

all their colonies have died or become badly diseased. Last fall we gave full instructions for winter preparations and warned bee-keepers several times to prepare for the coming ordeal, and that should they fail to do so, many of them would be mourning over empty hives in the spring. This great mortality among bees will certainly cause the price of them to be very high and the demand for them much greater than usual during the coming season. Although bees may be scarce the probabilities are that those who have been fortunate or successful enough to have any left or are able to purchase will be well repaid for any reasonable expenditure they may have made, as we have never known a cold, severe winter, when bees have suffered as during the past, but it was followed by a summer with great abundance of honey. Every appearance thus far indicates that the honey flow the coming season will exceed any we have had for many years, as the clovers have seldom been so well protected. A person should not be discouraged if he is left with empty hives, for he will still have his hives and combs. Should these be properly cared for he will only need to purchase a few bees, which by the aid of the empty combs will give him a fresh start, and the anticipated large crop of honey, will, in all probability, more than repay him. When bees are scarce the price of honey is higher, and should their apiaries be so decimated that the crop of honey is shorter than usual on account of the few colonies which may be left, the price will fully make up the difference. Bee-keepers should not be discouraged on account of their losses but should make a determined effort, and show that though once negligent or careless it would not for the future prevent them from making the necessary preparations to insure success, and that their present losses will be their future gains. Those who do this

are sure to make their mark in the apicultural world.

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#### CLARIFYING WAX.

**I**N order to clarify wax properly and leave no sediment on the bottom of the cakes, it is important that it should be run the second time if it is to be made perfectly pure. After it has been rendered by the wax extractor it should be re-melted, which may be done by placing it in a vessel containing water or by placing it in a wax extractor, allowing it to melt. Wax should never be placed in a vessel over fire without one or two inches of water, as it is liable to be injured by overheating; after it has been melted the second time it may be placed in any vessel desired, tin pails or basins with flaring sides, from which the cakes may be easily removed. If allowed to stand in a very warm place for several hours without cooling, yet not hot enough to cause the steam to pass from the water under it, up through the wax, thus preventing the sediment settling, all sediment will settle to the bottom leaving the wax perfectly pure. Should any sediment adhere to the bottom of the cakes it can be removed with a sharp knife. By filling large tanks with hot wax, keeping it hot from twelve to twenty four hours but not allowing the water under it to boil, merely keeping it hot enough to prevent the wax from caking, large quantities of dirty wax may be clarified, as the dirt will settle to the bottom on the water, when the hot wax may be drawn off through a faucet placed above the point at which the sediment settles, which point can be determined by the quantity of water placed in the bottom of vessel under the wax, that portion containing wax and sediment in bottom may then be placed in a vessel to cool. Water should always be left under the wax to receive the sediment. We have sometimes taken a vessel filled with dregs,