

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 & 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 of the comb, starting at one end of the frame and working to the other, using a kind of saw motion, as in cutting bread. The frame is stood endways on a support, the upper end of the top bar being grasped by the left hand. Some workers cut upwards, tilting the frame away from their body, so that the slice will bang clear of the comb as it is cut. Others prefer cutting downwards and appear to have no



Fig. 23. Queen-excluder, or honey-board.

trouble with the cappings; these are caught in a vessel below. The uncapped combs go into the baskets of the extractor, one to each; the handle is turned swiftly for a few minutes, thus emptying the outside cells; the frames are reversed, then the other side is freed of honey. The faster the baskets travel the more efficient will be the work of the machine. Just a word of warning to a beginner. Do not worry if you cannot get lots of honey after you have run through the first pair of combs, for remember it is spread very thinly over a large surface, but in a little while it will gather in the bottom of the can. The set of empty combs should be returned to their former position on the hive for a night, to be cleaned up by the bees, then stored away until wanted next season.

The uncapping device should be so made that it will give the cappings a chance to drain. In a small way one can use a large pail in which is set a cheap barrel, in the bottom of which a number of 1-inch holes have been bored. Next take a piece of 1- x 4-inch wood a little longer than the barrel is wide, and through the middle of it drive a strong nail that will project 1 inch at least. Sharpen this point with a file. Fasten this board across the mouth of the barrel, nail point up. Durlug