

the other side of the comb also became perfectly clean, all the honey being extracted and lying at the bottom of the pail.

During the following night Mayor Von Hruschka, after going to bed, commenced to think the circumstance over; he thought, and thought, and his thoughts troubled him so much that on the morrow he commenced a series of experiments which resulted in his giving to the world the first honey extractor, which by whirling, something like his son whirled that little tin pail, gave him the pure liquid honey, extracted by centrifugal force, leaving the honey-comb entirely free from the liquid sweet, which he gave again to the bees to fill; allowing him the pure honey for making wine, mead and metheglin, or honey cakes, as desired, without employing the troublesome and primitive method in use up to that time, of mashing up the combs containing the honey, pollen, and sometimes brood too, to let the honey drain through the cloth in which it was placed—giving what was formerly known as "strained honey."

ARTIFICIAL HONEY COMB.

FOR some time past we have been in communication with Mr. E. B. Weed, of Detroit, relative to an article of comb which he has about perfected, and is soon to offer to the public. The sample we first received was not perfect, the cell separating very easily from the base, which was flat, but this, Mr. Weed explains to us in a later communication, was because it had only been put together temporarily by hand, and that such a thing would be impossible with the comb when properly made. We objected also to the flat base, and here again Mr. W. sets our objection at rest by saying that we could make it natural if desired. Perhaps to make it more distinct we had better give the last letter received from him in full:

Yours of the 10th inst just received. I should state that the sample sent you came apart because it was only fastened together by hand, and that such a thing would have been impossible with the comb I am turning out at present. It is somewhat easier to manufacture with a flat base, and my theory was that where the cells were very deep the bees would not attempt to

remodel the base, but if it is found that they insist on a natural base, I can very easily supply it.

I am now changing my machines so as to make a wall as light as natural comb, and will send you some samples very shortly.

As my applications for patents in this and other countries are now filled, I am now ready for any publicity you are inclined to give the invention. Several persons to whom I have shown it, have remarked that they should think it would be impossible to ship it. As this objection may occur to you, I may mention that I have a very cheap shipping-box that will transport the comb with absolute security, and at the same time keep it practically air tight until it is used, a great consideration where the walls are so thin, as the natural oil of the wax, of course, evaporates easily.

I feel confident that the new comb will rapidly supplement foundation, especially for the brood chamber of the hive (in combination with a wooden base), not only on account of greater utility—but also on account of cheapness. A sheet of veneer large enough for a Langstroth frame only costs one-half of a cent, and an ounce of wax will raise a wall about three-sixteenths of an inch high on both sides. Of course, wide frames could not compete with this. I shall not be ready to furnish wood base comb, however, until about the middle of June. The section box comb will be ready as soon as the changes I have mentioned are made, probably by the time this reaches you. Yours truly

E. B. WEED.

DETROIT, May 14, 1888.

The samples referred to have not been received. In his first letter to us, Mr. Weed explains that the cells can be made one-three-hundredth part of an inch in thickness, and the entire comb for section honey, when made up will run 15 to 20 feet to the pound. To give our readers a further idea of it, we quote from the last issue of the *American Farmer*, published at Detroit:

It has always been believed, even in these days of imitation, that the comb of the honey bee could not be counterfeited, but it has been done at last. This week Mr. E. B. Weed, of Detroit, laid on our desk some of the new product. In appearance it is a comb which has been taken from a hive and emptied of its honey. Upon holding it up to the light it is seen to be as thin as the genuine article, and we are told it can be made even thinner if desired. The depth of the cell is regulated from a mere line to a cell