

APIARY REGISTER.

A register for the purpose of keeping records of individual colonies will be of great assistance to the apiarist. If the apiary is to be conducted on commercial lines such a register will be indispensable as a complete record of the hive and its work, and will act as a guide to the beekeeper in laying out his plans for the forthcoming season. A record of the best queens and the average yield of each colony is important, more especially when working to improve the strain of bees kept.

THE FARM GARDEN.

W. H. TAYLOR, Manager, Arataki Horticultural Station.

VEGETABLE-CULTURE.

Peas.—In places where the soil is well drained peas may now be sown. Where the soil is extra dry in summer the resulting crop may be the best of the season, and this also applies to very hot districts. It is customary to sow only dwarf varieties at this season, but this need not be made a hard-and-fast rule. Dwarf kinds come into bearing earlier than other kinds because they have less growth to make before fruiting. In some parts the crop is a precarious one, a cold winter or a heavy rainfall causing slow growth, so that very little progress is made. In such cases it is wise to sow only dwarf sorts and only a small quantity. But where they are known to do well more should be sown and a taller kind also. A difficulty in some parts is the ravages of birds and slugs. It is a hard matter to rid the garden of slugs in winter when there is frequent rain, and birds are a still greater difficulty. Both slugs and birds may be overcome by putting sticks to the peas. Birds seldom trouble them when so protected, and slugs do serious harm only when the haulm lies on the ground. If the haulm is clear of the ground a sprinkling of lime and soot occasionally is sufficient protection and, further, acts as a fertilizer. I always sprinkle a little soot over the peas before covering them with soil. It protects them from all insect pests while in the early stages of growth, and the manurial effects of the soot is seen in the rich green foliage and strength of growth.

Broad beans may be sown anywhere. The plant is a hardy one that grows well during winter. Beans do not form till there is a certain degree of warmth in soil and atmosphere; therefore the haulm may run up too tall. In summer it is best to top