

GENERAL.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Contraction—Divisible Brood Chambers

REFERRING to the article of Dr. G. L. Tinker, on page 348 of your JOURNAL, in which article he gives a pretty clear outline of the special features of my invention secured to me by letters patent, dated Sept. 29, 1885, which patent you own in the British possessions of America, allow me to quote the following, giving citations, etc. At the time, Dr. Tinker had a patent hive called the "Victor," and in different numbers of the American Bee Journal for 1885, the following advertisement appears:

"The Victor hive is operated upon a new principle by which the sections are placed in vertical lines with the brood frames, continuous passages being affected in a practical manner. It may be arranged for any Langstroth frame, has been fairly tested and is the best hive made, for comb honey. May be used for extracted. Send for my 24 page catalogue and price list."

This was just before the issuing of my patent and the mailing of my books and circulars giving illustrations and descriptions of my new, patented, horizontally divisible, brood-chamber hive, which I had then secretly tested for three years. My book, mailed at about this time, contains, among many others, the following paragraph relative to the subject in question:

"The above cut will aid us in describing our new hive; a hive which in many features, as well as its system of management, differs from anything of which I have ever seen or heard, although I have read nearly all of the books devoted to bee culture, and have nearly every copy of all the periodicals ever published in the United States, upon the subject."

"In viewing the cut, you will notice that the brood-chamber, as well as the surplus department, is composed of two or more

HORIZONTAL SECTIONS,

or departments, each containing a full set of eight frames, each department being not only "reversible," but each part perfectly interchangeable with every other."

"After having enjoyed the immense advantages accruing from the Tiering system as applied to surplus cases, the idea came to my mind, that equal advantages could be realized from the application of the same principle, to the brood department."

"But this is for all. In practicing the 'contraction method,' and trying to overcome its imperfections, while enjoying its many advantages, I was firmly impressed that it would give us

much more perfectly and completely, the results desired, if we could make the contraction by taking away the top of the brood-chamber, rather than its sides."

"Now we use in our brood department one case, or two cases, at the same time we are using five combs, or eight combs, with the old hive, when practicing contraction. The new hive and its system of management is a great improvement over the old, for the following reasons: "

"1st. When contracting the new brood-chamber we divide it horizontally instead of vertically, taking away its top, rather than sides, giving us all the advantage of a very shallow hive, with brood close up to the top bars, and directly under all parts of the surplus case. This extremely shallow brood department settles the brace-comb problem, as with it, the bees will build scarcely any of these braces, on the tops of the upper bars of such shallow frames."

"2nd. We make the capacity of the ten L. frame hive, to five L. frames, almost instantaneously, and without exposure to robbers should there be any abroad."

"If, however, others may differ with me, preferring hives other than the standard Langstroth, if they will use two brood cases they will have just such a hive; the bee-space between the two sets of frames serving as winter passage-ways through and among the combs. It becomes obvious that the brood department of this hive can be made in one story, of any length, breadth or depth, preferred; and while losing the advantages of tiering and interchanging in the brood department, the other advantages enumerated, may be enjoyed."

"The system of interchanging, admits of using two sets of the frames in the brood department, if any should so desire, and whatever number is used, it enables the bee-master to keep his surplus cases and honey-board, always next to his brood."

"After three years of careful experimenting, I much prefer to have my brood-chamber no larger than two cases at any time of year, and no larger than one case after the colony swarms, till up to the time the queen's capacity is equal to more room, the following spring; a time when the use of such capacity will give us strong colonies of surplus storing. I have found the advantages of contracted brood-chambers to be so great, that I much prefer to use them at all times when a greater laying capacity given the queen, is of no special value."

Father Langstroth, perhaps to day the best posted bee-keeper in the world, regarding inventions in bee hives, both new and old, penned the following for the American Bee Journal of May 2, 1888.

"I am strongly impressed with the great ad-