

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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## The Sectional Hive

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THE sectional hive is not the particular invention of any one man, but is a growth, or, as the scientists say, an evolution from the hives in use, particularly the standard hive of to-day the Langstroth Shallow or "eke" hives are nothing new, as they date back to the 18th century at least. In the evolution of the hive the eke followed the box type. Some beekeepers having noticed that bees place their honey at the highest part of the hive added an upper story. Later the hives were divided into several horizontal sections called "ekes." The eke, of course had not movable top-bars, and the first ekes were made of straw, but in 1821 Radouan, a beekeeper, introduced ekes of wooden structure. In 1845, Chas Soria, invented a straw eke, in which he used triangular bars at the top and bottom of each story, placed a bee-space apart so that the sections could be removed, exchanged, or reversed without crushing the bees or damaging the cells. Just as the eke has developed from the box-hive so has the sectional hive of today developed from the Langstroth.

While it is very important to have good well-made hives for the bees, their importance must not be overestimated. A good swarm of bees will store as much honey in a nail keg as in the most elaborate hive made, other things being equal. Beekeeping consists in understanding bee nature, and the hives are only our tools.

The question of the selection of a hive must be left with the individual himself. He or she must study the conditions prevailing in the locality, and adopt a hive suitable to their requisites. For the average man, or the farmer beekeeper, the standard Langstroth is probably the best; but if one has had considerable experience with bees and wishes to manage a series of outyards for the production of either comb or extracted honey, with a minimum of labor, he would possibly do well to look into the merits of the sectional or divisible brood-chamber hive.

There are many types of sectional or divisible brood chamber hives. These hives are shallower than the Langstroth, but the frames are generally close-ended and standing. In the sectional hive introduced by James Heddon in 1885, each section consists of eight closed-end, close-fitting frames  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches deep by  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches long supported at the bottom by strips of tin on the ends of each section. The whole set of eight are squeezed firmly together by means of thumb-screws. The bottom-board will be seen to have a raised rim on two sides and an end to allow for a bee-space under the brood-chamber.

In another type known as the Danzenbaker hive, the frames are  $7\frac{1}{2}$  by 17 inches; the hive holds ten frames, and they are crowded together by a follower. On the inside of the ends of the hive a cleat is nailed, and on