

dishonest intentions on the part of the producer who sells a section weighing less than 16 ounces. Don't know how it is over in Uncle Sam's domains, but on this side of the line quotations are always so much a dozen, and I dare say very few consumers imagine they are buying by the pound, so I fail to see anything dishonest in the transaction. Lest some might say that I am suffering with a twinge of conscience, will say that I do not produce comb honey, so am not directly interested in the matter.

#### Rendering Beeswax.

Two splendid articles, one by Mr. Dadant in the "American Bee Journal," and another by Mr. Townsend in the "Review," have recently been given to the fraternity on the rather commonplace but necessary subject of rendering wax. Mr. Dadant says that even if you use a wax press, the combs should first be broken up and thoroughly soaked in water before melting them. Wonder if it is really necessary? Have never done so, and imagined that I was getting all the wax. With an authority like Dadant saying that soaking is necessary, am inclined to think that I have been mistaken, and will try the method advocated next time I have occasion to use the press. Mr. Townsend uses a press similar to the Hatch-Gemmell, only he uses two slatted racks and two pieces of burlap, one above the other, cider-mill fashion. One would think that the pressure would not be as effective as with one layer enclosed inside of the form, as in the Hatch-Gemmell, but here again Mr. Townsend's experience proves that his plan is all right. Mr. Dadant cautions against applying too much pressure at one time on the press, a "turn now and then" being all that is required. After one has used a press a few times he will admit the wisdom of this advice. Mr. Dadant says "don't melt the wax," and Mr. Townsend

"don't boil," so we greenhorns can split the difference and be reasonably sure of good results. By the way, every bee-keeper should have some kind of a wax press. Any one who has combs to render into wax will find that the press will pay for itself in short order.

#### Midwinter Flights for Bees.

Editor Root, of "Gleanings," has for some time been championing the plan of giving cellar-wintered bees a midwinter flight and returning them to the cellar again. Doolittle quite pertinently remarks that in York state and other localities we hardly ever have a day during winter that is fit for bees to fly. Mr. Root, commenting on Doolittle's article, admits that in such cases the plan is not practical, but thinks that it is not as necessary as in localities like Medina, Ohio, where they have days through the winter that the temperature goes up to 60 or 70. One would wonder why it is necessary to cellar the bees at all where they have these conditions. Is it possible that the milder climate of the central States is not as conducive to good wintering as is the severe winters of Ontario and places of the same latitude? Just here would ask the question, Is it necessary for outdoor-wintered bees to have a midwinter flight? My limited experience says decidedly No. When I think of how I used to scan the sky during January and February, hoping against hope that we would get a day so that the poor bees could get a fly, such an answer seems inconsistent even to myself. Nevertheless, facts are stubborn things, and when I recollect that for four years our bees have every winter been confined from early November till nearly April 1st, and have invariably wintered as well as when they had midwinter flights, I am forced to believe that such flights are unnecessary. It has always been a puzzle to me to see reports from apiarists pretty well south complaining of disastrous