

customer free from wax and other impurities. In no case should honey be run direct from the extractor into the containers; it should be properly strained. It is the attention paid to this necessary detail that aids in the sale of the crop, and when honey is properly treated it readily commands a higher price. Fine-gauge wire strainers are usually adopted, but even these are not sufficient to remove the smaller wax particles. In order to ensure perfect condition the honey should be passed through good fine cheesecloth before being run into the tank. Cheesecloth strainers are excellent, cheap, and are easily made, while at the same time they can be readily cleansed. They remove everything but the smallest particles of wax, which should be finally disposed of when the honey is skimmed. This latter process is an important one, and should always be carried out before the honey is put up in marketable form.

SUPERSEDING QUEENS.

All old and failing queens should be superseded. It is a good plan to utilize surplus queens carried over in the nucleus hives to do the work. When due attention is given to requeening the apiary there is less likelihood of queenless hives in the spring. Remove all old queens in the apiary, and especially guard against wintering any colonies not headed by a vigorous mother.

TREATMENT OF FOUL-BROOD.

As advised last month, no effort should be spared to treat all colonies known to be affected with foul-brood. If the work is delayed the colonies will not build up to sufficient strength to winter safely. Under no circumstances should the work be put off. Treat all infected stocks while the flow is on, and endeavour to winter none but clean colonies. There is a great risk of spreading the disease to clean colonies in the off season, as robbing is more apt to break out. "Keep your bees clean" should be the maxim of every beekeeper. Where any doubt exists as to the complete absence of foul-brood in the apiary an excellent plan is to mark all combs with the number of the hives to which they belong, so that when extracted they may be returned to the colony from which they were taken. If this plan is followed, even if any of the hives are diseased, the risk of spreading infection by means of wet combs will be considerably reduced.

—*E. A. Earp, Senior Apiary Instructor, Wellington.*

HORTICULTURE.

THE TOBACCO HARVEST.

DURING February tobacco crops that were put out early in the season will commence to show signs of ripening. This is indicated by the green colour of the leaf gradually turning a paler shade, and decided yellow spots appearing between the main veins—in the lower leaves first—and gradually spreading to those higher on the stem. When the leaves half-way up the stem show these signs of ripeness the first suitable opportunity should be taken to harvest the crop.