



"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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GENERAL.

A House Apiary that resembles a Passenger Coach, and how it is successfully Managed.

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I HAVE successfully used house apiaries more than twenty-five years. The first one I made was about seven feet wide, six feet high, twenty feet long, and held forty-eight hives. The one I am now using is forty feet long, and resembles a passenger car. The hives along each side might be compared to the seats in the car; that is, the hives represent the seats, and there is an alley-way down the center. I use two rows on each side. The bottom rows sit on the floor; then half way up is a shelf on which the others rest.

The house is used only in summer, it being only one thickness of stock lumber nailed up and down. Each alternate board has a bee entrance cut in it. Up to each entrance I push a hive so snugly that no bees can get into the house to bother while at work with them.

I enter the house from the south end. At the north end there is nothing except a small opening for ventilation in the very hottest weather.

About three feet from the house I have a row of grape vines that I throw entirely over the house, making a complete shelter during the hottest weather, and it looks like one massive grape arbor with an entrance at the south.

Now on these shelves (previously mentioned) I set my hives, and I can work comfortably in there either by night or by day.

I do not know how the house would answer for raising extracted honey, as I run mostly for comb honey.

I place my sections on top of the hives, and as fast as filled, or nearly so, I raise them up and on goes another super. On some of them I have had 120 sections, and others, upon which I used large sections, gave me over 130 lbs. of fine comb honey.

My section cases are glazed, so that I can see at a glance which colony needs another case. I use no cap or covering of any kind more than a piece of card board or bee-quilt, or anything to keep the bees in the top case.

Some people have said bees will not work in the light; this is not true, for my bee house door stands open night and day during hot weather, and it is very seldom any bees will be seen trying to get through the glass, but all seem quiet and happy.

If a swarm issues and I want increase, I take the old hive and place it at a vacant entrance on the opposite side of the house, set the swarm on the old place, and secure a powerful strong colony at the old stand in a few hours, as all the field bees will be with the swarm in a short time.

In comparing the house to a car I ought to have said, "all but the glass," as I use no windows, no screens or light of any kind. When I shut the door it is dark as night. If the bees come in the door when I am at work I close the screen door and go on with my work. I have the screen door arranged for escapes while taking off honey, also one or two other escapes, simply a funnel made of screen wire; and I can take off from one to five hundred lbs.,