

if there are a great many bees in the hive, it may be necessary to use a little smoke—a very little to make them move away from the ends of the frames where you must catch hold to lift them out. You will need a stout jack-knife, an old chisel, a putty knife, or some such tool to pry the frames loose, as they are likely to be stuck together or to the hive, where they touch it, with propolis. Begin at the frame nearest one side of the hive, first shoving all the frames as near as possible to the other side to make all the space you can get to get it out. Be careful not to let the comb you are lifting rub against the one next to it in the hive, for this will kill some bees, and make the other want to fight. To see what you are doing it is best to stand with your back as much as possible to the sun, so the light will shine on the side of the comb you are looking at. Take a look at this first comb. What does it contain? If a good many bees are on it, the queen may be there. Don't be wondering if every second bee you see is the queen. You will know her all right when you see her. She doesn't look any more like a worker or a drone than a horse looks like a cow. Hold the comb up so the light shines right to the bottoms of the cells. If you see nothing there turn the other side and look at it. If the queen has laid eggs in it they can easily be seen, usually in the cells near the middle of the comb. The eggs look like small pieces of white thread standing on end in the bottoms of the cells. Usually the outside comb will be found to contain either nothing at all or sealed honey carried over from the year before. If the hive be nearly full of bees, this outside comb may contain a considerable amount of new pollen and honey as the bees store these just beyond the "brood nest" or the combs containing brood. It is hardly neces-

sary to describe what brood looks like, as anyone can easily distinguish it from anything else in the hive. The brood occupies the centre of the hive first, and as the number of bees increases, gradually extends to the sides, the top and bottom. The upper corners of the combs nearly always contain more or less honey. When the brood occupies the first comb, look at it on end on the ground, lean the upper end against the hive, and something, and take out the first and subsequent ones and examine them the same way. When the second is examined, set it in where you took the first out, set the third in the second place and so on until the last, which may be returned to its own place and the others then shoved to their places and the last one put in the first place.

Now, what do you know from what you saw? If you found the queen next to the sides of the hive and with very few bees on them, you know the hive will not be crowded, and the swarming point for at least a month or weeks. If all the combs are full either with honey or brood, you know the first rush of honey will come, and the bees to the swarming point. If you found bees and brood on only four combs you know that the bees will not swarm or be in a hurry to store surplus honey for a considerable time. If you found four or five combs full nearly to the corners with brood surrounded by young bees (large and small larvae and pupae) you know that the hive is due to swarm and within ten days or so you will find queen cells built right on the face of some of this brood. If the queen cells containing either the queen or being sealed up, you know that a new queen has happened the queen of the colony in the moving process. If the bees are raising another

queen, destroy all the old queen, being sure to get the healthy-looking queen out of the brood in the first place, larvae of all ages all shuffled together with some of the old queen, and have the brood with the queen up too high. If you find a drone, you know it is past its prime and is past its usefulness. If you find four or five queen cells, the condition, the cells on the face of the combs or ends of the combs, now the bees are beginning to supersede the old queen and cut out a new one. If you find a queen cell, hunt out a queen and cut out a queen cell. If you find a queen cell, first be sure it is a queen cell. If, when you look at it, you see little wax stuck along the bars of the frame, you know the queen is on the comb, snow-white. If you know the queen is on the comb, you may have contrived to find her.

#### To Find the Queen

If you want to find the queen for any purpose, open the hive with a little smoke and a chance as possible. If you find the queen back to the sun, look at the expected one, still in the hive, look at the one you turn the first one out the far side of the hive. If you find like this because the queen runs for the dark when she is on. If she is on the second when you look at it, and a chance of finding her gets around to the queen, don't find her o