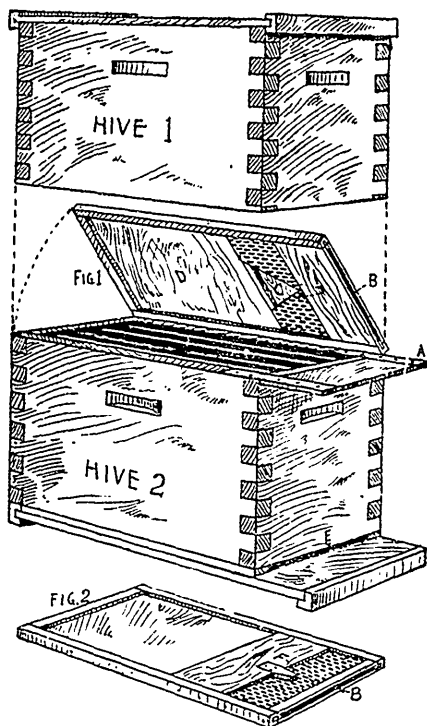


Self-Hivers.

EVER since the convention of the North American bee-keepers at Washington, and the explanations of E. R. Root, and his illustration by sample of a self-hiver. I have felt that the day would undoubtedly come when this appliance would be largely used. Having carefully read almost everything that has been said upon the subject in our leading bee-journals. I now believe that the self-hiver has many strong friends, and some who look upon its success in the future with doubt. The accompanying self-hiver I think, is something better than has yet



been got out. 1. The ventilation of the hive by means of it is more easily secured; 2. The bees have a less distance to travel; 3. Although I do not think that after the first few times bees are much inconvenienced by passing through perforated metal, yet it is no advantage to them; and by this design they require to pass only once through the metal. The queen, passing the two metals by means of the channel, finds herself at neither one side or the other. This portion of the design is the idea of Wm. Bayless. His proposition was to do this

by means of a bee-escape. I proposed a simpler device, and the leading of the queen to the outlet, which his did not possess.

Next, I like an alighting board, and the accompanying one is a simple device. It can in a moment be attached to any hive. The tin clips are shoved between the self-hiver and the wall of the hive. The slight bevel to the front board gives the alighting board a slight pitch.

The objection raised as to the necessity of lifting hives to see whether bees have swarmed can be overcome readily, and I have arranged the following device: The new hive has at the front of it and about half way down, an auger-hole which is covered with a large button. In passing from hive to hive to examine for swarms, all that is necessary is to open and close the buttons. If the bees are down, examine for swarms; if not, pass on and save your back. I have as yet had no swarms, as increase is kept down and supers are on most of the hives; but several self-hivers are in place, and some have already reported success in hiving bees with the Pratt self-hiver. The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union are testing the self-hiver. I thought it best to try this first, as it had to a certain extent already been tested. The idea was to test the principle of self-hiving—not special designs. Self hivers must mean a great deal for the agricultural classes; hence the selection of the experiment. The Langdon device may be good. It has some things entirely original, but the device of throwing the bees into a new hive to overcome the impulse for swarming is, I believe, that of C. W. Post, Murray, Ont. His plan was published some years ago. He placed two sticks, crossing one another at right angles, and where they crossed they were placed upon a post and joined to it by a bolt, allowing the top part to swing around. Upon each arm was placed a hive with bees; and during the season each hive was given a quarter turn, thus each day giving the flying bees a new home. Mr. Post, who has had a wide experience, having about four hundred colonies, claimed then, and has claimed ever since that this system prevents swarming.

In closing, permit me to say I have for years felt that swarming can be easily prevented. Mr. Post runs out apiaries, and watches for swarms only when other work is to be done; and as several go from yard to yard, and together finish up the work, this is only a small proportion of the time. He does not claim, in the ordinary way, that no swarms issue, but the percentage is small it is not worth while watching the