Beekeepers' field day
BEEKEEPERS’ FIELD DAY: In the top picture, a small boy and a swarm of bees share a point of vantage as Mr. A. Kessell demonstrates queen-raising methods. Below—Some of the competitors in the queen-finding competition.
ABOUT 80 beekeepers attended the first apicultural field day organised by the Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the Beekeepers' Section of the Farmers' Union of Western Australia.

The field day was held at the Government Apiary, Yanchep, on December 13, and hot, sunny weather made it a successful and interesting innovation.

The Minister for Agriculture (Sir Charles Latham) and the Director of Agriculture (Mr. G. K. Baron-Hay) were present to perform the official opening.

In the pre-luncheon session, Mr. A. C. Kessell, of the Apicultural Branch, gave some practical demonstrations of queen-raising techniques which were followed with interest.

The Government Apiculturist (Mr. R. S. Coleman) delivered a short address on apiary management in which he discussed some revolutionary methods of transporting hives without using travelling screens or entrance stops.

The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Mr. G. E. Brockway) spoke on the work of re-forestation, a subject in which beekeepers are vitally interested, and the Government Botanist (Mr. C. A. Gardner) spoke on West Australian flora in relation to beekeeping.

To introduce a light competitive touch, the Government Apiculturist staged a queen-finding competition. A group of beekeepers were each allotted to individual hives and a prize of a specially-selected queen bee of the Piana strain (donated by Mr. R. Whit- ing, of Naval Base) was offered for the first man to locate the queen.

When the starting signal was given, there was some feverish activity as the top-boards were whipped off and the frames scanned for the elusive "first lady of the hive" but, within a few minutes, the President of the Beekeepers' Section (Mr. Sam Cook) was able to point out the queen to the umpire (Mr. Coleman) and was adjudged the winner.

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