

United States Patent Office.

ORSON COLVIN, OF BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 61,164, dated January 15, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN BEE-HIVES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, ORSON COLVIN, of Belvidere, Boone county, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and improved Bee-Hive; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of my invention, taken in the line *x x*, fig. 2.

Figure 2, a vertical section of the same, taken in the line *y y*, fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention relates to a new and improved bee-hive, and it consists in a peculiar construction of the same, as hereinafter fully shown and described, whereby the bees will be protected from dampness and from severe cold in winter, and better provision made than usual for the removal of surplus honey from the hive.

A represents a quadrangular box, which is the outer case of the hive, and may be constructed of any suitable dimensions. B represents an inner case, which is the hive proper, or the part in which the bees build their brood-combs. This case has inclined sides, *a a*, but upright end-pieces, *b*, a narrow flat top-piece, *c*, being at the top of the case, which is perforated with holes, *a'*, and has a slide, *d*, fitted over it. The box A has a horizontal partition-plate, *e*, within it, just above the top of case B, to form a compartment to receive a spare honey-box, C, the bottom of which is perforated with holes, *f*, corresponding with the holes *a'* in the top piece *c* of case B, and with holes, *g*, in the partition-plate *e*. At each inclined side, *a*, of the case B, there is a spare honey-box, D, said boxes resting upon supports, *h*, at the sides of the case, and having slots or openings, *i*, made in their inner sides, which are in line with similar openings, *i'*, made in the inclined sides *a a* of the box, as shown clearly in fig. 2. A space is allowed all around the box C and case B, and in the lower part of the front side of the box A there is made an opening, *j*, which may be covered, when desired, by a button, *k*, having an opening in it, covered with wire gauze, to admit the air and keep out insects and snow. In the upper part of the front side of the box A there is an opening, *l*, which is in line with an opening, *m*, in the front side of the spare honey-box C, and this opening may also be protected by a button, *n*, having an opening covered with wire gauze. By this arrangement the case B will be perfectly protected from dampness and frost, a circulation of air being allowed up through the case (as indicated by the arrows) when the slide *d* is removed, and during the winter season the air-space between the box A and case B keeps the interior of the latter warm. In case the bee entrance *o* at the bottom of the hive should become clogged up with snow and ice in winter, air will be admitted through the opening *j*, which is sufficiently high that it will not become closed or stopped up by that means. During the fall the contents of the spare honey-box C are removed, only that in the side boxes D D being left, so that the bees, in case their stock of honey in the case B should not be sufficient, may supply themselves from the side boxes, the honey left in the boxes D D being removed in the spring or at the commencement of the working season.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The inner case B, provided with inclined sides *a a*, and a perforated top piece *c*, in combination with an outer box, A, to receive B, with an air-space allowed between, and the ventilating openings *j m* in the box A, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

The spare box C, with perforated bottom, registering with the perforated partition-plate *e* and with the perforated top piece C, in combination with the case B, with perforated sides, registering with the perforated spare boxes D, whereby air will be admitted into all parts of the hive in the manner described, for the purpose specified.

Witnesses:

J. N. BLANCHARD,
HARMON COLVIN.

ORSON COLVIN.