

Our first work is to remove the follower that occupies the space between the frames and the side of the hive. Very probably it will be glued to the frames with propolis, so we insert the hive-tool between frame and follower, pushing aside the bees gently if in the way, then with easy pressure we pry the board apart from the frame, first at one end and then at the other. The follower is now removed from the hive and set to one side, or at the end of the hive. We can now reach the first frame, which is apt to be clear of bees, excepting from May to September. As before, we break the glue adhesion with the hive-tool, then lift the frame with both hands, one at each end bar. Should bees be clustered where the fingers will grasp the top bar, then gently puff a little smoke on them and they will quickly scurry away. Remember it is such little tricks



Fig. 9. Showing Frames.

as these that make hive manipulation easy and prevent the bees becoming ill-tempered. Lift the frame straight up, with your back to the sun, and proceed to examine it. Fig. 10 shows the operation.

The frame we find is made of four pieces of wood, known as top bar, bottom bar, and end bars. The first is 18½ inches long, the second is 17½ inches, while the other two will be about 8½ inches, depending on the thickness of the top bar. The full depth of the frame is 9½ inches. The projecting ends of the top bar rest upon rabbets cut into the end pieces of the hive. The frame, proper, it should be specially noted, is 2 inch shorter than the inside length of the hive body, so that between the ends of the frame and the hive there is a space of a little over ½ inch.