

The Solar Wax Extractor.

AND HOW TO MAKE ONE.

By FRED C. BAINES.

One of the problems confronting the beekeeping industry to-day is the gradual decrease in the amount of beeswax available for commercial purposes. Therefore it is necessary that the beekceper do all he can to prevent waste of this valuable commodity.

One of the handiest appliances for this purpose is the solar wax extractor, which costs nothing to keep going and renders the wax in such a condition that it only requires re-moulding for marketing.

These appliances have come in for a great deal of condemnation from time to time, but that has been prompted not because the appliance failed to do what was said of it, but simply because they were. for the most part, badly made; splits and cracks in them where bees could get in and out, causing robbing, general disturbance, and sometimes the dissemination of disease. But if those who have never used them will make one carefully and bee-proof by using only seasoned timber, securely nailed at the joints, he will find he has an appliance that will pay "big dividends."

The appliance consists of three thingsa hinged glass frame attached to a wooden frame, to stand at an angle; a galvanised iron tray; and a wax receptacle,-the whole thing being self-contained.

These can be made any size, according to the needs of the apiarist; but no one is in too small a way that the appliance is not useful.

the build of the appliance. The long part to accommodate the tray should be about easily scraped off with a hive tool and dis-6in deep; the hinged glass frame has an posed of.

inch rabbet on the under side, which meets a similar one nailed on the outside. I found the heat of the sun caused the woodwork of the glass frame to warp, and thereby create a bee-space; but with the rabbet, even with a slight warp, no bees could get in. My glass frame is also strengthened by having two %in iron bars screwed across, which helps to keep it rigid.

I believe plate-glass is the best for the frame, but I have had excellent results with using ordinary window glass, lapped about two inches.

The tray has a 2in lip all round, except at the outlet, where the wax runs into the receptacle.

The wax receptacle can be made by using a petrol tin with one side cut out.

There is no object to be gained in giving the dimensions of the appliance, as the size must be determined by the size of the apiary and the estimated amount of odds and ends that accumulate; but the size of my own is 4ft 6in long by 2ft 4in wide, outside measurements. The part containing the wax receptacle is 12in wide.

Paint the whole appliance black to absorb the heat of the sun, place it in a sheltered spot where it will get the maximum amount of sunshine, and you will be surprised at the work it will do.

You will, perhaps, notice that I have said nothing about a screen to rest on the tray, which, as a rule, is used. Well, I do not use the screen nowadays. I found when I did that it very soon got blocked with slumgum, pollen, &c., and what wax ran through was inclined to cake on the tray beneath, as the sun's rays were prevented from reaching it. The screen was an awful job to keep clean, necessitating boiling water every time, so I gave it up. I found the appliance was doing better work by simply laving the wax on the The illustration will give a clear idea of tray; the melted wax gets away quickly, the slumgum settling on tray, which can be