

## MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

Having tried, during a period of 27 years, all the different systems of bee-keeping possessing any merit, and having found in each defective prejudicial to the welfare of the bees, I have directed my attention towards establishing, if possible, a sound and advantageous system. All wooden hives or boxes are objectionable. They are too hot in summer, and are too cold in winter; besides they retain moisture, which is injurious to the comb and health of the bees. I consider ventilation to be not only unnecessary but injurious; for the higher the temperature inside the hive is, the greater is the draught. Bees are very uncomfortable and irascible in windy weather, or if blown upon. At all times they may be seen anxiously stopping up every hole which they can find, particularly those, if any, in the upper part of the hives. This, therefore, speaks against ventilation. The natural heat of the hive is conducive to the health and activity of the bees, no instance to the contrary being known. It is only when the warmth of the external air somewhat assimilates to that of the hive, that they come out cheerfully. I have known a very high degree of summer heat drive bees apparently from their hives, and upon examination the honey and wax was more or less liquefied on account of the hive being exposed to the direct rays of the sun. This is a very serious evil, but one which is remedied by colonies of my construction. The following objects carried out are essential to the profitable keeping of bees; viz., large well made straw hives to contain strong stocks, having no other opening than that at the bottom, and having no metal in any part of them, that being a conductor of heat. The best possible protection against mice and every kind of insect. Easy access by the bees to the glasses, &c., for working in, and facility for removing the latter: the whole to be impervious to the weather, heat, cold, and wet. For effecting these ends, I would recommend a straw case, worked with split cane, 3 feet 9 inches in length, 61 inches in height, and 14 in width, inside measurement. At 3 inches from the bottom, a floor of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deal should be fixed on supports at each end, and two bridge-shaped pieces should be placed at 14 inches from the ends. This case should stand on a wooden bottom 2 ins. in thickness, 18 ins. in width, and 50 in length, a little cement or mortar being put all round. For the purpose of preserving the case, I sew canvass on the outside, and size and paint it green, every spring giving it a fresh coat. A circular hole should be made in the middle of the floor 10 inches in diameter; on this should be placed early in April a large last year's swarm in a new bell-shaped hive. Two or three convenient holes, 3 inches in diameter, must be also made in the floor on each side of the stock-hive, and fitted with thick bungs. A door-way should be cut in the bottom at twelve inches from each end, 2 inches in width, and 3-8ths of an inch in depth; and a small appropriate piece of something should be nailed under each doorway for resting boards

on. The doorways should be nearly closed in August with slips of wood, and opened again in April. The stand should have four legs, and each leg should rest in an iron or flower-dish containing water, with a little oil on the top of the water; over the top I tie canvass to keep out moths, spiders, &c.; a neat span-shaped painted wooden roof should cover the whole well over. In the first summer the bees will probably only fill the space under the floor, but if they appear, by collecting about the entrances, to want room, a small glass may be placed over one of the holes, first removing a bung by turning it round. Early in April is the proper time to commence putting on glasses, and when they are quite filled with honey fresh glasses should be put on, and in a day or two the full ones may be removed by drawing a fine wire under them, and replacing the bungs. These hives will last for many years, and will yield in good summers one cwt. of honey, with but little trouble. Every three or four years the inside stocks should be examined by fumigating with fungus, and any old comb used for breeding should be removed. When additional stocks are required the glasses should not be put on until the bees have swarmed; at night the young swarm may be put into a straw case. I do not find that the queen quits this hive to breed in the glasses, nor do I ever find bee-bread in them. Early in November I close the doorways with mortar, leaving a quill, as a passage for air; and it is advisable, at the same time, to hang a piece of sacking in front until early in February, in order to prevent any warmth from the sun from affecting the stock. By bee-keepers pursuing this system, they will establish really valuable colonies. The cask-hives made by Mr. Sholl, are defective, and must cause disappointment at the royal Apiary at Windsor, where some have been placed. The awkward metal entrance, when the bees can alight upon it, will in summer burn them, and in winter cramp them; and the bottomless cases, when filled, cannot be removed on account of their being fixed down with comb.—G. E. Smartt, Enfield.—Gar. Chron.

**Slander.**—No decent man can get along without it; at least, one who is actively engaged in the struggle of business life. Discharge a bad fellow who has been in your employment, and he goes round and slanders you. Let your conduct be such as to create the envy of another, and he vilifies your name. In fine, we would not give a cent for a man that is not slandered—it shows that he is either a milksop or a ninny. No, no—earn a bad name from a bad fellow, (and you can easily do so by correct conduct,) and it is the only way to prove that you are entitled to a good one.