



A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* says that the unpleasant symptoms from which some suffer after eating honey may often be removed by drinking a little milk. This will be good news to many who are fond of honey, but are unable to eat it without feeling unpleasant consequences.

THE importance of the bee industry to the United States may be seen from the following figures: There are 110 apiarian societies and 9 journals devoted to beekeeping. The honey produced in 1889 was 63,894,186 lbs. There are 300,000 persons engaged in the culture of bees. The worth of the honey that was produced is \$7,000,000, while it is estimated that the present annual value of apiarian products is \$20,000,000.

Comb Foundation.

(Concluded.)

When we come to brood foundation, the kind to use, and the quantity, and when to use it, is an important question. First and foremost, it is absolutely necessary to use nothing but pure beeswax. If paraffine is used—and this is one of the most common methods of adulteration in the United States—the comb foundation is weakened. Paraffine has not the strength that beeswax has, and under high temperature, with the weight of honey in the combs, it is likely—in fact, almost certain—to break down. In Canada we find beeswax sometimes adulterated with tallow. Those who adulterate in this way generally sell the mixture to a country storekeeper, and he, being no judge of pure beeswax, accepts it, and in this way it finds its way to the manufacturer of comb foundation, who, if he has any experience, readily detects it. When warm it is greasy, and when cold, if taken in the mouth, the adulteration can readily be detected. But comb foundation which breaks down is not necessarily adulterated. Wax comb was never made or designed to stand the strain of having a sheet of wax with scarcely any side wall, and attached only at the top, hang in a hive with a cluster of bees upon it.

Under natural conditions the comb is built gradually, and it is well attached at the top at once, and there is much more side wall to the comb to strengthen it. Even then in the old box hive there have been conditions of heat, location, and atmosphere under which the old box hive has had its natural comb melted down. By the judicious use of comb foundation much trouble can be prevented, and there is perhaps nothing more annoying during the honey season than to find that nice sheets of foundation have given way, falling to the bottom of the hive, there to be attached and built upon by the bees. In looking through the price-list of the best supply dealers we find the following grades of brood foundation mentioned: Heavy brood, 5 square feet per lb.; medium brood, 6 square feet per lb.; extra thin (never use without wiring), 8 square feet per lb.

To those not posted the question will be, What kind should be used? Ninety-nine out of one hundred lbs. ordered at present is medium brood. This is a strong indication, but it does not necessarily mean that it is the best. In the light of what we know about the question at the present time, let me say that it appears to me that the conditions under which the foundation is used have much to do with the answer. According to the price in the same catalogue, heavy brood is 48 cents per lb.; medium, 50 cents per lb.; extra thin, 52 cents per lb. Or, if you take the price per square foot, it would be: For heavy brood, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents; medium, 8 $\frac{1}{3}$ cents; extra thin, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

All three, providing the foundation is strong enough, will give worker comb, straight comb, and the bees room to attach and complete side walls. I believe the extra thin would answer the purpose unwired if no swarm were put upon it, or if not put in the body of the hive with a strong colony. In my estimation, the very best time to draw out foundation is in the spring or early summer. It may be that this cannot be done everywhere; but in many places it can. In this section of country, in May, strong colonies fill the brood-chamber pretty well, and the bees are in