

cooked. Spread a coarse cheese-cloth "dipped out of hot water" over a small clean hard-bath, and pour the molten contents of the pan into the cheese-cloth. Next tie the opposite corners and lift out with the right hand. The wax and water will instantly escape from the cloth, but in order to take all out of it give the cloth a few scientific jerks. Raise the hand aloft and drop it quicker than the cloth can naturally fall. Bring the hand to a sudden stop, and the dumpling in the cloth is arrested the next instant, jerking out everything liquid. A few jerks leave the contents of the cloth as dry as a whistle. Now set the bath or basin aside to cool, and remove the wax when solid.

To make into cakes, put the wax (broken up) in to any convenient sized tinned goblet, and with a little water carefully melt all the wax and just bring to the boil; then pour into any vessel with perpendicular sides.

If desired in small cakes, take a few pound jelly-jars and put in a couple of inches of boiling water, then a small ladleful of molten wax, and allow to cool. They will be solid in the morning, and turn out easily.

I may add that I have no mess at all, and take as much pleasure in the operation as in hiving a swarm. I have a small cake left. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, you would give your opinion of it, if I sent it.—D. V. Dunaskin by Ayer, March 15.

[We will very gladly do so.—Ed.]

I read with great interest and no little amusement "F. E. I. S.'s" "Wail on Wax Rendering." I well remember my first attempts, but I did not have so much trouble in keeping my bags of comb under water as "F. E. I. S." tells us he experienced, for I took the precaution to place the weights inside the bag. If F. E. I. S. will kindly refer to pages 347, 388, and 507 of vol. 21, and No. 208, page 7, vol. 22 of the B. B. J., he will see some letters on the above subject by "Buzzing," "W. H.," and your humble servant; but in case he has not these numbers to hand, I will briefly describe my own mode of extracting wax. I first decide the object I have in view, whether rendering wax for exhibition or for ordinary sale. If for exhibition, I take care to use only the very newest combs, cappings, scrappings of sections, &c. These I place in an upright jar, and put jar in a fairly warm oven. When all the contents are melted, remove jar from oven and allow to get cold; invert jar, and contents will easily slip out. The honey which was in the cappings will

be found quite distinct from the wax, and whatever impurities were in the comb will be found at the top of the cake after jar is inverted. This waste part can be readily cut off. Re-melt the wax and strain through cheese-cloth or butter-muslin. The wax will now be found fit for showing. I adopted this plan in 1894 and 1895, showing at our county show (open class), and on each occasion was awarded first prize. In 1896 having won a "Gerster" Wax-Extractor the previous year, I determined to try it; did so. Result: wax a poor colour. It had a washed-out appearance, and only secured a third prize. Tried again in 1897; wax again a poor colour, and at our county show failed to obtain a place; but a friend of mine, Mr. Wilfrid Hardie, of Boomsgrrove, who extracted his wax in the manner recorded above, was awarded second prize in another show (open), whilst I again failed to score. I have come to the conclusion to use my "Gerster" no more when I want wax for show purposes, but to work on the same lines as in 1894 and in 1895. I find the Gerster answer admirably for extracting wax from very old combs, providing the water is kept to boiling point a sufficient time. I place extractor upon an oil stove, well fill the receptacle for holding the comb, &c., and keep the water boiling for about four hours. I should advise "F. E. I. S." neither to burn nor bury his pile of comb for if he does not relish the idea of extracting the wax I shall be pleased to do it for him, and buy the wax (when rendered) at a price per pound to our mutual benefit. If he, however, prefers to try his hand at it, I shall be interested to know how he succeeds. I may mention *en passant* that my bees were very busy on a damascene plum tree in my garden yesterday.—PERCY LEIGH, District Expert, Beemount, Stoke Prior, near Boomsgrrove, March 21.

#### York County Bee-Keepers' Association.

The spring meeting of the York Bee-Keepers' Association, will be held in the town hall, Stouffville, May 17th. First session at 10.30 a. m., the afternoon at 1.30 p. m. A large attendance and interesting meeting is expected. Come all who can.

L. MAPES, Sec'y.

Bees seem to have wintered rather better than usual. But one lost out of 68 in the home yard.

F. P. CLARE.

Russell Co.