

covering, so far as it goes, but in addition the head must be shielded, while with most people the hands are all the better of being protected. Many experts rarely use gloves, having attained a stage at which a sting gives little annoyance; but, as a matter of fact, the writer finds that much of the poor bee-keeping he has come across is largely due to the dread of stings. When a man has to lay off work for a couple of days



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4

because of a sting in his wrist, and at the same time does not know how to get perfect protection, he can scarcely be blamed for leaving his bees alone as much as possible, even if neglect means the loss of half the crop. The beginner will, therefore, be wise if he provides himself at the very outset with a really sting-proof costume. Such a one is shown in Fig. 3, and is the invention of one of the biggest bee-keepers on this continent.

Essentially the dress consists of a blouse, to which is attached an upper part of white netting, this being faced with a square of black mosquito wire gauze. The simplest way to make this suit is to buy a cotton night-shirt two or three sizes larger than is ordinarily worn, cut off a part above the shoulders and another below the waist. From the latter portion make extensions of the sleeves so that they will reach down a little below the knuckles, then cut a hole in the side for the thumb. The lower part of the blouse is taken up with a string hemmed in the edge, so that the blouse can be tied round the wearer's waist.

The black wire netting in front of the face is about 8 inches square, preference being given to a mesh of eight wires to the inch as permitting clearer vision. To prevent the wire from cutting the white netting, it is edged with strips of oil cloth 1 inch wide. These are doubled over the edges, then sewn very slowly on a sewing-machine.

Netting such as is used for window-curtains is the best material for the upper part of the suit, as it permits of the free circulation of air round the neck and head. It should be quite loose at the back, but not in front, for the closer the wire netting is to the face the better one sees. The upper edge of the wire should reach the brim of the