

The Australian bee bulletin. Vol. 4, no. 37 April 23, 1895

West Maitland, N.S.W.: E. Tipper, April 23, 1895

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AUSTRALIAN THE

BULLETIN. BEE

A MONTHLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO BEE-KEEPING.

VOL. 4. No. 37. APRIL 23, 1895.

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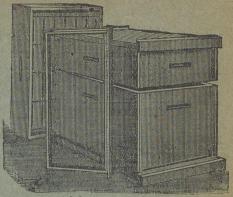
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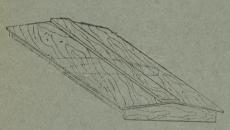
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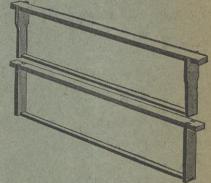
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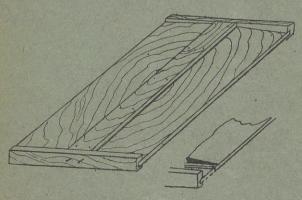
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Hunter River Bee-Keepers' Association.

MONTHLY MEETINGS. TUESDAY, MAY 7TH.

C. MANSFIELD, Hon. Sec.

ANNUAL

CONVENTION

BEEKEEPERS.

LL those desirous of READING PAPERS are requested to communicate with the Hon. Secretary National Beekeepers' Association, 70 Hunter Street, informing him as to the subject they intend to take up.

Intending Delegates are reminded that they must forward their NAMES AT ONCE, to enable application to be made for reduced rates in steamers and railways, as the concessions will be influenced by the numbers attending.

> H. RAWES WHITTELL, Hon. Sec.

Save your copies of the A. BEE BULLETIN. Send to us and we will bind 12 numbers of them for you for 3s 6d. E. TIPPER.

April 23, 1895] The Australian Bee Bulletin

The Anstealian Pee I

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO BEEKEEPING.

MAITLAND, N.S.W.-APRIL 23, 1895.

WE would call the special attention of N.S.W. beekeepers to the advertisement elsewhere, inviting persons who wish to read papers at the forthming Convention at Bathnrst, to apprise he secretary, Mr. H. R. Whittell, of the same, together with the subject of their paper. Also, all who intend to attend same should at once forward their names to the same gentleman, so that steps can be taken by the committee for getting the usually granted reduction of travelling fares. From private letters we have received from a number of leading beekeepers, who state their intention of being present we have every reason to believe there will be a good attendance. We sincerely hope important good will result to the industry from its deliberations. Let all who intend to be present make np their minds that it shall be so. We did hope to have had a lot of suggestions re such for this issue, but perhaps as the time gets nearer correspondents will warm up to the occasion. Possibly, the fact of there being an energetic secretary and committee has created a confidence that lulls writing about it.

During the winter months, in most parts of Australia, it would be well, on a warm sunshiny day to give a look at hives that you have any doubt as to their condition. Should there be a doubt of any being able to pass the winter on account of strength, they had better be united to others. The same with queenless hives. One strong colony will recover itself quicker in the spring than three or four weak colonies. There should be at least four L. frames of bees, the tale of it in another page.

As the cold weather sets in the queen ceases to lay, but the worker bees being confined to the hive, do not wear out and die as fast as in warm weather, or if a honey flow was on. Therefore the necessity of stores in the hive; also, the colonies being strong, as a strong colony keeps up sufficient warmth to keep itself alive; a weak colony will die of chill.

Re feeding, should such be necessary. However well they may be stored at the beginning of winter, if a prolonged period of bad weather sets in, the stores in some of the colonies will get consumed, and unless food is supplied them the spring will find them tenantless. There are many different ways of feeding, different beekeepers having their own pet idea, same as with hives. We will make this a special subject.

A very simple and effective way of uniting is by sprinkling both hives to be united with some ordinary kind of scent, then placing the frames of one hive alternately between the frames of the other hive. Do it as late in the evening as possible, when all the bees are in.

We had a visit during the past month from Mr Schomberg, of Tamworth. Schomberg is a lineal descendant of the great general of the 16th century. He is an enthusiastic beekeeper, and we had a very pleasant hours' chat with him. He told us that he had cured foul brood by making a bath of borax and warm water and dipping all the frames of the affected hives into it. Afterwards sprinkle sulphur on their tops. He spoke of an experience he had, when late in the fall of the year he had a hive queenless but with drones. He put several frames of brood and young bees in it and left them. When the spring came there was a young queen, the hive was the best in the apiary, and threw out the first and strongest swarm.

We had a visit during the month by Mr. McGee, of Narrabri. We spent a very pleasant day with him. He tells

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There is a lot of money owing to us. It is all wanted. Will our friends take the hint.

Mr. A. A. Roberts contributes excellent articles on bee matters to the Musclebrook Register.

The third volume of the A.B.B. being now complete, we shall be pleased to bind same for 3/6 if copies are sent us.

Mr. G. R. Harrison, the first editor of the A.B.B., paid us a visit during the past week. He looks well, and contemplates going to Queensland.

At the Royal Agricultural Show, in Sydney in Easter week, Messrs W. T. Seabrook & Co., showed a fine collection of honey, both in comb and jars, also an observation hive, beeswax and bee appliances.

Several articles on Organisation reached us just as the types of this issue were on the press, so we are sorry to have to hold them over till our next together with several other valuable communications.

We would call attention to the letter elsewhere from the Railway Commissioners, to Mr. Whittell, Secretary of N.B. K.A., re the reduction of the rate of carriage on parcels of honey up to 140 lbs weight, also return empty tins free and packed in cases if desired. We felt sure when the deputation waited on the Commissioners they would give every possible concession, and have not been disappointed.

For the past two months numerous complaints have been received of the non-receipt of the A.B.B by subscribers At the publication of the March issue we took especial care that all numbers should be delivered at the Post-office, but the complaints came quite as numerous as ever. We therefore forwarded them with our own complaint to the Postmaster General, who has most courteously promised to see into the matter. In the meantime we ask all who do not receive their copies within a week after date of issue to notify us of same

Mr. W. Niven lately contributed an excellent paper on "The Management of Bees," to the Lachlan Beekeepers' Association. It is well written and occupies nearly two columns of closely printed matter in the *Parkes Gazette*.

We acknowledge receipt of photograph of Mr. Grant's Silver Oak Apiary at Musclebrook. It is really a picture of what an apiary should look, everything spick and span. We will have more to say of it in another issue.

LONG IDEA HIVE.

At present I use the "Munday" hive, and find the bees do well in it. I think the locality has a lot to do with size of hive one uses. If the flow is heavy and lasts any time I would prefer the "Long Idea Hive" for extracted honey, as being easy to manipulate. I have frequently noticed that bees in the bush build more in horizontal than in perpendicular limbs; from that I would take it (the horizontal position) to be a more natural than the perpendicular. Of course every one has his own particular fancy for the style of hive used.

FITZ GEEBUNG.

The first bar-framed hives that were used in my apiary were more or less constructed on the principle of the long idea, some of them being as large as to take 28 frames. I had five different swarms in this particular one, but not one of them would work right to the ends of the hive, though the swarms in question were the best I had. The largest number of frames ever properly occupied by the bees out of 32 long idea hives was as near as I can now remember about 26 frames. After a few years' use I got disgusted with them. The division boards had either shrunk or swelled up. If shrunk, big cracks were always a source of trouble, and if swelled up you could not move them, In summer time, during hot westerly winds, the hives would curl or bulge, sometimes to the extent of 1 to 3 inch, and in the opening these left robbers, ants, and cockroaches would intrude and help themselves. After a few years' trial I cut down the best of them to 10-frame hives, and the rest I cremated. I may mention that since then I have adopted the high idea, or storeyfying. the tiering-up system I had bees fill and dr out comb foundation out in the fifth story, combs being the most perfect that ever I sa The swarm in this particular hive occupied frames of $\frac{3}{4}$ Langstroth, $15\frac{1}{4}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$ inside musure, and yielded the year before last at one tracting 357lbs of honey, making a total for whole season of 715 lbs. extracted honey never got that for the long idea.

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ORGANISATION.

W. NIVEN.

The older the beekeeping industry becomes in this colony, it appears to me the greater the necessity for the orginization of beekeepers. We are well aware many of the laws by which we are governed are unsatisfactory to the advancement of apiculture. There are also many concessions beekeepers are entitled to, the surest way to obtain which is by the organization of beekeepers. In the N. B. K. A, we have an executive committee. The gentlemen of which it is composed have shown they are most willing to do their utmost to advance the best interests of beekeepers. It appears to me necessary it should be supported in a broader manner than it is at present. By adopting something on the following lines it would be an advantage:

At the annual meeting to be held in Bathurst, each B. K. A. be represented by a delegate the delegates have power to arrange that each member of every association pay an equal amount of levy to support or maintain the N. B. K. A. The name N. B. K. A. I think, might be altered with advantage. Having B K. A. in various parts of the colony, makes it confusing. If there was a distinction made, such as N. S. W. Executive Committee of Beekeepers, or some other name more suitable, I think it would be better. I hope others will give this matter

consideration.

QUESTION.

FITZ GEEBUNG.

25. Brood combs deteriorate with age, like everything else, except mine, but how long they serviceably last, bar accidents, I don't know. I extracted some yesterday twelve years old; a few of them have never been used for brood rearing, and some have been in brood chamber from one to five years. There seems to be no difference as far as I can see; those, however, that have been in use as brood combs are of a darker tint.

QUESTION NEXT MONTH

36.—What kind of cover do you prefer, and what do you place between top of frames and cover?

The Review reports a new non-swarm-arangement of L. A. Aspinwall. Near swarming time, between each two brood combs is put a half inch board filled with holes like cells, but running clear through. The bees can't fill those holes, and they think there are too many empty cells to swarm.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAY CHARGES

The following is copy of a letter forwarded by Messrs. Bloxham Bros. to the Railway Commissioners previous to the deputation of the N.B.A. interviewing them:—

81 King-street, Sydney, 25th February, 1895.

The Railway Commissioners of New South Wales.

Gentlemen,—We have recently established two apiaries on the Western line—one at Peel and the other at Cheshire Creek—and shall in future be constantly sending consignments of honey from Kelso to Sydney, mostly in lots of not less than one ton.

On the 31st ult. we sent from Sydney empty tins which are to come back filled with honey and your charge for freight is at the rate of £4 5s 9d ton (see receipt attached). We shall be frequently sending empties, generally packed two empty tins in a case measuring 21x14x10\frac{1}{2}.

We desire to ask your favourable consideration that we be placed on the same footing as a fruitgrower, farmer and fisherman, by having our

empties sent free of charge.

We are on the soil to make our living, and hope, now the matter is placed before you (well knowing your desire to offer every reasonable facility to encourage agriculture in all its branches) that you will grant this request, and remove from us that handicap which does not exist in any other branch of agriculture.

On pp. 34 of your new issue of "Merehandise and Live Stock Rates" we read:—
"Empty butter kegs, cases or tins, milk or cream cans and fish baskets are returned to the sender free. Also empty fruit cases when sent to be filled are carried free and butter boxes sent to be filled for export."

We leave the matter in your hands for consideration and trust in due course to receive a

favourable reply.

Yours respectfully, BLOXHAM BROS.

Quick cure for bad cold. Mix a table spoonful of honey in as much lemonjuice in a big pint of water, dusting into it a little cayenne pepper. Drink at once, and keep warm in bed.

In the Standard Dictionary, it says:—
"Lysol. A saponified product of coal
tar, containing cresol: used as a disinfectant." That's the new foul brood
cure.

VISITING.

E.T.

One day during this month we had occasion to take a trip along the northern line. When leaving home our intention was to visit some of the apiaries about Musclebrook and Singleton. But our immediate business being finished and a train starting for home at that particular time we availed ourselves of it, certainly with some feelings of regret. We had, however, a very pleasant half hour with Mr Grant, and if we do get another chance of going that way we will lay out a day to visit the different apiaries around. Mr Grant told us how the past season has not been by any means good, Well, we did not wonder at that. For as we looked around at the hills in the neighbourhood of Musclebrook and also from the windows of the train all along the line to Singleton, all the hills have been cleared of their timber for the sake of feeding cattle, and we wondered how a bee could live except perhaps during the clover flow in the spring. At any rate, we would not like to have to depend on bees for a living in such a district. It also occurred to us, now that cattle are so cheap and there is such a demand springing up for our hardwoods for roads and pavements in London and other large towns, would not a judicious planting of such material add to the profits of the grazier? And instead of such indiscriminate ringbarking and destruction of the forests. would not a thinning out of ill-shaped trees and a little attention to the surroundings of the better ones, have amply repaid the outlay expended on them? And surely it will pay to judiciously plant again. Well, we came to Singleton, and through the same kind of cleared paddocks walked out to Mr May's of Dunolly. We took the surroundings to be splendid for fattening cattle, but no place for a big crop of honey, and were not surprised when Mr May told us that his bees had done nothing this year. From thence we were driven into Singleton, crossing the

river at the ford, the water being up to the bed of the buggy. Here we visited Mr T. H. Moore's apiary. He evidently takes great interest in his bees. Possibly the amount of ornamental trees, flowers, &c., about the town -a good many pepper trees among them--might make it much better for the bees than in the surrounding grazing lands. And honey was now coming in. As we called Mr Moore was just leaving home, but he kindly delayed his journey to take us to the apiary at the rear. His hives are well arranged on scantling about a foot from the ground, and among them are a couple of long idea hives, in which he has great faith and believes to be the hive of the future. A warm hand shake, a short drive along the well-kept and pleasantly-suburban like streets of the town, thirty miles of express mail train, and in one hour we are at home.

BY TOURIST.

Being in Maitland for a few days and not having very much to do, I looked round for friend Tipper, of A. B. B. He like myself, not being extra busy, we decided on a trip among the apiaries. We hired a sulky and pony and started off on a rambling excursion, Friend Tipper as Jehu, we made our way to the "Binni" apiary, carefully kept by Mr R. Patten. We found that gentleman just about to breakfast, and on his invitation, we joined him in a cup of tea. After breakfast we had a look through the apiary, and saw the strain of "Golden "beauties are having every care from their able master. We saw some very nice looking queens. From Mr Patten's we made our way to Woodville, and called on the owner of "Iona Apiary." Here we made a stay of some hours. We unhitched our pony, and treated him to some hay, while we sat down and partook of dinner with Mr Munday and family. After dinner we made our way across to the apiary, where we saw the Ligurians in full swing. Honey was coming in at this apiary. Mr Munday numbers something

like 120 colonies. After a good look through the apiary, we were shown the workshop; we saw a home made "Barnes" saw, and several "Yankee" notions for doing odd jobs at short notice. A look through the honey house, where we saw a fine extractor, honey tanks, &c., and last but not least, a fine sample of section honey, which Mr Munday told us was for the forthcoming Show. After looking round the garden, and getting a lesson in budding fruit trees, we hitched our pony and made for Mr Tucker's on the Patterson. At Mr Tucker's we found the house closed, and came to the conclusion Mr Tucker and family were out. As it was getting late in the evening, we made our way homewards, via Largs. We called at Mr Mansfield's, and found him with a friend discussing poultry; we joined in, and were shown some choice breeds. After being shown the poultry, we were taken through the apiary, and shown nice queens of the "Ligurian" breed. Mr Mansfield told us he had about 100 colonies at his out apiary at Ourimbah, where he expects to get a good flow next spring. We had to hurry on our way as night was fast approaching. Wishing Mr and Mrs Mansfield the compliments of the season, we made for Maitland, the farms along the road looking splendid, although some little time ago, the farmers suffered very heavy through the flood. Altogetherwe spent a most pleasent and enjoyable day, and hope such another is not far distant.

Dadant says queens are less likely to go up and lay in shallow frames than in deep ones.

Formalin, a near relative of formic acid, is spoken of in the German bee papers as the coming cure for foul brood.

Gravenhorst finds that a swarm furnished with foundation from the start is not a whit ahead of one which is first compelled to build five or six natural combs.

THE WELLINGTON SHOW

Mr. Nancarrow writes us:—Yours of the 18th to hand and I am pleased to see that one at least of the outside world takes such an interest in our progression as to write for information of our success at the late show, and I will endeavour as nearly as possible, to give you an idea of our display and the various exhibits that have taken prizes:—

1st. Best Collection of Appliances—A. J. Murray 1, H. Nancarrow 2. A very fair exhibit for two novices, and a great improvement on last

year

2nd. Best Trophy of Apicultural Products-

H. Nancarrow 1, A. J. Murray 2.

3rd. Best Italian Queen—A. J. Murray 1, W. Abram 2. Only 3 entries. In this class I fully expected 20 entries, and had promises from several prominent beekeepers that they would show, but as one of our local men unwisely remarked (when I told him Mr. Abram was exhibiting), what is the use of us exhibiting againt such a practical man as Mr. Abram, we stand no show at all, and so on. I expect several others were of the same opinion, and unwisely stayed at home, and deprived us of the prize would draw), that would have given us the opportunity of seeing what our friends can produce, who advertise and blow so much about their beautiful queens. Mr. Murray, I am pleased to see, is a local man who is not afraid to meet any queen raiser in the colony, and I feel proud that the prize fell to a member of our association, as it shows us we can produce here as good, if not better, stock, as can be produced elsewhere. Mr Abram's queen would have taken first for beauty, for she was a splendid looking queen
4th. Best Three Frames of Honey, any size—

4th. Best Three Frames of Honey, any size—Cureton Bros. 1, "Western Post" special. These were very good, and a gentleman who knows says that nothing at the late Royal Show in Sydney could compare with them.

5th. Best Wax Extractor-H. Nancarrow, 1.

entrie

6th. Best Collection of Edibles made with Honey—2 entries—Cureton Bros. 1. Not as good as I expected, but very well for a first at-

empt.

7th. Observation Hive, with colony of bees at work—3 entries—H. Nancarrow 1st, with a two story cottage hive of Italians with splendid frames of honey; Heath Bros. 2nd, with a neat hive, but frames and sections badly filled, and not regular in appearance.

8th. Frame and Section Hive. A. Ross, 1st.

Two Entries.

9th. Honey Extractor. Murray, 1st, Nancarrow, 2nd.

Nancarrow, 2nd.
10th. 12 1lb Sections. 3 entries. Cureton
Bros., 1; Nancarrow, 2.

11th. Best 3 Large Frames Honey. Cureton Bros., 1. 4 entries.

12th. Best 3 Shallow Frames Honey. Cureton

Bros, 1. 5 entries. 13th. Best 6lb Extracted Honey. H. Nancarrow, 1; A. J. Murray, 2. 8 entries. The prize honey was pronounced by experts and the judge to be the best they ever saw in the colony, and offers were made for tons of it by a Sydney buyer at a stated figure which I declined to

accept.

14th. Most Attractive Display. Heath Bros. 1; H. Nancarrow, 2; Murray, 3. This exhibit was the admiration of thousands, and we were asked to show in Bathurst. And Sydney now wants to know why we had not shown at the late show in Sydney. They considered it capable of competing successfully at either place. Heath Bros. exhibit was specially attractive and artistically arranged and was a credit to the exhibitor and the Wellington B.K.A. 3 entries.

15th. Best 6 sheets Comb Foundation.

Murray. 1 entry.

16th. Best 5lbs Beeswax (7 entries). Cureton

Bros, 1; Nancarrow, 2.

17th. Best Collection and Trophy of Products and Appliances. H. Nancarrow, 1; Murray, 2. 2 entries.

18th. Best Frames of 10 Queen Cells, with Bees in Nucleus Hive. Cureton Bros. 1 entry. Considering the short time we have been in

existance (only 14 months) I think the above will compare very favourably with any associ-

ation in the colony.

Mr. Gale gave every satisfaction and explained his reasons for awarding certain prizes that seemed rather inconsistant with last year's judging, and the members, one and all, are thoroughly satisfied he knows his duties and carries them out to the letter. Our thanks and good wishes go with him for the able manner in which he judged and for his valuable information upon the Bee industry generally.

I am sorry to say that the 40 tins of honey we intended shipping to England never got any further than Sydney, as eight or ten of tins burst through faulty workmanship, and I had it sold in Sydney at 3½d and 3d per lb, as we did not wish to have our first attempt reach England in a bad condition. We intend, however, to send another consignment shortly in suitable tins and I hope to be more successful. We are still extracting freely but the dry spell we have had since January has materially affected the honey flow.

H. W. Brice says in B. B. J., that, when he has trouble uniting bees, it's always those with old queens, while bees with young prolific queens may be united almost any way.

WAGGA WAGGA B. K. A.

We are indebted to Mr. W. A. Howarth for the following :- A meeting of beekeepers was held in the School of Arts, Wagga Wagga, on Thursday, 11th April, when there was good attendance. After the resolutions necessary to be agreed to, those present formed themselves into an association, under the designation of "The Wagga Wagga Beekeeper's Mr. Thos. Halloran of Association. Fernleigh was elected President, and Mr. W. A. Howarth, Secretary and Treasurer. After a general chat about bees and honey, the meeting adjourned until the 25th instant.

Our honey season is not yet over. I had a colony fill a super of half depth frames in a very short time (giving them full foundation comb).

VICTORIA.

From the Australian Farm and Home.

Victorian honey in tins is carried by the Railway Department at C rate; but, responding to application made to the Commissioners by the secretary of the Beekeepers' Association, a concession has been made upon truck loads of six tons and upwards, as per their letters of 15th March:-

COPY

"SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 8th inst; I am directed by the acting Railway Commissioners to say that they are prepared to carry honey in truck loads of six (6) tons and upwards at B class rate.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, "Your obedient servant, "R. G. KENT, Secretary."

The saving effected will be equal to about 33 per cent., which will be quite an item in opening up an export trade. If our beekeepers will therefore amalgamate locally and make up truck loads, it would be to their own individual advantage and save much handling.

All honey for export should be consigned to the Refrigerating Depòt, and packages should be branded on the bottom of packages. Advice to be sent to the depot a week before consign-

ment is forwarded.

The Railway Commissioners have also agreed to carry new cans and cases for export honey at Class A rate, prepaid.

BEES TRANSFERRING EGGS

D. GRANT.

In January number of the "Revue International d'Apiculture" a correspondent gives what he calls a well-authenticated case of bees

stealing eggs to rear a queen from. On the 19th of May he removed the queen from a colony of Cyprians in an out apiary. Thirty-five days after, when re-examining the colony, he found it to contain laving workers: month later, to his surprise, he in it a nice Cyprian queen with a fair start of brood and not a drone in the hive. This he takes to prove beyond dispute that the

bees stole the egg from which that queen was raised. The most natural and probable solution is that a swarm, probably an after swarm, took possession of the hive during the month preceding his last examination, And moreover, as he only found a laying queen and not a queen cell, he has no positive proof that she was actually

reared in the hive.

And when the fact is taken into consideration that laving workers (or a hive so affected) refuse to rear queen cells on brood given to them, it seems unlikely that they should go to another hive to steal eggs for that purpose.

In a critique on the above occurrence written in February number of the same paper, Mr Riber advances a theory which seems to me a

very rational one. "

He says-"If the bee obeys its instinct in stealing an egg from a strange colony to save its own, why does not this instinct manifest itself in every case? If it does not it is not an instinct. It cannot be superier intelligence on the part of one bee, for no bee so intelligent would leave the brood of a hive to which it had been allowed access, for the chance of being able to rear a queen in its own hive from an egg carried there. We know that when a bee, whether queen, drone, or worker, is by any cause driven or ex-cluded from its own hive it will try to gain admission to some other. During swarming time there are numbers of young, vigorous queens which are driven from their thives, not only those in excess in after swarms, but those expelled from the hives after the last swarm has gone out. What more likely than one of these queens entering the queenless hive had been accepted?

To explain the presence in a totally queenless hive of queen cells one need only go a step further in the same direction. These young queens are very easily frightened, and are very often attacked by the workers for that reason. The position of a queen entering a hive like the one in question is very precarious. Until she has begun to lay and the eggs hatched into larvæ, to keep the bees occupied, she is liable to be killed at any moment, especially surrounded as she is by laying workers and old bees. It might happen that just as she begins to lay the bees destroy her and build cells on the two or three eggs she has left behind. The apiarist comes along, discovers true queen cells in a totally queenless hive, and without reasoning the thing out, considers it proved that bees steal eggs from

Another writer follows the same line of reasoning, and adds that it is a feature of the Cyprian race to expel their surplus virgin

queens instead of killing them.

KEMPSEY.

Mr. W. H, Kempsey, writes:-Just a line to let you know that we are still here and a word or two as to how we are doing.

1st. The weather of January and part of February was very much against our pets getting the honey in fast, for Kemp-

sev it is a failure.

Mr. Buddle has done fairly well, and I hear also that Mr. Riddle of Steward's Point has done well, being in a good

locality.

In going through my hives the other day some of them had black pollen stored, and speaking to a beekeeping friend afterwards he said that he found just the same and it was of the best quality side beside with that of other colors. Can you give the reason for this? Also another experience in the extracting. The super full and nicely capped, ut after caps were cut it was found to be fermented and that right throughout the box, while the hive not two feet away had the best of honey. Can you account for it? I thought it was the American cloth covers and have substituted bags with a better result.

During the rainy season a friend was making along the bank of the river in the morning when he saw an old can lying on its side, and going up to it found a swarm of bees stowed away in it and had been there for three days. They had evidently taken refuge from the rain, as

they were quite contented.

Hoping that these few accidents may

be of some use.

We have heard of several similar cases, but cannot any assign reason.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Mr. J. S., Drakes Brook, Western Australia, writes :- As my subscription is due in advance this month, I enclose P.O. Order for the same, together with 7d for guide to cookery, total six shillings and one penny (6/1), as I don't care to be included in your Blue Mark List, indeed, I have an idea that those who keep you waiting so long as some do, must be very mean, as if they fail to get value for their money, I am sure it is no fault of yours. For myself I would not care to be without the Bee Bulletin, even though I gave up keeping the pets. However, I have no intention of doing so, but rather wish to increase those I have already got. I,-or perhaps it would be better to say right here, -my wife, started with three (3) swarms, this season, and got up to 16 fairly good swarms, which did promise well until nearly last month, when a bush fire raged around us for miles, and for several days, which completely stopped the supply, as far as the bees were concerned. And to add to this misfortune, a day or two after the fire, a number of birds, who, no doubt were feeling the effects of the said fire, insomuch as their supplies had been cut off so summarily, visited our hives, and in a very short space so reduced our stocks, that we had to unite several, leaving us only ten (10) swarms, and some of these I'm afraid will have to be united unless they increase before the winter comes along. The bird referred to is called here by old settlers the "Berru Berru" or "Bee Bird," is of the martin species, catches the bee on the wing. No doubt it is well known many of your correspondents, I suppose it were no use asking if their is any means of dealing a blow with such pests. One must only grin and bear it. Our season has been very dry here. Last year at this time the Blue Gum was in full bloom, while this year only a tree here and there is to be seen with any blossom on it. In your replying to my last you said you had a few odd No's of back parts of B.B., will you kindly send

them on, and I will remit the first opportunity. Hoping your subscribers are on the increase, and wishing you every success while catering to our wants so well, &c.

NEW ZEALAND.

W. J. M.

I wish to draw your attention to a new honey plant, growing in all lowlying places about here, such as ditches, &c., viz., the Lyturum Hyssipifolium, commonly called Loosestripe. I see Mr. Root in his A.B.C. mentions it as a honey plant, but says that in his parts it does not grow plentifully enough to be of any use. Here it started to bloom about the beginning of November last and has given heaps of blossoms ever since—in fact, it has not yet finished. Pennyroyal has been in bloom since the beginning of

the year but is now done.

I quite endorse the remarks made by Horsfall on page 275 of March Bulletin, regarding the robbing propensities of the Ligurians. Of course my experience is only limited, but may be of use anyhow. In February last year I imported a purely mated Ligurian queen, her progeny were so addicted to this vice that they introduced foul brood to my yard. This season I imported another, along with some "Goldens," and strange to say, the new Ligurian hive has now contracted the disease, whereas, the Goldens have no sign of it. The imported queens were in each case given a new swarm of bees, together with new hive and appliances. Now why should the true Ligurian turn out robbers and not the others?

Next time I will give you a list of the pollen and honey plants of this place, with dates of flowering.

Honey-Salve.—For boils and other diseases of a similar character, is made by thoroughly incorporating flour with honey until of a proper consistency to spread on cloth. Applied over the boil it hastens suppuration, and the early termination of the painful lesion.

SIZE & SHAPE OF HIVES AND FRAMES.

Paper read by W. S. Pender, at H. R. B. K. A.

I spoke of the large quantity of honey often stored in the brood chamber. In large frames this has generally to be removed by extracting from the frames. There is one method of removing it with very little labour and having it placed in the super and that is by inversion. If we turn a comb upside down when it contains brood below and honey above and place it in the hive thus, we place both brood and honey in unnatural positions. The bees will start removing the honey, they cannot place it in the cells now immediately over, for they already contain brood, so their only place to put it is in the supers where we want it. So far it not very practical to invert large frames, but shallow frames can be easily constructed for the purpose. Mr Heddon has done this in his hive, the screw pressure at the sides being sufficient for the purpose. When honey is placed in the brood nest, he simply removes the supers, turns the brood nest upside down if in one chamber, or the upper half if in two chambers, replaces the supers and leaves the bees to do the rest. It will not be found that bees will store honey in the lower frames of a double shallow bodied brood chamber except perhaps in the outside combs. The question might be asked how about crushing bees when removing the closed end brood frames from the case. I will ask how often does a beekeeper who keeps his bees for the honey they give him, require to examine his brood combs when once he has them properly built? I say almost never !! It is the queenrearer and novice who wishes to hunt up his queens often. By the above hives are handled not frames. I will also point out, by the Heddon system no super combs need be handled while bees are in the supers, the only time necessary to handle the combs is when at the extractor. I will now refer to the long Idea method of beekeeping compared with the storifying. The long idea hive has a large number of frames placed one after another in a long hive. The queen is generally restricted with queen excluding division boards, as per Mr Doolittle, and combs are exchanged from the brood nest to over the division board, frames of sections or combs are placed between, this necessitates a lot of handling and exchanges. Besides, it is seems more natural to the bees to place their stores over their brood (though they adapt themselves very much to the size and shape of their habitation). If the queen is not limited to a certain portion of the hive she will often occupy far too many combs which we will find a nuisance when we want to extract, for a great part of the honey will be found in combs containing brood. I must here say that I have had most perfect combs when working along this method, the

combs being sealed from top to bottom; the queen would start at one end of the hive and be forced towards the other end for the bees would fill the hatched cells with honey before the queen occupied them, but I found the hive limited and not so elastic as a tiering hive, the combs had to be handled singly and the bees bred rather too freely and swarmed. In localities where the yellow and white box or other trees yielding nectar in such large quantities, abound, great success can be attained by either form of hive, the nectar comes in so fast that the older bees neglect the nursery and store honey. Besides, a large number are soon worn out and the colony never gets so populous as when only a small quantity of nectar can be stored at a time and bees for want of something better to do feed up a large stock of young bees to swarm. The swarming fever does not rise high and so does not need so much checking in localities where honey is gathered fast, but in localities the reverse of that everything possible is tried to prevent increase and with but little avail.

In the foregoing I have assumed that all frames used were with $1\frac{3}{3}$ in spacing and were interchangeable for brood or surplus. I will now ask a question and answer it to my own satisfaction. Shall we have two sets of combs one for brood only $1\frac{3}{3}$ spacing, and another for honey with a greater spacing? I will say, yes! it is advisable! Why? If combs are spaced say $1\frac{5}{3}$ there will be less combs to extract for the same or a greater amount of honey per super; (2) the cells will be too deep for the queen to lay in, at the same time she can have the entire run of the combs and so much better satisfy her which will tend to less swarming. (3) the combs are so much easier to uncap because the cells are extended beyond the top

and bottom bars.

I had the pleasure of handling 90 supers of half depth frames over 8 R.H. frame brood chambers. The frames were closed end like the Heddon and spaced 15 from centre to centre. The top and bottom bars were one inch wide and 5-16 deep, and in the whole 630 frames (there being 7 and follower to a super) not more than 10 per cent of them ever contained any brood and some of them had been in use some, three The whole of the supers, containing nearly one ton of honey, could have been removed from the hives and be ready for the extractor in less than five hours. There were no brace combs in the supers, notwithstanding there was between the bars, and they being only 5-16 thick. They were not absent from burr combs but these I attribute to the supers being placed so that frames were break joint one over the other.

There are many points I may have referred to as the different kinds of self-spacing frames and other different sizes of standard frames, but I only chose those that would give me sufficient to make clear my arguments and already this

paper is quite long enough.

OUT-APIARIES.

By E. France in Gleanings.

"First let us locate the apiary. Now look sharp, for very much depends on the location; in fact, more than half of the success of the apiary rests on this one point. See that the place has good pasture for the bees. We in this north country would want plenty of white clover and basswood timber, and river bottom land with fall flowers. Any way be sure of good bee pasture. Then I want a good natural windbreak—hills or timber, or something to break the north and west winds.

Now, if we have found all this, is the right kind of man or family living on it? If the family are all right, what are the neighbours? Are they of a class that will steal, or make

you trouble?

If the people are all right we will look the place over. Is the place where we want to put the bees too near the house or barn or stackyards, where they have to come with teams to stack or thrash the grain? It won't do at all to have horses veay near the apiary when unloading grain or hay, or thrashing, or anything of that kind. A bee in the ear of a horse makes it wild. Most horses are afraid of bees. Our apiaries are from 12 to 30 rods away from house or barn or stack-yards, and all the out-yards are from 30 to 100 rods from a public road. Most of them are in pasture land, free to all kinds of stock. Stock don't do any damage to our large quadruple hives, but keep down the grass. It saves us the trouble of mowing. Locate your apiaries three or four miles apart; farther would be better. Of course, other folks' bees must be taken into consideration. Don't overstock the pasture. Better go two or three miles further than accept a poor location, for we have to go with a team; and when on the road, two or three miles further is soon travelled. We go eight miles to some of ours.

One more thing: If you are likely to get a load of honey, it is handy to load up right in the apiary. After we have worked the apiary all over the bees will be cross. We can not take the team to the wagon where it is in the apiary to hitch on. We must have a down grade away from the apiary. It should be 15 to 20 rods or more, then the wagon can be moved by hand to a place where it will be safe to come with a

eam.

Now, if we have found the location that will answer our purpose, we shall see what terms we can make with the owner. All our out-apiaries are planted on the same conditions. We give 25 cents a year for each colony we have on the ground, spring count, counting them about the last of May, or at a time when we are sure there won't be a less number. The land-owner has nothing to do with the bees, except, if anything happens that requires our attention, he is

to let us know, and we look after them. There is no watching for swarms, and no swarms to hive.

We work all our out-yards for extracted honey. We think it is less work for the money

we get out of the businesss.

If I were starting new in the bee business I would use the L. frame, standard size. I would use a quadruple hive, chaff lined, three stories in summer and two in winter, and winter on the summer stands.

What kind of a race of bees? My candid opinion is, there is not much difference. With good location and good management, any of them will give lots of honey. But my choice is the gray Carniolans. They will gather as much honey as any; are very prolific, and do less

stinging.

Now, having located the apiary, made terms with the land-owner, and having bees on the ground, we will proceed to run the apiary for extracted honey. We will begin with the fruitblossoms. If there is any considerable amount of bloom we can open hives without danger of robbers. We will suppose the bees are in L. hives, two stories high. Take out all the combs and clean out the hive; clip the queens wing one side. You will find that all or nearly all the broad is now in the second story. Put all the brood down in the lower story. If there is not enough combs with brood in them to fill the lower story, perhaps some other colony may have more than enough to fill the lower story. In that case, give the surplus to the weaker ones. Put the honey combs in the second story. If there are empty combs, and the lower stories are full of brood, put the empty combs above. Caution.—If the bees average weak, and there are not combs with broad in them enough to fill the lower storey, then I would wait till they have enough, as the upper story is warmer, and a weak colony will build up faster with the brood above. But, clip your queen at this time. We can now leave the yard for ten days; then, if there are no queen cells left when here before, it is not a solution. it is not possible for a swarm to have gone off; and here in this country it is not likely that a swarm has been out. Dandelions will be in bloom here then.

We will now look the yard over again. If there are any weak colonies, they should be strengthened by giving them brood from the strong. If there is more brood in the yard than to fill all the lower stories, then the surplus can be used to make new colonies, be sure to leave the old queen in the old hive. Fill up a lower storey with combs of brood, with some honey. Put the honey at the back of the hive; take some bees with the combs—enough to make a good strong colony. In fact, give them more live bees than you want to stay there, because the old bees will go back to the old hive. We can take these combs and bees from several

colonies. They won't "quarrel or fight at all. We make one, two, or several new colonies at this time—it depends on the strength of the apiary. Those new colonies have no queen: they wont swarm under 12 days. The old ones won't swarm, because we have taken away their surplus strength. We will now leave them ten days; but before we leave, be sure that there are no queen cells coming on in any colony. I would leave those new colonies one story high. We use a solid honey board. Lay that on top of the one story, and cover over that.

In ten days we are back again. Now, if there is more honey coming in than enough to keep the bees, we will extract all we can get. This extracting will be dark, and the bees will soon be gathering white honey. For that reason we want to clear the combs of darkhoney; and while doing it we will do as we did beforekeep the lower story full of brood; and if there is more brood, we will make new colonies as we did when here before. Now we will put on the third stories, filled with empty combs if we have them. If we have no combs, put in frames filled with foundation; leave no queen cells in the old colonies; the new colonies made ten days before will now want the second set of combs, or foundation, and their queen cells removed, except one that we will leave to hatch: also, give these colonies one egg comb from the old stocks, and what new colonies are made this time can be supplied with a queen cell from those new ones made ten days before. After this, if honey pas-ture is good, extract once a week while the season lasts, working all up to three stories high. Keep the brood in the lower stories, and extract from the two upper ones.

The next spring, when there are warm days in March or April, look into each colony and see if they have plenty of honey. If they are short, take out empty combs and put in full combs of honey from those stored away in the fall. Be sure they have plenty; they will use up honey pretty fast now, as they should be raising brood

fast. I omitted to build an extracting house. You want one in every yard. We use a tent just ten feet square, outside measure. Put up a frame in each yard; get four posts, ten feet long; set them three feet in the ground, ten feet square outside measure. Now nail on at the bottom a ten foot board on each side, a foot wide, then nail around the top four more boards a foot wide, ten feet long; that will leave a space of five feet between the upper and lower boards. Get 80 feet of thin cotton cloth, a yard wide; sew two breadths together, 40 feet long; that will just go around your house for siding, between the upper and lower boards. Sew on both upper and lower edge some strips three or four inches apart-leather-to tack through in putting on the siding. For top cover we use eight-ounce duck that will shed rain if we have

a shower while we are there. Put up a gable end roof, raised three feet in the mindle. that you want two boards a foot wide, ten feet long; set one up at each end, and nail to top and bottom board, and slant off the low corner to fit the pitch of the roof; then nail on at the top a 2x4 scantling, ten feet long; chamfer off top upper edges to fit the pitch. Nail on to the end boards soms strips of boards to make a ladder to climb up when you put on the top cover. Make the cover to fit your frame, and sew on to the bottom edge some strips or leather to tack through when you put it up. You want a frame in every yard; but the cloth part you can take down every night and put it in a sack and take it home. One cover and siding is enough for all the yards. Each yard must have a frame With us it takes just five minutes to put on the cloth. For a door, we can leave one end of siding loose at bottom, or can put in a screen-

N.S.W. RAILWAY CHARGES.

We are indebted to Mr. H. R. Whittell for the following communication which we have no doubt will be read with great interest by the beekeepers of New South Wales:—

Government Railways of New South Wales. Secretary's Office, 10th April, 1895. Sir.—With reference to the deputation which waited on the Commissioners on the 9th ultimo relative to carriage of empty honey tins, and the minimum load of honey, I am directed to inform you that with regard tn the minimum load for honey, the Commissioners have approved of the single package rates being altered to include packages from 113lbs to 140lbs in weight, the charge for which will be as under:

1 to 100 miles 1s 6d 101 to 200 miles 2s 6d 201 to 300 miles 3s 3d 301 to 400 miles 3s 9d 401 to 500 miles 4s 3d

and for every 100 miles or portion of 100 miles beyond, 6d. The single package rate to be applied to more than one package until it becomes cheaper to make the ordinary charge by weight at "B" rate and conditions, or at "B" class rate on actual weight subject to the usual minimum freight charge. The Commissioners have also approved of return empty tins being conveyed free and same may be packed in cases if desired,

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. McLACHLIN,
Secretary.

H. R. Whittell Esq., 70 Hunter Street, City.

HASTINGS RIVER B. K. A.

The usual monthly meeting was held at Mr Pepper's, on Thursday, 11th inst. Rev. H. S. Buntine in the chair.

The Chairman read a paper on transferring of colonies and bar framed hives, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The paper for next meeting was decided upon subject "Uniting Swarms," and the next day of meeting was fixed for 9th May.

A good deal of interesting discussion

on bee matters then took place.

The Secretary was instructed to deny through the Bulletin, a statement which appeared in a recent issue, that the district is rampant with foul brood. This part the district at any rate is entirely free from the disease. It has also transpired that one beekeeper in the district, who professed to know all about the disease did not really know foul brood, and acting on his advice, another apairist had recently consigned to the fire a good colony of bees, frame, hive and all. cannot afford to allow an ignoramus to brand our district as infested with Foul Brood, and therefore deny the statement through your columns.

PURE QUEENS.

H. W. J. TAYLOR.

Seeing Mr. Brown's answer to Mr. T. B. Peek's enquiry, and being of the same belief in regard to the drone progeny of a queen being influenced by her mateing, I take pleasure in supporting his (Mr. Brown's) belief by my own experience. Many beekeepers are led to believe if they have all pure queens they will have all pure drones, but seeing what I have I cannot accept this belief. On one occasion I purchased of a beekeeper some eggs from a Doolittle queen, from these eggs I raised six queens two of these apparently mated with pure Italian drones. The drones from these two queens were as yellow as their bees. The bees from one other queen were of a darker colour-not quite pure, what I

would call three-quarter Italian-the drones from this queen were darker, they ran in colour about the same as the bees, some would be quite bright while others would be slightly yellow. The other three queens apparently were fertilised by black drones as some of their bees were one, two and three banded while others were as black as niggers. The drone progenyof these queens varied in colour the same as the bees. Now I am quite satisfied that these three queens produced some drones as yellow as those which were purely mated, and others as black as the blackest drones you could find. If the drone progeny of a queen were not influenced by her mating why should this be. Again, if you have ligurians and goldens in the same yard where you are queen rearing, and a ligurian queen is impregnated by a golden drone, the cross can be seen in the drone progeny as well as in the Perhaps some one will say, how is it then that a queen that has not mated with a drone will produce drones? Well I do not see why it is not as possible for a queen that had not been fertilised by a drone to produce drones, as it is for a fertile worker to produce drones. The fertile worker, so far as we know, does not become fertilised by a drone, yet her eggs produce drones. queen is raised from the same egg as the worker, even from the same larva and in many cases goes partly through its larva life before being converted into a Seeing the queen and the worker are both raised from the same kind of egg, and both female bees, I do not see why the eggs from one are not as likely to produce drones as the other. But I very much doubt if the drones of either would be of any use in fertilising queens. Another point which I have taken particular notice of, If the drone progeny of a queen is not influenced by her mating, then, if we have all pure queens, we will have all pure drones, even if they have all mated with black drones. If such is the case, we should have no trouble, if raising queens, in getting them purely mated But I have found it so. In my experience, I have found if you want to have your young queens purely mated, you must have most pure bees in the apiary, that is, you hives must contain pure queens, which has been purely fertilised.

CLIPPING QUEENS.

H. L. JONES, GOODNA, Q.

The majority of apiarists are certainly in favour of having their queens' wings clipped, still there are some experienced men who object to the practice. One of their objections is, that the apiarist must always be on hand when a swarm issues, otherwise the queen being unable to fly, will get lost. Now, I think that if anyone should be at home when a swarm issues, it is certainly the apiarist who does not clip, as swarms when left to themselves do not always cluster before seeking fresh fields and pastures new, neither when they do cluster are they always so kind as to select the most accessible spots, and further, they are not invariably so obliging as to remain clustered for any great length of time. Now I would much sooner run the risk of losing the queen alone, than both the queen and swarm, particularly when under the same circumstances, the risk of losing the queen is not half so great as that of losing the queen and swarm. When the hive is placed near the ground, a clipped queen will very often get back of her own accord, but when she does not a small ball of bees will gather around and protect her. I have frequently thus had queens exposed all night, and none were the worse for their exposure. As a proof of extraordinary hardship that a queen and a few workers can endure, I will give an extract from my diary, dated Jan. 1895:- "On the 16th a weak colony swarmed, with a clipped queen. Of this I was not aware till next morning, when I discovered the queen in front of the hive, with a small ball of bees clustered around her. As

several occasions previous to this, I had queens thus exposed without injury, it occurred to me to experiment a little further in this line, with the queen. Accordingly I left her where she was, and on the 23rd she was still alive with her faithful little band of workers, and to all appearances none the worse for her seven days' exposure. Now what makes this the more remarkable is the fact that they had no protection whatever, as the grass was short, and small black ants were numerous. On the 17th and 18th it was very hot, the thermometer registering over 130 o in the sun, but on the four following days it rained heavily, 6 inches and 83 points having fallen. Notwithstanding all the extremes she had thus been subjected to the queen was as lively as ever, but the experiment having been carried far enough to suit my purpose, I removed her.

SHIPPING QUEENS TO AUSTRALIA.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

Previous to the summer of 1894, the best success I ever had in shipping queens to foreign countries, was 65 per cent reaching their destination alive. Before trying shipping queens long distances, to any great extent, I experimented very largely here at home, putting the bees and queens up in cages such as I would use in shipping queens to foreign countries, and then keeping them in my shop and elsewhere, subjugating them to all the rough usage and elements I thought they would receive on any voyage. The result of this was that in no ease did I succeed in getting a queen to live longer than 26 days. When orders came to me from Australia I feared that none would go alive, but I was very gratified, when all of the reports were in for 1891, to find that I had actually succeeded in getting 65 per cent of all the queens sent that year to their destination alive. considering that they must travel 11,500 miles at least, and to be from 35 to 40 days en route. The next two seasons the results were not so good, but during the past season of 1894, I find, now that reports are all in, that 70 per cent of all queens sent to Australia and New Zealand reached their destination alive. I even succeeded in having them live to reach Western Australia, a distance of 14,000 miles from here, the time of confinement being 46 days days from

the day they were put up for shipment till they were released at their journey's end. I attribute this success to the fact that the past season I put in each cage a small piece of comb having a part empty cells and a part containing unsealed honey. My reason for putting in this piece of comb was, that I had noticed years ago, when wintering bees on candy, that all went well as long as there was some honey in the hive, the bees apparently using this honey to help them moisten the candy, but when the honey was gone the bees would often die with plenty of candy remaining. Again, nearly all reporting to me, where the queens and bees reached Australia dead, said that the candy had become soft and the bees were either stuck fast in it, or were all daubed with it. I also knew that such was the case where any queens had been shipped to me from Australia. Therefore I reusoned that should the candy be too hard the bees could use the honey in the unsealed cells to moisten the candy, and should it become too soft they could lick it up and deposit it in the empty cells, the same as they would were dripping early placed in a hive. That this reasoning had some logic in it, is proved by a 5 per cent greater attainment of live queens over this 11,500 miles distance than ever attained before. Another thing. A party in Australia instructed me how to make a shipping cage to go by express, to his liking, and among the other things which he told me was to allow one of the three little combs to contain nearly hatching brood to the amount of from 50 to 100 bees, and to put in about that number of hatched bees. His directions were carried out and Through some blunder on the the queen sent. part of express officials the bees were not placed on the first outgoing steamer they were intended for, so lay over one month for the next steamer, in San Francisco, California. This made them 64 days en route, and yet, much to his surprise and still more to my surprise, that queen went through alive, and with her were about a dozen live bees, while all the brood had hatched out of the comb. As none of the parties in Australia to which I mailed queens knew that I was to put a piece of comb in the cages this past season, they were caused to comment on the matter in writing me. Thus two of the parties said among other things: Why did you put in that piece of comb? and "Did that comb contain brood when you started the bees?" Putting this with the express experiment, has caused me to decide that next season I will try not only putting in the piece of comb with unsealed honey, but also piece containing from 10 to 15 pupa bees, having a stage of advancement suffi-cient that their eyes will begin to be colonred, so that they will hatch out from within two to four days after leaving here, this giving bees which will not be frantic to get out of the cage, as they will have had no other home, and which will readily take to their surroundings, as they will have had no other. Thus it will be seen

that we of America, and you of Australia are all contribuating our mite in helping make a success of the exchange of queens between the two countries, which success is surely coming, if we have faith and hold to the little new light which shines now and then in upon us.

I note that some Australians are down on any importation of queens from America on account ofdisease being brought with the new bees. There may be a little reason in fearing such a thing, but I have that confidence in the beekeepers of the United States that I cannot believe any would willingly send aught but bees and queens of perfect health. Had we all reasoned in the past, as a few beekeepers are now reasoning, we of America, and you of Australia would never have known the Italian bee with all of the great advantages which have come to us through the importation of that best of all bees to our borders. It is well to think twice before we utter any rash words

or commit any rash acts.

P.S.—Since writing the above, the Australian Bec Bulletin for December 24th has arrived, and in it I find a letter from Doolittle to Smith, published, said letter bearing date of October 5th, 1894. Some things in that letter do not exactly harmonize with the above article, and to explain the same I will say that the letter was wrote in a hurry, and wholly from memory, as it come to me at time of writing, while the article is made up from actual statistics, the same having taken me the best part of two days to prepare, by a careful going over of all my books and correspondence from foreign countries; hense the article is to take the preference over the letter, wherein the two do not harmonise. During the busy season, from May to November my correspondance and business is so great that I must do all I can possibly do in the least possible time, and therefore mistakes and errors are often liable to creep in which otherwise would G. M. D.

HONEY PACKAGES EXPORT.

We take the following from the Australian Farm and Home:-

The Victorian Railway Department have agreed to carry cases and cans at returned empty rate, which must be

prepaid.

If honey has already been put into old cans, it may be sent down in them. and be re-canned at the depot, for which a charge of 1s per case will be made. A charge of 3d per case of two tins, where old cans and cases are used, will be made to cover cost of soldering, nailing down, branding, &c.

All consignments must be branded with the initial letters of the name of the consignor on the bottom of the case, if the honey is in new cans; if old cans are used, brand on one side of the case.

Advices must be sent addressed:
"Honey Experts, Refrigerating Depot,
Flinders Street, Melbourne," together
with the following declaration:—"I, or
we, hereby declare that my, or our
honey, now advised, is the product of
—Apiary, and has been gathered
solely by the bees of my, or our, apiary,
and has been extracted without any process of melting."

Freight must be prepaid, and goods consigned to refrigerating Depot, Flinders street, Melbourne, as "Honey for

Export."

Consignors must appoint a Melbourne agent to take charge of any rejected or leaky cans of honey.

PARALYSIS.

Mr. W. J., Cockle Creek, asks:-Having something wrong with one of my hives, and having tried various treatments for the cure of the complaint (symptoms do not show dysentery or foul brood), could you advise me or try to find out the cause and cure. Symptoms are, abdomen enlarged and swollen, and bees fly out of hive on to the front board and crawl about, and upon holding or pressing them between your fingers they burst open and a canary coloured substance of consistency of pollen comes They are dying in large from them. numbers. I have tried sulphuring, and disinfected with phenol and carbolic. There is only one box thus affected, but I am afraid of it being contagious. I have read up A. B. C., Cowan and Quinby's, but I am at a loss to understand what they are suffering from, as I do not find out what the disease is. Do you think it is paralysis or what?

Yours is evidently a case of paralysis, and possibly will dissappear all at once. We would however try Mr. McLain's remedy, giving it then, say at night time, and in the morning shake them all out of the hive so that they will void their excreta. The following is

McLAIN'S MIXTURE.

"To three pints of soft water, add one pint of dairy salt. Use an earthen vessel. Raise the temperature to 90° Fahr.; stir till the salt is thoroughly dissolved; add one pint of soft water, boiling hot, in which has been dissolved four tablespoonfuls of bicarbonate of soda; stir thoroughly, while adding to the mixture sufficient honey or syrup to make it quite sweet, but not enough to perceptibly thicken; to 1 oz. of pure salicylic acid (the crystal), add alcohol sufficient to thoroughly cut it (about 1oz.) and add this to the mixture while still warm, and when thoroughly stirred. leave standing for two or three hours, when it becomes settled and clear.

"Treatment.—Shake the bees from the combs, and extract the honey as clearly as possible. Then thoroughly atomise the combs, blowing a spray of the mixture over and into the cells, using a large atomiser, throwing a copious spray then return the combs to the bees.

QUEENSLAND NOTES.

H. L. JONES.

ARTIFICIAL POLLEN.

Early last month a good many of my weak colonies began to swarm very persistently, notwithstanding that in most cases the hives contained sufficient honey for all their needs. No honey was obtainable from the fields, but those that were short I kept well furnished with honey from the three story hives that had an abundance. Still those weak colonies would swarm and desert their brood in all stages. Eventually it occurred to me that possibly this mania for absconding was due to a scarcity of pollen, as I noticed that little or none was left in the deserted hives. I had frequently known colonies to desert their brood through a searcity of honey, but as pollen had hitherto been a most plentiful commodity in this locality, I never before knew them to desert their hives through their failure to secure a sufficiency of this article for the require-

As a substitute ments of the larvæ. for the natural pollen, I tried them with flour, which they took to quite eagerly, and carried off five pounds the first day, the second day they took up 20 lbs., and on the third day, I gave them the entire contents of a 25 lb bag, all of which, with the exception of about two lbs they carried home before night. feeding of the flour had a most marked effect on the bees, for instead of four or five swarms daily, not a single colony swarmed, but on the contrary brood rearing received quite an impetus. feeders I simply placed half story bodies on top of some of the flat covered hives, and in these placed the The bees came in thousands, still there was no fighting and none of the bees showed the least inclination to enter the hives below. In some of the strong colonies these "white coated" would hustle in with their great white pellets at the rate of nearly 100 per minute, whilst the weaker colonies rushed it, in a proportionate rate. After feeding the 50 lbs I discontinued it for a week, when they again began to swarm, but on resuming the feeding, the swarming immediately ceased. A scarcity of pollen in this district is most exceptional, as I have never known such a thing to occur before, although I have kept a careful record for the past 12 years. Few localities are so favoured as this in the number of different varieties of Eucalypti that abound, usually producing a succession of bloom throughout the year. During the autumn also the bees gather a large amount of pollen from the maize and sorghum and following this they get abundance from the wild mint (Stachys Arvensis), a weed that covers all the maize fields here. This plant, although a curse to the farmer, is a boon to the beekeeper, as in addition to pollen, it usually produces enough honey through the early part of the winter to keep the bees out of mischief. I mention the pollen sources of my locality to show that even in the most favoured districts a dearth of natural pollen will be experi-

enced occasionally, when it behoves the apiarist to furnish a substitute.

CAPPINGS.

From American and other Journals.

Our source of successful wintering is— Strong colonies of bees in fall, with

plenty of accessible stores.

A Mr Graden affirms if a swarm be shaken from their combs into a box, and then swarmed out and circled in the air, they would be free from foul brood.

Å Mr A. W. Swan says—I have a few colonies of the golden Italian bees, and will say right here that they outstrip anything in this part of the country,

Dr. Miller says neither enamel cloth, or other top covering is used as much as usual, flat board covers coming down within a bee space of the frames being liked better.

GERMAN RECEIPT FOR HYDROMEL.—Ten liters of water to two or three liters of honey. Let it simmer for at least two hours. A copper vessel is best to boil it in. The barrels in which it is afterwards kept in should be very pure.

During the past winter California has lost more than half her bees, and Florida, that had such a splendid crop of honey the past summer, is frozen out, and no honey crop anticipated. Mrs Atchley says, more than likely honey will be

pretty high next fall.

To prevent your bees annoying your neighbours at their water troughs should they do so, provide some sweetened water for them. Keep say wet crushed barley on one side of the water, so that the bees can alight and sip the water from among the barley.

Sainfoin (from which the famous French honey is produced) needs a porous soil; it grows well in stony or gravelly land, but cannot thrive in a compact clay soil, for its roots want to penetrate deeply into the ground. It is sewn at the end of winter, is rarely kept longer than two years, as it then gets poor. The bees are said to "just roar on it all day." There are several kinds.

The secret of getting wax of a bright yellow color is to allow it to cool slowly, A large mass will of necessity cool slowly, and if you have only a small quantity you can put a large quantity of water with it. Or you can let it stand in the oven of a stove in which the fire slowly dies out. But dont burn it.

Mrs Jennie Atchley started in the spring of 1894 with 500 full colonies, ran for queen-rearing, and during the height of the season had about 1500 nuclei. Sold about 4500 queens, and at the end of the season had 300 colonies. Bought and sold during the season about 60,000 lbs of bees, and produced 500lbs. beeswax.

R. N. Leach has wintered bees in a hay-stack. After the hay is settled cut a hole in, and when ready put in the bees and shut up the hole. He then leaves the bees in a place perfectly dry and frost proof. He put chaff cushions on top, and wire screens—the cushions to let the moisture off, and the screens to keep the mice from doing any damage.

H. L. Jeffreys says that very late queens are least likely to swarm, are the steadiest layers, live the longest of any queens, and are the strongest of any, because they are not exhausted while young, in early production. He also thinks that it is possible that a queen may be injured by being too much restricted in laying for want of room.

Mr McEvoy, in one of his reports says:-When I was first appointed inspector, I made up my mind not to put the names of those whose bees had foul brood in my Annual Report, but to send them to the Minister of Agriculture, along with the detailed statement of my time, care, fare, livery hire, and the exact condition I found every apiary in that I examined, and what was done and how I managed the whole business and succeeded in getting foul broody apiaries cured by the wholesale, peaceful settlements made, and justice done where diseased colonies had been sold through mistakes, where I burned a few foul broody colonies, and why I did it.

Mr. B. Taylor, says:—I affirm that boards cut squarely off and nailed properly makes the best joint yet made. It takes less lumber, is more quickly and cheaply made and will last longer in exposure than any complicated joint, whether lock-cornered, halved, or mitered. I now have hives made with simple square-nailed corners that have been in use twenty-five years, and they show no defect in this respect. What more can we ask than this?

A Mr Wilcox reports.—I must report my experiment as to the comparative yield of comb and extracted honey. On June 1, 1894, or before white clover bloomed, I divided my home apiary 126 colonies into two equal parts—with these results: 63 colonies in 8-frame hives, run for comb honey, gave 450 pounds of honey, and 30 swarms increase; 63 colonies (40 of them in 10 frame hives) gave 3,310 pounds of extracted honey and no increase.

One who has used enamel cloths and duck for covering frames under covers, say he finds the bees in hives covered with duck do much better than those under the enamel. The reason is supposed to be, that the bees will, in the course of the summer. daub every part of the duck that they can reach between the top bars with propolis, making it air-tight, whereas it is impossible for them to perfectly seal down the enamel cloth to the edges of the hive. They can do this with the duck.

Dr Miller says:—If half-a-dozen different men set to work to rear a strain of five banded bees, neither of them paying attention to anything but color, I should expect that five out of the six strains would not be as good as the three-banded bees, and very likely the sixth would be poor. But if a careful and conscientious breeder should breed up a strain, weeding out bad qualities and retaining good ones, I see no reason why he might not at the same time develop the five bands. So I should say that there are probably bad and also good 5-banded bees.

AN ENQUIRY.

M.B, "Lynwoode" writes: I am contemplating commencing Bee Farming, and with that object in view I have been studying some American publications and procuring information on the subject from home authorities, but it occurs to me that the treatment, or rather the management of bees, in this country, must vary considerably from the American and English practice. As you are, I understand, the editor of the Australian Bee Bulletin! I take the liberty of writing you, and shall feel obliged if you will tell me whether bee-keeping is carried on satisfactorily in this colony-I mean monetary results-and regards whether I should be right (did I determine to follow up the business) in the footsteps of following strictly American apiarists.

The price of honey appears to me to be very low, and from the annual increasing production of it in America and on the continent of Europe, I cannot as yet make up my mind as to the advisability of investing money in the industry—I don't mean as to simply keeping the 10 or a dozen colonies of bees, but going into the business with the ultimate intention of not stopping until I had 1500 or 2000 colonies.

I have not yet seen your Bee Bulletin, so I should feel obliged if you would favour me by posting me a copy, and, should I find it to be a publication up to date in information, I shall subscribe to it. The first numbers or volumes are, I presume, to be seen somewhere in Sydney.

If not trespassing too much on your valuable time, I shall feel extremely obliged to you, if you will comply with my request and also answer my queries, and send me any further data that may be of value to me on this question.

I notice that some American apiarists have obtained as much as 200lb of honey from a colony in one season. Has that record been exceeded in New South Wales, or even approached? I presume the quantity to be gathered greatly

depends upon the facilities the bees have provided them in the shape of honey plants. Here I have the whole country unoccupied, besides having a large area of clover, and of apple and other fruit blossoms available.

For a paying industry, the honey industry has a future for any man following it equal to any other industry in the colonies. There is an old saying, "There is no royal road to learning," so there is no royal road to success in bee culture. An apiary must be built up piece by piece. There are three important essentials: a good man, good bees and a good situation. The forests not only of Europe but of America are gradually giving way to cultivation and towns. The forests of Australia, if its people are wise, should be good for many generations yet. 1000lb have, on several occasions, been secured from one hive in Australia. forward you sample copy of the Bee Bulletin. Can't give you previous volumes as the increase in its sale has been so great the back copies, many of them, have got out of print, yet can, however, send you a good many back numbers, but not consecutive. Shall be happy also to answer any questions you may be pleased to

M.G., Weeta Waa, reports honey is coming in. He has taken some sections off during the past week.

The Victorian Government demand that all honey under their seal shall be

put up in new packages.

T.H., Wagga Wagga.—The honey is still coming in. I have 1600lbs now from 9 swarms. I am forced to extract every eight days.

E. S., Perth—The season here for bees has been fairly good but latterly the dry weather has cut the honey short. Wishing your paper every success.

O. W. J., Ramornie.—My appreciation of your interesting little journal, I fancy I can best express by forwarding my subscription with pleasure.

Mr. O'C., Moruya, writes :— We have had a cold spell here lately, which checked the honey flow for a while, but now everything is humming again.

Speaking of the A.B.B., Mr. E. Penglase says:—I shall mention the *Bulletin* to any one that I think likely to become a subsrciber, for we must have it or else go behind the times.

Mr H. Pambula, writes: -Can you inform me if honey can be used for making quince jelly instead of sugar, and in what proportion should the honey be used?

We believe quince jelly cannot be made with honey instead of sugar.

Mr. A, C, Bulga, writes:—A very bad season for bess here, most of them starved out. Beetles eat all the flowers off trees, or rather buds and leaves too, in spring and later on. Am doing better now.

H. W., West Davenport, Tasmania.—
I think we are having the best honey season this year we have had for a good many years. Supers are full every fortnight; the bush is white for miles with stringy bark and white gum.

F.S.F., Richmond River.—1893 and 1894 have been very bad seasons out here, and this season, so far, nothing to blow about, but at the present time bees are doing fairly well. The bush is coming well in bloom, which, if weather permits, will continue well into spring. The winter here, strange to say, is our main flow.

J. H., Bathurst.—The season has been very bad; there being no honey until the fall. To show the state I was in I took no honey till February. There has been no rain for three months of any importance. There has been a fair yield in other parts of the district. Severe frosts have now set in killing the only little vegetation we had. Hope to see you at the Convention.

Mr. J. A. L. Pahiatua, N. Z., writes:—I have received a few copies of your paper, the A.B.B., which I consider does you great credit. To the amateur beekeeper your journal is valuable because he has the experience of bee experts gratis. To the man of experience it is also valuable, allowing and interchange of ideas, and being well edited gives him much information he could not otherwise obtain. I enclose subscription for myself and three others whose address I enclose, with best wishes from yours truly.

G. K., Dungog.—I send you under separate cover, to-day, a queen cup containing royal jelly and eight eggs, taken from a 3 frame nucleus, containing neither queen nor eggs, which I think will go to prove these bees must have stolen them from other hives.

You have a laying worker in the hive.

G. G., Rooty Hill.—Ithas been a poor season here, no flow till the fall and scanty one then only an a verage of 60lb per hive. However, beesstand well for winter. The flow has been chiefly from apple tree and blackthorn. Wishing you every success with A.B.B., March number of which is to hand. I perceive by wrapper it is the second one sent. I have had them late sometimes but never lost one before. Many thanks for so promptly forwarding second one. I see I am not the only sufferer that way. It is a pity it can't be sheeted home, for I think it is the essence of meanness.

W.N., Eugowra.—The yield of honey for the present season in this district is going to be small, which is discouraging to new beginners, of whom we have many. From my past experience we must be prepared to expect bad seasons as well as good. At our home apiary we have taken very little honey and our chances of obtaining honey now in quantity is small. At our out apiary we are more fortunate, having a different variety of timber, a large quantity of ironbark, which came in bloom a fortnight ago, the bees are gathering honey fast. Wishing you, your paper, and everyone; connected with it, every success.

W. C., Ellis Vale,—I have a very strong swarm of black bees. This last ten days they have been fighting with one another. The bees they appear to be fighting with are a very black bee, with no down or hair on the back; they very much resemble a very small black queen. They are not robbers as they fight and kill one another all night.

The black bees you mention may be oither old bees or robbers, and there is a disease called the Depilating or Hairless Disease in which the

bees lose their hair.

J. T., Pambula, asks:—I have a number of kerosene tins, will you oblige me by letting me know the best way to thoroughly cleanse them without opening the top; also how to make glue for gumming labels on honey bottles; also how to mix or make the material for sealing the corks?

The best way to clean out kerosene tins is using plenty of boiling water with soda in it. Then well rinse with clean water and turn upside down to drain in the sun. The best fo putting labels on bottles is flour paste, well boiled. With a little powdered alum or carbolic acid it will keep ready for use for a long time. Re sealing the corks: Melt the wax say in a saucepan, and when the cork is in the bottle dip the top in the saucepan.

A. J. B., Robertson, writes:—This has not been a great season for honey, and it is only lately that it was worth extracting, being obtained chiefly from a species of acacia. It is dark in colour, with a strong flavour, which some people consider an improvement. The few beekeepers around do not appear to be getting rich. I fancy the long winter and continuous rain in summer will prevent beekeeping from making much headway here. However, it is splendid recreation, and has helped me to fill in many at dull hour.

Fitz-Geebung, Paterson, writes:-I can not pass over Mr. Smith's remark about silly bickering. It would appear that it is a tremendous silly thing to complain about civil servants piracing against private enterprise. Mr. Smith must understand that all civil servants receive a good salary compared to what the average labourer can earn, and further than that they accept that salary and legally bind themselves to abstain from all such practices. I am sorry for Mr. Smith that he can not well get along without them, but that is not so with the whole beekeeping fraternity. Should bee keepers however be indispensable to Mr. Smith's wellfare, well then, I have no objection should Government send the entire staff of Public Instruction to Currabubula for Mr. Smith's edification.

T. W., Pyramid Hill, Victoria.—I am about to start an apiary and I want your advice before selecting a site. I have a place under offer where there is an abundance of mallee and ti tree, in fact as far as the eye can see. It is studded with box, ironbark and other trees. The principle timber is mallee. What do you think of this site to establish an apiary? Is the honey gathered from the mallee and ti-tree equal the honey gathered from other sources, good enough for export? Some say that box and red gum produces the best honey. I am not tied to any district. I can get a place to suit me where there is box and red gum alone. I do not want to make any mistake in selecting a site if possible.

We are sorry we cannot inform you right off. We do not know the honey from mallee. There are several kinds of ti-tree here: one, with a broad leaf, has a disagreeable flavour; the narrow leaf ti-tree produces good honey. The red gum here produces a dark honey. These qualities may not apply to Victoria. We would like to hear from other Victorian beekeepers on

these matters.

G. W. G., Jamberoo, writes—Mr C. U. T. Bourke, asks two ticklish questions. To my way of thinking they are quite simple, and he answers the first in giving his way of working the long idea. He says he shifts all the capped brood back. Well, he has overlooked a queen cell or some eggs, and the bees have reared a queen to all intents and purposes on the Doolittle principle, only in the back instead of on top of the brood chamber. Being reared in the hive accounts for not balling. I canuot say why one did not kill the other. No 2 question is just as simple. The bees have superseded his queen, and he has a virgin queen in the hive, and which is no doubt laying away at the present time if nothing happened her in fertilization. I am inclined to disbelieve his statement (re the long idea hive) that he has two entrances, and the bees bring honey in one entrance only, and pollen ditto. I have had a little experience of two entrances, and never could see any difference in the bees working in both:

Mr B, Boulevard, writes:—Send me a book that will tell me how to keep foul brood away from my hives. I use Simplicity hives, and dusted bees and combs all over with sulpher, but that did not stop the bees dying off. I must have spent over £30 in bees, hives, &c., this last five years, and now I have only empty hives to look at. Would you get more bees now or wait till spring time? I want something to cheer me up, as I do not like to be bested.

Friend B, we feel sorry for you, and more so that we cannot give you much cheer. Now that the bees are gone make a clean job of it. Burn the old combs, then well brush the insides of the hives with kerosene, and set them alight sufficient to scorch them. After that expose them to the air. We would not recommend

getting fresh bees till the spring.

J. McK., Cowra, writes: -Since I have taken the A.B B. I have made beefarming pay. However, my apiary has increased from eight black swarms to 30 Italians. This year my extractor has taken two tons of honey, and the hives are all full up again, ready for the extractor. I think this is a good district for honey. I use simplicity and dovetailed hives. This year they have been working on white box, lucerne, black thistle and black thorn-white box still in bloom. I am free from foul brood. paralysis, &c., and the only thing that is troubling me is the red ants. They have got in my apiary. Please let me know a cure to hunt this pest.

Get your hives strong and you will have no

trouble with ants,

J. A. M., Shilangerin, writes:—Your kindly post card comes to me as a friend in need. I am absolutely an ignorant beginner, and would take it as a great kindness if you would instruct me how to commence. I live on the Lachlan River. I have a nice sheltered but bright enclosure beyond my garden, where I intend constructing an apiary. Would you send me a sketch, say of 15 to 20 hives, and how they should be placed? Should they be exposed to the weather, or have a shelter over them? Of course it is very hot here sometimes, thermo-

meter 108 to 112 in the shade during the summer months. Would that affect the comb or melt the wax? There seems to be a great diversity of opinion as to which is the best hive to use, I see by your B.B. Please straighten the way for me. Tell me what books to get to read up my subject, from the very A.B.C. I am sure much must come from experience—no doubt sometimes a bitter one.

[We would place one half of them facing one way, say about five feet apart; the other half facing the other way, back of them, with say ten feet between the two rows. You could walk down between them without being in the flight of the bees. Re shelter, you seem to have a sheltered place. A sheet of bark or perhaps loose boards does for a cover. Ours have none, and do not seem to suffer. Hopkins' Bee Manual (price 6/6) is as good a book as you can get, being a colonial written one, and very highly spoken of. "Root's A.B.C." is a great standard work.

Mr C, Canowindra, writes:—I am about to give my sons a start in bee-farming, and wish to remove bees from their present location to an allotment of ground about 400 yards away. When would it be advisable to remove so as to prevent bees returning to their old stand? Also the best time to Italianise? I have at present—this is my first season 15 colonies in Simplicity hives consisting of 1 Italian, 3 hybrids and 11 blacks, but owing to the very dry season we have experienced my returns have been next to nil.

Re removal of hives I would do that after dark of an evening, If possible wait till dull or wet weather, so that the bees would have time to get accustomed to their new home before taking a flight, and when setting hives in new location, put something to obstruct bees when coming out of the hive, this will cause them to notice their removal. Re Italianising, I would do that as early in the spring as I could get good queens from reliable breeders. Book your orders for such in good time so as not to be disappointed if a rush should be made for them.

Mr. D. W. P. Springwood, writes:— The past season here has been a poor one and a trying one. Stocks with old queen or otherwise incapable or short of stores, where not attended to, have taken their departure. As far as I can

hear paralysis has not been troublesome this time. I should wish this subject to have been thrashed out a little more. Some blame the fine coloured bees, others say all get it more or less, blacks and all, their remedy was killing the queen, and they thought the cause was a continuance of poor food. It seems bees wanting stamina suffer most, Muth's foul brood cure will settle it in 48 hours and generally less if mixed with fermented honey and fed warm. I refer to those that look bloated, they will soon come down to their natural size. I had last spring a hive of real golden beauties reduced to about two handfuls, and these were badly affected; dosed them with the above and they have done splendidly since. Some time since I received a carni-cross very good bees, and were not affected by this pestilence, that is a good deal in their favour. I think it is a near relative to the La Grippe.

J. G., Shepparton, Victoria. - I wrote to you last November and you to send me your paper, and you have sent it regularly ever since, so I now enclose you 5/6 so you can keep on sending it to me till further notice, as I do not think I could do without it now. Although this is not a very good honey district, we have three large beekeepers on the river near here, two have over 100 hives, and the other about 70. Two of them work the Heddon and the other the Langstroth 8 and 10 frames, and nearly all for extracting as there is no demand for sections even at sixpence each, whereas we get from threepence to fourpence for extracted honey. There are several like myself, who keep a few hives but have not the spare time to go in for many. Last year was a very poor one, and foul brood was very bad all round, but this has been a very fair year and not so much disease to contend with. I got about half a cwt. from each of my hives this year and it is seldom we get up to three figures from one hive. There is plenty of red gum all along the river, but it does not bloom in any quantity, but every third or fourth year; also a fair share of box and yellow jack, which blooms every year and gives us a lot of our honey. I have a hand power circular saw bench which I rigged up myself, and I make all my own hives and frames. Now that we are rid of foul brood, what would you recommend to keep it away, and what is the best way you have over your side of dealing with it. I would also like you to let me know if stringy bark honey is of good flavour and fit for export.

(We do not know whether the stringy tark is the same as in this portion of N. S. W., but the honey from it here is considered very fair One of the best preventatives of foul brood, is carbolic acid. We know of and have read of English and Colonial beekeepers who have ascribed their freeness from disease to its

constant use.

L. H. D., Murrurundi, writes: -It might interest you to know that the sulphur cure which you suggested entirely cured two hives of paralysis, which was killing a great many bees. I applied floured sulphur lightly to all the frames and in one week there was not a dead bee to be seen, and have never been troubled with it since One of my hives (Italians) by some means or other lost its queen I twice gave them brood and eggs to raise another, but they did not make the slightest attempt in this direction, and, as they had by this time become rather weak, I sent to one of your local breeders for an untested queen She arrived in due course, but unfortunately her wing was cut, which process by the way I do not believe in. However, last week, I went out to see how they were getting on, not having been near them for a couple of days. On approaching near the hive, I saw a great crowd of bees flying round, and said to myself, surely this weak colony cannot be attempting to swarm. I soon discovered that the crowd, were all black bees, and found them entering the hive in great numbers, and not one of the old Italians to be seen I then opened out the hive and found to my sorrow that the blacks had taken complete possession Italians dead at bottom, cells uncapped and honey taken out, and great mess on bottom board, from the uncappings by the robber bees The queen was nowhere to be seen, not even her body, so I suppose she crawled out and got lost in the grass I left the blacks in possession, and at seven in the evening opened hive and found only about five poor unfortunate Italians who had survived the massacre of their home and probably been on the wing when it occured I have noticed in one of my pure Italian hives several to all appear-

ances hybrid bees, not robbers, as I have seen them bringing in honey; do you think they are stranger bees who have adopted this new home? I often notice bees in one of my hives going through a sort of kneading motion with their front legs on the alighting board, do you know the meaning of it I fancy they are trying to get the paint off the board

[Young bees are welcome into other hives, and do stray into them. We have often noticed the kneading motion you speak of, but have no idea what it is for. If you watch your hives and note immediately they are queenless you will prevent them getting too weak.

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