

United States Patent Office.

J. H. THURSTON, OF RAINSBOROUGH, OHIO.

Letters Patent No. 84,232, dated November 17, 1868.

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, J. H. THURSTON, of Rainsborough, in the county of Highland, and State of Ohio, 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 those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in bee-hives, and it consists in the construction of levers and slides, pivoted to the side of the vertical partition which divides the hive into two compartments, whereby communication is regulated between the honey-boxes and the main compartment of the hive.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of my invention, taken in the line *y y*, fig. 3.

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

Figure 3, an elevation of the rear of the same, with the door open, and part of one of the spare-honey boxes broken away.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The body or main portion, *A*, of the hive may be of quadrilateral form, and provided with a double-pitch roof or top, *B*.

The interior of the hive is divided into two compartments, *a b*, by suitable partitions, *c c*, the compartment *a* being the main or breeding one, and *b*, the compartment in which the spare-honey boxes *O O* are placed, the compartment *b* communicating with the space under the inclined top of the hive, above the horizontal partition *c'* of compartment *a*. (See fig. 1.)

In the partition *c'* there is an opening, *d*, covered with wire cloth; and similar openings, *e*, also covered with wire cloth, are made in the sides of the hive, near its top, above the compartment *a*. (See figs. 1 and 2.)

The bottom, *f*, of the compartment *a* is inclined, as shown more particularly in fig. 1, and the lower part, *g*, of the front side of the hive is inclined inward, and extends to within a short distance of *f*, leaving a space, *h*, which extends the whole width of the hive.

To the under side of *g* there is attached, by a screw,

i, a board, *j*, having a notch, *k*, made in the centre of its lower edge, to serve as a bee-entrance, when a small one is only required, as in winter, for instance.

In summer, the board *j* may be removed, and the whole space *h* made to serve as a bee-entrance.

In hiving, also, *j* is removed.

By this arrangement a large surface of the lower part of the bottom, *f*, is made to serve as an alighting-board, and the bees, owing to the inclination of this alighting-board, are enabled to eject the moth with the greatest facility, and also prevent the entrance of the miller, which deposits the eggs.

The spare-honey boxes *O O* are each provided with an opening, *l*, in their sides, which abut against the partition *c* of the compartment *a*, and similar openings, *m*, are made in *c*, in line with the openings *l*.

The openings *m* are each provided with an adjustable cover, or a slide, *n*, having levers, *o*, attached, which project through the sides of the hive.

The lever *o* is pivoted at *a'* to the side of the partition *C*, and works, together with the slide *n*, in recesses cut in the side of said partition.

The slide is attached to the inner end of the lever, and as the latter is moved up and down from the outside of the hive, it moves the slide correspondingly, to open and close the openings.

By means of these covers or slides the capacity of the holes *l m* may be varied, as desired, and, when necessary, all communication between the boxes *O O* and the compartment *a* cut off.

By constructing the hive in this manner perfect ventilation is obtained, and consequently a dry hive, and the bees kept in a healthy condition.

I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The slide *n* and lever *o*, pivoted in recesses cut in the partition *c*, between the same and the spare-honey boxes *O O*, said lever extending to the outside of the hive, whereby the capacity of the opening *l m* is regulated, or communication closed between the boxes *O* and chamber *a*, as herein shown and described, for the purpose specified.

J. H. THURSTON.

Witnesses:

MARTIN RAKEY,
JAMES W. GEORGE.