Note. We assume that a, b, c represent such numbers that in CASE II. a is not less than the sum of b and c, in CASE III. b is not less than c, and in CASE IV. b is not less than c, and a is not less than b.

19. Collecting the results obtained in Art. 18, we have

$$a+(b+c)=a+b+c,$$
$$a-(b+c)=a-b-c,$$
$$a+(b-c)=a+b-c,$$
$$a-(b-c)=a-b+c.$$

From which we obtain the following rules for the removal of a bracket.

Rule I. When a bracket is preceded by the sign $+$, remove the bracket and leave the signs of the terms in it *unchanged*.

Rule II. When a bracket is preceded by the sign $-$, remove the bracket and *change the sign of each term in it*.

These rules apply to cases in which any number of terms are included in the bracket.

Thus

$$a+b+(c-d+e-f)=a+b+c-d+e-f,$$

and

$$a+b-(c-d+e-f)=a+b-c+d-e+f.$$

20. The rules given in the preceding Article for the *removal* of brackets furnish corresponding rules for the *introduction* of brackets.

Thus if we enclose two or more terms of an expression in a bracket,

    I. The sign of each term remains the same if $+$ precedes the bracket

    II. The sign of each term is changed if $-$ precedes the bracket.

Ex. $a-b+c-d+e-f=a-b+(c-d)+(e-f),$

       $a-b+c-d+e-f=a-b-(b-c)-(d-e+f).$