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Apiculture

An experiment was commenced in Canterbury with the object of increasing the seed yield of red clover by more effective pollination. Red-clover flowers are not very attractive to hive bees, and the method used in the experiment consisted in "directing" the bees on to the flowers by feeding infusions of the corollas. Thirty hives were used in a field trial in 1948, and evidence was obtained that direction of bees took place. The project will be continued for several seasons so that the economic worth of the method can be tested. The work is being carried out in collaboration with the Horticulture Division and the Fields Division.

Field-work was continued in connection with toxic honey, with particular reference to the effect of climate on its porduction. Detailed work on the toxicity of different portions of tree tutu (*Coriaria arborea*) and methods of extraction of tutin from the plant was undertaken in collaboration with the Horticulture Division and Ruakura Animal Research Station.

Further work was done on the problem of fermentation in honey, and a survey commenced of the type of honey starter used in New Zealand. Trials of drugs against *Nosema apis* were continued.