

Wax simply taken advantage of the difference in specific gravity of the wax and the foreign substances that we wish to eliminate. It may be observed that propolis is heavier than wax and does not mingle with it; pollen is also heavier than wax. These and other heavy substances if present therefore readily separate themselves from the wax and settle to the bottom.

It is still the belief of many beekeepers that very old black comb is almost barren of wax. This is indeed a great and costly error to such apiarists as believe it.

A good special utensil for cleansing wax may be constructed as follows: Obtain a tin can preferably of about five to eight gallons capacity, depending upon the amount of wax to be handled, the height of which should be about twice its diameter. Have a tinsmith construct a funnel on the outside of the can and attached to it, reaching from the top to the bottom of the same with an opening from the funnel into the can at the bottom. A delivery spout for the wax is constructed on the opposite side from the funnel and near the top of the can. Now, after the wax has been melted and skimmed, as above described, and has cooled to the proper point for moulding into cakes, place the mould under the delivery spout and introduce hot water into the melting tank through the funnel. As the hot water enters the tank through the opening at the bottom of the funnel, the level of the wax will be raised and will overflow through the spout into the mould. Hot water may be introduced until finally it will displace all the wax, the latter having passed out

through the delivery spout, except a thin film which is intermingled with the impurities, which are heavier than wax but lighter than water. Thus there is no mixing of dirt and wax as is likely to be the case when dipping from the open tank after it has been partly emptied.

The writer has known of more than one bee-keeper—good, intellectual men in other respects—to throw old bee comb onto the compost heap or bury the same in the ground. Almost like the servant who had but one talent, in Holy Writ. As a matter of fact all bee comb is rich in wax, varying from 30% upwards according to the quantity of foreign materials contained therein, such as pollen, propolis, cocoons from which bees have emerged, etc. These impurities act as a sponge in such old combs, but by proper treatment, practically all the wax may be obtained from them, and those who have been and are still throwing them away may be reminded that in so doing they are throwing away gold dollars to the tune of at least one dollar's worth of wax for every two sets of combs from the 8 frame dovetail hive. This is a low estimate and the quantity of wax thus wasted is much more rather than less than above indicated. It may be observed that there is no diminution of the amount of wax in a comb by reason of its becoming old. The percentage of wax therein is only lessened by age by reason of the accumulation of foreign material, but the net amount of wax in old comb is greater for a given surface area, rather than less, than is contained in new comb.