

### *Removing Honey from the Hive.*

The usual practice followed when the time for extracting is at hand is to remove the frames one by one. If excluders are used much time will be saved in picking over the combs. As the combs are taken from the hive shake the bees in front of the hive, brush off the remaining bees, and place the combs in a super for removal to the honey-house. The combs should be covered with a cloth which has been previously placed in water containing a small proportion of carbolic acid. When the season is at its height very little trouble will be experienced from robbers, but in case of a stoppage in the flow the foregoing precaution is necessary. At all times the beekeeper should study his working equipment, and this is specially important when removing the honey. It will be found convenient to provide a good barrow or truck for carrying at least two full supers. Much time and labour will be saved in this way, and the tedious work of removing the honey will be facilitated.

### *Uncapping.*

One of the most important processes in the work of extracting is that of uncapping. There are several kinds of knives for the purpose on the market, but the stiff-bladed double-edged Bingham is usually first favourite. Two of these are necessary, and they must be stood in a pan of water which is kept boiling on a small lamp. Each knife as it becomes cold is returned to the boiling water and the hot one takes its place. Any contrivance which is used for an uncapping-can should be provided with a cross-bar through which to pass a screw or similar article, driven point upwards, to form a pivot on which to rest and revolve the combs. The comb should be placed with one end resting on the pivot and tilted slightly forward, in order to allow the cappings to fall away from the comb. Uncapping should commence at the bottom of the comb, and proceed with a sawing motion from side to side until the top of the comb is reached. The comb is then swung round on the pivot and the reverse side treated in the same manner. Only a thin sheet of wax should be removed, but it must be done thoroughly so that every cell is opened, and at the same time the top and bottom bars should be relieved of any burr-combs which may adhere to them.

A contrivance much in favour with progressive beekeepers is the steam-heated knife. This is a Bingham knife with a soldered copper plate, so arranged that steam is forced through it from a rubber tube attached to the spout of a "bronchitis" kettle. An escape-tube is fitted to the opposite side, and the knife is kept at a very high temperature all the time uncapping is proceeding, thereby obviating the work and trouble of continually plunging the knives into boiling water. For uncapping heavy fully capped frames it has no equal, since an ordinary uncapping-knife becomes cold as a rule before half one side of a full comb has been uncapped.

### *Strainers.*

It is not uncommon to find exposed for sale honey with which proper care and attention have not been paid to straining at the time of extracting. Nothing deters the sale of extracted honey so much as a layer of wax-particles, dead bees, &c., and it is surprising how few beekeepers take the necessary trouble to see their product reaches the