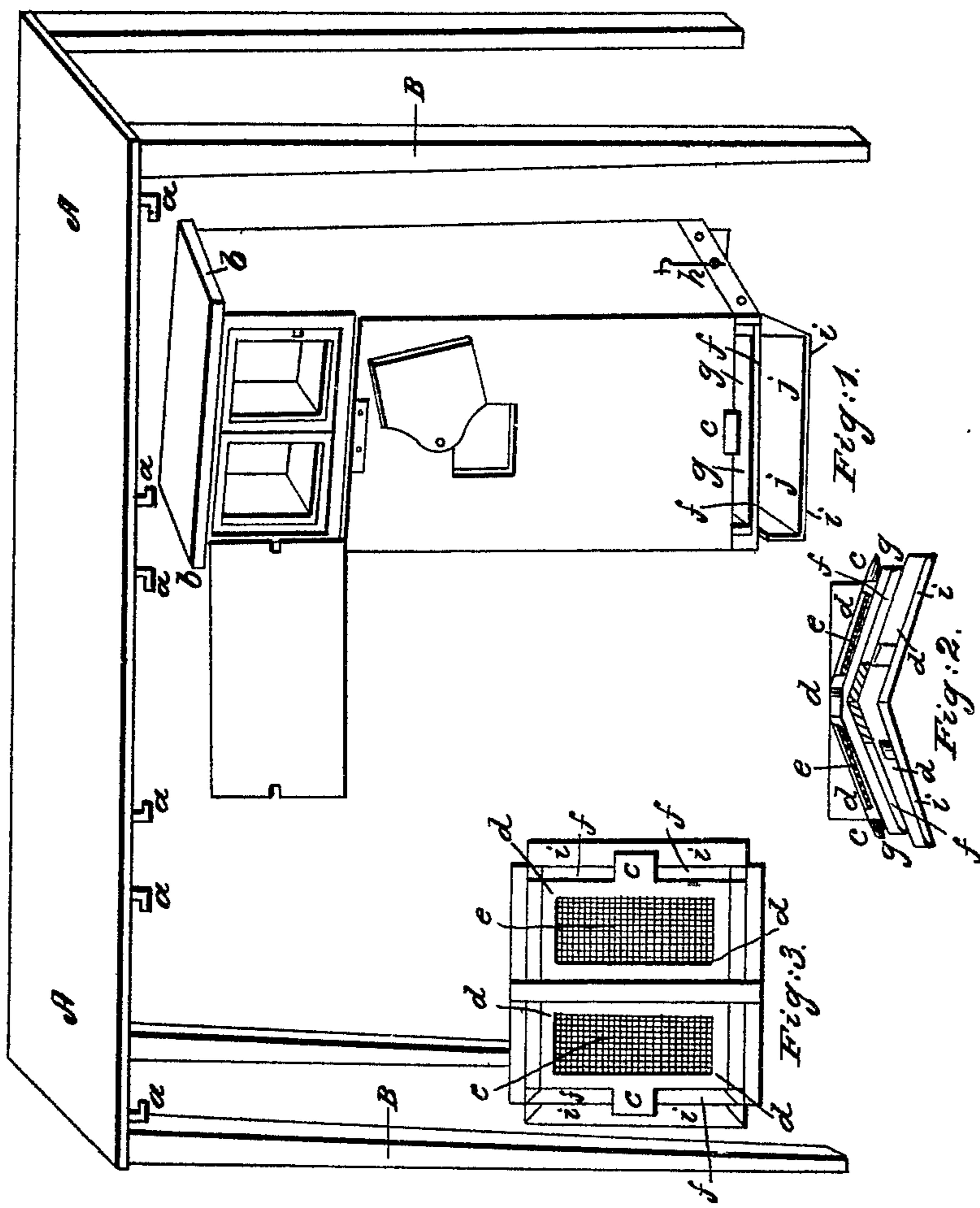


H. A. PITTS.

Bee Hive.

No. 2,268.

Patented Sept. 25, 1841.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HIRAM A. PITTS, OF WINTHROP, MAINE.

CONSTRUCTION OF BEEHIVES.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 2,268, dated September 25, 1841.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HIRAM A. PITTS, of Winthrop, in the county of Kennebeck and State of Maine, have invented an improve-
5 ment in the manner of constructing and sus-
pending beehives so as to secure them
against the depredations of insects, which
improved hive I denominate the "suspen-
sion and protection beehive"; and I do hereby
10 declare that the following is a full and exact
description thereof.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1,
represents one of my hives, which, in its
general construction, is similar to some of
15 these heretofore made, but instead of placing
my hives upon shelves, or of allowing them
to stand upon legs, or other supports be-
neath them, I suspend them, either singly
or in rows, by their upper sides, to a table
20 top, platform, or any other convenient fix-
ture above them. A, A, may represent such
a table furnished with sliding pieces, or
cleats, as at *a a*, which may receive the pro-
jecting ends *b, b*, of the top of the hive, in
25 the manner of a sliding drawer. Or the hive
may be suspended by means of hooks and
staples, so as to produce a like effect. The
legs, or supports, B, B, of the table A, A,
may be placed in, or surrounded by, cups
30 of tin, or other material, holding oil, or other
fluid, to prevent the ascent of ants, or of
other insects, so as effectually to protect the
hives from all those that are not provided
with wings.

35 A principal object of my improvement is
to defend the bees from the depredations of
that destructive insect, the bee moth; and
this I effect by the peculiar manner in which
I construct the bottoms of my hives, which
40 bottom I denominate the protector.

In Fig. 1, *c*, is the opening for the entrance
of the bees, which opening may be an inch
in length, and of such height as will suffice
to enable them to pass in and out; there
45 may be a similar opening on the opposite
side of the hive. The floor, or bottom, of the
hive is ridge shaped, consisting of two in-
clined planes, as shown in the cross section
Fig. 2, which is taken in a vertical plane
50 through the middle of the hive, from
front to back. Fig. 3, is a top view of said
floor, the upper section of which consists of
two frames *d, d*, having panels of wire-gauze
e, e, within them. Below this there is a sec-

ond floor *f, f*, Fig. 2, of thin plank, with a 55
space *g, g*, between the two. The space *g, g*,
is open along the whole width of the hive,
say twelve inches, more or less, on its front
and back sides, as shown also at *g, g*, Fig.
1; and into this space the moth will gener- 60
ally enter, as it affords them a free, unob-
structed, and inviting passage. The odor
of the bees passes freely through the meshes
of the wire gauze and creates an atmosphere
in the space *g, g*, similar to that of the hive 65
itself; and in addition to this, I place a por-
tion of comb in the middle of the space *g*,
where I make an excavation, as at *g'*, to con-
tain it; the moth thus decoyed deposits its
eggs in this compartment, which may be 70
readily cleaned out; and the worm be thus
kept out of the hive. This bottom, or pro-
tector, is hooked on to the body of the hive
as at *h*, and can be removed and replaced
with facility. For greater security, I 75
usually add a third floor, as shown at *i, i*,
leaving a space between it and the floor *f, f*,
which is similar to, and communicates at
the middle with, the space *g, g*, which will
thus operate so as to produce a double pro 80
tection. By suspending the hives in the
manner described they are not only defend-
ed, to a considerable extent, from the annoy-
ance of insects, but the protector, or bottom,
is left free to be removed and replaced with 85
out disturbing the hive.

Having thus fully described the nature
of my invention, and shown how the same is
carried into operation, what I claim therein
as new, and desire to secure by Letters Pat 90
ent, is

The manner herein set forth of construct-
ing the bottom, or protector; the upper floor,
upon which the bees are to enter, consisting 95
of frames with wire gauze stretched across
them, and there being below this, a sec-
ond, and if desired, a third, floor having
spaces between them for the entrance of the
bee moth, so prepared and furnished, in the
manner described, as to induce the moth to 100
deposit its eggs therein, and so arranged,
and connected with the hive as to be readily
removed and replaced, substantially as here
in made known.

HIRAM A. PITTS,

Witnesses:

THOS. P. JONES,
R. P. BUTRICK.