

a mistake than a neglect—it is that of extracting the honey before it is ripe. Of course, it is possible to artificially evaporate thin honey, but with this evaporation goes a portion of the fine aroma. Not only this, but the evaporation of honey does not ripen it. The bees in their handling of the nectar invert or change the cane sugar to grape sugar. They change the raw nectar into ripened honey. If we take it away from them before this change is completed, it lacks that much of perfect ripeness. It lacks the tang that tickles our palates. Thin, unripe, watery honey ferments and sours, and bursts tin cans and pails, and disgusts and disappoints every one who has anything to do with it. Nothing has done more to destroy the market for honey than the placing upon it of unripe honey.

Little neglects in preparing the honey for market are very expensive. The neglect to scrape the propolis from the sections, the neglect to use non-drip cases, the neglect to put the cases into a larger case or crate when small shipments are made, may mean the loss of two or three cents a pound. Sections daubed with propolis, honey dripping from one case and daubing the one below it, coal dust and cinders rubbed upon the daubed cases, greatly lower the price and retard sales. Before the days of no-drip cases and outside crates I went so far as to wrap a paper around each case before shipment, that the cases might be clean when they reached their destination.

Men who make exhibits at fairs often lose premiums that they might have captured had they not neglected to tastefully label their packages. It is a little thing, but it adds the finishing touch.

Then there are the little things, like: "Where do you keep your

smoker and fuel?" The neglect to provide a proper place for them may mean a costly fire. I once kept my smoker and fuel in an old wash-boiler. Once upon a time when I removed the cover, the flames burst out. Suppose the boiler had been a wooden box kept in a building, and the fire had not been discovered while still confined to the box? I now keep my smoker and fuel in a large box, with a hinged cover, out in the yard.

The matter of saving wax ought not to be neglected. It is a good deal like saving paper rags, just about as easy to save the odds and ends as to throw them away. A solar wax extractor is a nice thing for this purpose. Keep it standing in the yard, and when there is a bit of waste comb toss it into the extractor. One year when I did a large job of transferring I threw all of the odds and ends into a barrel, and pounded them down hard with the end of a large stick. Then the matter of rendering was neglected until that barrel, two-thirds full of pounded down comb was one mass of webs and wriggling worms.

But why multiply examples? We all know that the profits of an apiary can be entirely wasted or destroyed by little neglects. What is the cause of this neglect? In some cases it is simply a combination of indolence, procrastination and a sort of belief that things will come out all right of themselves. Then there is the neglect that comes from having too many irons in the fire. If you have so much business that you can only half attend to it, that something must be neglected, two courses are open—hire some one to help you or else dispose of part of your business. There is more pleasure and profit in a small business well managed than in a large business that must be