



E. B. THOMAS, in the *American Bee Journal*, recommends for painting anything exposed to the weather a prime coat of raw linseed oil, not paint. He claims that with such a first coat the work will be much more lasting. It is perhaps not necessary to add that the lead used should be absolutely pure. If it is impure, on exposure to the atmosphere it will soon come off in scales and dust.

THE Australian Government has decided to introduce a Foul Brood bill into Parliament during the present session. Beekeepers in California are also moving in this direction. In England the same question is under discussion. Canadians may feel proud that in this matter the Ontario Legislature has set an example. May other portions of the Dominion follow the good example set!

SOME of our beekeepers are putting sections on in the fall of the year, having the foundation drawn out by the bees and the comb completed. They then extract the honey and melt the comb down to make a cell with a wall, say, a quarter of an inch deep, and use it for comb honey next season. The advantages must be great indeed to repay so much labor. Will anyone ever be smart enough to invent a machine which will make comb foundation with a side wall a quarter of an inch deep, yet so delicately made that it will leave no hard fishbone in the comb? It seems impossible that such a machine can ever be made.

CAREFUL tests conducted by R. F. Holtermann in his work in the Experimental Apiary under the Ontario Government go to show that if a certain amount of syrup be given to the bees through the best feeders there is a high percentage of waste and loss. It was also found that the waste with weak colonies was greater than with strong. From the experiments one would be justified in coming to the conclusion that it will not pay to extract honey from the combs and feed back syrup for winter stores. It would also pay better, if winter stores were short, to feed extra

combs to strong colonies than to give them to the weak ones. A full report of the work can be found in the Ontario Agricultural College Report for 1895.

THE *Australian Bee Bulletin* is carrying on an interesting discussion as to the best methods of shipping queens by post from America to Australia. Several queens have been sent with success. As far as can be judged at present, the voyage generally takes thirty-five days. A worker bee will only live forty-five days during the summer, and, although active, she has her own freedom, and is under natural conditions. The points which have to be considered are: The construction of the cage, the making of the food, and the age and the number of the accompanying bees. It has been suggested that instead of candy only some comb be put in the cage. This would enable the bees to dispose of any excess of moisture which the candy might take up from the atmosphere. It is altogether likely that a dozen bees would go through much better than thirty, the number spoken of. If a practical success of such experiments can be made, it will do much to assist beekeepers in the introduction of new blood and new races of bees.

A GREAT change has been made in the manufacture of comb foundation. Until last fall the best way of making comb foundation was to dip wet boards into a tank of melted wax, and in that way secure sheets of wax from eighteen to thirty-two inches long. These sheets were one by one run through a machine, which gave it the impression of comb, or rather the base of the comb. During the past year Mr. E. B. Weed perfected at the establishment of the Canadian firm of Goold, Shapley & Muir Company an entirely new process and machine for making comb foundation. In the operation nature is followed as closely as possible; the wax is cooled slowly and worked during the process of cooling. A continuous sheet is made, miles in length if desired, and the sheet is much more even; the gradual cooling process makes the foundation much tougher. It has already been tried in