

Thus in giving her life so largely to the improvement of others she herself became strengthened in those qualities of mind and heart that must endure forever. It is gratifying to be able to state that her husband and family fully appreciate her many excellent qualities. Her presence, her sympathy and her counsel will be sadly missed in the home circle. Bee-keepers everywhere in the English-speaking world will unite with me in extending heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Root, the two daughters and aged mother Quinby.

R. H. ELWOOD.

Starkville, N.Y., Jan. 22nd, 1896.

[The above sad intelligence was received as the February number went to press. Years ago, before Mr. L. C. Root moved to Stamford, Conn, we met Mr. Root several times. He is a man who had the respect and best wishes of all who knew him and in the affliction which has come upon him and his he will have heartfelt sympathy.—Ed ]

### Bleaching Wax.

—E. B. Weed.

While beeswax may be bleached by means of chemicals, the results are inferior to sun bleaching, and the latter process is, I believe, the only commercially successful one. To bleach wax by this method, it is first cleaned by the sulphuric acid process which, if properly done, will restore the blackest and dirtiest wax to its original color. To cleanse wax by this method, take a whiskey or alcohol barrel and put about 6 inches of water in it, adding to the water a small quantity of sulphuric acid, the quantity varying with the amount of dirt in the wax. Two pounds of acid to one hundred of wax would generally be sufficient. Then fill the barrel about two-thirds full of wax. Next turn a jet of steam into the bottom of the barrel, slowly at first, until the wax is all melted. Do not be afraid of getting the wax too hot, but keep the steam on until a froth rises to the top of the melted wax. Now watch the froth carefully, for this is the critical point of the operation. If you stop the steam too soon, you will not have cleaned the wax. If the steam is on too long, you will make a soapy mess of the whole thing. The time to shut off the steam is when the

bubbles in the froth begin to grow large—say about one-fourth of an inch in diameter. Having shut off the steam, wrap a carpet or anything else that will keep the heat in around the barrel, and let the wax settle until it is nearly cold, when it may be dipped out and all the dirt will be found at the bottom.

To prepare the wax for running, a little machinery is required. This consists of a tank to hold bees-wax, having near the bottom a row of holes about two inches apart. This tank stands over a trough of cold water, some ten or fifteen feet long. Revolving in one end of the trough, and about two thirds submerged, is a roller covered with felt, the tank of wax being directly over it. The melted wax flows from the holes in the tank upon the felt and is instantly chilled into the shape of ribbons about one eighth of an inch thick, the revolution of the roller at the same time moving the wax forward into the tank of water, thus making as many continuous strips of wax as there are holes in the bottom of the tank. From the tank the wax is taken to the bleaching ground and spread upon frames covered with white cloth. Here it is exposed to the action of the sun and air until the outside of the strips are bleached, when it is re-melted and again run into strips and sunned, the operation being repeated until satisfactory results are reached. It should be seen that not all wax is suitable for bleaching. Wax from southern countries with a reddish tinge generally proving very difficult to whiten.

Brantford, Ont.

### Facts About Sweet Clover.

It is now more than twenty-five years ago, since I called attention to sweet clover as a honey plant, in an article in *Homer King's* bee paper, then published at Nevada, Ohio. My attention was first called to the plant by noticing the persistence with which bees visited a small patch by the roadside. During succeeding years I was a close observer of the plant, and found that it would grow almost any where, and not only hold its own but would also spread greatly by the seeds scattering in various ways. I also discovered that it was very hard to kill out, unless one knows how, then it is easy enough. I was one of the earliest advocates to sow it by the acre for honey alone, and have raised it extensively but in my immediate neighborhood land is too valuable to make it pay.