at the present Hawkesbury College Laying Competition. The only condition is that you must be a paid in advance subscriber to the "*Poultry Journal*," or send on year's subscription with your guess. The yearly subscription to the *Journal* is only 1s. All guesses must be posted not later than the 20th March, 1905, but remember that it is the FIRST nearest correct guess that wins. Send all guesses to—

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The Australian Bee Bulletin.

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Buangor—Dear Sir, The selected queen I got from you is very prolific, her young queens being as much alike as peas in a pod, and are real beauties. Anyone getting your bees will want more, as they are an exceptionally fine strain.—T. G. Matthews.

Claremont, N.S.W.—The queens arrived in splendid condition, and have started to lay.—W. H. Farley.

Yasse Road, Bunbury, West Australia.—I am pleased with the last queen you sent; there was not one dead bee in the cage. Please send six untested and one tested.—John A. Ayre.

Willow Tree, N.S.W.—The two queens I got from you worked up well and quickly. Unfortunately there has been no flow yet to test their honey producing qualities or their offspring, but I have no fear for them.—E. Tipper.

NUMEROUS OTHER TESTIMONIALS

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