

containing dead bees should have the frames lifted out, so as to break the cluster, for if the dead bees remain and decay, the combs will be injured. Dead bees remaining in the cells will do no harm, for they will dry and shrivel, and the bees can pull them out cheaper than we can. Scrape off the tops of the frames, and cut off all queen cells since they are only encumbrances, as they will never be used again. Scrape out the hive with a wide chisel, saving all bits of comb. If the hive is foul from the bees dying of dysentery, scrub it out with brush and hot suds, rinse with boiling water, and you will not complain of swarms deserting, when hived in it. When it is dry and cleansed, return the combs to it, and set it down cellar to keep the moths from the combs until swarming time. If a hive needs repairing, do it while empty; and give fresh coat of paint; if done now the odor of the paint will have time to evaporate, before it is needed. Look over the combs and frames, and repair where necessary; cut out drone comb, and replace with worker. These things cannot be attended to in the hurry of swarming time. Over-haul all the honey on hand you may find some you had forgotten; feed to the bees all odds and ends, and put in good shape all that remain. See that the extractor and honey knives are in good order and the smoker, fuel, hat and gloves ready for immediate use, and you will be successful.

#### PREPARING WAX.

In the general round up, melt up all scrapings from hives, sections, etc., and you will be surprised at the result. Where only a few colonies of bees are kept, it may not pay to invest in a wax extractor, but an all metal sieve, set over a pan of water in the oven, will answer the purpose. The product of a sun wax-extractor, brings most in the market and is easily made. Take a box fit a slightly inclined bottom of bright tin, converging into a gutter, and under this place a receptacle to catch the melted wax. Cover the box with glass. If the bottom inclines too much the debris will slip from the tin into the receptacle. These cool mornings the bees will be seeking water, and if only cold water is left for them many loaded up with it will lose their lives. Put water as warm as new milk in the drinking vessels and replenish it often to keep the proper temperature.

#### PROSPECT FOR HONEY

The box elder, otherwise known as ash-leaved maple will soon be in bloom, and is valuable at this season for honey and pollen. There is nothing which rallies weak colonies in spring like

fresh food from the fields. The peach blossoms are open and the bees are gathering honey from the blossoms. Dandelions are also flowering and they are not to be despised as a source for honey and pollen. Vegetation is backward, and white clover is yet small, but may yet give us its delicious and very palatable honey.

#### TANSY AND BLUEGRASS

A few days ago I was told to go and look at the tansy. I did so, and was surprised and astonished, for bees were all over it. I inquired if someone had not sprinkled syrup over it but no one had. The bees were also at work on the blue grass. I have not been able to solve the problem, and do not understand why the bees were there or what for.

Yes but what is cheaper than allowing the bees to pull them out of the cells then carry them out of the hive around the door yard picking them up to keep bad odor away from the entrances. Just set the combs one or two inches apart around the bee house or any place where there may be mice and see how long it takes the mice to pull all the bees out, they seem to have a particular knack of doing it and can do it very rapidly but if the combs are placed close together, the mice then cut down the combs to make a road up to the bees, in this way much of the comb is destroyed. Where the bees can get up between the combs conveniently they just pull the bees out, but we have had hives where the combs were set close together they have got into them and cut passages out almost destroying them entirely. I used to think that mice running over combs was decidedly injurious as they sometimes left an odor objectionable to the bees but that does not appear to be the case where the combs are kept the proper distance apart and they only visit them sufficiently to remove dead bees, never interfering with the honey. Setting the hives down cellar is all right providing the cellar is not too damp but this need not be done until warm weather sets in, then the windows should be removed from the cellar and wire screens used to allow a current of air to pass through. Keep the entrance open and the lid off the hive which should be at least two feet from bottom of cellar but if you have hives enough why not leave the combs in them taking out one half and setting the others say one or two inches apart