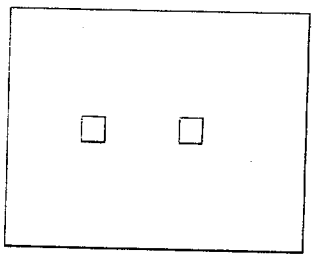
449-34 EX
M8818 OR X 6,754
EXAMINERS' ROOM

E. Britton.

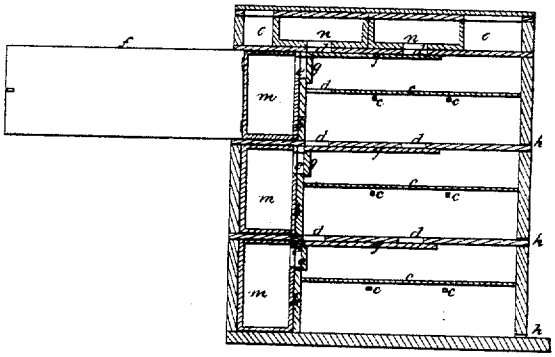
Bee Hive.

No. 6,754 Patented Sept. 9, 1831.

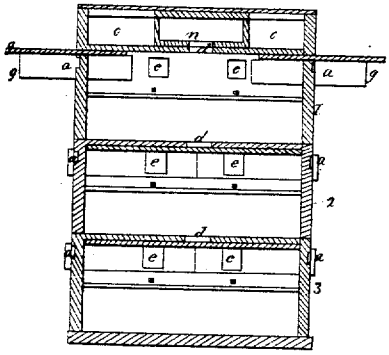
Top of 1st Box.

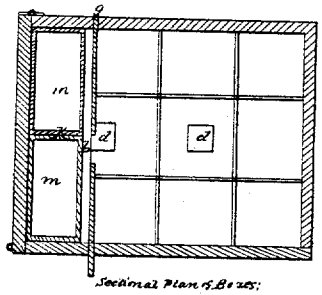


Section

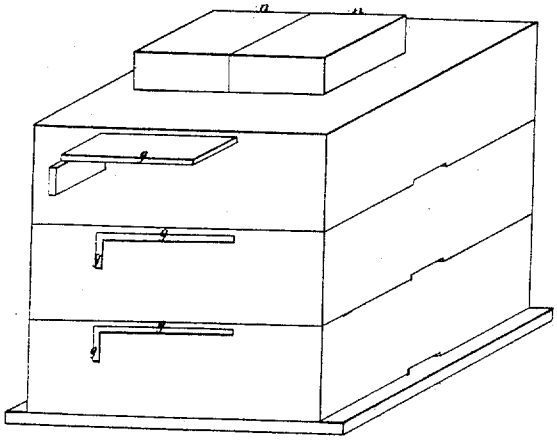


Section





Sectional Plan of Boxes.



N. PETERS, PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

9/9/1831 6754 x

Sept 9. 1831 297

Olen Britton, Littlefalls, New York

Letters Patent.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent, and making part of the same, containing a description in the words of the said Olen Britton himself, of his improvement in the Beehive and the art of managing Bees.

Be it known that I Olen Britton of the town of Littlefalls in the County of Herkimer and State of New York, have invented a new and useful improvement in the Beehive and in the art of managing Bees & that the following is a full & exact description of the construction & operation of the same as invented or improved by me, to wit.

The Hive is chiefly composed of nine boxes of equal dimensions, being each two feet one inch in length, one foot eight inches in width and eight inches in height, or in nearly that proportion. The boards of which these boxes are made may be an inch or more in thickness at the ends and sides — but the board on the top should be about a half inch in thickness and placed lengthwise of the board in order to keep the bees from creeping out at the end. On the upper edge of each box on each side near the end and just under the lower edge of the top box are two grooves cut out of the depth of half an inch and the length of three inches, forming four places to take hold of each box in order to handle or remove it. Each box is divided within by a partition board a half inch or more in thickness, so placed as to divide the box into two unequal apartments, the front or main part being about three fourths and the rear about one fifth of the whole box, within the front or main part of each box are four wooden sticks made round or square, two inches

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running respectively and two running length wise of the box and fastened on the sides and ends of the box at the middle thereof, in holes or places formed for that purpose. Through the top of each box are two apertures each about two inches square one at the centre of the front or main part of the box and the other is in the rear of the former one at the partition board, so that the back part of this aperture is in a line with the front surface of the partition board, affording a free, even and unobstructed passage for the bees upon the front surface of said board and through this aperture. at or near the top of the partition board in each box are two apertures each two inches square and placed five inches from the sides of the box - thus forming two passages for the bees through the partition board into the rear apartment. This apartment contains two small boxes together of sufficient size to fill the same. and each having an aperture cut into the front side at such places in such manner as to correspond with the apertures in the partition board; so that five passages for the bees are formed from the front or main apartment into the small rear boxes. The board or piece that closes the back end of the rear apartment is hung at one side with hinges and swings back & forth so as to open and close this apartment at pleasure. Four thin flat slides for each box of sufficient width to cover the apertures through the top of the box and the partition board - these slides pass out through the sides of the box so as to be handled and regulated at the outside - by means of which the apertures in each box can be opened closed and regulated as occasion may require. The front end of each box at the bottom thereof and across the entire width is a mouth or orifice three inches in length and one fourth of an inch or more in height - affording a free passage

9/9/1831 6754 X

passage for the bees to go in and out of the hive. The three main boxes above described are open at the bottom, and are put up in this manner; The third or lower one is placed on a board of the same dimensions as the box except that it projects about two inches in front.— The second or middle box is placed on the top of the third or lower one so that the top board of the third or lower box serves as a bottom for the second or middle one.— And the first or upper box is placed on the top of the second or middle one the top board of which serves as a bottom for the first or upper one, upon the upper box are placed two small boxes about three inches high, each having an aperture through the under side to correspond with the apertures through the top of the box, directly over which they are respectively placed, so that a direct passage for the bees is formed through the top of the first or upper main box into these small boxes; over these small upper boxes is placed a plain box or cover closed at the ends, sides & top, & open at the bottom of the length & width of the main upper box & three inches high in the clear covering the whole second and eight.— In the use and application of this hive, and the management of bees. I proceed in general as follows;— commencing with a young or small stock I locate them in the second apartment of the first or upper box with free communications to every part of the whole hive by keeping the various apertures open;— these I suffer them to remain until the following spring, when if desire to increase my stock by additional swarms I examine the second or middle main box and if I find none or but little comb formed there from I raise or take off the second or middle box and high from above (only the bees for warmth of room having upon the outside

9/9/1831 6754 X

outside of the hive until it may be necessary to open them) until they have nourished me—immediately after which I open the apertures leading to the second or middle box and above the mouth or orifice of the first or upper one;— this I suffer them to remain, until after the swarming time of the third season—at which time the first or upper box is abandoned by the bees being left as their storehouse and filled with honey and I then or soon after take and remove it, without in any manner affecting the other boxes or interfering the prosperity or prejudicing the labor of the bees.

Upon removing the first or upper box as above mentioned I place over the apertures through the top of the second or middle one the two small boxes before described and over these I place the plain box or cover above mentioned. In the following October or when the working time of the third season is over I remove the small boxes on the top take out their contents and replace them—and I then place under the two main boxes the third or lower one which leaves the hive in the same form as at the commencement of the first season. I let the small boxes and their contents in the rear of the main ones remain with the bees during the winter and until the bees are enabled to support themselves by their labors, when I remove them take out their contents, & return them to their places, pursuing this course, the first or main box may in each succeeding year as in the third season above mentioned be removed and its contents taken out. If I commence with an odd number I place the box or hive containing it in the rear of the first or upper box & upon the top of the second or middle one, and treat them in the manner before described.

Above I have contemplated only Hives of the former size, consisting of three main & two small boxes and

and placed together as before mentioned and this is the best and most successful mode of treatment; but these main boxes may be used single or double and in this way are an improvement and in whatever way I place together the main boxes whether single or double I use also the small rear and upper boxes and place over these latter the flat box or cover before described.

I claim as new and as my own invention or improvement and for the use of which I ask an exclusive privilege the entire art of managing bees as herein above described — together with the bee hive and its component parts as above enumerated excepting only the small boxes placed on the top of the first or upper main box; — the four cross sticks in the main part of each box and the mouth or orifice in the front of the same.

Witnesses
A. L. Benton
E. P. Hubbell

Ebenezer Britton

[illegible]