

Immense quantities of this article are used in the manufacture of candles, both in this country and England, and it makes an excellent article. The next largest purchasers are the refiners of beeswax, who use enormous amounts in the adulteration of that article. The average price of paraffin is from twenty to thirty-five cents per pound, and the average price of beeswax forty-five to sixty-five cents; spermaceti about the same.

Prof. James F. Babcock, in an essay on beeswax (p. 374 of *Proceedings*, 1867), says: "Paraffin is capable of taking the place of wax to a much greater extent than has been supposed. When melted with oils it forms crystalline scales on cooling, but this property is entirely destroyed by the addition of five to ten per cent. of wax, this addition causing the mixture to cool in a homogeneous mass without crystallization." Paraffin, in solution in naphtha or bisulphuret of carbon, has been used as an application to cloth to render it waterproof; and to metallic surfaces, gilt, or tinselled articles, etc., as a protective varnish. It may also be found suitable as an application to leather, cordage, etc., for the same purpose. A saturated solution of paraffin in benzol has been used with success in preserving pictures and photographs. Paraffin has the advantage over other greasy matters in not becoming coloured by time. Large quantities are sold to confectioners, who purchase the soft or gum-stock, which is used largely in chewing-gums and some of the varieties of soft candy. It has been used with success in coating fruits, which retained their freshness for months; also for coating the interior of barrels. The manufacturers of some of the varieties of friction-matches use this article to render the wood more inflammable, and it is also beginning to be largely used for laundry purposes, many retailers having daily calls for it for that purpose. It is useful in the preservation of wood, and meat has been kept good many weeks by immersion in it. It is used in starch manufactories to give a gloss to starch. Falke recommends it as a substitute for the more expensive wax in the preparation of wax paper. He says: "Paraffin is not only much more easily applied than wax, but, as before stated, is much less costly, and will no doubt soon rival parchment paper in its application. The melting-point of the different bodies presenting the appearance and properties of paraffin lie between 100° and 149° , which is a lower temperature than that required for the liquefaction of wax, and hence it is more easily applied, and remains in a fluid condition for a longer time, which enables it to permeate the paper more readily. The wax-paper, on being slightly overheated, chars very easily, which is avoided to a great extent by using paraffin, inasmuch as the latter body volatilizes or distills off unchanged at a high temperature. Wax-paper, when kept for some time, emits an offensive odor, which is not the case with paraffin. Paraffin is not attacked by acids or alkalis, which renders it useful for many purposes in which wax does not