

ter of an acre and an acre is worth £100 per year. It will give three or four cuttings without irrigation, six or seven with irrigation. One ton of hay is just as valuable as a ton of bran. Taking bran at 1/- per bushel, lucerne is worth £5 12s. ton. Bacchus Marsh growers sell lucerne hay from £3 10s. to £4 10s. a ton, paying £100 an acre for land. To keep lucerne in good order it is necessary to get it to blossom as often as possible, and it is best cut when it is just a little past full bloom. It should be mowed often in the summer, and should not be grazed over very much, as it does not like grazing, and would give out then in about six years, as is found in the Goulburn valley, where it is generally eaten off by stock. One of the best ways to improve a worn-out lucerne paddock is to harrow it in the spring. This will increase the luxuriance of the growth. Its greatest value for stock is when it is in full leaf and flower. When cut in the morning and raked in the evening, and then allowed to be cured in the air before being stacked, the cultivation would not only do good for the bees, but would provide food for stock and even chickens and poultry value most highly from the fact of it being a plant containing a great deal of nitrogenous matter, and as such it is the most valuable plant we have. Lucerne has from 10 to 15 per cent of protein, bran about 11 per cent, so it is valuable to the farmer. One reason why he would like bee-keepers to be apostles of lucerne-growing is your neighbors would follow suit, and your bees would get the gain. If several million acres were sown in the northern parts of Victoria, bee-keepers would abandon the forest, with its strong honey, and produce a better quality of honey in these districts. No farmers who

start lucerne-growing will abandon it, its growth over Australia is extending rapidly, and farmers will find hay-making better than grazing, and he suggested that several members should grow some plots as an experiment. It does not require much surface water in summer unless it is grazed. To get roots down deep is to get it to flower frequently; while attempting to flower, which is the sole object for which the plant lives, the roots go down deeper and deeper; every attempt to flower causes growth of root in depth, so that every cut or crop causes the root to go down deeper. It happens that the present time in most districts is the time to sow lucerne, but in planting large areas it is generally sown in the autumn with oats, which shelters the lucerne for the first crop from frost, and when cut the lucerne grows up itself, and generally during the summer there is sufficient moisture to keep it growing. In the colder districts it is more difficult to get lucerne to start, and then September planting will be found best. He advises the use of Superphosphate, say about 1 cwt. to the acre, to be sown with the seed; by December a crop of flowers will be produced, and another in January. During winter lucerne goes to sleep, and may appear smothered with weeds which, cut in October for fodder, weeds and all, will then grow of itself, and give a good crop by the end of the year. Every agriculturist can find ample use for every bit of hay he can produce, and it is the most valuable fodder that can be raised, and he recommends every farmer to go on increasing. Those who read American literature will look upon the bright accounts given there of the Alfalfa regions of the west coast, where bee-keepers' holdings are more numerous

than in any other part of the world. The thought that lucerne would be copied in small blocks, and that the farmer will soon be able to derive very much from the pollen they obtain, is admitted to me, it is a fact that lucerne plants give a high percentage of protein; as much as 15 per cent, shown on the total dry weight, weeds 10 per cent, and lucerne to generalize we would say that it is as valuable the fruit of the lucerne as any other plant I have ever been acquainted with. It contains much nitrogen and weight, and the lucerne will be for bee-keepers. Mr. Bingham—V. lucerne and mania. Dr. Cherry—The combined; no two more adverse conditions for the animals are in moist places they are owing to the presence of blossoms one of the very early forage plants, and it is included that for bees the average for quality is one of the best. Bee-keepers could grow it, and poultry will find it gives shelter and food. Mr. Anderson—He says that Mr. Cherry's remarks are that he finds that it is too early. Is there any quantity of lucerne plant? Owing to the fact that the flowers, bees have a great deal of nectar at the nectar.