plan is to run a line of melted wax along the edge of the starter while it is in contact with the wood. Hold the starter with the fingers of the left hand, run the wax with a teaspoon held in the right hand. The most certain way is to make a special jig for the job. First, out of ½-inch wood cut pieces 3¾ inches square; about a dozen will be enough. Then nail these an inch apart on a board. Now you can hang the folded sections on these, upside down, place the starters in position, then run the wax along the edge. A slight backward tilt to the board is an advantage. The wax will set very quickly, but it takes a little while for it to harden, so handle each section carefully while setting it aside.

Extracting Combs.

Extracted honey is produced in ordinary combs, just the kind used in the brood-chamber. While new they are rather tender, therefore many will not use a comb for extracting purposes until it has been bred in at least one season. The colour of the comb in no way affects the colour of the honey. To get first-class combs they must be built during the honey-flow. The frame filled with foundation is placed between two old combs, either in the brood-chamber or super. We have already seen that spare sets of empty comb are of great value in May, when they come in very handy to give the queen more room.

CHAPTER IX.

Securing the Harvest.

Everything needed for the honey-flow in June should be got ready in May, at the latest. When a swarm is clustering on the limb of a tree is not the time to rush to town for the needed hive, yet such has happened many times in the history of bee-keeping. It is just as bad to put off the making ready of supers until the honey-flow is on. One cannot turn the mill with the water that has gone, neither can the bees gather the nectar that was in the blossoms yesterday, but which they could not store away on account of the lack of room in the hive. Besides, they have learned to loaf and to think of swarming, both bad habits from the bee-keeper's point of view.

So be prepared for whatever may come, whether a flood or a failure. If you are running for section-honey, have for each hive at least two supers ready, filled with sections, and, in addition, have at least fifty more sections in the house. One famous bee-keeper in an ordinary region says he has five section supers for each hive ready every season, even if he finds them necessary only once in half a dozen years. Once he found that number not nearly enough.

When the flow starts the problem is to get the bees to work in the section supers, for they do not take to it kindly on account of the restricted passages to which they are unaccustomed; often they will rather swarm than take possession. When a hive has been so strong that the bees occupied two brood-chambers, they have learned to carry the nectar above; so if we remove the upper one—of course, making sure that the queen is left behind—then put on the comb super, it is probable the honey will be stored in the sections. The upper division may be placed above a weak colony to strengthen it, or the frames of brood distributed where wanted. The flying bees will return to the old hive.

Bait sections are often used to decoy the bees above. The unfinished sections from last season are kept over the winter, and at least one is placed in the centre of each super; more is even better. But if the honey-flow is not started when the bait sections are given to the colony, the honey will be removed and used below to feed the brood.