

a large stove and I can do about as well with it as a German press, but I cannot take it with me, and this other I take free of charge, checking it as my baggage, and have melted combs here and there, and I can do it up in a short time.

A Member—How many pounds of wax do you get out of 100 brood-frames?

Mr. France—It depends altogether on the age of those combs. One beauty of this wax-press is that you can get more wax in proportion than you can with any other. I think on an average through our State, that we get about three or four pounds of wax to a set of 8 or 10 combs.

Dr. Miller—Mr. France, you are in a position to learn about that. I wish you would give close attention to that matter, and perhaps give us the exact figures as to the amount I formerly had the impression that there was wax put there in the first place, and never any addition to that wax, but I find that across the ocean, by a careful examination, they tell us that there is a layer of cocoon then a fresh layer of wax, then more cocoon, then more wax. I have lived a good many years thinking that there was never any wax added. I wish you would give me the exact figures. Take some very old comb and find out the percent of wax you get from that when you have squeezed it all out; then take some newer comb, not quite so old, and give us the proportion of that.

Mr. France—I have planned to try that about the first of April. I have about 500 old black combs that I am holding for that purpose. There are some improvements to be made on the German press.

Mr. Moore—Will you tell us what is necessary to make the hives themselves safe to use again?

Mr. France—In about nine-tenths

of the cases nothing; in the other tenth, if there has been any honey dropped from the diseased combs in there, or there are combs on the side of the hive, scrape them off clean. I have boiled only three lots of hives in the State of Wisconsin in the last six years. The disease would not get into the honey until it had gotten into the diseased cells.

A Member—Is it not in the bee-bread?

Mr. France—Not unless the bee-bread has been put in the cell. I do not believe the bees carry disease with them from a hive back to the flowers. When they go back from the flowers they have a new lot; that is the reason why we want to try this during the honey flow.

A Member—If the honey from that comb which contains foul brood was put under the microscope would it indicate foul brood so that you could observe it?

Mr. France—I think it would, although the chances are it may have become dried down so that at this stage of the season it would be so hard it would take some little time, heat and moisture to show it as plainly as in June. If you have a good glass you will see that those little germs of foul brood are rod-like in shape. They are longer in proportion to their thickness, and seem to have power similar to that of a fishworm. They become large, break off and spread out. You need a very powerful glass to detect the germs of foul brood. I have to use our State glass in the Normal School.

A Member—I would like to ask if the outside of the combs of the hive that is diseased that contain nothing but honey, never having brood in them would take the disease.

Mr. France I think not, but you would take great chances.

A Member—Is there any danger

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