(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. H. BEELER, Jr.

BEE HIVE.

No. 348,308. Patented Aug. 31, 1886.

Fig. 1.

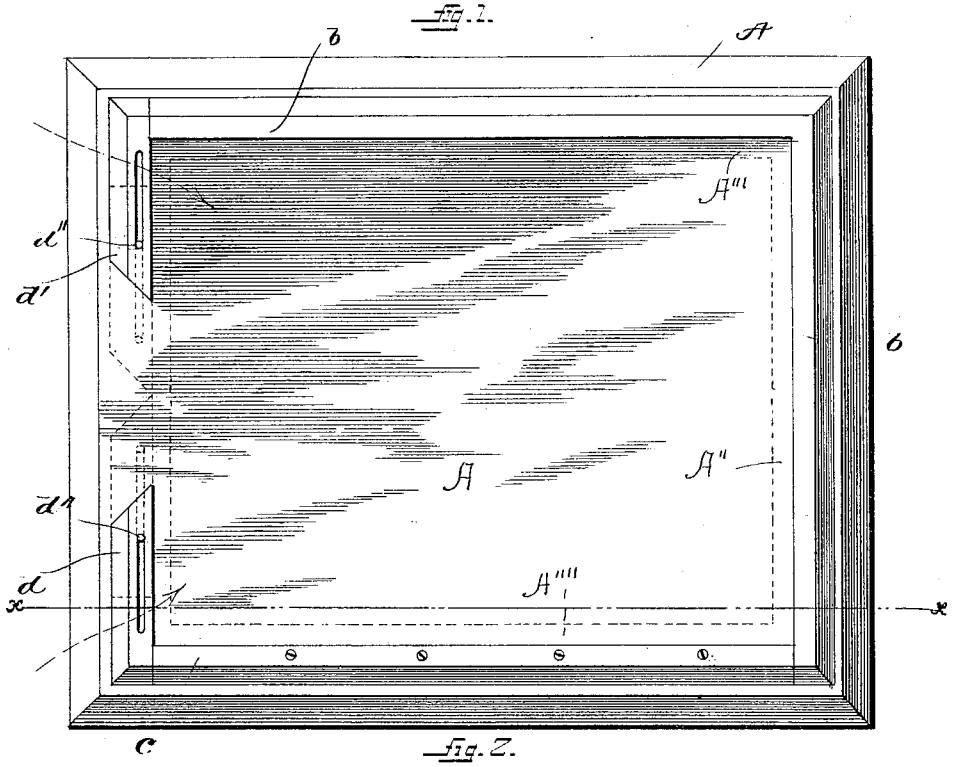
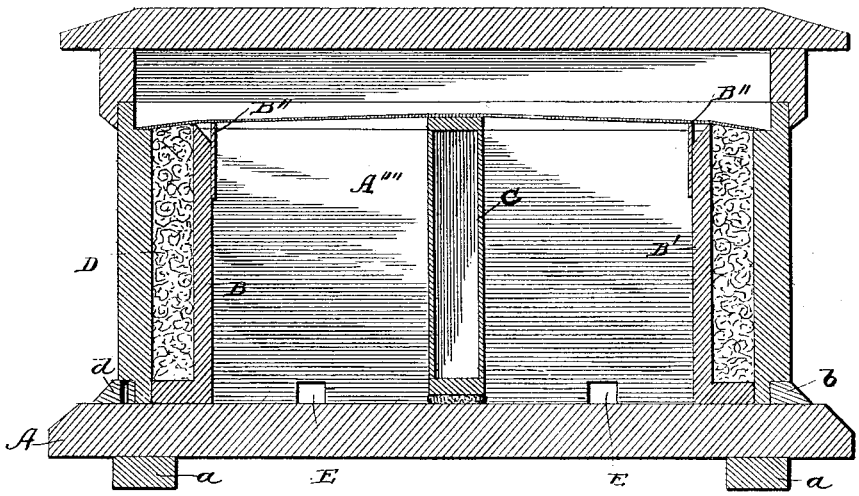


Fig. 2.



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

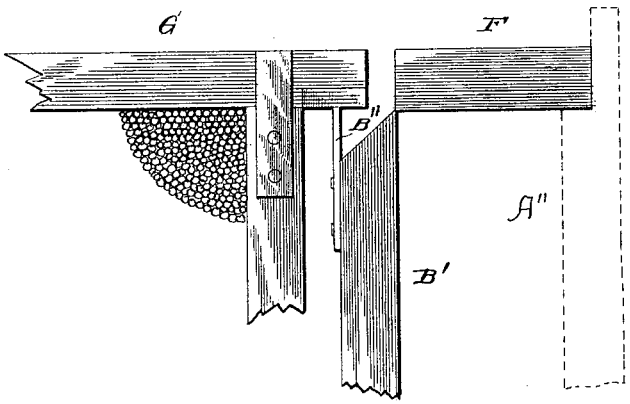


Fig. 4.

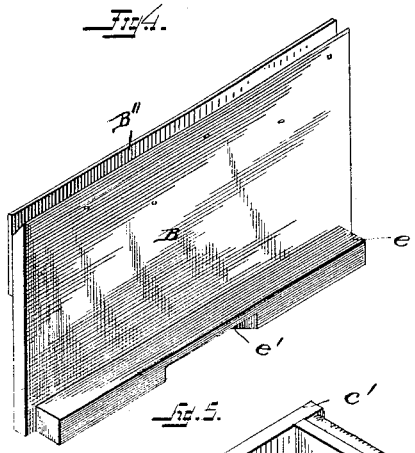
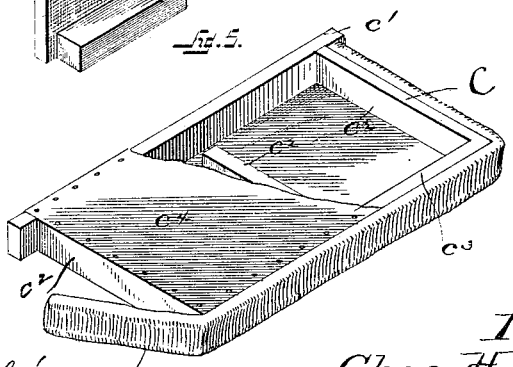


Fig. 5.



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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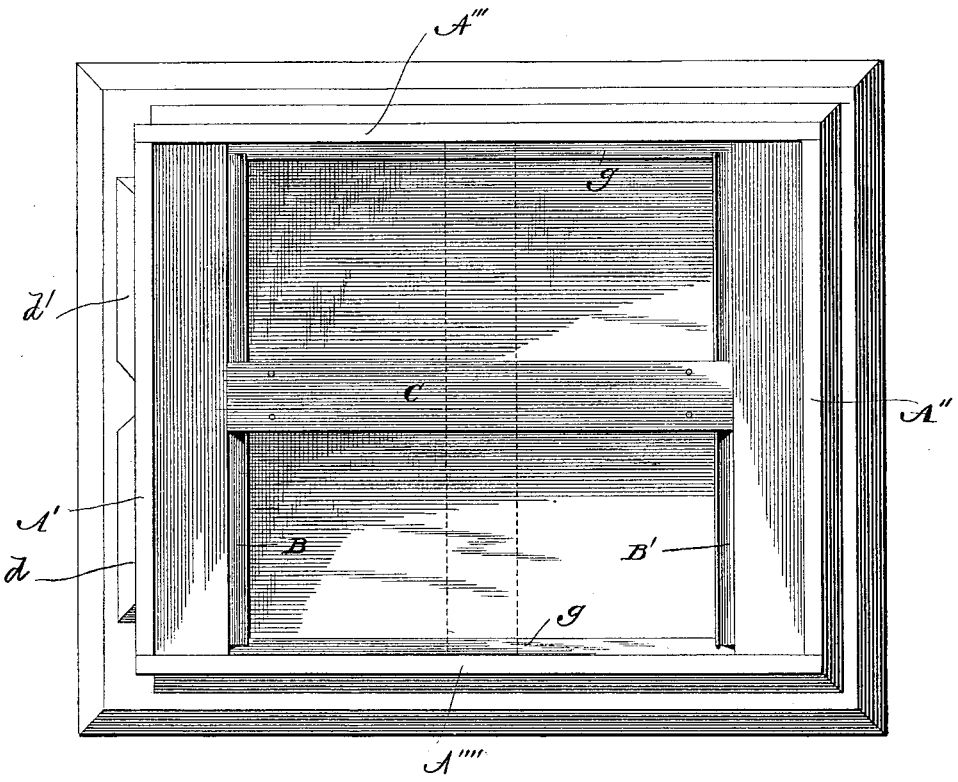
Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. BEELER, JR., OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BEE-HIVE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 348,308, dated August 31, 1886.

Application filed July 11, 1885. Serial No. 171,337. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. BEELER, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bee-Hives; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to bee-hives.

The object of the invention is to improve the construction of hives, so that they may be better adapted for the housing and raising of bees, and, furthermore, to produce a hive which may be divided in such manner as to form two or more separate hives from a single one.

With these objects in view the invention consists, essentially, in a bee-hive, substantially as hereinafter described and claimed.

I have illustrated the invention in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is a plan view, the base of the hive being shown in full lines and the superstructure shown in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a sectional view, the section being taken on line *x x* and looking toward that side of the hive having the entrances. Fig. 3 is a detailed view showing the construction of that part of the interior of the hive upon which the comb-frames rest. Fig. 4 is a perspective view showing the front end piece of the hive. Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating the dividing-piece, the same being shown partly in section. Fig. 6 is a plan view.

In the drawings, A represents the base of the hive, which is provided upon its under side with cleats *a*, and upon its upper face with the stationary strips *b*, the removable strip *c*, and the sliding strips *d d'*. The lower ends of the walls of the hive fit snugly within these strips, and may be secured there in an any suitable manner, as by nails, screws, glue, or the like.

A′ represents the front wall of the hive.

A″ represents the rear wall of the hive, A‴ the left-hand side, and A⁗ the right-hand side.

Near each end of the hive I place the partitions B and B′, the upper edges of which are provided with the metal strips B″, upon which rest projections from the dividing-board C. The spaces between the partitions B and B′ and the ends of the hive are filled with a packing of any suitable non-conducting substance, in order to render the hive free from sudden changes of temperature.

The partition B, which is placed at the front end of the hive, is provided with an outward extension, *e*, which extends flush with the inner face of the hive, and this extension forms the bottom of the space in which the packing D at the front end is placed. The lower side of the portion *e* is cut away about its center, in order to form the entrance *e'*, and this entrance is regulated by the sliding strips *d* and *d'*. These strips are secured to the base of the hive by means of pins *d″*, which rest in slots in the strips and allow the latter to be moved back and forth, in order to close or regulate the opening to the interior of the hive. The cover for the space between the partition B′ and the back of the hive is formed by the strip F.

The hive is so constructed that the distance from side to side of the interior is the same as the distance between the partitions B and B′, so that a dividing-board which serves to divide the hive longitudinally may also be used to divide it transversely. Thus it will be seen that the interior of the hive may be divided longitudinally by resting the projecting ends of the division-board upon the top of the partitions B and B′, or upon the opposite shoulders of the side walls of the hive.

In order that the hive may be divided transversely, and thus form two separate independent hives, I provide the side A⁗ of the frame with openings E at the base thereof, which, when the parts are in their proper position, are closed by the removable strip *c*. The strip is secured to the base of the hive by screws or any other means to render it readily detachable. Thus it will be seen that, when desired, the opening in the front of the hive may be closed by the sliding strips *d* and *d'*, the openings E in the side of the hive opened, and the partition placed transversely across the hive between these openings and resting on the shoulders *g g*, thus forming two independent hives having their entrances in the sides of the main hive.

The upper edges of the partitions B and B′ are provided with metal strips B″, having up-

per knife-edges, upon which rest the projections c' from the division-board, and also similar projections from the comb-frames G when these are in place in the hive. Thus the removal of the partitions, comb-frames, and division-board will not be rendered difficult by adhesion of wax, &c., as would be the case were the parts to rest upon a flat surface. This construction is shown clearly in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

The division-board which I use is provided with the upper cross-piece, c', to which are attached the cross-pieces c^2, which are attached at their other ends to the strip c^3. The sides of the board are formed by the pieces of thin material c^4, and in order to form a close union between the division-board and those portions of the hive in which they come in contact, I provide a strip of felt or similar material, c^5, which is placed around the edge of the division-board, as shown in Fig. 5. The cross-piece c' is of such length as to project at each end a sufficient distance beyond the felt strip to rest upon the shoulders $g\ g$ or upon the top of the partitions B B', according to the direction in which the interior of the hive is to be divided.

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

1. A bee-hive consisting of the base provided with the stationary, the removable, and the sliding strips, the wall portions provided with end and side entrances, and the division-board adapted to divide the hive longitudinally or transversely, substantially as described.

2. A bee-hive provided with the inner partition, B, having the extension e, on the lower side of which is a slot, e', the base A', provided with the sliding strips d and d', covering an opening in the front wall of the hive and registering with slot e', and the division-board, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHAS. H. BEELER, JR.

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