

The greatest injury has been done by showing the bright side of bee-keeping too much, no occupation requires more close attention, observation, prompt action, and intelligence, especially and particularly as conducted at present, these exercised combined with a practical knowledge of the occupation into which one is about to embark, or if conducted upon a very small scale until this knowledge is secured, will give such occupant the opportunity to make a living as in any other employment.

HEDDON'S NEW HIVE.

JAMES HEDDON.

MR. EDITOR,

Please allow me to state that it is by your request that I proceed to give a brief description of the principle functions and the construction upon which they depend for their existence, possessed by the hive illustrated above.

I presume many of your readers are more or less familiar with, and appreciate the immense advantages gained by practicing the brood-chamber-contracting system, which I fully described in the *American Bee Journal* for 1885, page 437, and in my book pages 81 and page 2. On these pages the directions are for contracting the regular brood-chamber with suspended L frames by removing a part of their number, filling the room they vacate, with "dummies" or "fillers," as soon as the most profitable brooding season is past, and the rapid storing of the greatest amount of surplus honey is the order of the day. We have practiced this system five or six years and would never think of abandoning it so long as we produce comb honey.

No doubt most of your readers are conversant with the many recent discussions setting forth the advantages and disadvantages realized by the inversion of brood-combs. They are aware that the main object is to exchange places or locations occupied by brood and honey. Even our shallow Langstroth frames usually contain considerable honey in the upper half of their combs during most of the breeding season. Reversing these combs, throwing the brood at the top, and honey at

the bottom, if done at the right time of the year, causes the honey to be carried into the surplus receptacles and stimulates the queen to replace it with brood, thus giving us the greatest number of workers for the size of the brood-chamber, which renders the hive and colony in the best possible condition for profit. If we have a small or medium size brood-chamber, clear of honey and crowded full of brood, with shallow combs, and brood storing surface, with well bred bees, proper communication to the surplus receptacles, and nectar in the flowers, have we not got every condition most favorable to success, as far as the bees are concerned? Now the *apiarist* wants something: He wants a hive as nearly automatic in its action as possible; as perfection is not possible, he needs that construction which will enable him to keep every thing about the colony in the best possible shape for securing the largest amount of surplus honey in the nicest form, and with the least amount of time and labor and exposure to robber bees. In other words, he desires to accomplish all useful manipulation as sanctioned by modern Apiculture, with nearly as little labor in the Apiary and exposure to robber bees, as was required with the old box hive system. This is what we aim to accomplish in the invention of the above hive, and three years' experience with it demonstrates our success beyond our expectation. The reader will notice by the illustration, the novel and peculiar feature of a horizontally divisible brood-chamber, each half being perfectly interchangeable with the other. It has not a double brood-chamber, but one brood-chamber in two parts. These parts are not only interchangeable, but reversible at will. After we have reversed them once, which causes the bees to solidly and completely fill the frames with comb, we do not care to invert them again, because we find that before contraction, when the brood-chamber is all together, the alternating of its halves, accomplishes all, and better than inverting will do. After contraction, when one case or half of the brood-chamber is removed, the brooding apartment is then so shallow and small (3 in. comb depth and of the same capacity of 5 L. frames) that inverting is in no wise needed, nor could it accomplish any desirable results. During two years while reversible frames and hives were being