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Pointers About Hives and Their Construction.

1. Among the implements used by a financially successful bee-keeper the hive is pre-eminently of first importance, and should be intensely practical, and the other implements used adapted to it.

2. All double-walled hives packed with sawdust, etc., are mistakes; nearly all the necessary manipulations of an apiary are performed with them at an enormous expense of time and labor. If bees are to be wintered outdoors in single-walled hives, protect them by using an outer case and packing, which can be colored to absorb heat and removed during the summer.

3. All single story hives are mistakes.

4. All hives ordinarily known as "deep frame" hives, are among the worst of mistakes.

5. Slides, glass, movable sides, scroll work, etc., about a hive, are a nuisance.

6. The combs of a hive should never run crossways of the entrance

7. The construction of a hive should be such, that its combs can be inverted either singly or in sets.

8. A hive, the combs of which cannot be readily removed and replaced when containing bees, is abominable.

9. A hive should be so constructed that all necessary manipulations can be performed with it without exposing its combs to robbers.

10. A hive should be so made that in handling, its frames will never get out of position, whether it has bees in or not.

11. A hive should not have a brood chamber larger than the queen can occupy with brood. For this purpose it should contain comb surface about equal to eight or ten Langstroth frames, the combs being 13 inches from centre to centre, and adjusted in such a way as to occupy the least amount of cubic space practical.

12. A brood chamber should never be more than eight combs wide.

13. When the brood chamber of a hive is contracted, its top surface should not be lessened thereby.

14. A brood chamber should expand downward rather than sideways; it is much less liable to chill brood in the spring; it keeps its top surface always the same; it is the natural direction for the queen to extend the brood and it is the more convenient to manipulate for these and other purposes.