

CAPPINGS.

CUT FROM A VARIETY OF COMBS.

Unripe Honey.

THE practice of extracting unripe honey was mentioned editorially on page 54, last issue. Since writing what appeared there, we notice an article from Mr. C. Theilmann, in A. B. J. specially referring to this very matter, wherein he claims that *all* honey no matter how long left in the hive, needs to be artificially ripened by heat, before it is ready for the market. The plan given is just such as we have mentioned before in these columns. By the process given, we have had the honey so thick that it would hardly run, and that without the least sign of granulation.

"I claim that as a whole, there is but little, or none, of all the extracted, and but little of the comb honey, put on the market, which has its full value and keeping qualities, without going through an artificial procedure, and the quicker and the more effective it is done after taken from the hives, the better and finer in taste, quality and keeping powers it will be. These are not theories, but facts, as they have come under my observation and experiments.

Honey, sealed up air-tight, right from the extractor, will keep as long as so sealed, but as there is always some unripe honey in it, it will ferment more or less when exposed, and get that queer, sharp twang in taste, as Mr. Heddon calls it. In fact it gets partly sour, and there is no way yet found to get that out of it again, and it is partly spoiled, and does much harm in the market.

Honey newly from the extractor, put into the cellar, or other damp places, or put in an ordinarily warm place with cool nights, in open vessels, will be almost sure to produce bacteria, and will sour; but take the same honey to a room in which the air is pure, and from 85° to 90° above zero, for from three to five weeks, and the same honey will be the best of its kind in every respect that can possibly be produced. The same is true of comb honey. I have practised this for the past two years, and my customers say they can get no such honey from anybody else. Even the late fall honey is thus made as fine as any of its kind."

COMBS NOT SO EASILY UNCAPPED WHEN THE TOP BARS ARE WIDE.

So much has been written upon the subject of wide top bars that it would seem every point had been covered, but Mr. Wm. L. Drew, of Newton, Iowa, brings forward an objection to their use that we believe has been overlooked. He says that the projection of the top bar beyond the comb surface would greatly increase the labor of uncapping when raising extracted honey. Particularly would this be true with

shallow frames. Were we to engage extensively in the production of extracted honey, we should use shallow combs, and should either use honey boards or else have wide top bars for the brood frames and narrow ones for use in the supers. As we should probably use queen excluders, it is quite likely that our choice would be narrow top bars and honey boards. This point touches not the exclusive, comb honey producer.

The above, by W. Z. Hutchinson, in the Review, is good, sound, common sense.

THE SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL HONEY PRODUCTION.

G. M. Doolittle writes on this subject with force, in the following paragraph:

"First we have the field or location we are in, of which we should have a thorough knowledge so as to work intelligently; next, we have the bees to get in large numbers just in time to take advantage of the main honey flow or flows of our field; and third, that a bee is of little value as a honey-gatherer only as it can be placed in the field of action just at the right time, having as few bees at all other times as is consistent with so placing these honey gatherers. In this way the quantity of honey which a bee can gather in a life-time becomes of interest to us, that we may work assiduously to have that life-time come when our field is yielding honey. This is one of the great secrets of successful honey production."

DO BEES WEAR?

Though it will never increase either the price or consumption of honey, to know whether they do or not still there is a satisfaction in knowing. We observe in the last issue of the *Record*, (Eng) that a correspondent has "seen bees come rushing into the hives" on hearing thunder, so that "by the time the storm had burst hardly a bee was on the wing." He says he "has also seen them rush in on hearing thunder, when no rain followed and the sun still shone on." He considers this a pretty good answer in the affirmative.

BOTTOM STARTERS IN SECTIONS FOR SAFE SHIPPING.

Writing on the above subject—Dr. Miller says in the last issue of *Gleanings*:

"For several years I have secured this by putting a starter in at both top and bottom of the section. When the comb of honey is fastened just as securely on the bottom-bar of the section as on the top, you have about all you can get so far as the section is concerned, to secure you against breakage in transportation. I have experimented considerably to find out the best width for a bottom starter. If too large a starter is used it topples over; and if too small the bees are pretty sure to gnaw it down.