

called Italians, showing but very little yellow that would sting the "socks" off any man. The standard for queen-breeders should be the same to-day as it was with the Rev. E. L. Briggs in 1870, when he said, "Send out no queens for breeding purposes but such as are fully up to the standard of excellence; and those who delight in handling this wonderful insect may not only have the most beautiful, but the gentlest, the largest, the most fertile, and the most industrious honey bee known to the world."—*Missouri Bee-Keeper*.

Bees-Keeping in Australia.

SIR, I get the *Bee Record and Adviser* forwarded to me by a lady in London, and am very pleased with it. But my object in writing is to offer my experience in bee-keeping in this far-away place. I used to look upon bees as very tiresome, stinging little things, and have occasionally found them so since I captured a swarm passing by, two years ago last December; anyhow I only got one sting in taking them. Three weeks later, wanting some advice, I applied to a friend some distance away. He examined the bees, and told me there was no queen amongst them, but offered to help me until such time as I got my bees queened and in working order. He brought me a frame of brood, but no queen was raised from it, nor was a second frame of brood more successful. He then brought a third frame with a sealed queen cell, from which a very nice queen hatched out. I paid him 15s. for the queen. I then paid 14s. for a Langstroth hive for them, but by this time our winter was at hand, and the bees had a good supply of honey, which my friend advised me not to take away till after the winter had passed; and not till the following August did I carry out my first removal of surplus honey, and up to December I had taken about seventy pounds. On looking at the bees a fortnight later, I found one frame nearly full of royal cells, two of which were sealed. I very foolishly destroyed all but one, and that one I put into a nucleus, thinking to raise another swarm; but I reckoned without my host, for they swarmed, and then flew away, so I was left worse off than ever, as I had destroyed all the other cells. Three days later we had a number of wet days in succession, and the moth got into my nucleus and destroyed the royal cell, and nearly everything else in it. The combs were one tangled mass of web and grubs. What few bees were left I united to the old hive. I then procured another queen, and clipped her wings, thinking this would prevent her wandering off, but after several attempts to clear out she got into the grass and was there destroyed by

small black ants. My friend having no more queens for sale, he offered to sell me a small swarm for a pound note. I accepted the offer, thinking to unite the bees, but I found that the old stock was rearing more queens, and I did not disturb them. Things went on fairly well, though each lot took an occasional swarming fit. By this time another winter had passed, and I still had my stocks, but both were very weak. Then, Mr. Editor, I read your advice to beginners, not to lose heart at failure, and it cheered me on, and the summer which is now drawing to a close, proved a fairly good one, for I have taken about seventy pounds of honey, and have increased from two to five stocks, two of which are strong, and the other fairly so. Then a stray swarm came past, which I secured, and I afterwards bought a beauty for 6s., so that I have now seven stocks, of which I am very proud. My daughter has been a great help to me in my bee work this year.

In closing, I thought perhaps some in the old country might like to know about bee-keeping here; and so I may say the seasons are very fickle, as they are with you. Just as we think we have a good time coming, wet weather sets in, at which time the moth is a real terror to bee-keepers here. One lady, half a mile away, last year lost nineteen out of twenty two stocks through it. She has kept bees for a number of years. The same lady kept a few bottles of honey for several years, and when examined she found that the honey had crystalized into a beautiful white sugar. Is this a customary occurrence? [Yes, all pure honey will granulate in time.—Ed.] We have to depend upon our honey supply almost entirely on the trees, among which are several varieties of the eucalyptus. One of them (the bloodwood) produces a beautiful honey. Then we have a variety of gum trees, the odour of which is quite perceptible at the hives, as soon as they begin to bloom. The mangrove also produces a large flow of honey for about a fortnight. My friend took 37 pounds of honey in seven days from one hive; and from one of mine I extracted the honey one day, and two days later the same combs were full and sealed again. My mode of increasing has been to take the queen with the frame she is on and put into a new hive on the old stand, and remove the old stock to another place. In one case when I had done so, the queen, with a few followers, made another swarm next day, so, as I wanted to move them, I took them away and put another hive with one frame on the stand, and when a week or so later enough bees had hatched out to cover it, I gave them a sealed queen cell. On reading in the *Record* of the flour process for uniting, I tried the experiment with perfect success, not one being killed so far as I could see. I am afraid I shall tire your patience, but ere this rather rambling letter reaches you your readers will be in their busiest part of another season, which I trust will be a prosperous one for you all in the dear old home land.—HENRY TURNER, Koongal, Lake's Creek, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia.—*Bee-Keeper's Record and Adviser*, England.