

PROFITABLE HONEY PLANTS.

A new book entitled "Profitable Honey Plants of Australasia," by Tarlton Rayment, has been published by Messrs. Whitcombe and Tombs. This volume is very welcome, providing a useful guide to the many valuable nectar-secreting exotic and indigenous plants and weeds of Australia and New Zealand. The author is well known as a writer on apicultural matters, and his previous book, "Money in Bees," gave him a leading place among the authorities on the subject in Australia. The opening chapters of "Profitable Honey Plants," dealing with flower-structure, especially as they relate to the secretion of nectar, at once impress the reader with the fact that Mr. Rayment has closely studied the subject with particular reference to the bee as an economic factor in the fertilization of flowers. While the author does not profess to give a complete list of the honey plants of New Zealand, those that are mentioned — placed as they are in alphabetical order and designated by their common names — should prove a valuable source of reference to our beekeepers.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

A reminder may be given that the National Beekeepers' Association meets in conference at Greymouth on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th June. It is expected that beekeepers from all parts of the Dominion will attend. Lectures and demonstrations by leading commercial beekeepers will be given. Apart from the business of the conference, the officers of the local branch are arranging an excursion to view some of the scenic features of Westland.

—E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor.

HORTICULTURE.

SOIL-TREATMENT.

THE effects on the land of continuous cropping of one kind was well known to our forefathers. The bad results were overcome by laying the land down in grass and clover for a period, and thus allowing it to recuperate. In more intensive methods of culture the difficulty was avoided by a suitable rotation of crops. Potatoes subject to early and late blight would be followed by an entirely different crop — possibly peas — which was not at all subject to the same diseases, and would then die out for want of a host, the heavy demand on plant-nutrient in the soil being made up by generous applications of manures. Much of the land in this country — too much, possibly — devoted to horticultural crops is very high-priced owing to its situation within town boundaries — circumstances which compel the grower to confine his attention to those crops only that give a maximum return. A position which is more acute still is where the crop is grown in land under glass. Scientists have devoted a great deal of time during recent years to meet the position, and our correspondence shows a keen demand for this class of information.

In the application of steam to the soil, under right conditions, we have a wonderfully effective remedy, the only objection to which is its cost, although where there are a sufficient number of growers of crops