

commence till some little time later. The utensils for handling the honey should be thoroughly cleansed and scalded, and set up in the position they will occupy during the season. Everything should be tested to see that it will stand the strain of the season's work. Extracting is such high-pressure business that there is little time to stop for repairs once it commences in earnest. The uncapping-knives should be sharpened, strainers fitted with clean cheese-cloth, brakes and belts inspected, and all machinery oiled and cleaned, so that matters may run smoothly during the few weeks that the main business of the apiary is in progress.

The honey may be extracted as soon as the combs are three-parts capped, and the operation repeated two or three times during the season. In fact, keeping the extractor running from the time the main flow sets in is perhaps the most satisfactory way of dealing with a honey crop, and is to be recommended where there is a possibility of thick honey being gathered. However, in clover districts, when the beekeeper possesses plenty of supers, the honey may be left in the hives till the end of the flow, and all the extracting done at one time. Although this ensures prime, well-ripened honey, it makes the handling of the crop very heavy work, and will give more trouble from robbers, which are always very much in evidence at the end of the season. In addition, in the colder localities heavily supered hives are apt to become chilled during the later part of the summer, and cold honey is much more difficult to extract than warm.

Once the honey leaves the hives it should be handled as cleanly and expeditiously as possible. Two or three zinc trays are a big help in disposing of drips, &c. One placed on the barrow which conveys the supers of combs to the honey-house, and another on the floor of the house to receive the supers prior to uncapping, will save much unpleasantness to clothes and feet. These trays should have small blocks or supports fastened in each corner to raise the supers a little, so that the drippings from burr combs, &c., may be drained away from the bottom edge of the supers. These trays are easily washed at the end of the day and drained dry ready for the next using. The extractor, uncapping-can, and honey-tank when not in use should be kept covered with clean washing covers, and care should be taken that all bees, flies, and other extraneous things are excluded from the honey. From the peculiar nature of honey-production it is impossible to clean utensils day by day as is done with most foodstuffs, and it is imperative that honey be prevented from coming into contact with dirt and foreign substances.

#### PROVISION OF SUPERS.

On no account must the beekeeper neglect to provide his swarms with storage room. If the weather is normal, from ten to fifteen days after a strong swarm is hived it should be provided with a super. Not only is this necessary in order to obtain a surplus, but if it is not done the newly created colony will probably swarm again. A swarm is most vigorous and will usually make more headway than an established colony, and therefore should be encouraged by the provision of ample room. Many beekeepers deplete their honey crops considerably by failing to realize the fact that early swarms particularly will invariably yield a large surplus in a favourable season.