

about 14 ounces of beautiful, well-capped honey per section.

EXTRACTING HONEY.

Mr. Pettit has his own method of taking off extracted honey. As soon as the frames become filled the first time in the season, the six fullest frames are selected out of each hive, and the remaining six are shoved to one side, and empty frames placed in the empty half of the super. The date and side removed are written on the back of the hive, and as soon as full and capped the otherside is extracted. By this means the bees are not delayed for a moment, and the work of extracting is facilitated. This is the means adopted till the last extraction (which was in operation at the time of our visit), when all the combs are exchanged for empties. It is remarkable the amount of honey these bees are made to produce, viz.: from 150 to 160 pounds per colony of the extracted honey.

Mr. Pettit has an ingenious and simple method of removing the full combs. When it is desired to remove six frames, as is the custom early in the season, the live-cloth is stripped off just the width of the six frames, a few puffs of smoke sends the bees down, when the frames are quickly lifted out and the empty ones placed in before the bees have commenced to return. The cloth and cushion are replaced with very little disturbance to the bees. As the full combs are lifted out they are each given a shake before the hive, and then stood up at the back of the hive till the cover is put on and they are ready to be taken to the extracting room. The few remaining bees, which by this time feel lost and lonesome, are swept off with a feather, and all is over in a very little more than a minute, with no commotion, no stinging, and no chance for robbing. The extracting is done by a large extractor, which handles four frames at once.

The empty frames last put on continue to receive a little honey throughout the remainder of the season till brood-rearing has ceased, about the middle of September, when the supers are all removed. This is done throughout the whole yard as nearly as possible at the same time. Each super is left uncovered and placed on the ground a few feet in front of the hive from which it was taken, and which is now covered with cloth-cushion and hive-cover. This sets the entire working population in active service, carrying the

honey into the brood-chambers for winter stores.

True, a big commotion is set up, but practically each swarm is attending to its own case, and no evil results from robbing or any other cause. About the end of September the hives are examined to see what stores are needed, and the feeding is proceeded with as it is deemed necessary. The food given consists of four fifths granulated sugar and one fifth honey. It is calculated to allow each colony 90 pounds of stores for the winter months.

SOME NICE POINTS IN MR. PETTIT'S SYSTEM.

Bee-keepers know generally how difficult it is to have the outside, either comb or extracting, frames as well filled as those in the centre of the super. Mr. Pettit has quite overcome this difficulty by allowing the entrance to extend clear across the hive, and by raising the front an inch and a quarter above the bottom or floor, by a wedge on either side of the entrance. This allows the bees to enter the hive the full width, and compels them to walk up the sides or back of the hive, so that they always fill the outside frames first instead of last, as is the case with the narrow entrance.

Another means to this end with comb sections is to create a bee-space between the outside comb sections and the walls by inserting a perforated divider held out from the wall by tiny blocks of wood a bee-space wide. This allows the bees to pass up and down freely, which they do the same as between the sections, and holds more bees at the outside of the sections.

Another advantage afforded by the wide and deep entrance is the ventilation and comfort afforded the bees, especially in hot weather. Undue swarming is thus prevented. The extracted-honey hives are ventilated at the top and at the back, but no top ventilation is given the comb-honey hives, except for a few days after a new swarm is hived, when it necessary to afford them comfort in order to commence their working at an early date. This is usually permanently closed up on a cool evening when all have settled down.

Another practice with a newly-hived swarm is to substitute two frames on either side of the brood-chamber for dummies, so as to contract the brood-chamber and get the bees working in the sections above. Late in the season six dummies, or three on either side, are inserted, but it requires the judgment of