

The Bleaching and Cleansing of Bees 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 way.

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 six 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 larger, say about the forth of an inch in diameter. Having shut off the steam wrap 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 at the bottom.

To prepare the wax for sunning a little machinery is required. This consists of a tank to hold melted 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 wet felt and is instantly chilled into the shape of ribbons about one-eighth of an inch thick. the revolving 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 remelted and again run into strips and sunned, the operation being repeated until satisfactory results are obtained.

It should be said that not all beeswax is suitable for bleaching, the wax from southern countries, with a reddish tinge, generally proving very difficult to whiten.

Brantford, Ont.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition Prize List.

Editor C. B. J. :

DEAR SIR,—In the December number of the C. B. J. Mr. Deadman severely criticises the prize list of the Toronto Industrial. As I have been an exhibitor for the past eight years I can claim to know what sort of satisfaction it has given to exhibitors and visitors. I believe Mr. McKnight was the prime mover to change the prize list to its present form (with the exception of the word largest in Section 15 that has been added by the other directors) and for a number of years it has filled the bill. Never till last year was there such a difference of opinion as to the meaning of the wording of the different sections.

The Toronto Industrial Prize List cannot be looked upon in the same way as a township or county show list, where the apiarian department would be comprised of a few entries and small quantities and would attract as little notice. Some years ago there was a class of entries that called for quantities of ten pounds in some sections, but it failed to bring out the smaller beekeepers; but when the prizes were made larger for a greater quantity it became a success in the way it was intended as an educator.

While I do not think the prize list cannot be improved I would certainly not make such drastic changes as Mr. Deadman suggests, and make such a mistake as to give a six dollar prize for a half gallon honey vinegar and only \$15 for 500 lbs. of comb honey. I agree with Mr. Deadman that Sections 11 and 14 may be left out to advantage and that the word display in the different sections be left out and quality only considered every time, and in Section 15, for the most tasty exhibit, etc., let display alone be considered, and not the greatest quantity, but only the quantities called for in the preceding sections.

The only other changes I would suggest is that the medals in Section 11 be given for inventions in addition to money prize. The 100 lb. lots of granulated and liquid be made equal, that is: 1st, \$9; 2nd, \$5; 3rd,