

THE WINTERING BOX AND STAND.

The wintering box consists of the floor, two ends, two sides and the roof, all finished with cross cleats, so that each is a separate piece which can be taken down and piled flat with the others when not in use. Seven-eighth inch matched lumber is used throughout. The sides and ends are placed outside the floor to turn the rain, and are supported by the corner cleats which rest endwise on the corners of the floor. The inside dimensions of the box are $24\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, 40 inches wide and $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. It has a flat roof projecting 4 inches on all sides and covered with prepared roofing. This box is placed on a stand about 8 or 10 inches high, made of four boards $\frac{7}{8}$ inch by 8 or 10 inches, nailed into a rectangle. The ends are cut 40 inches and the sides $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

They are nailed up with the shorter pieces nailed on the ends of the longer ones, and the outside dimensions of the resulting stand are 40 inches by $47\frac{1}{4}$

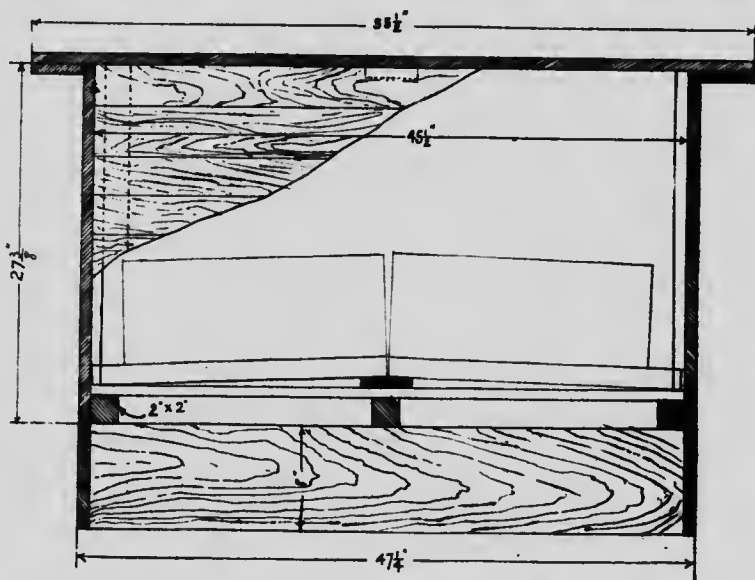


FIG 1.—Side elevation of 4-hive Wintering Box, with side cut away to show construction.

inches. To make the floor of the wintering box, first lay down three pieces, each 2 inches square by 40 inches long; then nail on these $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch matched lumber, cut $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, making the floor 40 inches by $45\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It will be seen that when this floor is laid on the stand it comes just even with it at the sides, but is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch short of it at each end. In other words, the outside length of the stand and of the wintering box are the same, making a smooth surface from the ground up, where the bees have their flight holes, but the stand is made narrower as a convenient way of supporting the cross cleats of the floor.

After the stand, with the floor in place, is levelled up with a spirit level, using scraps of thin lumber under the corners, a board $\frac{7}{8}$ inch by 4 inches by 36 inches is laid flat across the middle of the floor to support the backs of the four hives, giving them a tilt forward toward the ends of the box. The four hives are placed close together with the four corners meeting at the exact centre of the floor. The