

EMBOSSING THE SHEETS.

After the operation of putting the sheets through the plain rollers, the latter machine is dismantled and the embossing-mill put in its place. The 7 ft. sheets are placed in the heating-tank as before, but pure water is now used, the temperature of which should be between 90° and 100° F. I have found that the sheets work best at this heat. Proceed as with the plain rollers.

CUTTING THE SHEETS.

The quickest method of trimming the long sheets of embossed foundation—these will probably go 7½ ft. to the pound weight in medium brood and about 9 ft. in light brood—is to prepare a smooth board the exact size required for the finished sheet of foundation for placing in the frame. Lay seven or eight long sheets on top of each other, and after placing the board in position cut all round it with a sharp knife, doing as many sheets at once as you can conveniently manage. They cut very much better immediately after leaving the embossing-mill, because the wax is then warm.

CLEANING ROLLERS.

I have known enthusiastic but inexperienced beekeepers endeavour to roll a dry sheet through the mill. They will never attempt it a second time. The wax will cling to both rollers, and the only way to get them to work again is by scalding, or turning a jet of steam on all surfaces for several minutes. The surfaces of both rollers are very soft, and on no account should they be scratched with anything hard. Keep the wax-room free of all small hard materials. A tack embedded in the sheets will ruin the mill, and nothing is so easy as for this to happen.

ADJUSTING ROLLING-MILLS.

When the mill leaves the factory it is evenly adjusted and ready for use. A leaflet giving instructions for the adjustment of the machine is supplied with each. On no account alter the adjustment of the mill without first reading the leaflet and fully comprehending it. When once the rollers get out of alignment it is the most difficult thing for the novice mechanic to right them; indeed, I have known good mechanics advise the purchase of a new machine because they could not adjust the old one properly. When a machine is first in use, if it does not come up to expectations and rolls the sheets with a bow to one side, one may be sure that there is some fault with the dipping. Finally, it is only by patience and experience that the art of foundation-making is satisfactorily mastered.