

supply of the colony; in them are laid the eggs from which develop the young bees, the whole time from infancy to maturity being spent in such narrow confines. Then in the cold days of winter, when all activity in the hive practically ceases, when the individual members huddle close together to keep each other warm, each empty cell may be filled with an insect so that no space shall be unoccupied. The interior of a bee-hive is a wonderful utilization of a limited area, down to the minutest detail, and it is hard for most people to realize that in a capacity of about 2 cubic feet as many as 50,000 bees will carry on all the activities of their life, for here is at once a pantry, kitchen, incubator, nursery, living-room, and bedroom for them all.



Fig. 13. Examining a frame.

But let us investigate our comb a little more, and first we will probably notice that there are at least two different sizes of cells, one series in the upper part of the frame, running about five to the inch; another kind, generally in the lower half of the comb, that are a little larger, running about four to the inch. In the smaller cells the worker-bees are raised; in the larger the drones, who are the males, spend their days of infancy. Both kinds of cells are used when necessary as storehouses for food. In a well-managed hive the worker-cells vastly predominate; in fact, all good bee-keepers strive to keep the drone-cells to the lowest possible number. Drones are essential to the welfare of the apiary, but an unlimited quantity of them means a waste of valuable space and food, for they are consumers only. Fig. 14 shows the two kinds of cells side by side.

We will now proceed to examine the next frame, one by setting it on the ground, leaning it against

the wall, and we will dispose of this of the hive. As before,