

method of procedure. This was by far the best of our experiments at Ruakura last season, and we are hoping to run a number of hives on this principle during the coming season, so as to give it an extensive trial alongside hives run on other systems.

It will be noticed that all these methods aim at forcing the queen to build up a practically more or less new brood-nest by giving ample room for the laying of eggs, and hence continually staving off the feeling of overcrowding or lack of accommodation.

In spite, however, of all precautions "The best-laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley," and he is a clever beekeeper (or has an exceptionally contented lot of bees) who never has a swarm. When queen-breeding by selection has arrived at such perfection that swarming trouble is no longer known the apiarist's millennium will have dawned. Personally, I should like to see that day.

KUMARA - PLANTS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

THE Manager of the Tauranga Horticultural Station (Mr. J. H. Davidson) advises that there will be a considerable surplus of kumara (sweet-potato) plants available at the station this season. The plants in question include some of the American varieties, and as these have been thoroughly tested and found superior to those grown by the Maoris it has been decided to distribute them as far as practicable on application to the Manager. Articles on kumaras and their culture were published in the *Journal* for October, 1913 and 1914. The best time for planting out is from the end of November to the first week in January.

In his current annual report the Forestry Superintending Nurseryman for the North Island, Mr. H. A. Goudie, remarks as follows: "The articles upon *Eucalypti*-growing from the pen of Rev. J. H. Simmonds, which appeared in the *New Zealand Journal of Agriculture*, contain a valuable record of the author's experience with this useful class of tree, and it is evident from the numerous inquiries received by this Department (Lands—Forestry Branch) that the articles mentioned have been widely read, and have greatly encouraged many who have hitherto had disappointing results with the planting of eucalypts. The inquiries for *Eucalypti* plants and seeds showed that the species described in the articles mentioned were chiefly in demand, and steps were therefore taken to produce the kinds likely to be asked for."