

# The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 17, no. 2 May 30, 1908

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, May 30, 1908

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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 Zea'and, & Cape of Good Hope.

Vol. 17. No 2

MAY 30, 1908.

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#### A Monthly Journal devoted to Beekeeping.

Circulated throughout the Commonwealth of Australia,—New Zealand & Cape of Good Hope.

Editor & Publisher: E. TIPPER, West Maitland, N.S.W. Aus.

MAITLAND, N.S.W.—MAY. 30, 1908.

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Francis M. Collier, Port Pirie South Australia INTER is now coming fast. Are your bees in order. Have your bees plenty of feed, and are they properly protected. To us there is nothing like a sheet of ruberoid top of frames, and the entrances closed. If food is wanting, a frame of honey from a hive that can spare it, or get an empty frame, hold it over a dish, and pour into it from a foot or so above warm sugar syrup, then place in hive.

We have received 10s. sub. to "A.B.B." with Goolagong post mark, but no name. Will sender kindly please notify us?

OW that the great cry for go on the land is in the air, the interests of the bee industry should not be lost sight of. The conditions under which the Government lease land for sheep breeding should have consideration. One of our subscribers says there are plenty of places where sheep breeding does not pay so well as bee farming, and one man says "If more attention were paid to cutting out of undergrowth, piling up and burning off of fallen timber, the land would be more beneficially improved than by the wholesale ringbarking of good timber.

In Germany, Anitoria, and Hungary there are said to be 100,000 members of beekeepers' associations. 70 per cent. of the Ontario beekeepers are said to have perished in the past two years.

#### BUILDING UP COLONIES.

Colonies Divided into Three Classes; Swarms from the Strongest Hived with the Weakest; Strengthening Medium Colonies with Frames of Brood.

BY WM, W. CASE

In the spring every apiary contains three classes of colonies-weak, medium, and strong. The first is generally regarded as useless, by some as nuisances, and as having worthless queens; the second generally get in good enough shape for a little surplus, while too frequently the latter expend their energy in giving off swarms, giving their profits in increase and not in honey. Such I find it to be too frequently the case with a far too large number of beekeepers, especially those who keep small apiaries for honey, and who have no room for (nor desire) increase.

There are certain well-known conditions that are essential to the production of a bountiful honey crop; and a general law governing these conditions, without which, no matter how favourable nectar conditions are, satisfactory results can not be attained in net returns. apiary, to be a profit payer, must consist of a number of colonies, greater or less, all of which are in a homogeneous condition of strength, that strength to be kept up by the progeny of a first-class queen, and then not ruined at the time of the honey harvest by an uncontrollable attack of swarming fever that turns a honeyflow into increase and not honey.

The bane of most apiaries in the spring is the weak colony, a colony usually regarded as worthless, or as a candidate for combs of brood from more fortunate neighbors—a plan which badly injures the stronger stocks at that time of the year, and is of but little value to the weak colony. A weak colony is frequently unable to care for more brood-combs properly, so the result is the death of the brood from chilling, or the bees that hatch will be of such low vitality as to be practically rearthless.

tically worthless.

Others try to help the weak ones by feeding and nursing, and sometimes succeed in building up to satisfactory strength, but only at the close and not the beginning of the season, with a result of barely enough to carry them again through the succeeding winter and give nothing whatever for daily bread for the owner.

In but few sections of the North is it at all worth while to try to feed a weak colony to working condition in time for a flow from clover, and it is only throwing away good money to rob strong colonies of brood to build them up. If feeding for stimulative brood-rearing must be indulged in at all, we should feed the very best ones and get every bee hatched possible before swarming commences, and let the weak ones take care of themselves, of course seeing to it that they are kept supplied with honey, as warm as possible and protected from robbers.

Now, with the advent of swarming, comes the day when our weak colonies become our money-makers. When the first swarm issues, go to the strongest weak colony, one, say, that has reached five or six partly filled combs of brood, but which will remain too weak of itself to yield surplus; smoke thoroughly to cause the bees to fill themselves with honey, and catch and cage the queen and remove her. Now hive the swarm right into this weak colony and give plenty of room for surplus. As all the bees are well filled with honey there will rarely be any dispute. This poor worthless colony has now become, like magic, one of the very best in the apiary, and possesses every requirement for yielding a large surplus, viz., a medium amount of brood. a large force af field bees stimulated by having swarmed, a good force of nurse bees already in the hive, and a first-class queen. Such a colony will rarely swarm again during the season, as, by the time they are again gorged with brood, the honey-flow will generally be so far advanced as to discourage further swarming.

Now to return to the hive from which the swarm issued. Next day about noon, when the few field bees are out foraging, smoke the bees; and, if you have time, remove all queen-cells and turn the queen taken from the weak colony loose on the combs. She will be accepted ninetynine times out of a hundred, and no questions asked. If rushed for time. just turn her loose on the combs anyhow. and she will take care of the queen cells In about a week this colony will have regained its normal strength and, having a laying queen, will constantly increase that strength through the honey season, and will but rarely This queen may acquit herself as one of the very best in the apiary the rest of the season.

Now from two colonies, the one worthless and the other one liable to do too much swarming, have been evolved two colonies, both in perfect condition for a large yield of finest honey. Countinue this treatment, always selecting the strongest weak one, as the weaker ones each day all naturally become stronger, until all weak colonies are brought up to the standard of extra working condition.

#### TREATMENT OF THE MEDIUM COLONIES.

But now how about those medium colonies too strong to be treated as above, and not strong enough to be very profitable in their condition? If we occasionally rehive a swarm on the old stand and in the old hive, and take out four of the best combs of brood, putting sheets of foundation in their place, we can give two combs of brood to two each of those colonies, take out a couple of poor combs of brood to make room for them, which can be formed into a nucleus and given a queencell. These two full frames of brood should immediately bring the medium colonies to the required strength for work, while the swarm hived on the old stand should also give a nice surplus.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE ARE MORE SWARMS
THAN WEAK COLONIES.

Should the indications be that there will be more swarms than weak colonies, select the very best colonies as regards both purity and industry, and when they swarm remove the hive, from which the swarm issued, to a new stand, and hive the swarm on the old stand, giving it, say, three combs of brood from the old stock, and three or four sheets of foundation, and give plenty of surplus room. This colony, having all the old bees, and some brood, should also give a nice surplus.

Now to go back to the old stock removed to the new stand. Take two nucleus-hives, made to take frames the same size as those in the hive; place them on separate stands, give each one or two combs of brood and a good cell from the hive, and let all three raise queens. Any surplus cells can be cut out and used in other nuclei formed in the same way for the next seven days, thus hastening hatching several days and also increasing the number of queens raised from choice mothers.

After all the queens in both nuclei and central hive are laying and have filled all their combs with brood, the queens may be taken from the nuclei and used to replace the poorest queens in the apiary, and the brood and bees united with the main colony, thus giving it at once seven or eight full combs of brood, and making it at once a full colony. Queens reared in this manner have no superiors in beedom.

This method is simple enough for the amateur with half a dozen colonies, and equally valuable for the largest of home apiaries. It is also elastic, i.e., it can be modified to suit many different conditions; keeps every colony to the top notch of strength during the honey-flow, keeps every queen working full time during the whole season, and keeps every

colony, nuclei excepted, with a laying queen all the time, and makes swarming a blessing instead of a nuisance, allows a moderate increase through the nucleus system, and keeps the apiary supplied with a class of queens having no superior on earth.

Any tendency to degeneration from close breeding can be immediately checked by the purchase of choice breeding-queens of other strains—not to replace but to blend with the best strains already in the apiary: and any one breeding on these lines would in a short time refuse to have his whole apiary requeened free of charge by the best breeder in the country.

If the apiary is run for comb honey, care must be used to produce nothing but a fancy article—one that will command the top, or a premium over the top quotations; and it is just as easy to produce a crop all A1 to fancy as it is to produce all number two or worse.

Comb honey, if to command the very best prices, must be removed from the hive about as fast as finished, and before becoming travel-stained, and properly stored and cured, and not left on the hive until the season's close. If every separator used in the apiary, wood or tin, is not thoroughly washed and wiped dry before being used in the supers, much of the capped surface is bound to have a non-attractive smutty appearance; and all drawn combs in sections from the previous season, no matter how white, must have the ends of the cells cut down before using, or an expert will condemn every section so used at a glance, wise it is difficult to produce nice honey on a hive containing old dark combs unless they contain freshly sealed honey at their tops.

If the apiary is run for extracted honey, and we expect the honey to bring the top price as a table delicacy, it can not become too ripe before extracting, and for best quality of product it should remain on the hive three to six weeks after sealing before being extracted; while for general market honey it may be extracted as soon as sealed, but not before. —"Gleanings."

#### Can Australians Make Magazines.

"The New Idea," easily the most widely circulated woman's magazine in Australasia, has increased its price to sixpence, and more than justified the move by an advance in the quality, the quantity, and the get-up of the contents.

This popular magazine becomes more thoroughly Australasian with each step in its progress. In the enlarged issues before us are some of the finest little stories, sketches, pictures, and verses that any magazine has produced on this side of the world. Mary Gilmore, a writer of exceptional sweetness, and a poet of great charm, begins here a series of memories of childhood spent in the bush—a series that might grace any magazine in the world. They are illustrated by an artist of the front rank, Albert Enes, whose pictures thoroughly catch the spirit of the matter. Miss Hattie F. Hopkins, a daughter of "Hop," the most famous cartoonist in Australia, has begun to contribute short bright stories, and these are being illustrated by a young Melbourne artist, Laurie Tayler, who is displaying remarkable facility both in line and brush work. First-class writers, and experts in their own line, have been engaged to write successive articles on all sorts of topics.

Charles Barrett, for example, begins a Nature-study series, through which runs a love interest that makes it practically a complete novel, whilst Jacqueline Gore takes the time-worn subject of How to be Beautiful, and weaves it into the love-story of a bush-girl. A capital serial story by a leading novelist, and a number of short, complete tales make up the tally of the story-element.

The Fashion side has been strengthened by the engagement of Monsieur Worth, the celebrated Parisian dressmaker, to write a number of articles, advising readers how to dress with taste and economy. In addition, a system has been adopted for the supply of paper patterns of any of the printed designs in the magazine, and as upwards of forty designs appear in each issue, covering the whole range of the fashions of the month, readers have the advantage of being able to put Monsieur Worth's advice to a practical test. The "New Idea" patterns are, as a matter of fact, achieving a reputation for correctness and up-todateness.

On the domestic side, there are strong departments devoted to all phases of a woman's life, and page after page of sound, common-sense advice are given each month. The editor caters for the amusement and profit of his readers by running a number of competitions. Chief of these is the picture-puzzle contest. Each month nine little pictures are printed, each representing the name of an author (and a list from which the authors are taken is supplied), and at the end of twelve months the first prize-winner is to awarded a free trip to Japan and back; on another page, six current fashions are printed, and for the exercise of good taste in placing these fashions, it is open to readers to win from £10 to £20 in actual cash every month.

Altogether, we know of no magazine of its size and price that gives so wide, so varied, and so excellent a collection of reading matter as "The New Idea." A leading daily recently devoted much space to prove that the mental recreation of the average Australian woman is the trashy novellette; but the fact that some hundreds of thousands of Australasian women read "The New Idea" is in some degree an answer to that statement. It is truly a wonderful sixpend'orth.

#### Hunting for Wild Bees.

There are two reasons for hunting for bee trees, one for the sake of honey, the other for the sake of preventing increase of inferior bees. The writer has done a lot of hunting for both reasons, and no doubt this greatly aids a beekeeper in his calling. Some folks tell us that bees left to themselves will soon become inbred and almost worthless are not the black bees, commonly called German bees, as good now as forty years ago. I say they are better, and why, because the dreaded moth has so improved them by weeding out the worst bee trees. At one time we thought the black bee was going to leave us, but they are not only in some places on the increase, but are better than ever. There has been two young men about to embark in the bee industry searching for wild bees some six miles from here. I am acquainted with them. They report good finds. Italian bees first, cross-breds second, blacks third. Although the Italian bees average by tar the best, sometimes they find a cross between the blacks and Italians far above either race. The cross-breds, commonly called hybrids will not average. The Cyprian race of bees do not appear to have got abroad in the bush yet. The way these young men manage is to search for bee trees on fine warm days, from watering places. When the bee tree is found it is cut down, and all the pieces of best brood comb is placed in frames and fastened there with snareing wire, placed in a hive. All the best of the honey comb is placed in honey tins with patent lids, containing about from 40 to 50lbs. of honey. These tins would hold 60lbs. of strained honey, and are packed on horses, two on each horse. The bees are placed in one-story hives, with from two to three frames; other frames are made up with starters. These are allowed to remain at the fallen bee-tree a few days. Sometimes the bee tree has a piece cut out, and honey and bees removed without falling the tree. All the worst dusty pieces of comb are carefully collected in an open kerosene tin and hung to the branch of a tree, so that all the hopey can be removed by the bees, the good honey is packed as I said before, taken home, and given in charge to mother; she has a Dadant Uncaping The combs are broke up fairly well and placed in this and covered, left in the sun a few days until about 90 per cent. of the honey is drained out, the honey drained off and run through a new flannel bag, which removes all dust and makes the honey almost as good as the best. This honey is then sold as "Best Bush Honey," the remaining combs are placed in a Jones Wax Extractor, which divides the mass into three, second-class beeswax, good feed for bees, that is the honey, and the refuse, the honey not being fit for sale after putting it through the wax extractor, it is excellent for bees. In the spring all the black and cross-bred queen's will be destroyed and replaced from some well-known queen bee breeder.

W. REID, SEN.

Honeyvale, Paupong, via Dalgety, N.S.W.

#### Ringbarking,

The following petition is being forwarded to the Minister for Lands. We sincerely trust he will see his way to grant the petition, not only on behalf of the petitioners themselves, but every other portion of leased ground in the State. It is no more than is done in Victoria:—

Trunkey, May 8, 1908

The Hon. The Minister for Lands, Sydney.

Sir,—We, the undersigned Bee Farmers pray that indiscriminate ringbarking will be prevented upon Improvement Leases (shortly to be made available) within the Macquarie goldfield. A large portion of the area is open, while box country is intermixed with very many

other excellent honey producing trees. The white box is pre-eminently first as a honey tree, and being easily killed is the first attacked by the ringbarker, while stringybark, white-gum, more tenacious of life, and suckering quickly and profusely, are not so unmercifully ringed, and they, blooming too late in season, are too late for the honey producer, yet they are splendid timber.

We humbly beg to point out that the land could be vastly improved for grazing purposes, by clearing undergrowth, picking up and burning, we venture to say more so than by wholesale ringbark-

ng.

Three years ago not more than 2 tons of honey was produced there, while last year 50 tons or more was extracted, valued together with the beewax at over £1500. The Bee Industry promises to grow rapidly during the next ten years in this locality, but should ringbarking take place, this industry would be crippled, and the destruction of a vesy fine belt of forest will have been accomplished.

We therefore humbly and respectfully pray that you will favourably consider our petition and disallow the indiscriminate killing of these valuable timbers.

We have the honour to be, Sir, Yours obediently, M. Hunter, J. A. Stiff, E. Deacon, J. Willard, E. Alnett, Jas. Goodacre, Wm. Davies, J. Henry.

#### Wax Melting.

BY THOMAS WARNER.

I do all my wax melting outside in case of a boil over. When the wax is well melted with plenty of water put the strainer on the kerosene tin, dip some of the melted wax out of the boiler, put it in the strainer and with the presser press till all the wax is pressed out, throw out the refuge, and repeat till all is done. Then add about an ounce of sulphuric acid, stir it up well till it turns in a cream colour, cover it up with a

quantity of sacks, or anything to keep it warm. In 24 hours it will have cooled sufficient to pour the water off. The cake of wax will come out easily and the dirt will peel off, leaving a beautiful clean wax, fit for market, with one boiling. If there is much honey or pollen in the combs it should be soaked previous to treatment.

RENDERING OLD COMBS AND SCRAPS INTO
MARKETABLE BEESWAX.

Appliances I use are as follows:—A boiler sufficient large for the quantity to be rendered, a kerosene tin with the top cut out and nicely turned down, two frames made with 1-inch square timber, one that goes easily over the tin and the other that will not go over. Nail the two together with a piece of wirecloth between them loosely, that will form a deep shallow basin, forming a strainer. A presser made with a piece of board made round about 5 inches in diameter, hole bored in the centre one inch to receive a handle, and a dipper that will hold about a quart.—Masterton, N. Z.

#### What to Feed Bees in Cold Weather.

Almost every year, when cold weather comes on, we are asked how to feed bees in mid-winter. We advise giving a comb or combs of sealed stores, as liquid feed in cold weather excites the bees too much. We would not break the cluster to insert this comb, but, rather, lay it flatwise on the top of the brood-nest, separated by a couple of strips of wood 3 or h inch thick. Where the brood-nest will not afford sufficient room, an extra story should be put on, and some good warm packing material should be placed over the whole. When combs of sealed stores are not obtainable, wooden pie plates or wooden butter dishes, filled with Good candy may be placed on top of the brood nest. But do not make the mistake of placing this candy directly on top of the frames, for the heat and moisture of the cluster will cause it to run down, thus killing the colony. Cakes of hard rock candy may be laid on the frames without being placed in any container; but the average person will be able to make his own Good candy by mixing powdered sugar and honey to a stiff dough easier than he can make the hard, stiff candy.—"Gleanings."

#### Exhibiting Honey in Scotland.

A writer in the "British Bee Journal" gives some experiences he had with above. He says: "I sent an exhibit of heather honey (which had won five first prizes without a defeat) to one of the leading shows in Scotland. I naturally valued this exhibit very much, but the Scotch "experts" apparently did not know how to put the jars back in the travelling boxes at all, my own and other exhibits being sold against our wish; even where some exhibitors put the selling price at 3s. 4d. per îlb. jar, the owner received 1s. per jar in payment. A Scote friend writes me to say, "I lost mine last year. It was lifted by mistake -at least it disappeared." Another says "I lost 15s. worth of honey from my trophy in one night." It is a serious matter when the best honey in the country is unwillingly left behind in the hands of our Scotch friends, and may be staged against us in competition later on."

The following is taken from the "Western Post," Mudgee, at a place called Kenabee:—It has been a very busy time with the bee farmers lately. All the bees are wanting to swarm. Every day there has been big swarms come out, and not a few have gone away into the bush. As usual the district is free from sickness.

[Pe the last line. Would the bees have carried the disease away?]—ED.

WANTED TO BUY Second-Hand 10 inch Foundation Mill. Apply, J. GORHAM, Gunnary, via Burrowa.

#### PRICES OF HONEY.

Melbourne Leader.—Honey.—Up to 3d for prime; medium to good, 2½d.

Australasian.— Choice honey is in fairly good demand at 3d, prime fetching  $2\frac{3}{4}d$ ; cloudy and dark is quoted at down to 2d. Beeswax is unaltered at 1/2 to  $1/2\frac{1}{2}$ .

S.M. Herald.—Honey.—60lb tins extra choice extracted, 3d; prime  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d to  $3\frac{1}{4}$ d; good,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d; inferior and candied,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Beeswax.—Bright, 1/- to 1/3; dark, 1/-.

Martland Mercury.—Honey.—2d to 2½d; small tins, 1/9 to 2/-. Cessnock—Honey.—3d. Paterson.—Beeswax.—9d to 1/-per lb.; large tins, 9/- to 10/-

#### HONEY.-

The market has been very dull, but with the advance in butter, we expect a slightly better demand, although we do not anticipate high prices. Choicest Western  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d to 3d. Good from  $2\frac{1}{4}$ d to  $2\frac{3}{4}$ d.

#### BEESWAX.-

The demand very quiet. Best Bright 1/2 to 1/2 d per lb. Dark 1/1 to 1/2 per lb.

Martin Martin Martin

# PRESCOTT LIMITED.

COMMISSION AGENTS

336 & 338 SUSSEX STREET

-SYDNEY-

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A BOUT 20 or 30 hives of bees in Victoria Apply,
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A BOUT 70 HIVES GOOD ITALIAN BEES. E. TIPPER, Wallabadah.



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If you are keeping bees for pleasure or profit, you want the best breeding stock that is possible to get.

I have been importing from the leading Queen Specialists in Italy for the last 15 years, and have proved the superiority of their bees.

Can I book you an order for a choice Queen Mother from Italy to arrive in Sept. or Oct.

Write for particulars now.

J. DRAGE, EAST ADELAIDE, S.A.

#### ITALIAN QUEENS.

BOOK YOUR ORDERS
FOR THESE
BEAUTIFUL QUEENS
for delivery from
October to March.

5/- Each.

M. ARMSTRONG, SORAVILLE APIARY, THORNTON.

### A Medicinal Value of Honey that is little understood.

BY C. W. DAYTON.

There are two methods by which the system secures fermentation. One is by the use of salt, or hydrochloric acid, and the other is by the consumption of fruits which contain the constituents for the production of the vinous ferment; such as grapes, currents, apples, etc. In order to have enough strength, the juices should be evaporated into more density. Otherwise exposure to air will cause it to amount to acetic fermentation only. Honey and pollen produce active fermentation. Honey without pollen needs the assistance of yeast. Pollen is nitrogen; the same as the coloring matter and flavor in honey is nitrogen. The darker the honey the more nitrogen. The more nitrogen the greater activity in the ferment. Activity is life. The ferment in honey will work itself to an end and become worthless unless given more substance to work by. Honey vinegar will keep only a short space of time. This is the reason storekeepers will not sell honey vinegar. The other kind, which will keep, is pure rottenness, and, consequently, cannot spoil.

Although nitrogen does not furnish much to build up the system, it is what causes the other elements to act. It expands, thereby causing bread to rise or become inflated. It causes a mixture of honey and water to work or ferment, though the bulk is not increased. The flavor of the mixture is changed or increased, however, as perceptibly as the flavor of butter or meat is changed when fried in the skillet on the fire, and, in either case, the mass is rendered more digestible and more desirable to the taste. Yet nothing takes place except the production and expulsion of nitrogen.

The distinguishing characteristic of the honey ferment which I shall describe is that it is both an actor and a substance of the building. There are few or none other substances in nature which possess

both of these desirable qualities. The starch in flour or potato will ferment and build after a particular change has been made. This change must be made by a process to be accomplished by the digestion, and we are not sure that the digestive organs are capable of completing it. With a rapid and indiscriminate consumption of meats, breads, vegetables. sugars and sweet fruits, the seeds of which produce fermentation, are liable to be swept out of the digestive tract, and onward, entirely out of the system too rapidly for the consummation of their purpose; and in time all traces of fermentative action must be suspended. Now, when the ingredient of our existence is lost, we become weak in muscle; also in nerve action. Easy to tire and easy to become agitated—barely able to drag around. Colds, headache, toothache, cold feet, neuralgia, rheumatism, boils, itch. blotched face, sun tan, putrid sores, unaccountable swellings and insatiable appetite and thirst. All these are only a few of the imperfections which pervade the system at the instance of faulty rations, and that fault is unbalanced fermentative and nonfermentative food. Here is the remedy infallable.

In one pint of water dissolve six ounces of amber honey and one half-cake of yeast. Let it stand in a warm place until that degree of ferment arrives which possesses the most spicy flavor. Then in a gallon size stone crock put two quarts of water and two and one-half pounds of honey. Then put the fermented mixture into the crock with the honey and water and thoroughly mix them. Drink a small glass of the ferment near the close of each meal, and as much more forty minutes later.

If it is desired to produce activity of the lower bowels after breakfast, take half a glass of the ferment one hour before breakfast. If the contents of the crock works too rapidly so that the tartness prevails over the sweet flavor, take out about two-thirds and boil and skim it and return it to the crock; or it can be drank as a beverage, and additions made to that in the crock by putting in more honey and water. It should receive such replenishment daily, or according to the rapidity of fermentation, which should be allowed to reach the beginning of fermentation merely.

It will require experiment and study to make this remedy effective, and then it should not be depended upon to the neglect of other ferment-yielding substances. Any food which is not used in its most natural state becomes a medicine (a drug) and is more violent than nature. Nature is always slow and sure but permanent. Nature's way of obtaining fermentation is through the fertility of the soil and through the production of such foods as the unperverted appetite suggests. If fruits, vegetables or cereals are produced on soil which is not naturally favourable for such products, there is perversion, that, in time, will show its influence.

After the successive changes which lead to and cause headaches are understood it can be seen that honey could not fail to be its cure. It opposes the conditions which induce headache. Nearly all of our ailments are induced by the confliction of the fruit (vinous) and sala (hydrochloric) ferments. A balance of the two ferments is the most active producer of uric acid. The acid frequently accumulates in the lower half of the body, where, forming into sharp cornered crystals, it causes rheumatism. Muscles are not sensitive to pain, but nerves are, and it is the irritation of the nerves by these crystals by which we are notified of the difficulty. A similar irritation of nerves may cause toothache.

Before disease sets up in any part of the system, that part of the system must lax into a weakened condition. If, by activity and exercise, we work some of our muscles up to a high degree of action and power, and then suddenly discontinue

the exercise, it brings about a waste of muscle which constitutes weakness. amount of nutrition which is accustomed to being required for use in that part of the body will be continued to be carried there, where it must remain unused, or, only partially or imperfectly assimilated, and in which condition it will soon be rejected as effete material. The removal of it is no more forcible or complete than the assimilation, or the vitality of the wasting muscle. That particular locality becomes a general dumping ground for refuse from other parts of the system. The increased eliminative action which artificial ferment sets up is the only means of relief for the congested state. If we choose the wrong kind of ferment, the disease will be made worse. The proper ferment must be determined through a knowledge of the food, climate, exercise, etc.

If, on rising in the morning, we work or exercise for three or four hours without breakfast, we may feel a somewhat painful emptiness in the stomach. If we pay no attention to it, after two or three hours a slight headache, toothache, backache, rheumatism, or any other ailment which we have been troubled with, will start up. This is the certain evidence of diseased The cause of the disdigestive organs. agreeableness is mucus mixed with secretions from the diseased digestive organs during the preceding night, which form a very injurious ferment. If we eat breakfast it will stop the gnawing sensation in the stomach, and the food will absorb the contaminable substance, but only a small part of the food can digest. Undigested, it will contaminate the whole system, and excite to activity any old disease by which we may have been previously attacked.

Take a small bowl of water at a temperature of 50 to 60 degrees. Stir into it three tablespoonfuls of evaporated milk or six of Jersey cow's milk, and a quantity of mild flavored honey the size of a walnut. Sip with a teaspoon. Do not think that if a little milk is beneficial,

more is better. The efficiency of this mixture depends upon withholding the milk. More milk will cause it to be di-Being neither food or drink it will quickly find its way through the digestive organs. Honey contains nutrition and imparts strength, but, being already digested, it excites no digestive activity. Pure water would be absorbed into the vascular circulation through the walls of the stomach if the system were Milk cannot be dilacking moisture. gested in the stomach, nor can honey be handled in the intestines. The debilitated condition of the digestive organs causes the pylorous (outlet of the stomach) to remain unclosed until ingested nutrition, or else nutrition borrowed from other parts of the body and carried to it by the blood, enables the pylorus to resume its action. If a meal is eaten while the pylorus remains in this inactive state, a part of the food will go directly into the Intestines and become a most contaminating material.

In twenty minutes to an hour after swallowing the above mixture, there will be a movement of the bowels by which you can detect the truth or wrong in the foregoing statement. In one or two hours later the natural hunger will assert itself in an unmistakeable way, and the organs of digestion will be prepared to properly care for it.—"The Beekeepers' Review."

#### Preparing Wax for Exhibition.

By M. H. Read, Hon. See Irish Beekeepers' Association.

Having a large number of old combs to boil down, I took two sheep dip I gal. tins half filled them with hot water, and placed them on the range. Into one I crushed down six or seven combs, leaving about two inches for swelling when the wax would come to the boil. With a little bowl of block tin, of about ‡ pint capacity, the wax, as it melted, was ladfed over into the second tin, with as little

dirt as possible, any that could be seen being picked out of the ladle with a piece of wire.

By the time most of the wax had been removed more boiling water was necessary; and then the ladle was filled with cold water and dipped up and down in the boiling, till practically all the remaining wax had adhered to the outside of the dipper. This wax contained a large proportion of debris, and was scraped off to be boiled down again with other similar stuff. The remaining rubbish was then thrown out and was seen when cold to contain a very small proportion of waxless than was left by any other process which I have previously tried. The time occupied in removing the wax was very short, though, of course, it required constant attention. The wax ladled over was of a good colour and held but a small proportion of dirt. This was further reduced by straining-a large jam crock being placed in the other vessel, with some boiling water in both the crock and the tin vessel, and muslin tied over the tin, through which the melted wax was poured. A saucepan lid was put over it to retain the steam.

Before long, practically all the wax had strained through, and was treated then with sulphuric acid, a very small quantity being poured on the wax, drop by drop, stirring all the time with a thin piece of wood. The acid had the effect of improving the colour and separating more completely any impurities that had passed through the muslin. The crock with wax was then returned to the tin and placed at the side of the range to cool very slowly, covered with a lid. All impurities were cut away from the cake of wax when cold—what was next the cake being saved for another boiling, as it contained a fair proportion of wax.

A selection was made from several cakes, and about an ounce more than the required weight was remelted in the crock, which had been previously thoroughly cleaned. This was poured into

the exhibition mould wetted, in which it was cooled very slowly, sitting in a pot of hot water, in order to avoid cracks. The result was a sample which would take a lot of beating, and which, in fact, was not beaten, notwithstanding that many of the combs from which it was obtained were simply black with age.

I consider that the nice quality of the wax was largely due to the treatment in the first process, by which the wax was removed from the comb refuse before it had time to take any dye from the foulness of the latter.—"Irish Bee Journal."

#### Publications Received.

We acknowledge receipt of the "Gardener's Magazine," a review and periodical journal devoted to gardening, agricultural, horticulture, and the allied sciences, published every month from the agricultural and horticultural nursery, Copalnagore Road, Alipore, Calcutta, India. We take the following from it:—

# WHY NEGROES TEETH ARE WHITE.

The whiteness and beauty of the teeth of the African negroes have, through a mistaken idea been generally ascribed to the food which they eat, and to favorable climatic conditions. But, according to a German medical journal, these unschooled natives take special care of the teeth, and are familiar with many remedies for the treatment of dental diseases.

From the observations of officials in German colonies it appears that the natives exercise more care in preserving the teeth than do most Europeans. They may owe the possession of sound teeth of ivory whiteness partly to the influence of environment and habits, but, in addition, they employ many herbs, barks and juices as prophylactic and curative agents.

Thus, in Negombo it is customary when a child has finished teething to rinse the mouth with an infusion of the leaves of a native tree, with the object of tightening the teeth. The action of the infusion is probably due to the presence of a styptic constituent in the leaves which causes the gums to shrink. The natives living near the source of the Nile employ the roots of leguminous plant, Dalbergia Melanoxylon, to relieve toothache, while the natives to the west of the source of the same river use ar infusion of the seeds of kasso, a climbing vine, for the same purpose.

It is interesting to notice that the use of the tooth-brush is not restricted to the so-called civilised people. The African negroes fashion tooth-brushes out of the wood of a species of adansonia and other trees. In this respect the natives probably have an advantage over those who use an ordinary bristle tooth-brush, which is frequently used for six months, or even longer—indeed, until it becomes too offensive to be tolerated any longer.

The sticks of wood such as the natives employ are, on the other hand, easy to make and cost nothing, and they are probably used for only a short time. And they possess the additional advantage of offering less opportunity for particles of food and other *debris* to be retained mechanically than is the case with a bristle brush.

#### NEW COMPLEXION BEAUTIFIER.

GOOD FOR A HUNDRED YEARS.

"Rs. 100 and will have the face of a Pompadour—Rs. 60 and you will be so beautiful that all your women friends will be envious and all your men friends devoted."

Thus spoke to a lady journalist a practitioner of the new complexion process—a revival of old Egyptian ideas—by which it is asserted any woman may be made beautiful on simply paying the price in gold and silver. The interviewer continues:—

- "Does it hurt?" you ask.
- "Not a bit," you are assured.
- "Does it take long?"
- "A few minutes each day for a very few weeks."

You question further, and madame then explains how she has devoted all her life to the study of the preservation of the When she was a convent girl at the Sacred Heart, in Austria, she says she spent several hours a day watching and studying with chemists, and that from them she learned the value of many drugs and the secrets of many compounds. Then into the hands of the convent girl, grown to womanhood, came secret of Madame La Pompadour's beauty preparations, so this new complexion specialist claims, and with this to start upon she travelled to the land of the Ptolemis to glean what knowledge she could from the ancient Egyptian methods of preserving the dead.

#### THE EGYPTIANS' SECRET.

"If the dead skin can be made to keep its contour and colour for years, why cannot the living be made to do the same?" is the question madame asked herself. And so she searched and delved among the books and relics, experimented and concocted until she succeeded in mixing the pastes and liquids which she now claims will restore any skin and preserve it for lifetime, even for a hundred years. It is a secret wrested from the tombs, and one which madame cherishes as she does her own existence.

She suggests to you that you try a treatment, just to see how you like it and to see how much prettier you look.

And so you try it.

She holds aside the blue silk hanging at the door of a tiny boudoir and you are ushered into the holy of holies, the shrine of beauty and youth. The walls are tiny mirrors separated by strips of white enamelled wood. As you sink into a spacious and comfortable chair, covered

with immaculate white linen, you face a large mirror, hung above a dressing table, that would bring joy to the heart of a marquise.

You lean back against the soft cushions and a square of linen is folded very narrow and tied round the edge of your hair. Next a big linen sheet is laid over you from chin to toes, and the edge is tucked very carefully into the back of your blouse, and you are ready to be initiated into the mysteries of the new beauty culture.

#### A POTENT MIXTURE.

Madame takes a bit of cotton from her apron pocket, dips it into one of the china boxes on the dressing table and begins to smear your face all over with some of its contents. It is thick and smooth and dark brown, and at first it has no particular feeling. When a thick coat has been spread on, the beauty giver stands beak and surveys her handiwork, while a quizzical look shines in her eyes. You feel nothing except that your face is sticky, and it must look grotesque with its coat of brown. She continues to look at you.

Presto! there is a tinge in both your cheeks, and soon your whole face begins to burn. In another minute you feel as if a thousand little insects were romping around underneath your cuticule. chase each other in circles with the quickness of lightning. They circle and circle about. You are on the point of begging to have the brown stuff removed, when madame comes to your rescue, and with another bit of cotton dabbed in another china box she covers the brown paste with a coat of honeylike oil, which relieves the tingle, cools and soothes the skin and makes it feel fresh and active. With a few more dabs of fresh cotton all the brown substance and the honey oil are removed and you are yourself, pink and round and girlish looking from forehead to chin.

"It fills out the wrinkles and keeps the skin round and firm," explains madame, as she makes a few more preparations. "You see, there is nothing to come off, it is not like rouge or powdor; the colour and complexion are your own."

#### MASSAGE NO GOOD.

"Enamel?" Oh, no! it is not an enamel, asserts madame. "The pores of the skin are left free and clean. The application of the paste makes the blood cells very active and brings the rich red fluid to the surface, where it will throw off any impurities. The blood feeds the flesh and the skin, and keeps them in perfect condition."

Madame does not believe in massage. The regular manipulation of the musles of the face or the body results in making the flesh soft and flabby, and provides a foundation for wrinkles. Not even a double chin is subjected to this sort of manipulation with the fingers, but a coat of the stinging paste is laid on and rells are smoothed out by its aid, apparently.

There are other beauty concoctions to be had at equally appalling prices. These are either prepared by the beauty specialist herself or by expert chemists after her own prescriptions. Creams come at Rs. 10 a pot, powder at Rs. 20 a box, and perfume at Rs. 10 a bottle. They are scented with a special and peculiar but very delightful perfume, and some women think that it is quite worth the price to be recognised by this costly odour.

#### POETRY.

#### Cover them Over.

BY WILL CARLETON,

Cover them over with beautiful flowers; Deck them with garlands, those brothers of ours;

Lying so silent, by night and by day, Sleeping the years of their manhood away; Years they had marked for the joys of the brave;

Years they must waste in the sloth of the grave.

All the bright laurels they fought to make bloom

Fell to the earth when they went to the tomb.

Give them the meed they have won in the past;

Give them the honors their merits forecast;

Give them the chaplets they won in the strife;

Give them the laurels they lost with their life.

Cover them over—yes, cover them over—Parent, and husband, and brother, and lover:

Crown in your heart these dead heroes of ours.

And cover them over with beautiful flowers.

Cover the thousands who sleep far away — Sleep where their friends can not find them to-day;

They who in mountain and hill-side and

Rest where they wearied, and lie where they fell.

Softly the grass-blade creeps round their repose;

Sweetly above them the wild flow'ret blows;

Zephyrs of freedom fly gently o'erhead, Whispering names for the patriot dead. So in our minds we will name them once

So in our hearts we will cover them o'er; Roses and lillies and violets blue

Bloom in our souls for the brave and true.

Cover them over—yes, cover them over—Parent, and husband, and brother, and lover:

Think of those far-away heroes of ours, And cover them over with beautiful flowers. When the long years have crept slowly

E'en to the dawn of Earth's funeral day; When, at the Archangel's trumpet and

Rise up the faces and forms of the dead; When the great world its last judgment awaits:

When the blue sky shall swing open its gates,

And our long columns march silently through.

Past the Great Captain, for final review; Then for the blood that has flown for the

Crowns shall be given, untarnished and bright;

Then the glad ear of each war-martyred son

Proudly shall hear the good judgment, "Well done."

Blessings for garlands shall cover them

Parent, and husband, and brother, and lover;

God will reward those dead heroes of ours,

And cover them over with beautiful flowers.

### Beekeeping in the Hawaiian Islands.

The following interesting account of bee ceping in the Hawaiian islands was furnished to the writer recently by a gentleman, now a resident in New Zealand. The gentleman it may be mentioned, spent his earlier years in New Zealand, and first became interested in bee-culture when a school boy, by reading Mr. Isaac Hopkins' Bee Manual. He says:

"I have spent 14 years in the Hawaiian Islands. Twelve years ago I got a couple of hives from Mr. Hopkins, and worked a colony or two of bees for my employer. Since that time, when managing a large ranch, we started in bee-farming, and purchased 1000 colonies. We were very

successful in that and succeeding years, and averaged as much as 200lbs. of honey per colony in some of our apiaries of from 100 to 200 colonies each.

Our chief honey source was the Algeroba or Mesquite, a native of Mexico. It grows on a long, narrow strip of country on the leeward coast, and our apiaries were established there, about three miles apart. We made our own comb foundation, and put together our five gallon tins for the honey. Owing to my having larger interests to look after, I had to leave much of the apiary work to an assistant. Our workers were Japanese, who became very adept at all work in the apiary, making foundation, extracting dividing, and introducing queens. did not put them to queen rearing, as we preferred to do that ourselves.

The conditions for bee-farming were very favourable, a warm climate, where the queen can lay all the year round, and the bees gather some honey and pollen even in the wet season, from various herbs and other plants, also honey dew. enables the colonies to come out strong in the dry season, when the Algeroba starts flowering. We had no foul brood. and little moth, but we were not without some troubles. Bee paralysis sometimes, and a small ant occasionly came in great numbers, and would if steps, were not taken to protect the bees, very quickly kill all the bees in a hive attacked. We had no trouble with swarming, as we worked for extracted honey, and perhaps the breeding more or less all the year may have had something to do with it. We increased by dividing—our bees were chiefly hybrid Italians.

The honey from Algeroba is water white, and granulates very quickly. It is not a good table honey, having very little flavour, but suitable for confectioners. In 1903 we bought a local apiary of 90 colonies, and contracted for 1000 more to be delivered in six months.

#### Find Enjoyment To-day.

We live constantly in the present, and upon the ability to find contentment and pleasure to-day, depends the success of life.

A few days ago, word came to Marengo that Frank Carpenter had committed suicide. To many of us who had known him from childhood, it was a great shock. He was born and reared on a farm within sight of my home, had developed into a man of splendid business ability, was honorable, and highly esteemed. In company with his brothers he had. built up a great business in Omaha, Neb., and although not yet much over 40, had emassed a fortune, 200,000dols. during the past summer having been expended for a warehouse to accommodate increased Nor was his money selfishly He was a pillar of the church, abounding in works of charity. Why should such a man commit suicide?

No, it was not domestic infelicty. He had just finished a splendid residence, with a fine sentimental regard for his wife's early associations, had spent a large sum in transporting several carloads of rock from the farm on which she was born, near Marengo, with which to face the building.

It was the too common story of the strenuous life. Earnest in business and in all things, he went the pace that kills. Then came the breakdown in health, reason tottered on its throne, and death closed all.

However sad such a course may be, is it any worse in reality than that of the man who is a type of thousands? He devotes his whole soul to making money intending to make his pile, and then to enjoy life. But when he has made his pile he no longer has the capacity for enjoyment in anything else, and might about as well be dead, for he is dead to all that is going on.

To the young man who wants to get the best out of this life, to have the happiest time possible, I would offer two "don'ts." First, don't go the pace that kills. Second, don't count only on the future for your enjoyment.

The man who does not enjoy life this year, next year and the year after is not likely to enjoy life 20 years from now. Choose such a vocation that every day employed in it will be a joy in itself.

How about choosing beekeeping for such a vocation? That depends on your tastes chiefly. If you find it fun to take care of a few colonies of bees, the fun will increase with the number of colonies, so long as you do not go beyond the limit of your physical ability. By way of parenthesis, I may say that if you think of merely keeping bees for the sake of making money at it, without any special love for the business, better don't. But if you really like it, few vocations offer so good an opportunity for a happy life as beekeeping rightly pursued.

The beekeeper has all outdoors to work in, and the value of sunshine and fresh air for health and strength is not yet half appreciated. The wide-awake beekeeper has always a fresh interest in his business. No sooner is one problem solved than another arises. For that matter there are problems that seem never to be solved, and yet one never wearies working over them.

Now and then some beginner with only two or three colonies reports unusual success, and the remark is made. "Yes, but his enthusiasm will wane, and he will never again get such a yield." He may not get so much per colony again, because his bees do not have the same abundance of pasturage with increase of numbers, but there will be no lessening of yield because of lessening of enthusiasm—at least there need not be. I stand here to testify that after an experience of 46 years, my enthusiasm is just as keen as when I first began. I now walk the floor or lie awake at night, studying over some

new plan, just as I did then. The delight I have in securing a fine crop of honey is just as great as it ever was. More than that, I don't see but the enjoyment of life in general is just as great at 76 as it was at 26.

But don't make the mistake of having mind and body exclusively occupied with one hobby for seven days in the week.

Neither mind nor body is built for that sort of thing. As an avocation have something else beside bees in which you are interested, and deeply interested.

This is a good old world, and with the chance for a good time in this life, and the right insurance for the next, why shouldn't the beekeeper be happy? For my brother beekeepers, especially the "Old Boys" among them, I have no worse wish than that they may have as good a time as I have had, and am having.—Dr. C. C. Miller in "American Beekeeper."

#### **<b> ※CORRESPONDENCE. ※**

We are very sorry to have received the following from Mr. W. Abram, Beecroft: For some time my eyesight has been failing till now I cannot read and can hardly write this, but the specialist thinks to restore me to better sight again.

R. H. G., Glen William.—The past honey season has been a very good one in this district.

F. L., McLaren Vale.—Bees are gone down with me, no honey at all with me this season. If ever they go ahead again I will send to you. I might get an odd number sometimes from you, just to remind me of old times. Wishing you good luck.

H. B., Oaklands, Panbula, writes:— We had a splendid honey flow this year, bloodwood has been blooming for months and in wonderful profusion, with plenty

honey.

J.J.G., Orange Grove Apiary, Palmer's Channel, Clarence River.—Would you please ask through the "A. B. B." what they think of the American Golden Bee. Are they susceptible to disease or any other trouble? Are they hardy?

Qy.—Are the American Golden Bees more susceptible to disease than others? Will subscribers kindly give their experience of same? J. J. Green, Clarence River. [Our own experience is that they are.—Ep.]

F.J., Harvey, W. A.—Dear Sir, —Your letter duly to hand in regard the bees you speak of at Newcastle, they would be rather far away. I should, if possible, like to buy about 20 or 25 in the Northern districts of Victoria or the Southern parts of N. S. Wales. Getting them down from Newcastle would be rather expensive.

W. N., Eugowra.—We have obtained a good crop of honey this season. Our reserve price is 3d. per lb., honey selling slow. Hope you have done well with your bees this season.

E. H., Trunkey, writes-We have had a most remarkable season here, one man extracting 101 60-lb, tins from 21 hives, and in three other instances 31 60-lb. tins were taken on average from each colony. Every tree in the bush bloomed, and even now, the white gum or brittle Jack is still blooming. Nothing like it has been seen for 12 or 14 years. We are now faced with annihilation as the Nungunna Goldfields are shortly to be turned into Improvement Leases, when I suppose the sheep farmer wont leave a green stick. I have sheep of my own, and I have bees, and I'd sooner let the sheep die for want of food than I would ringbark good honey trees.

Sir,—In the issue of the "Australian Bee Bulletin" of March 31st, page 267 under heading "Weather Influence," re W. Abram has a somewhat lengthy epistle in which he does not forget as usual to remind us of his long experience with the busy bee, yes long before any

bee journal came to exist in Australia. Well, friend Abram, I don't doubt that I have read it so many times, but is that a recommendation for any man, I always think the proof of the pudding is the eating thereof. I feel almost afraid to write further. I am only a babe compared with a man of such long experience, so it is only right to beg pardon of my senior friend for attempting to correct him.

In his letter he tells us that the pollen famine is a fad, and must remain such for ever. This is quite sufficient to kill my confidence; I shall never take his writings serious after that, it seems so childish to say that, and for the same letter claims such long experience. Now, I have not been many years at the game, but I have experienced pollen famines, or such I call it, my senior may probably have some other name for it.

I will describe it so that the readers may judge for themselves. It lasted from the latter part of October till into January; there was a heavy honey flow, as heavy as I have seen, but not a speck of pollen, the consequences were that crowded hives came down to mere handfulls, so weak that the honey in the tree tops went to waste, for want of bees to gather it, as soon as pollen producing plants began to bloom the bees repaired where a few scattered eggs or sealed brood, now a solid slab.

So starving were the bees for pollen that, having occasion to saw a log in two near the apiary, the bees readily grabbed the saw dust and carried it to their hives, which would prove that bees cannot be trusted, but take any rubbish into their hives, when in straits for food. Now tell me what influence had the weather over above, it was fine for honey gathering, but the bees dan't get pollen out of the weather. The weather certainly has influence over the bees, there may be fields of bloom rich in pollen as well as honey and if we have weather that prevents bees from flying, then the weather is the cause, again we may have a drought, no rain for years, there would

be no bloom, neither pollen, nor honey, one bees, nor would we require any

queen-breeders.

Friend A. B. always has a word about Victorians, their expert etc., yes we have an expert, it is an enviable position, I would like it myself, but I have so much more to learn befere I get there; my chance is a rather distant one.

Yours truly, A VICTORIAN CHUMP.

Trunkey, May 19, '08.

To the Editor of "Bee Bullettn."

Sir,—The beemen of this district are desirous of joining a Bee-farmers' Association, and to form a branch in Trunkey. Could you acquaint us to whom we should apply for necessary rules or code. It will be necessary, if we desire to fight the unscrupulous ringbarker, with any chance of success, to have an association of some kind, with necessary funds, to

put up a good fight.

We want to impress on the governing bodies, that if more attention were paid to cutting out of undergrowth, picking up and burning off of fallen timber, that the land would be more beneficially improved than by the wholesale ringbarking of good timber. Ringbarking is a cheap and slovenly way of improving the carrying capacity of the vast holdings, which everywhere surround us, and if the big landowners were to be compelled to properly clear his land of undergrowth, fallen timber, logs, &c., he could run more sheep. As it is now a few thousand sheep require almost and empire to run on, notwithstanding that most of the runs are denude of any green, timber.

> Dunolly, Vic., May 9th, '01.

Dear Sir,—This has been an exceptionally bad season in this locality. Following a very severe winter came the drought, by which the bee's suffered in common with animals; and the feathered

tribes which made their ravages on the orchards, where a great number got poisoned. It was done in self defence, not by "invitation." as Mark Twain said it to have been done by some of the aboriginals of this State in the early days when they were put off with poison in the feeding. In summer the yellow box came out with very little honey and no pollen. While they were in blossom bee's continued to dwindle as before, and after, eggs were laid and hatched that never came to maturity through lack of food. Brood nests were contracted, like in winter, many dying out. quently, when other blossoms came out with abundance of honey and pollen bee's went for the pollen till their nests were almost choked with it, while their dwindled numbers could not take advantage of the flow, and are now gone into recess in a weakened condition, and as to whether many of them will take the field again depends on the clemency or rigour of the coming winter; but sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, so it's no use trying to appropriate that which belongs to the future.

Our would-be friends, the boomers of the honey industry, are now silent till something exceptional occurs, then the champion kite flyers will try to attract

public attention. - W. H.

Mr. Penglasse, Narrang Apiary, Fernbank, Gippsland, writes—Things are not too good over here for stock. It has been very dry. Bees did fair for such a poor season. Pollen was very scarce, owing to the ground flowers not blooming.

E. G., Violet Town, Victoria.—If I had to depend on my bees for a living I think I would soon die of starvation. We have had a very poor season this year; no honey to speak of, and I am doubtful if 50 per cent. will live till next spring, Last year, 1906-7, was a fairly good one, but I was unfortunate or careless enough to have my bees nearly all washed away with a flood; the second

time. One good point about beekeeping is, that if they don't make money they do not cost a lot of money to keep. Hoping you are prospering with bees and "Bulletin."

#### Age of Queens and Superseding.

C. P. DADANT.

Continued from page 17 April issue.

They are seldom profitable after the third year, and the Italians will sometimes have a young queen, 'helping her mother' in her egg-laying duties before

she becomes unprofitable.!"

Summing up all these opinions, we find that queens are, as a rule, good for at least 2 years; that the greater or shorter duration of their fertility depends in part on the capacity of the hive and the number of eggs which they may be induced to lay by encouraging circumstances; and, lastly, that in most cases they are superseded by the bees before their fertility is ended.

From this we will deduce readily, and without much fear of controversy, that the idea of replacing queens every year is preposterous; that they should be allowed at least 2 full seasons, before being replaced. But what about replacing

them later?

But here is another question: Queens are like hens and other animals or other insects, they are more or less prolific, and some prove much better than others. is very probable that there are differences in the contents of the ovaries or of the spermatheca, as well as in their ability to mature eggs and lay them promptly. Every queen-breeder has noticed how quickly some young queens will fill every available space with eggs, keeping their workers on a constant strain to supply the brood with the necessary food, while other queens, reared at the same time, in the same manner, and even sometimes from the same mother, will drag along slowly and never fill as many cells with brood as their retinue would easily nourish. There is a very plain difference

in fertility. It is obvious that a queen whose fertility is below average will keep the colony under average for strength, and the probabilities are that there will be but little surplus honey harvested in the colony of which she is the mother. Such a queen should be superseded just as soon as we find out her inferiority. But we must be sure that she is below average, for what would be the use of superseding her, if we could not give the bees a better one?

According to several of the writers named above-namely, Cowan, DeLayens and Miller-that queen lives longer Miller does not say it which lays less. in so many words, but he says that there are more queens superseded after good seasons. As queens lay more eggs in good seasons than in had ones, it is safe to assume that, in his opinion, the superseding of queens after a good season is due to their having been exhausted by From this we increased egg-laying. would'conclude that the long-lived queens are the poorest layers. I acknowledge that it would be impossible for me to assert this from personal experience, for I have never had the patience to keep an unprolific queen to see how long she But I did, in a number of instances, preserve queens of very extraordinary prolificness, just as long as they would last, and I can remember at least two cases where the prolificness lasted fully four years, and when I began to think of replacing the queen by a young one, I found, as Doolittle reports, that the bees had been doing it themselves. The men who, like C. C. Miller, clip the wings of their queens, have a very good chance to ascertain when the queen has been changed, and if a closer inspection of the hive was kept, in general, than the average beekeeper follows, many more cases of natural supersedure would be reported.

I do not believe that there is any doubt about the much greater fertility of some queens than the average. It is very probable that these queens have a greater

number of egg-germs in their ovaries, and that these germs are also more enlarged and matured by the agencies of warmth and food than in the case of inferior queens. This brings us to the most important point. Is it not better to keep your most prolific queens as long as they show no signs of failing, and to breed your young queens from such long-lived, prolific queens, rather than requeen, every one, two, or three years, indiscriminately? When you have a queen under average, is it not best to replace her at once and take your chances on the young queen which will very probably prove at least up to average?

If we could, in every instance, or even in a majority of instances, replace our old queens by new ones of whose prolificness we were absolutely sure, there would need be no hesitancy about superseding queens as often as we thought best. But a queen, to be tested for prolificness, must be located in a full colony. If we buy queens, the breeder who furnishes them cannot vouch for their prolificness unless he has so tested them, and they are then valuable to him, and if he understands his business, he will charge you a

good price for such queens.

To sum up, I will say that my method has always been to replace inferior queens as soon as I make sure of their inferiority, but in the case of good average or very prolific queens, I aim to retain them as long as their fertility does not decrease, meanwhile trusting the bees with the task of superseding such queens by some of their own stock if they should notice the decrease of their powers before I do. After all, Doolittle is undoubtedly right when he says that natural supersedure is "one of Nature's plans."

#### Publications Received.

From the New Zealand Department of Apiculture, "Bulletin No. 5." 1. Practical advice. 2. Apiculture in relation to agriculture, by Isaac Hopkins, apiarist No. 1 includes the use of comb foundation, ripening and maturing of honey,

specific gravity of honey, method of testing honey vinegar, ripening inside and outside, size of honey tanks, cheese press converted into honey press, diseases, etc.

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Methods of Honey Testing for Beekeepers," by C. A. Brown, Ph.D., Chief Laboratory, Bureau of Chemistry. By E. F. Phillips, Ph. D. in charge of Apiculture, Bureau of Entomology Production, and "Care of Extracted Honey."

By E. F. Phillips, Ph. D., "Wax Moths and American Foul Brood."

#### Glucose in Australia.

The "Australasian" had the following in a January issue:—

With regard to the company which has been formed to introduce the manufacture of glucose to Australia, a further step forward has been taken. It has been decided to send Mr. W. L. Engelbrecht, Mount Gambier, to America to select the most up-to-date machinery and get all available information as to the best processes for the manufacture of glucose. He will also visit Germany and England, and continue his inquiries there. In America glucose is made most largely from maize, but in Germany from potatoes. The machinery selected will be adapted for both. Mr. Engelbrecht will leave for America per first boat in January. The head works will be in Melbourne; but branches for dealing with potatoes will be established at Mount Gambier and Warrnambool, and in Tasmania.

"Gleanings" make the following remarks on it :- We are sorry for our Australian friends, more particularly the beekeepers. What can be the matter with the Australian people that they should desire to eat glucose? Cane syrup is infinitely to be preferred-in fact, glucose can not be eaten until some kind of good syrup is mixed with it. In this country its use has been ruinous to the manufacture of jams and jellies, and certainly it has always been used to lower the intrinsic value of any food in which it is used. In fact, its use is to cheapen or adulterate, never to improve anything. It has also created a number of millionaires at the expense of the poorer classes. The Australian beekeepers will have their markets lessened if this scheme materializes.

W. K. M.

#### CAPPINGS.

The members of the New South Wales Royal Commission on the question of forest conservation, who had been inspecting forests in Victoria, and taking evidence in that State, have returned to Sydney. In summing up their impressions of the Victorian forests, the commissioners said: "We are highly impressed with the excellent work done by the Forest Department in Victoria, and consider Victoria should be highly congratulated on the beneficial legislation of last year, which secures continuity of the forest management of over 4,000,000 acres of land."—"Leader."

Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, acting director of Agriculture for New South Wales. addressing a meeting in Sydney, said that over £2,000 had been raised "to commemorate the wonderful heroism of Mr. Noble as a cricketer." A man died two years ago who did more for Australia than all the cricketers ever did, or would ever do. He propagated new wheats, one of which, called "Federation," was going to make Australia known throughout the world. That was William Farrar, who worked patiently, and at small emolument, till he suddenly died. It was decided to have a scholarship at the Agricultural College to perpetuate his name, yet they had not got £150 for it, although every farmer in New South Wales had got the benefit of Farrar's splendid work.—"Leader."

Speaking about the size of entrances, we have tried time and again in our locality an entrance one inch deep by the width of the hive, and the loss in bees and stores is almost invariably excessive. We were forced to reduce the entrance to x 8 inches maximum; then the mortality was noticeably decreased. In the average locality where bees are wintered out-

doors we believe it would be a serious mistake to have an entrance one inch deep by the width of the hive; and we are of the opinion that our correspondent even in his locality, could make a better showing if he would try half of his colonies next winter with an entrance § x 8, and the other half full size. But it should be remembered that whenever an entrance is reduced it must be kept clear of dead bees.—A writer in "Gleanings."

G. C. Greiner, in Gleanings, speaking of scouts, says: "I watched them all the afternoon and forenoon of next day." Clearly, these scouts were sent out before the swarm issued, unless it hung out over night. I am strongly of the opinion, buttressed by much observation, that bees generally send out scouts before rather than after swarming. It is a very common thing here to see scouts cleaning out empty hives, and I think they often work at it for several days. One set of scouts working in an apple tree at the Hastings apiary appeared in such numbers that it took us some time to convince ourselves that a swarm had not entered. On the next visit, a week later, they were still there.

My first divisible hives were nothing but the regular ten-frame shallow extracting-supers with 53-in. Hoffman felfspacing frames. These were used throughout from the bottom up. My idea was exactly the same as the questioner's. these shallow hives should prove unsatisfactory they were to be used as supers on the deep-brood-chamber hives, but this was never done. More were put in use as divisible-brood-chamber hives instead, until now I have hundreds of them in my apiaries. Having these side by side with both a foot away from the boiler, but nearly above it, where the heat was greater. Then, again, I have often set small vessels of honey quite close to the stove to have the contents melted .- Louis Scholl in "Gleanings."

The average life of a bee as a fielder is 26 days or less.

Contrary to the arguments of some of our authorities, I believe that hives well painted will last very much longer, keep in shape better, and look nicer than unpainted ones. These three points in favor of painted hives are enough to make me a new coat of paint on all of my hives, supers, bottoms, covers, and all other supplies and implements this spring before the honey-flow.—Louis Scholl in "Gleanings."

In reference to the statement that honey was likely to be scarce this season, it is of interest to learn that the Agricultural Department statistics for the year ending April, 1906, give the quantity of honey made in that period as 1,003,940lb., and of wax 31,682lb. for the whole of the Dominion. The number of beekeepers was returned as 15,396, and of hives of all kinds 74,341. The value of the honey, at 5d. per lb., amounted to £20,915, and of the beeswax at 10d. per lb. to £1320.

—"New Zealand Farmer."

[That 5d a pound is something for Australian beekeepers to wonder at. If 3d. is reached here, it is not often.—ED.]

ITALIAN QUEENS OF Spring.—M. Maurice Bellot, who has imported and reared Italian queens since 1869, writes in "L'Abeille et les Fruits," referring to the frequent complaints made that hives in which such queens have been introduced become queenless in spring, the conclusion arrived at by many being that Italian queens do not winter well in France. M. Bellot, in the course of his business, has purchased great numbers of queens in Italy, has for many years been an extensive queen-breeder in France, so that he has long been in a position to thoroughly study the question, and is able to state why such queens are lost soon after their introduction in the autumn. His conclusions are:—1. The queen must be properly accepted before her liberation from the cage. A queen is not always accepted after forty-eight hours' caging, and although she may not be killed as soon as

she is liberated, the bees may "ball" her for several days, damaging her wings, requently severing one altogether, or amputating one or more legs. Even if a queen does not succumb to this treatment immediately, she becomes worthless, and the bees do not fail to replace her in spring when they have suitable brood for rearing another. 2. When the hives are placed too near to each other a certain number of bees make a mistake in returning after their first spring flight, and enter the wrong hive. If the bees are of the same race, generally all goes well, but it is otherwise if the common black bees enter a hive to which an Italian queen has been introduced before she has sufficient young bees of her own race to She suffers the same treatprotect her. ment as already mentioned, and if the combs contain young brood she is killed, to be replaced by another. M. Bellot guarantees these two causes as wellestablished facts, and says colonies that are Italianised in September or October must be placed in such a way that no stranger bees can enter the hives .-"British Bee Journal."

We acknowledge receipt of No. 1 of "The Dairyman," devoted to the interests of dairy, dairy cattle, and dairy products, from the proprietors, the Dairymen Publishing Co., 5 Moore Park, Sydney. It contains an amount of information on the above subjects, and we most heartily recommend it to all interested in dairy matters. It is well and highly edited.

The best material for bee veils is silk brussels netting or a fine wire cloth.

We take the following pars from the "Irish Bee Journal":—

THE MARKETS. — Honey Producers.

Dublin.—Sections, special, 9s.; 1sts, 8s.;

2nds. 7s. per doz. Extracted, 5d. per lb.

Cases and tins lent. Prompt cash.

Foreign Honey. — In the "Daily Mail" of December 21st, 1907, Messrs.
Owbridge make a big display of 440 barrels containing 40 tons of honey, landed at Hull from Chili and Jamaica, They say that this is but a portion of their

season's supply.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY.—A New Zealand beekeeper has marketed 14,508 lbs. of honey in England. He sold at 5½d. per lb. in an inland county—expenses ½d. per lb., from Christchurch, N.Z.; net return 4¾d. per lb. How is this, compared with 5d. per lb. for Irish honey in Dublin?

I notice many elaborate descriptions of the proper way to catch and hold a queen for clipping. Why catch her at all? take in the left hand one end of the frame, rest the opposite corner on some solid support, follow her quietly and carefully around with the point of a pair of scissors in the right hand, and, as she pauses, nip off the wing-right wing for even years, left for odd. If a person's hand were not steady enough for this, I imagine a small rubber band lightly stretched between the prongs of a stick would hold her against the comb satisfactorily. Here is a method of introducing queens I have not seen mentioned. It is simple, and does the whole thing with one operation, even without opening the hive under certain conditions: I have flat cages (something like the Miller), closed by a cork-like plug. When ready to introduce I remove the plug and lay the cage on the bottom board (I have not found it necessary to place it up among the frames), with the entrance or opening to the cage close up against the side of the hive or bottom-board. Provide a small wire attached to the other end of the cage communicating with hive-entrance; and when you judge she has been in the hive long enough to be accepted, pull the wire lightly, which will drag the cage away from the side of the hive, thus leaving the cage-hole open. If thought desirable a little candy-honey dough can be inserted in the opening of the cage at the time of introducing, which the bees will not be able to get at until you change the position of the This is the only method I have used, and have never lost a queen .-Writer in "Gleanings."

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