

in bloom. The partridge pea, as stated in my book, yields much nectar to attract bees and wasps, which serve the plants in frightening away insect pests, that might destroy the plants. This makes me bold to say that my book contains much that is found in no other one. It contains the latest science—all that is found in Cowan—and now, all for a dollar. Should not all your many readers own and read this latest edition? Could it but be of many dollars advantage to them? If all the kernels on this last nubbin are blasted, throw it in that convenient compost, the editor's al basket.

We once thought that, we could produce foul brood, but have entirely given up that theory, as long experience and many proofs to the contrary have convinced us that it cannot be done. We certainly think that Cook's Manual should be in the hands of every bee-keeper. The scientific part has been nearly all re-written, and it contains many good things, is practical, and written in that pleasant intelligible style, which makes it so valuable to beginners. We are glad to know that Prof. Cook has lowered the price to \$1. It does seem wonderfully cheap at that, considering the additional pages which have been added to it, as it now contains about 500. Every person should have one, amateur and scientific bee-keeper, alike. About ten pounds of honey will add one to your library, and the book in all probability will add more than ten times that amount every year, without additional expense, to your income.

ANOTHER SIMPLE WAY OF TELLING ADULTERATED WAX.

From Gleanings:

On page 334 I notice that a correspondent wishes to know how to tell adulterated wax. Although the way you give is good, I now give a more simple plan which was told me by a person who was for a long time employed in a large wholesale drug house in Albany. I have tried it frequently, and find it correct, as far as my experience goes; and if it is new to your readers, I hope they will experiment and report.

It is to simply take a piece of common white chalk or school crayon, which should be reasonably soft, then break your cake of wax that is to be tested, and if the chalk will leave a plain mark on it, it is pure; but if adulterated the chalk will leave no mark. The above may be old to many, but I do not remember seeing it in print.

T. L. DUGDALE.

West Galway, N. Y., Apr. 20.

[The above test, if I am correct, depends on the spurious wax being softer than the genuine. While this is usually the case, I believe it is not always true. Nevertheless your test is probably a valuable one] — Gleanings.

We fear that the adulteration practiced by some parties would deceive a person relying on this experiment. Only a few days ago, we bought 1,000 lbs., of wax from a reliable firm. The appearance was all that could be desired; the cakes all had more or less sediment on the bottom, which indicated that it was from farmers or bee-keepers, and looked just as if it came direct from them. After weighing, we remarked that we never saw a lot of wax like that. There were about six different shaped cakes, and the color was very uniform. The thought struck us, that even though it looked nice, and smelt like bees-wax, that no bee-keeper or set of bee-keepers would be liable to have the same kind of dishes to cake their wax in. After taking a piece of it in our hand, and rubbing it until it became quite warm, we smelted it. The odour indicated that it was bees-wax, but it did not seem to be quite strong enough. It had a very mild bees-waxy smell. Taking another piece of about the same quality and rubbing and smelling, the odour was much more distinct, and this roused our suspicions and after making a careful test found it was adulterated, to such an extent that it would break down in the hive, with the heat of the bees. We returned the wax to the party at their own expense, getting our Station Agent to take it back, and put on the charges both ways. We would be in favor of having a law enforced to inflict a severe punishment on all adulterators. Of course there are some innocent parties that might sell adulterated wax, and we would not like to see an innocent party punished, but the law could be so framed that the adulteration could be traced back to the adulterator. He should then receive such a severe lesson that it would be a warning to others.

THE DOOLITTLE SOLAR WAX EXTRACTOR.

The following from Gleanings is another recommend for the Doolittle extractor.

I want to thank you and Mr. Doolittle for the description and cut of the solar wax extractor in November number of Gleanings. I have made one and it works well. Heretofore whenever I undertook to make any wax I got myself and everything else smeared and stuck up with it; but with the extractor I have no trouble at all.

W. W. YOUNG.

Worthington, Ky., Apr. 20.