

A. WILKINSON.  
BEEHIVE.

No. 111,289.

Patented Jan. 24, 1871.

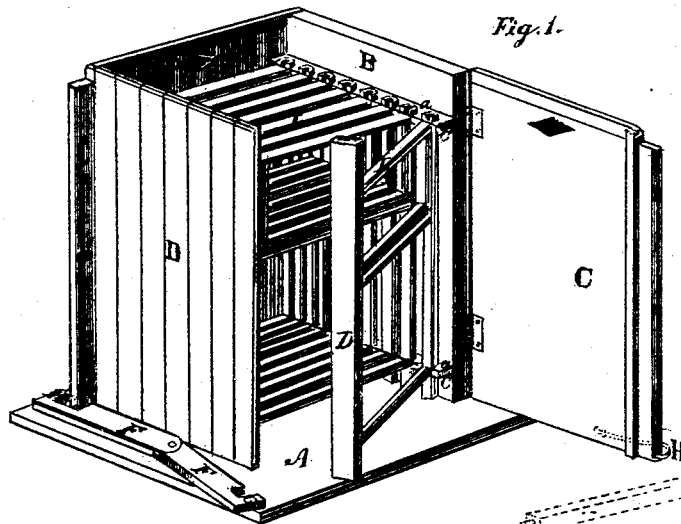


Fig. 1.

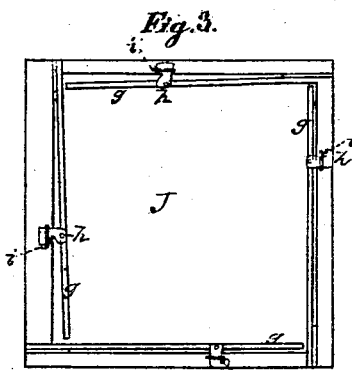


Fig. 3.

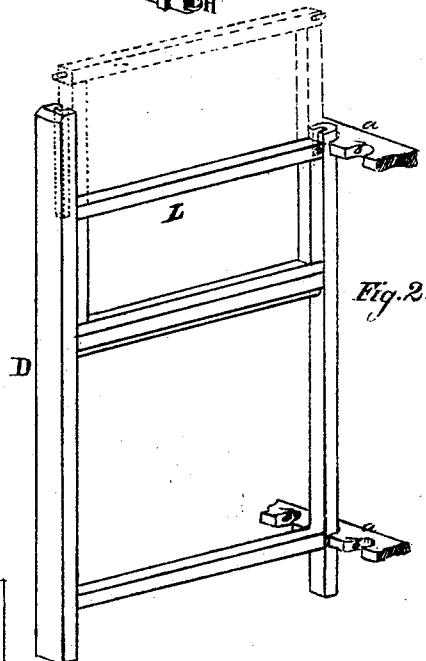


Fig. 2.

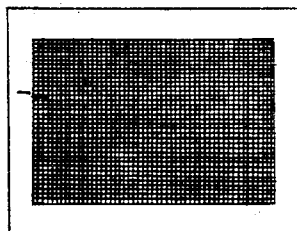


Fig. 4.

Witnesses:  
Phil. F. Dodge  
C. L. Wilson

Inventor:  
A. Wilkinson,  
by Dodge & Munn.

# United States Patent Office.

ASBURY WILKINSON, OF GREENSBURG, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND  
WILLIAM T. GIBSON, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

Letters Patent No. 111,289, dated January 24, 1871.

## 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, ASBURY WILKINSON, of Greensburg, in the county of Decatur and State of Indiana, have invented certain Improvements in Bee-Hives, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing.

My invention relates to that class of hives which is provided with removable comb-frames, and consists in certain improvements therein, as follows:

First, in supporting and holding the comb-frames in position by means of two horizontal notched bars secured to the inside of the body, so as to engage with one side of the frames at top and bottom;

Second, in so constructing the comb-frames that their outer sides or edges fit closely together and form one side of the hive or body, whereby I am enabled to dispense with the usual door or wall on such side, and also in making the frames in two parts, the upper part being held by and removable from the lower part;

Third, in two pivoted catches, for holding the two opposite hinged sides of the body shut, in combination with springs interposed between the catches and the sides, whereby the sides are held firmly shut, but still permitted to yield as the wood expands and contracts; and

Fourth, in a cover or top, provided with spring-strips, which engage over the outer edges of the sides of the body, and serve to hold them snugly together as the wood expands and contracts.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hive constructed on my plan, having its top removed and one side opened;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of one of the comb-frames and the notched strips for holding them in place;

Figure 3 is a bottom-plan view of the top of the hive, with its spring-strips; and

Figure 4 is a gauze diaphragm used in the top of the hive.

In constructing my hive, I provide a board or base, A, and secure rigidly thereto, near one side, an upright board, B, to form the front side of the body; and to each edge of this front B I hinge a door or side, C, of equal height therewith.

Across the inner face of the front B I secure horizontally two notched bars, *a*, one near the top and the other near the bottom.

The notches *b* I make in the outer edges of the bars *a*, at equal distances apart, and so that those in the upper bar are immediately opposite or above those in the lower bar, as shown in figs. 1 and 2, the notches being made at the same distance apart as that required between the frames.

I next provide the comb-frames D of a rectangular form, and of a height and width slightly less than the doors C.

These frames I place side by side on the base A, and push them forward until the front side of each engages in corresponding notches in the bars *a*, as shown in figs. 1 and 2.

In this manner the frames are held firmly in an upright position, and at the proper distances apart, while, at the same time, they can be turned laterally, as shown in fig. 1, or readily detached when necessary.

The outer side or bar of each frame I make wider than the inner, and of the same height as the door C, so that, when the series of frames is in position, their outer sides fit closely together and form a solid back to the hive, as shown in fig. 1.

By this construction and arrangement of parts I dispense with a back or door on the rear side of the hive, and, consequently, the trouble of opening and closing the same.

In the upper portion of each frame D I suspend a small detachable frame, L, by means of pins on the latter, which fit into grooves in the former, as shown in figs. 1 and 2, so that, when filled with honey, these supplemental frames may be removed without disturbing the main frame.

To the base A I pivot two hooks or catches, F, for locking the doors C shut, and thereby holding the frames D together.

To each of the doors C I secure a flat spring, H, over which the catch locks, so that the spring forms an elastic medium between the door and the catch, whereby the doors are permitted to yield as the frames expand and contract laterally.

The catches F are so located that they serve the additional purpose of holding the comb-frames forward in position.

I next construct the top or cover J, and provide it on the under side with four spring-strips, *g*, which are fast at one end, while the opposite end bends inward, as shown in fig. 3.

To each of the strips *g* I attach a hook, *h*, and to the top, outside of the strips, I secure corresponding pins or loops, *i*, so that, by engaging the hooks over the pins, the free ends of the spring-strips may be held outward, as shown.

Before applying the top I place all the frames in position and close and fasten the doors C, and then, after having fastened back the strips, I place the top in position, and disengage the hooks, and thereby release the strips.

When the strips are thus released, they bear or press against the outside of the doors, front, and frames, and hold these parts securely together, as well as the top itself, in place.

The spring-strips yield as the wood shrinks and swells, and thus they serve to keep the various joints closed at all times, and thereby to render the hive perfectly tight and protect the bees from cold, storms, &c.

I also provide a frame, R, of the proper size to fit within the upper end of the hive above the frames D, and cover it with wire gauze, as shown in fig. 4.

I also provide a board of suitable size to fit tightly the frame R, and cover the gauze, for use in cold weather.

In this manner I produce a cheap and simple hive, which is perfectly tight, accessible in all its parts, and from which the comb-frames can be readily removed.

Having described my invention,

What I claim is—

1. The arrangement of the notched bars *a* and frames D in connection with the side B, substantially as shown and described.

2. The frame D, having one side made wider than the rest, so that, when a series of them is suitably arranged in a hive, their wide sides shall form the body of the hive on that side, substantially as described.

3. The detachable comb-frames L, constructed to fit in and be held in position by the frames D, substantially as described.

4. The combination of the hinged catches F with the hinged sides C, the latter having the springs H applied, substantially as set forth.

5. The top J, provided with the strips *g* arranged to press against the sides of the hive, and to yield, to compensate for expansion and contraction, substantially as described.

ASBURY WILKINSON.

Witnesses:

A. E. LEMON,

WILLIAM WALLACE.