

then clean up in a few minutes and get desirable results. The first desirable point is rapidity; next, simplicity, and lastly, to save all the wax.

There are those who can not run any kind of an implement with success. They need something that will run itself—and then there is something lacking. This is the kind of bee-keeper from which friend Gemmell will get his refuse that still contains wax. I will send him all the refuse that I have, for the rest of the time that I keep bees, and pay him one dollar a pound for all the wax he gets from it. I might safely pay an ounce, but he might get the ounce; and that would make me feel bad.

How well I remember the way we used to squeeze the refuse; Beckwith style. How the wax would cool on the outside of the cloth; and how, under pressure, the wax would squirt in all directions except the desired one. How things would sing, crack and snap, and we would dodge to escape being encased in wax. O, that beautiful clean way! That ancient way of squeezing and dodging the wax.

Mr. P. H. Elwood, my neighbor, one of the most practical, scientific, educated and scholarly gentlemen we have, that I know of, has used the press, a powerful one, in pressing out the refuse after boiling—in a large kettle. With him it was not perfectly satisfactory; as he has placed his order for one of my large three-basket extractors. With this he will have no danger of burning the wax; which has been a great disadvantage heretofore.

Should there be a better way of rendering wax, I should like to know it myself; but I never will go back to friend Beckwith's and Gemmell's way.

Say, have Gemmell come down this way. I will take him to the Hetheringtons, with their thousands of swarms; and to Elwood's with almost as many more. Would be glad to have him.

South Columbia, N. Y. Jan. 25, 1899.

Plain Sections.

Lest some of our readers might think that the Goold, Shapley & Muir Co., Limited, cannot supply the plain sections 4x5, we will say that they will be only too pleased to supply them at the price of regular sizes. They take less lumber, and from the standpoint of the supply dealer, the more of them they sell the better they will be pleased.

Plain Separators and Other Things.

HENRY ALLEY IN THE AMERICAN BEE KEEPER

Plain separators are what I want and here are my reasons why I want them: Last season nearly all my best and well-filled sections were ruined by using separators that had bee-ways at the top and bottom. Such a bee way at the bottom would have been no disadvantage, nor of the least advantage over a plain, straight piece of wood, as the opening in each section is sufficiently large to admit bees to the sections. Then, again, the smaller the entrance to the section the less number of bees it requires to build comb and draw out the foundation, as too much ventilation retards the bees in working at storing honey and making comb.

I found where separators were used that had bee-ways cut out of them, the bees would bulge the comb and thus making it bad to handle and pack the sections, also spoil the looks of the face of the comb.

I do not believe the "fence" separators are as good as the plain pieces. I don't want so many bee-ways and bee-spaces, nor so much ventilation through a hive when bees are storing surplus honey. Heat is what is wanted, as the bees have a way of ventilating their apartments to their own liking. In order to maintain the desired heat in cool weather for wax working the bees crowd into the sections in great numbers. Now if the interior of the hive can be kept so warm that but few bees will be required to maintain the proper degree of temperature, all the more bees can be spared to the fields in search of nectar. I always made it a point in cool weather when the bees were storing honey to contract the entrance accordingly as the weather varied. On a very warm day give the full entrance, also at all times when bees were disposed to cluster about the entrance. On cool nights I have not only contracted the entrance to the hive, but have thrown a blanket over the entire hive in order that the bees might not desert the sections during the night.

I understand, of course, that a person who has several hundred colonies would not find it practical to cover and uncover so many hives. But the small bee-keeper,