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THE melting of combs can be done either by the heat of the sun's rays, or with boiling water, or by steam.

But only rain or river water is suitable for the purpose, and no other should be used, seeing that well-water, if hard, is liable to cause the wax to turn brown in color. Lime in water also unites with the fatty acid of wax, saponifying it, so that, after cooling, wax rendered with hard water has on the under side a spongy, greyish mass. When rain or river water is not available, vinegar or a small quantity of sulphuric acid should be put into the water, just sufficient to neutralize the lime. Copper vessels are preferable, but if not available, iron ones can be used, but they should be first heated and rubbed with a piece of mutton fat, which not only prevents the acid from attacking the iron, but the latter will not afterwards discolor the wax. It should also be noted that the nearer to the melting-point at which all melting operations are performed the finer will be the product, a high temperature destroying both the color and aroma of the wax produced.--T. W. Cowan's "Wax Craft."

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