

than in any other part of the world. The thought that bee-keepers should start growing it, when their example would be copied by others cultivating it in small blocks, and the general farmer will soon follow suit. The bees will derive very much benefit by the pollen they obtain from it. From the analysis of the samples of pollen submitted to me, it will be seen that cultivated plants give the best result in protein; as much as 27 per cent is shown on the table, eucalyptus 20 per cent, weeds 10 per cent. If we were to generalize we might see the more valuable the fruit the better the nitrogen. Lucerne produces more protein than any other plant that we are acquainted with. Lucerne hay has as much nitrogen as bran, weight for weight, and the more general we can get the lucerne cultivated the better it will be for Bee-keepers generally.

Mr. Bingham—What do you think of tree lucerne and cultivation for Tasmania.

Dr. Cherry—The two lucernes can be combined; no two trees grow under more adverse conditions. In dry places the animals are fond of it, and in moist places they neglect it, probably owing to the presence of other foods. Its blossoms one of the earliest, and is a very early forage for bees. He concluded that for bees it was well up to the average for quantity, and thinks it is one of the best plants that bee-keepers could grow. Those who run poultry will find it a valuable plant, as it gives shelter and is an ornamental tree.

Mr. Anderson—He can bear out Dr. Cherry's remarks about tree lucerne, that he finds that it blossoms a little too early. Is there any way to arrive at the quantity of nectar secreted by the plant? Owing to the shape of the flowers, bees have a difficulty in getting at the nectar.

Mr. Morgan—Is there any way in getting the hay from lucerne except when cutting it in full bloom; that is, could it not be cut when it is past full bloom, as it would then give a better chance for the bees to get the honey?

Dr. Cherry—There would not be much loss by letting it get a little past full bloom and so get the nectar.

Mr. R. Beuhne—Is development necessary to induce deep roots?

Dr. Cherry—Grazed lucerne does not get such good root stems as cut lucerne.

Mr. Cottman—What would be the better way to treat hill soil of 4 or 5 inches of sandy loam with a sub-soil of quicksand and clay, the sub-soil becomes so hard as to need a crowbar to break through?

Dr. Cherry—Such soil will be much improved by draining; too much moisture causes it to set too hard; the department has some places under observation; the true soil lies under the dry cement.

Mr. McFarlane—Is the food value of hay grown on poor land as good as that grown on rich land?

Dr. Cherry—Yes; there would be less quantity, but the quality would be good.

Mr. W. L. Davey intended planting 20 acres. If lucerne were allowed to go past the full bloom, would that affect the plant?

Dr. Cherry—No! plenty of seed was obtainable on the market.

Mr. Cottman—Can Dr. Cherry give any directions for treating dodder in lucerne?

Dr. Cherry—There is no difficulty if treated in small quantities. Take a spade and scuffle the ground just under the surface; take away and burn and cover with manure, and the young plants will come through.

Mr. G. Bingham—What influence will