

## WAX-FOUNDATION MAKING FOR THE APIARY.

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ONE of the live matters now confronting the beekeeper is the art of making wax foundation. The increased cost of this material from the suppliers has made it expedient for many beekeepers to attempt making their own. Failing this, all pure wax should be saved and sent to a reliable foundation-maker to model at a small cost. This latter method is the best for the small beekeeper. Just how many colonies are required to enable a foundation-making plant to be worked successfully and profitably I would not care to say, but would rather leave the answer to individual discretion. However, those who are making, or who contemplate making, wax foundation may find some useful hints in the following description of the process.

### PRELIMINARY REFINING OF THE WAX.

It is most essential that all beeswax, preparatory to any manipulations for foundation-making, should be refined and thoroughly cleaned. Wax cakes are usually of all grades and colours. The difference in colour is due largely to the amount of impurities the wax contains. There is no method so satisfactory as treatment with acid to bring it to its pure state and colour. Some claim that by this treatment the wax is made brittle. I can only reply that this has been contrary to my experience.

A highly successful method is as follows: First have in readiness a number of kerosene-tins with the tops cut off, or, better still, buckets. Have a sufficient quantity of boiling water handy to pour a depth of several inches of it into each receptacle. Melt the wax in a large milk-can or other tank, together with a quantity of water, which is boiled after the cakes of wax have been added. Dip the melted wax into the kerosene-tins or buckets containing the boiling water, and add to each about one teaspoonful of commercial sulphuric acid. Stir for a minute or so, and then cover up with sacks to keep warm as long as possible. Slow cooling allows the foreign impurities to settle and prevents cracking. After twenty-four hours lift out the cakes and scrape the impurities from the bottom.