

of poisoning appear evident. I am, however, rather dubious as to whether the nectar of the plants suspected really is the cause of the trouble. It is difficult to locate the source of bush honeys with any degree of certainty, pollen-grain examination not being very satisfactory when a large number of species have contributed to the sample.

The amount of honey produced from natural vegetation is large, but as time goes on this source will, through the breaking-in of forest, manuka, and swamp lands, steadily become less and less. It is certainly towards the flora of the lands under occupation that one must turn in order to determine the source of the higher-grade honeys and to certain special developments of soil-utilization that may lead to improved conditions so far as honey-production is concerned.

I would like to point out here that it is the custom to treat nearly all the better-coloured lines of honey as white-clover honey. The term has to a large extent become a trade one, and it by no means follows that all white-clover honeys are mainly gathered from white clover. In certain cases catsear nectar is really the more important one from which such honeys are made, and various members of the composite, leguminous, wild borage, labiate, and crucifer family provide honey that on general appearance could be called white-clover honey. Clovers (and more especially white clover), alsike, suckling, lotus, trefoil, and lucerne (especially in a pastoral country like New Zealand) will probably in the future always supply the bulk of the honeys, but the important part played by other groups of plants should not be overlooked.

FORESTRY.

Each year from two to three thousand acres of land are forested by the Government, and the annual foresting and plantation-work of local bodies and private individuals runs into many hundreds of acres. Forests are the longest maturing of any agricultural crop, and the attention of beekeepers has been in other countries directed from time to time to the problem of whether beekeeping and afforestation can be combined. Before detailing any possibilities in this connection with regard to New Zealand it will be well to outline briefly the general trend of afforestation in New Zealand. The report of the Forestry Commission (1913) clearly demonstrated that the only trees likely to pay in forestry operations are those of short duration, half a century being placed as the maximum period for any planted forest crop. Again, the main types of trees required are those providing a