

the most important, however, being white clover, alsike, trefoil, and perhaps some of the hop trefoil, lotus, and suckling-clover types. Red clover, of course, until such time as a race of honey-bees with longer tongues or a race of clover with shorter flower-tubes is evolved, is of no value in this connection. In certain dry seasons, when the red-clover flowers are small, a certain amount of nectar may be gathered from them by honey-bees, but this condition is too unusual for red clover to be looked upon as of any value.

It is highly probable—and the experiments at present being carried out at the Department's farms will determine this point—that an increase in the clover-content of pastures is a desirable feature. This should be more particularly true of pastures of a temporary or semi-permanent nature, and such types of pastures are on the increase. I look upon increasing the clover-content of pastures as probably the greatest forward movement that could be given to beekeeping, and apiarists should be well advised to study this question in their respective districts, and determine from the farmers' point of view whether to increase clovers in pastures is a payable policy to adopt. It cannot be too strongly impressed that an increase in bee-forage must be correlated with some advantage to the farmer before he will adopt any method that may indirectly secure this end.

On the whole the pastures of New Zealand must be looked upon as the main bee-forage. That in this respect they are easily capable of being improved can be seen by the fact that the total number of bee colonies in New Zealand is less than 80,000, and the sown pastures occupy some 16,000,000 acres, or one colony to every 200 acres of pasture. Moreover, this does not take into consideration the large number of colonies that gather from natural vegetation. With regard to grass lands, those devoted to cattle are in general better from the apiarist's standpoint than sheep pastures, as with the latter the close cropping of the turf lessens flower-production. The general trend of the better-class lands towards dairying should prove valuable to the beekeeper, provided there is a tendency towards increasing the clover-content of the pastures. The high prices of clover-seed during recent years has, however, led to a curtailment of the quantities used, but such prices need only be looked upon as temporary.

LUCERNE-GROWING.

One of the most important agricultural movements in New Zealand, although as yet quite in its infancy, is the cultivation of