

them now as a protection from the weather, it answers the purpose very well but is by no means so picturesque as a hackle.

I took Mr. Jones into an old "grandmother-bee-garden" near my "hive" when he was my guest. He made a hasty sketch of it for the benefit of Canadian bee-keepers, perhaps he will give it you here. It will not only give you a better idea of an old English rural scene, but make you better acquainted with the chief editors' abilities as an artist.

This old lady follows in the same old paths as her grandmother did before her and probably is now using the identical hives that were used then.

The cut Fig. III. will help to make it plain.

The swarms, are as a rule, taken; the old stocks have the young queen so that the wisdom of this is apparent. Moreover the swarms are likely to have the best looking honey. In "driving" you first smoke the hive you intend to operate on sufficiently to make the bees gorge. You then invert it, placing it in a pail to keep it steady, and fasten an empty skep on with a wire skewer at the back and two hooks—one on each side—as shown in the engraving. You then proceed to jar the bottom skep by striking it with a stick or your hand, about as frequent as your foot would fall on the ground were you doing a four-miles-an-hour walk. If the bees

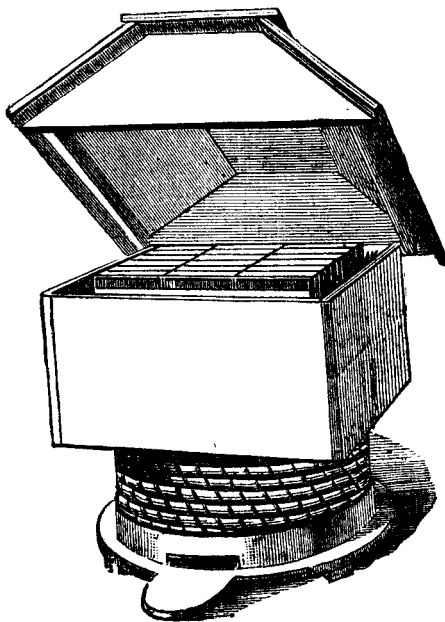


FIG. 2.

We have learned many cottagers to super these hives. Fig. 11 gives you one with a super on. I have got 30 lbs. of section honey from one hive in one season and considering the stock cost me nothing in food for five years, an average yield of 20 lbs. per annum is no very bad return for my trouble.

We have also taught the cottagers to "drive" their bees in autumn instead of burning them, and thus save the bees and unite them to the old stocks, making the latter stronger. Mr. McKnight confessed at our second conversazione that he attended when in London last year, that he did not know what we meant by "bee-driving." I suppose there are many of you like him.

are fully gorged they soon proceed to leave their stores and run up into the empty skep above. When most of the bees are out, you remove the top skep and set it on the ground with one edge resting on a stone. You next proceed to break out a comb, brush the few straggling bees off on to the ground so that they run in and join their fellows, lay the comb on a dish, cover with a cloth, and proceed to treat all the combs in this fashion, thus emptying the skep which is then cleared out and stowed away for future use. If you are about to unite the bees to another lot you must capture the queen as she ascends and if you do not wish to keep her, destroy her of course.