

FRAMES AND FOUNDATION

The hive contains the frames on which the honey comb is built. The Hoffman self-spacing frames give the best satisfaction. By using self-spacing frames labor is very greatly economized, the frames can be handled in groups of two or more, and when set in the hive can be shoved together at one operation without the necessity of fingering over each frame to get it spaced exactly the same distance from others.

COMB HONEY SUPER

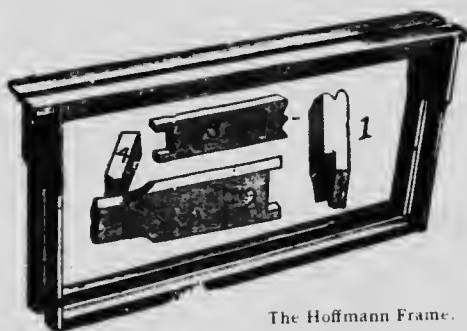
The production of honey in the comb involves a different set of fixtures. Comb-honey is produced in little square boxes called "sections." These sections are placed in a frame called a "section holder" and between each row of sections is placed a wooden fence or separator. The bees then build the comb out to within a short distance of this fence, thus making the sections uniform.



The Use of Comb Foundation.

COMB FOUNDATION

To start the bees building comb, modern bee-keepers use a product known as comb foundation. This comb foundation is made by means of a "comb foundation machine" from sheets of pure beeswax and is an exact duplicate of the midrib or center of honey-comb, hence the name "foundation."



The Hoffmann Frame.

It is used in narrow strips, called "starters," or in full sheets. The latter are preferable because the bees will build more nearly perfect combs and at a lower cost. When bees are given full sheets of foundation they are not likely to build drone comb in the brood nest. When drone comb is built in the brood nest a lot of useless drones are hatched. They are voracious eaters, and as only one out of many

can be used for stinging purposes, their production from an economic standpoint is an enormous waste. It is a good plan to have all frames wired, as this makes them much stronger. No. 30 tinned wire seems to be the most suitable of any wire used for frames.

Extracted honey can be produced for less money than that in comb because the empty combs can be used over and over again, year after year. It takes anywhere from five to fifteen pounds of honey for the bees to produce a pound of wax.

HONEY EXTRACTOR

If six or eight hives of bees are kept, it will pay to invest in a honey extractor. Each comb has a series of honey cells on each side which when filled with honey are capped over with a thin film of wax. This capping is sliced off with a sharp bladed knife made for the purpose. The