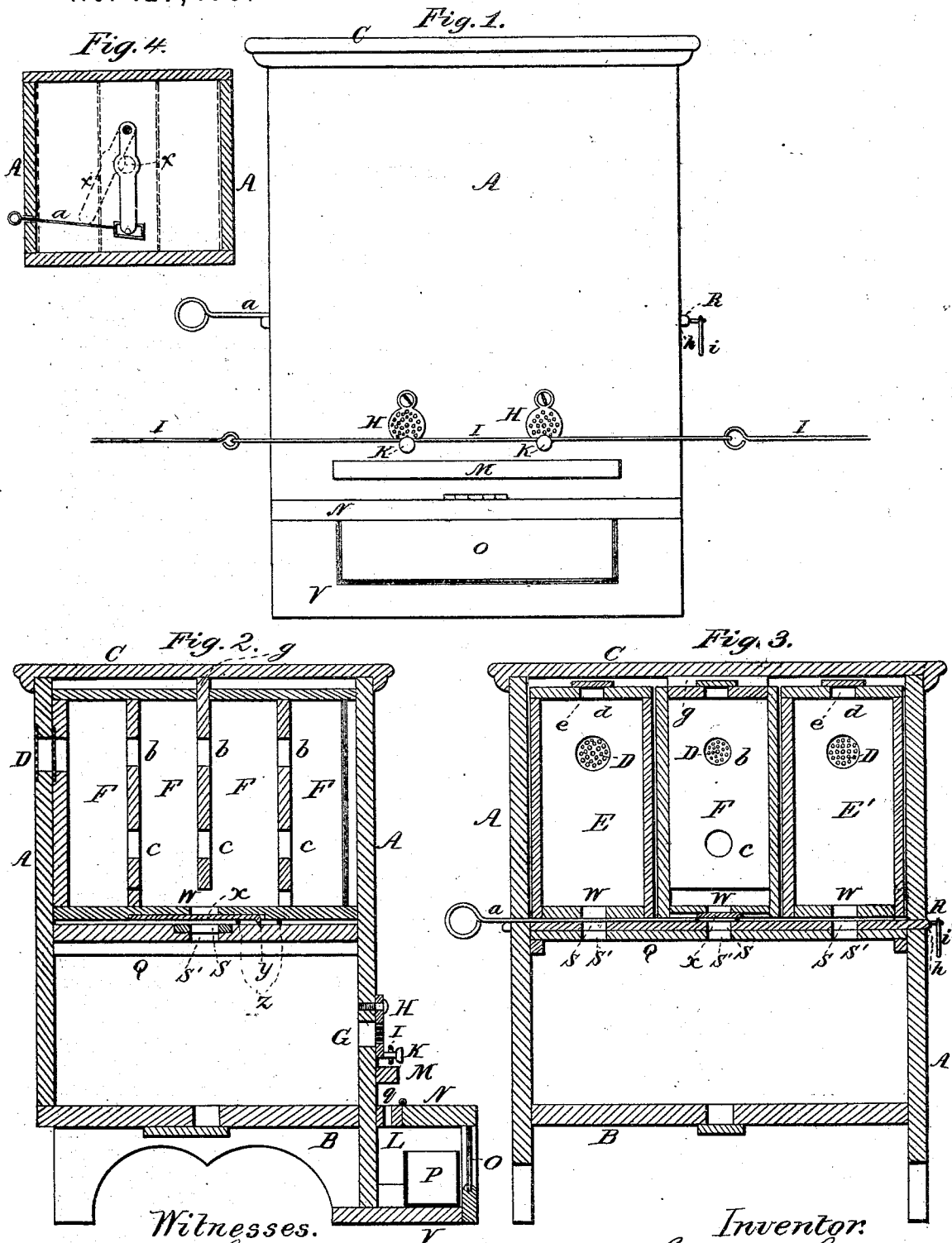


SAMUEL V. GREER.
Improvement in Bee-Hives.

No. 127,479.

Patented June 4, 1872.



Witnesses.
Wm Howard
H. L. Perrine,

Inventor.
Samuel V. Greer
By Theodore Mungen, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL V. GREER, OF GLASGOW, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN BEE-HIVES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 127,479, dated June 4, 1872.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL V. GREER, of Glasgow, in the county of Barren and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bee-Hives; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a vertical section from front to rear, and Fig. 3 is a vertical lateral section. Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the comb-boxes and brood-chamber, showing the button X on the latter.

This invention relates to certain improvements in bee-hives; and consists in the construction and combination of the several parts hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A is the case or shell of the hive; B, a removable bottom, held in place by screws; and C is a removable cap. The rear of the case A has three openings, D D D, covered with perforated material, communicating with like openings, covered in like manner, in the comb-boxes E E' and the brood-chamber F for the purposes of ventilation. The front of the case A has two circular openings, G, which form the entrances for the bees. Two perforated buttons, H, secured by screws, are arranged and operate to open or close the openings G at the will of the operator; being connected by a wire, I, which is coiled around a stud, K, on each button H, and extend beyond the ends of the hive, where the wire I may be connected with similar wires on the adjacent hives so as to operate any number of buttons H when the hives are arranged in line. A moth-trap, L, is attached to the front of the case A, a short distance below the openings G. A strip, M, is secured to the front and parallel with the bottom of the case A and serves as a rest upon which the bees may alight previously to entering the hive. The moth-trap L is a box, V, extending the full length of the hive, having a hinged cover, N, and a glass front, O. The entrances *q q* to the moth-trap L, made small enough to prevent the bees from passing through them, are in the top of the box V, under the strip M, and in a direct line below the openings G. A tin trough or cup, P, placed within the box V, is filled with grease to destroy the moth after it has gained

access to the trap. A partition, Q, is placed at a distance from the top of the case A of exactly two-thirds of the whole distance from the top to the bottom. A slide, R, has openings, S, corresponding with openings, S', in the partition Q. The slide R is inserted into its place in the partition Q through a slot, *h*, in the end of the case A, and provided with a ring, *i*, by which it may be drawn partially out, thereby shutting off communication between the upper and lower chambers, made by the partition Q. The comb-chambers E and E' have openings, W, directly over the right and left hand openings S', and the brood-chamber F has a similar opening, W, over the central opening S' in the partition Q. The bottom of the brood-chamber F is recessed on its lower side and provided with a button, X, one end of which works on a pivot, the other being provided with a stud, Y, which depends therefrom, so as to be caught by a loop, Z, on the end of the wire rod *a*. The brood-chamber F is divided vertically into four compartments, communication being unbroken near the bottom, while for the remainder of the way up, except through the orifices *b* and *c*, communication is intercepted. The central partition *g* of the brood-chamber F protrudes through the top of the chamber F. The said top is removable. The brood-chamber may be lifted from the case A by grasping the projecting portion of the partition *g*. The comb-boxes E E' have openings *d d* upon their tops provided with buttons *e e*. The fronts of the boxes E E' and the brood-chamber F are of glass for facilitating inspection. Screws with rings are inserted in the tops of the boxes E E', by which they may be lifted from the case A.

In order to get the bees into the hive in the first instance, remove the cap C and the chambers E E' and F; drive the bees into the upper chamber; place a false cap with a hole in it upon the top of the case A, and smoke the bees down into the lower chamber. Draw the slide R so as to close communication between the upper and lower chambers, and thus imprison the bees in the lower chamber. Remove the false cap, replace the chambers E E' and F and the cap C, and push the slide R to its place. The brood-chamber F is placed in the center of the hive for the reason that the bees naturally congregate at the center to brood. When the bees are in the brood-chamber F,

by simply pushing the rod *a* inwardly the button *X* closes the opening *W* in said chamber and imprisons the bees. The chamber *F* can then be removed and placed in another hive without inconvenience. To rob the hive it is only necessary to remove the cap *C*, turn the buttons *d* so as to expose the openings *e*, and then smoke the bees down to the lower chamber, where they should be imprisoned by drawing the slide *R* so as to cut off communication between the upper and lower chambers. The boxes *E* and *E'* can then be removed and the honey taken out without permitting the escape of a single bee.

At sundown the wire *I* should be drawn so as to cause the perforated buttons *H* to close the openings *G*. The moth-miller begins to fly after sunset, and as it alights upon the hive it seeks entrance through the openings *g*. After entering it naturally flutters against the glass front *O* and is knocked into the cup *P* filled with grease, from which it cannot extricate itself. By the arrangement of the wire *I* and perforated buttons *H* a great number of

hives can, if arranged in line, be closed at sundown and opened at sunrise with very little trouble.

Having thus described and explained my improvement, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The perforated buttons *H* provided with studs *K* and connected by the wire *I*, as described, in combination with the openings *G* in the case *A*, for the purposes set forth.

2. The brood-chamber *F*, having opening *W* and removable top, and the button *X* provided with stud *Y*, in combination with case *A* having partition *Q* provided with openings *S'*, substantially as described, for the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in bee-hives, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 19th day of March, 1872.

SAMUEL V. GREER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

WM. WRIGHT,
ELBERT HAMONS.