

two divisions, it is natural for them to start storing in the upper one, occupying the brood-cells as quickly as they are vacated. At the end of a good flow the upper division will be entirely free of young. When the super is half-full, a second one should be inserted between it and the brood-chamber. It is well to leave the honey on the hive for several weeks after the flow is over, so that it may thoroughly ripen, for green honey is very apt to turn sour.

The honey is removed from the comb in a machine called an extractor. After the cappings have been cut from the cells the frames are set in the baskets of the machine, which are then made to revolve at a high rate of speed, quick enough to throw the honey out of the combs against the sides of the can. An extractor suitable for Langstroth frames and big enough for a small apiary will probably cost, delivered, about \$16 or \$17.

TAKING THE COMBS FROM THE HIVE.

The actual work of extracting is best done on a warm day, as the honey is most liquid then, and in a room from which bees are excluded by a screen-door. Removing



Fig. 21. Uncapping Comb.

the frames from the hive is to most beginners a rather serious problem, on account of the multitude of bees on them. Go about the task in this fashion: Smoke the bees down among the frames. Take out the first frame and shake the bees off it at the entrance of the hive, then place it in an empty hive, which should be standing on a wheelbarrow close by. Draw the second frame towards the side, so as to make a gap between it and the next frame. Into this pass a whisp of long green grass, or a switch brush, and so wipe most of the bees off the comb. Lift the frame and shake off the remaining bees into the vacant space, then set it beside the first frame in the hive on the barrow. Treat the balance of the frames in the same way. The empty body is now removed—of course, supposing that the honey-flow is past; if not, it must be refilled with empty frames. Now wheel the load of combs to the extracting-room and do not worry about the few bees you may carry in, for they will soon try to get out by door or window, and not bother you at all.

Uncapping is done by a long, very sharp knife; a butcher knife is good, but one can buy a style specially designed for the purpose. Old combs are rather tough, so it is often necessary to heat the blade of the knife, which is best done by placing it in hot water when not in actual use. In uncapping, the idea is to cut a slice from each side