In ten days' time the queen-cells should be nearly ready to hatch. Examine the comb to see how many good cells are available, and after preparing the requisite number of nucleus hives, less one, or destroying the queen in hives it is wished to requeen, come back to No. 1 and cut out carefully with a sharp thin-bladed penknife all the cells but one. Then, after putting each in a "West" cell-protector, insert in the centre of each nucleus or queenless hive and leave to hatch out. Examine in two or three days' time to see if young queens are hatched. If so, leave for a week or ten days, according to weather, and examine again to see if they are mated and laying.

If it is very early in the season or the weather is doubtful, it is advisable to introduce the cells into nucleus hives rather than dequeen hives for the purpose, as it entails less loss of time and bees in case the queens failed to mate, which is often the case in early spring.

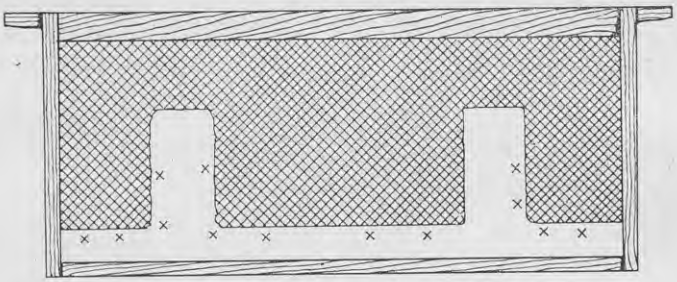

FIG. 1. COMB PREPARED FOR THE STEWART METHOD.

THE DOOLITTLE METHOD.

As indicated, if queens are required in large numbers it is advisable to adopt the "Doolittle" principle of artificial queen-cups, shown in Fig. 2. These cups may be purchased ready-made from the appliance-dealers, or can be made in the following manner: Procure a round blunt-pointed stick (Doolittle used a hay-rake tooth for the purpose); the point should be about $\frac{1}{3}\frac{3}{2}$ in. in diameter and quite smooth. After soaking the point in water for some hours dip it gently to a depth of $\frac{3}{8}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. into hot melted wax for about one second or less, and after withdrawing it allow the coating of wax to cool. Repeat this process four or five times, after which the wax cup so formed can be removed from the stick (see Fig. 3). The wax cups can now be waxed into wooden cell-cups fitted with a short spike as shown, or on to small squares of wood similarly spiked by driving a small nail through them, to protrude about $\frac{3}{16}$ in., or they may be simply waxed on to the cell-bar without any wood foundation at all (see Fig. 4). This drawing also shows how the cell-bars are held in position in an ordinary Langstroth frame.

The only other tools required are a transferring-needle and a jelly-spoon (see Fig. 5), which also can be procured from the appliance-dealers, or may be made out of knitting-needles by slightly flattening the ends as shown in the illustration.

Having made sufficient cell-cups and placed them on bars the beekeeper is ready to commence rearing operations. Hive No. 1 is