

can be used either for brood or super. The ordinary entrance would be much too small for these hives, we therefore raise them one inch in front by means of two wooden wedges, and this allows the bees to go in and out on three sides of the hive. The illustration, taken from the eighth edition of the *British Bee Keepers' Guide Book*, shows the arrangement of these hives, and also the way they are raised from the floor-board.

To protect the bees from the heat, we have outer cases, all the same size, which must also be raised so as to allow a current of air to enter at the bottom and have free circulation between them and the hives. The cover can likewise be raised for the same purpose. One advantage of this system is that, with the exception of the first hive taken from the top, all the extracting can be done at the end of the season, and the honey left to ripen in the hives. Another is, that we need not trouble about swarms. Our hives may be of the simplest construction, all of one size, and no special supers to trouble ourselves about.

When we remove our hives full of honey we get them cleared of bees automatically, in the following way:—

When we insert the hive of empty combs between the second and third storeys, the third storey becomes the fourth, and the fourth, which we intend to remove, is raised one storey higher, making it five storeys. This is done early in the morning; and between the fourth and fifth storeys we lay a piece of American oil cloth. The bees in the fifth storey are now entirely shut off from those below them. On the top we place a board having a hole six inches square, communicating with a box the same size; and this is fitted with a trap constructed in such a way that the bees can get out, but cannot get back. Over this we put the cover, but in such a manner that daylight is not excluded from the front of the trap. As soon as the bees find themselves cut off from their companions below they rush to the trap, and by degrees the top hive is emptied of bees, which return to the hive by the entrance below. In this way there is no exposure of sweets, and, consequently, no robbing. The hive is removed in the evening without a single bee in it. At the end of the honey-season, the top storey is removed in the same way, the combs extracted in the early evening, and the next morning the hive with the empty combs is put in the place of the third storey, and this is raised to clear it of bees as described, and the honey is again extracted in the evening.

When all the hives have been treated in this

way there will remain the two body hives, which have not been interfered with, and the third storey which has been extracted. We can then either place the hives with the extracted combs on them for the bees to clean, or give two or three boxes to one hive. The two lower boxes are left until we prepare our bees for winter, when we shall be able to get all the brood into one hive, and probably find a lot of honey in the second storey, which we can either extract and feed up the bees with syrup, or give them enough sealed comb for winter stores. If properly managed our colonies will contain a large population, and if breeding has been kept up a large number of young bees, which will enable them to winter well. The empty combs are fumigated with brimstone, and put away for use in the following spring. Hives managed in this way will give the maximum of honey with the least amount of labour.

Those who do not desire to work entirely for either extracted or comb honey, but would like to have some of both, can do so on the doubling principle. In the first place, we must get all our colonies strong in the way already described on page 6, and as soon as the bees are ready for it, or the honey harvest commences, we put on a rack of sections. When these are full of bees, work begun in them, and honey coming in plentifully, we either put a hive filled with empty combs under the stock hive, or else put it on the top of this, and between it and the sections. If this is done at the right time, swarming is entirely prevented, and the work in the sections continued without any interruption. When one-pound sections are used, three tiers of them can be worked at one time, or if the two-pound sections are preferred, only two tiers should be worked. When we wish to put on a second set of sections, these are placed under the first, and the third is placed under the second. It will be found that these will give the bees ample room, but when the top sections are removed, if we find that the honey harvest is not yet over, another whole set of sections can be given. We do not mind if they are not all completed, because the unfinished ones can have the honey extracted from them, and be put away for future use.

It has been found that sections are much more rapidly and better completed if they be inverted before they are quite finished. Racks of sections are now made by several of the dealers arranged for this purpose. When it is found that the top row of sections is about three parts completed, the whole rack can be turned over, and the bees will finish off the sections to the bottom which now placed at the top.