

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

"PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPING."**HIVES.**

THE subject of hives is the most tangled and touchy one in the whole realm of apiculture; and that there should be such a variety of them and such a vast number of "best" hives everywhere to be found is not to be wondered at when we consider the amount of mechanical skill and self-conceit which humanity possesses.

No young bee-keeper can go far in the business without trying his hand and head at something new in hives or fixtures, and no old one's achievements are quite complete till he has exercised his organ of "Constructiveness" for the benefit of the apicultural world.

Mr. Jones has put in a good deal of useful work in this line (including other appliances), and his last production, the "Combination Hive" with fixtures, is, I think, his best—best because of shallower frame and simpler construction. I agree that the queen will do better work—so far as that matter goes—in a brood-nest of circular form than in one longitudinal. I like deep-frame hives for wintering, for non-swarming, and for extracted honey; but for the production of comb honey they fail. But I am in favor of a variety of hives in the yard, and hate to cast out old servants. There is, after all, more in the man and other conditions than in the hive. Given the bees and forage, and I could take any one of a dozen different hives and get plenty of honey of both kinds. In deep frames I still use the Thomas improved, the Gallup and the Jones, single and double walled. There is one important feature about the Jones deep frame which places it ahead of others, and that is the projections of the bottom bar, thus rendering handling easy without crushing the bees. After handling a 12 x 12 and other deep frames without this valuable feature, for many years, I agree with "Langstroth Revised" that the liability to crush the bees is one of the greatest objections to them. Their comparative failure in comb honey may be overcome by the shallow frames alongside. Were I bound down to one style of hive I should not, of course, have a deep frame of any kind. After trying all, or nearly all, the leading hives—deep and shallow, from the old Thomas to the new Heddon—the one which, on the whole, I prefer is one I make for myself which takes the Langstroth frame, holding eight or seven as desired—eight close together in the spring or fore part of the season for brooding up to the honey harvest and to check drone brood, and seven after that, spread a little, for winter. This hive is 18½ x 11 x 9½

inches deep inside, with second storey for extracted honey, same size, and with supers holding seven wide section frames (28 sections); "fast bottom," zinc honey board over brood chamber, and zinc adjustable entrance, in size from one bee-space to one by seven inches. This is the hive I prefer at present for all purposes, with the Jones Combination, slightly altered, coming next. The latter I have not had a chance to use much yet, and it may possibly come in ahead after a thorough test. The "alterations" referred to are, a larger entrance, cleats and round top of hive for convenience in handling, and an inch and a quarter or half ventilating hole in the back of the hive three inches from bottom, covered inside by wire gauze and outside by a button. The latter addition (and I never make a hive without it) I consider an important point in hive making, and I have often wondered that it is so generally neglected. For cellar wintering in "fast bottoms" this second avenue for ventilation, in addition to the entrance, is, I think, indispensable. Nor are the entrances to the Jones hives (any of them) large enough to suit me for wintering, even in conjunction with the extra avenue recommended.

I want them one-half larger and make them so. Notwithstanding the advantage of the "loose bottom" in wintering, I prefer the "fast bottom" hives; but, in their construction, winter ventilation ought always to be kept in view. With large entrance and ventilation behind as described above, the benefits of raising the loose-bottom hive an inch or two from the bottom board in winter quarters may be secured with fast-bottoms. The frames of the latter may also be raised for the winter when expedient a half-inch or more by placing a strip of wood the desired thickness on the bearings under the ends of frames, which can be removed in the spring, letting the frames down to their normal position.

In painting hives Mr. Jones recommends dark colors. I think light colors better and white best, as being better non-conductors. A white hive will be cooler in very hot weather and warmer in very cold weather than one of any dark color.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., March 29, 1889.

HONEY WANTED.

We will pay 12 cents per pound for good extracted honey, delivered in Beeton, in exchange for supplies at catalogue prices, and we will take all that offers, allowing 30 cents each for the tins when they are the "Jones sixty-pound."