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The bee-hive. Vol. 4, No. 12 June, 1890

Andover, CT: E.H. Cook, June, 1890

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PUBLISHED FOR AND IN THE INTEREST OF BEE-KEEPERS, BY ONE OF THEM.

VOL. 4.

ANDOVER, CONN., JUNE, 1890.

NO. 12.

Joyfully hum the little bees
Upon their search for golden store.
Listen! Hear them 'mong the trees?
Yet how melodious is their roar!

Control of the Mind—A Ku-Klux
Robe—A Universal Work-
Box—Played Out Con-
veniences.

E. E. HASTY.

COMFORT, like happiness, cannot flourish much unless it has its inner springs in the man himself. Devise as well as we may, bees will sometimes get under our rig. Absurd as it may seem to outsiders one of the things to be done is to *compel* a comfortable frame of mind within, even when a bee or two is perambulating the person, and hands are too imperatively occupied to retreat and get him out. A little philosophy and experience enables one to attain to this. I have pursued the even tenor of my way, for a quarter of an hour or so, while a bee, who had finished his measurements for a bust of me, was vainly trying to get out from under my collar, which was a little too tight for him. Experience teaches us that such bees do not very often sting—so long as they are let entirely alone—and that going on a hunt for them, very often results in pinching them into a sting.

But anent this sharp-pointed subject, one of the comforts of my apiary (don't always show it to visitors

though) is a Ku-klux robe which goes all over the upper half of the individual, and has elastics at the wrists and waist. A square of silk net in front provides for vision. Practically it is not very often that bees are so furiously cross that a Ku-klux robe needs to be put on; but it is a great and frequent comfort to know that it is at hand and can be put on rather than give up ingloriously beaten. I do often have occasion to use it when it is so cold or so dark, that bees stupidly alight, in great numbers on their keeper, and without any evil intention, crawl in search of a warm place.

A swarming-time comfort, not very common in apiaries, I believe, is a brush of green foliage. Wings and brushes of hair soon make bees angry. Brushes of vegetable fibre are better in this respect, if very much brushing is to be done the "cattle get riled," even with them. Soft green leaves are much less offensive. I manufacture one every morning or so, and keep it, when not in use, with the butt standing in water. Have it about two feet long, in size and shape like a small feather duster. Peach tree sprouts are excellent material, the leaves from the lower half being stripped off. After the supply failed I found substitutes. A tough, slender golden-rod which grows in tufts, is one of the best.

My method of taking swarms calls for an unusual amount of brushing. I dump the bulk of a swarm into a

basket, after the cluster is two-thirds formed, and hang up the basket with an S shaped wire. Then with a green bush I quickly make the bees give up their chosen spot and *adopt the basket* for their cluster. None of your putting bees in as if they were culprits to be carried off to prison!

One is so completely master of the situation when a swarm has adopted the basket. There they hang as placid as a bunch of grapes; and as they hang they seem to say, "We would n't be elsewhere for millions."

A very comfortable feeling comes over the keeper about that time.

And, by the way, my basket itself is a comfort. It is a common five cent basket, half bushel size, with four bits of lath a foot long tacked to the corners as legs. Enscensed in such a basket as this a swarm can be set down on the ground, hung up elsewhere, or put in almost any imaginable place.

When I was younger and greener than now I was going to have a comfort of comforts to take with me to each hive I manipulated—a sort of everything combined in a case of modern size—comb-holders, wax-box, fuel basket, smoker rest, assortment of tools, writing desk, little trays and tills, and a covered wardrobe for hats, gloves and Ku-klux. Well I made the thing, and used it (boys called it the photograph gallery), and I have kept on using it ever since, and, as for me, I would hardly know how to do without it; but its disadvantages are so serious that I would hardly recommend it to the fraternity in general.

And what is the most comfortable comfort I have, do I hear somebody asking? It is those little pits in the ground (usually have a dozen or more of them) into which swarms of bees on their baskets can be tucked and covered with a few shovelfulls of earth until matters cool down a little. The main use of these pits is

to retain second swarms until they can be returned to the hive with tolerable certainty of remaining. I usually hold them in durance two days. Another important use is to solve those awful messes of half a dozen swarms combined in one, which sometimes swarm. Scoop seven or eight pounds of bees in a basket, and pit them before they have a chance to get out. Keep on doing the same until you have them all. At evening, or in the cool of the next morning they can be hived with deliberation if not with comfort on frames of young brood.—Bee-Keepers' Exchange.

OUR+EXTRACTOR.

Run by Wind (?) Power. Not Reversible.

Don't Sell Too Cheap.

There will likely be some new honey ready to take off by the time these notes reach the Plowman readers. Now don't rush right off to market and sell it for a low price, and spoil the market for others as well as yourself. It would be better when in town to mention to dealers that you have some nice, new honey at home that you could bring in if wanted, and a satisfactory price was offered. Usually dealers are anxious to have some nice new honey to advertise and help sell other goods, and if they see you are not over anxious to sell, they will be more apt to make it an inducement for you to bring it in. Don't be in a great hurry, however, to take it off the hives. It is usually better taken care of by the bees than we can do it ourselves, and the quality will be greatly improved.—W. Plowman.

Width of Top-bars.

Of the 17 correspondents in Gleanings who replied on this subject, 10 use $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, four 1 in., and the three remaining are not positive.

Care of Comb Honey.

As soon as the honey is taken from the bees the sections should be scraped and put into shipping crates. Care should be taken not to leave comb honey exposed over night, so that the moths can lay eggs on it, because it would soon show a lot of tiny worms at work on the cappings causing fine lines of dust, entirely spoiling the beauty, causing it to leak and rendering it only fit to melt up. The scraping of the sections is often left until a time of more leisure than when taking off the honey, but the scrapings on the outside of the sections often contain moth eggs, which often hatch and injure the honey, even before it is crated.

Hence we urge the importance of taking off honey, scraping the sections and crating up in a neat, light crate all at one time. Put the honey on the market as early as possible and do not wait for fruit to get out of the way, because now is the honey season just as well as the fruit season, and we cannot see the reason why some of our honey should not find a market when it is in its prime condition, right from the bees, as well as the fruit right from the bushes. The honey loses the flavor of the flowers from which it is gathered by keeping.—Bee-Keepers' Guide.

The Grass About Hives.

How shall we best keep down the grass and weeds in the apiary? This question has puzzled me a good deal and I have not solved it yet. I have cut it with a scythe, whacked at it with a sickle, and slaved it off with a lawn mower. None of these methods are entirely satisfactory. The trouble is there are so many nooks around a hive where it is difficult to cut with a scythe or lawn mower. Then if you make a mislick and give the hive a good thump, the bees generally go for a fellow. Now why not

simply pull up the grass that grows immediately in front and around the hives? If it is cut off, it is but a little while till it has to be done over again, but if pulled up by the roots it will settle the matter for some time.—Western Plowman.

Removing Bee Stings.

Doolittle removes them from the hands by pressing against the clothing and moving the hand up or down, thus wiping them off.

Why Farmers Should Keep Bees.

The fact that bees are pollen distributors is sufficient reason why a place should be made for them on every farm. If kept for no other purpose than the benefit they do to growing crops and fruit-bearing trees and plants, by spreading the pollen among the blooms, these industrious workers would be a valuable adjunct. Testimony is abundant and conclusive as to the desirable effects of bees upon grape-vines, fruit trees and fruit-bearing plants generally. Indeed, one prominent apiarist goes so far as to insist that a few hives of bees, judiciously placed, will revive a fruit farm from a non-paying to a profitable investment. Field crops, scientists tell us and wide-awake farmers know from their own observation, are greatly assisted by the honey-bee's manipulations. Indeed, their influence is required for the perfect floral fertilization of some of the cereal crops and the meadow grasses. Where the farmer is too busy to give his personal attention to the production of honey, it is suggested that he purchase a few hives and turn these over to the care of his wife and daughters. They will find the pin-money accruing from the sale of the honey, a convenient and pleasant return for the labor and time spent among the bees. The out-door occupation, too, will prove a welcome and

healthful change from indoor drudgery, which they can then afford to hire done.—N. Y. World.

Read at the Ohio State Convention.

QUEENS.

HOW TO REAR AND SHIP THEM.

BY MISS DEMA BENNETT.

I do not feel myself competent to undertake anything of a discourse on scientific queen-rearing, but I will simply describe my way of doing, and some of my opinions, in a very unscientific way.

I want a linen hat, a thin black veil, a good smoker, and plenty of dry fuel for it. I have a tool-box with a claw-hammer, two or three sizes of small wire nails, and some large ones; pins and pin-cushion, a knife with two blades, an oil-crayon, pieces of clean broken sections for tablets, and tin tags for marking the hives; a turkey feather, a provisioned cage, a tin box for matches, an apartment for putting pieces of comb and wax—all in this box. Besides these there should be a honey-knife and extractor.

I have never found it necessary to have a work-room for handling either bees or cells, although I have both a work-room for making foundation, and a fancy bee-house with wire-screen doors, on the edge of the yard, where there are from 50 to 100 nuclei in the summer time. The hive should be one that will take the frames in general use in the apiary, so that they will be interchangeable. I prefer the Langstroth frame, and as a chaff hive is too heavy as well as expensive, I would use Simplicity hives; they are valuable property for storing frames of comb or sections when not in use in the yard, and if one wanted to go out of the queen-rearing business, there would not be a lot of unsalable boxes on hand.

The frames should be of wood, wired and filled with foundation, and previously drawn out or combs which are securely fastened at the edges. This is important, for in looking for the queen or eggs, or in shaking the bees off, one is likely, if not extraordinarily careful, to tip out the comb, honey, bees and queen, in a conglomerate mass, into the hive or on the ground, as the case may be.

There should be two adjustable division-boards for each hive, arranged so that there is a bee-space under each side. This saves trouble in picking up any bees that may be brushed off.

For covering the frames use enameled cloth; over this a burlap cushion filled with forest leaves; it is very essential that nuclei be kept warm, and there are few nights when it is not better to use them. In case the cushion is used with the Simplicity hive, it would need to be a two-story hive. The cover should be tinned and painted to make it absolutely water-proof.

For the mother bee I prefer a chaff hive, because quiet is insured under all circumstances of wind and weather. It should be fitted up as I have mentioned, except the frames, part of which should be foundation without the wires, about two-thirds of the frame, and already drawn out. Drive two long wire nails into each side of the chaff hive directly over the rabbets and near the ends, so that they will slip in when not in use and draw out when wanted to hang frames on, so as not to risk losing the queen by setting the frames on the ground. There should be an alighting-board fastened at the entrance to every hive, and where queens have clipped wings, it should be long enough so that they will not fall off the end of it if a swarm comes out, and crawl under and get lost.

WHAT THE QUEEN SHOULD BE.

The queen mother should be a well

developed queen, of whatever race or combination of races one may choose—I prefer a pure Italian strain, and a queen in her second year. For the trade I would use only imported Italian queens. By getting new queens every year, there would be no danger of inter-breeding. I do not want a queen so unsatisfactory to the bees that they are trying to supersede her, either because she is too old or unprolific, or for some unknown reason; for I believe in the law of heredity in bees as well as in man or the lower animals, and I do not think it possible (Mr. Doolittle to the contrary, notwithstanding) for a queen of the latter sort to produce as hardy, prolific queen progeny as the former.

As soon as the apiarist sees any drones the apiary should be looked over and the drones in each hive graded; stimulated by feeding where you see the best ones and destroy all others by cutting out drone-brood and replacing it with worker-comb. By this time we have received notice that the imported queen will be here very soon, and as I cannot afford to take any chance of losing her, I am very careful to make the right preparation to receive "her majesty."

INTRODUCING THE IMPORTED QUEEN.

I pick out a wired frame containing some honey and hatching brood, and one of worked-out foundation without wires. By marking the latter "empty 4-31," on top of the frame with a crayon, I can tell how old the eggs are when I take them away. I either pick up one by one, or else shake into a tin boiler (the old bees will fly away) young bees enough to comfortably cover the two combs and empty them on top of the frames.

When the queen arrives I clip her wing, to prevent her flying away, destroy her attendant bees and introduce her to her new home by letting her run down off of the top of the frame, keeping watch to see how she

is received. I have never experienced any trouble in this way, and in one instance the queen had commenced to lay in less than an hour. If the bees had not received her I should have put her into a combined shipping and introducing cage, to be released at their pleasure. I would not advise this trouble of getting only young bees for a nucleus, except in the case of a very valuable queen, whose time was precious.

PREPARING FOR CELL-BUILDING.

One of the strongest colonies in the yard should then be prepared for cell-building by taking away the queen and distributing the unsealed brood among weaker colonies, leaving only three or four frames of sealed brood and honey.

I now look into the hive of the imported queen, and if there are eggs in the marked frame, I look for the queen; if she should be on that frame I take a small, soft twig and place it so that she will catch hold of it with her feet, and lift her carefully off to the other frame, then hang the frame of eggs on the wire nails in the side of the hive, that were driven for that purpose; put in another frame without wires, and with a turkey's feather (I have found nothing better) brush off and close the hive.

Take the frame of eggs and cut the bottom of the comb close to the cells containing eggs, and if there should be many eggs in the center of the comb, cut out one or two triangular pieces, with the point at the top of the cut, leaving eggs around the opening, as they are much more likely to build queen-cells on the edge than in the solid comb. The pieces can be used for patching, and as I do not value this kind of a frame for any other purpose, I do not care how much they are cut.

Mark the top of the frame with the name of the queen applied to the eggs, giving the date, as "i-e-5-1,"

meaning that they are "imported queen's eggs, May 1," which I consider the right time to begin, and Sept. 1 the latest to continue to "set" eggs for cell-building. I use the oil crayon for marking frames and tablets. Put the frame of eggs in the center of the colony you have prepared for cell-building, leaving the space between it and the adjoining frames a little larger than for other frames, and unless honey is coming in freely, give them a quart or two thin feed in an atmospheric feeder, inside the hive, and cover with a cushion to keep them warm.

About the fifth day after, open the hive, and if there should be any double cells started, with the point of a knife remove the larva from one and break down the cell. I think that this is much easier than to fuss with picking out eggs with a brimstone match and shaving combs, cutting into strips, which must be dipped into a "mixture of two parts rosin and one part beeswax;" "being very careful not to overheat it, as it will destroy the eggs in the cells if used too hot, and if too cold it will not adhere properly;" "pressing it with the fingers gently into place, taking care not to crush or injure the cells in so doing," a la Alley; or making "wax cups" with "three forming-sticks, a notched block, a dish of cold water, a lamp with a dish of wax on top, an ear-spoon for scooping up the royal jelly, the stick to place the royal jelly in a wax cup, and the tooth-pick for transferring the larvæ"—after the Doo-little plan (I think *that* is a misnomer.)

On the ninth day break down all unsealed or misshaped cells, if there should be any such, and count the number of cells left. On the tenth or eleventh day, form as many nuclei as there are cells, by dividing this building colony, and if necessary, divide some of the weaker colonies in order to make the number, giving

to each one a frame of unsealed brood, marking the frame "c-e-5-11" (common eggs); also give a frame of honey, being sure that there are bees enough to cover the brood well.

I like a good-sized nucleus as I think the queen gets to laying in better shape than in a very small one, and if I ever find a queen laying several eggs in one cell, I conclude that she has not had half a chance, and if I can increase her company, she will get to laying all right.

In making nuclei, if necessary to divide a colony, always move the queen, as the bees will stay better. I have never, in making nuclei, shut bees up or carried them to a dark room or cellar, but I do make it a point to have every nucleus supplied with unsealed larvæ at all times, both to hold the bees and keep them in balance, and to this I believe is due the fact that I never have had the trouble with laying workers that Mr. Alley and others complain of.

I am very careful not to let the cells get chilled, either in or out of the frame, and if the day is cool I leave the bees on the frame and only cut the cells as fast as I use them. If the day is warm enough I take the frame of cells, brush the bees off with a feather (being very careful not to jar the cells), then with the small, thin blade of the knife, cut all but one of the cells and put the frame back into the hive.

I have a box lined to put the cells in, and cover them with a piece of soft flannel, but distribute as soon as possible, by inserting one in the frame containing larvæ, and marking the frame "i-c-5-11," as well as the tablet, making a combination of the two marks, as "i-c and c-e-5-11"—(imported cell and common eggs, May 11), until all are taken care of.

(Concluded next issue.)

THE

Bee Hive

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

E. H. COOK,
 EDITOR AND PUBLISHER,
 ANDOVER, CONN.

Subscription Price, 20 cents Per Year
 in Advance.

Editorial Ink Drops.

TO ADVERTISERS:

Our rates for inserting advertisements are as follows, from which no discount will be made and are payable in advance.

One issue, per inch, 35 cts.
 Two or more issues, per inch, 25 cts.

Special Notices of 35 words, Four Times, only 25 cents.

All subscriptions will be stopped when the time paid for expires (see notice of same stamped on wrapper) unless renewed before.

A dry time for news, but look out for our next number.

A writer in Gleanings says that "Royal" glue will make labels stick to tin cans and pails.

That Connecticut law against placing decoy hives in the woods is an interesting relic of "ye olden time," but decidedly out of place in these days of liberal action.

The yield from basswood is a failure with us, so far as surplus is concerned. It has been too dry and the nights have been too cold—the mercury going so low as 40° one night.

L. Gray, Florida, writes the man who sent to him for a queen, that he had sold them all and was too poor to return the money. Here is a hint for those fellows who skip to Canada.

The Canadian Bee Journal says

a quantity of adulterated foundation is causing trouble up that way. A free ad., saying that Mr. So and So offers adulterated foundation, quality guaranteed! would be the proper caper in this case.

The editor of Gleanings objects to having foul brood sent him for examination. As it is highly contagious and well nigh impossible to eradicate where introduced, it ought never to be sent to anyone. A description will answer every purpose and cause no danger to other bee yards.

In localities where honey is stored in comparatively small quantities and slowly—as here in New England—comb honey should, in our opinion, be removed as soon as two-thirds of a crate is capped over, for if allowed to remain until all of it is finished, the cappings of the central boxes become quite yellow through the bees travelling over them, and will not then sell for a first-class article.

Special Notices.

Under this heading advertisements of 35 words will be inserted **four times** for only 25 cents.

To exchange or for sale cheap.—23 Simplicity bee-hives and T supers. Will exchange for foundation, fdn., mill, honey extractor, lawn mower, or any thing useful and according to value of article exchanged for. Also queens and supplies for sale. F. H. McFarland, St. Albans, Vt.

Hybrid bees in full colonies after May 15 at \$5 per colony in light shipping boxes, with 4 L. frames of brood. One breeding pen extra fine dark laced wyandottes, 19 pullets scoring high as 90, cock 91. Price, \$13.75. Harker Bros., Hornerstown N. Jersey.

White Mountain Apiary.—We have just purchased 100 swarms of bees in old style hives at a bargain. Will sell 50 of them. A. D. Ellingwood, Milan, N. H.

My best bee-hive complete, super and sections, nailed and painted, \$1.50; 5, \$7.50; 10, \$15. 1000 sections, \$3; 3500, \$10. Foundation, supplies, bees and honey cheap. Good bellows smoker, 65 c., food veil, 50 c., postpaid.

L. J. Clark, Wiscoy, Minn.

Please mention the BEE-HIVE in writing to above advertisers and you will receive prompt reply, and do us a kindness also.

I delight in reading a spy ad., but, somehow, I am unable to write them myself. Wont *you* give me a few points? I'll tell you a pat idea! Ya scratch off a couple of bracing ads. and mail to "that Pittseld Smith." When he receives all that may come in prior to Oct. 1st, '90, he will select the *best* one (in his judgment), ad to the originator he will cheerfully send \$10 worth of anygoods they may want from his 48-page price-list. The 2d bst gets \$5, in value. Oh! you needn't look incredulous! I can well afford this thing, as it will pay me *big* for the right kind of ads. I want something *novel*! Who comes first? It say, your ad. must bring in "that Pittsfield Smith" somewhere. See? Address,
 Chas. H. Smith, bc 1267, Pittsfield, Mass.

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With this simple tool one man and a boy 10 years old can catch to wring the most vicious hog with ease.

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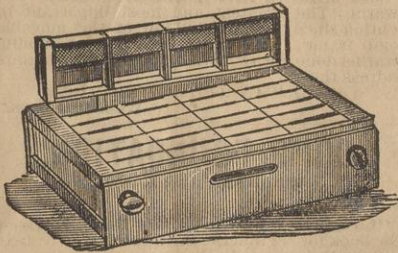


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Wrought Iron parts. Rabbitted parted bear hogs. We will send you one on 30 days trial (fit any derrick), with complete instructions, and if it is not THE BEST Mill you ever saw, de-nounce us in this paper and return it at our expense. Send for testimonials and circulars of Windmills, Pumps, Road Carts, Horse Powers, Sign Boards and Implements. Describe place and write what is wanted.

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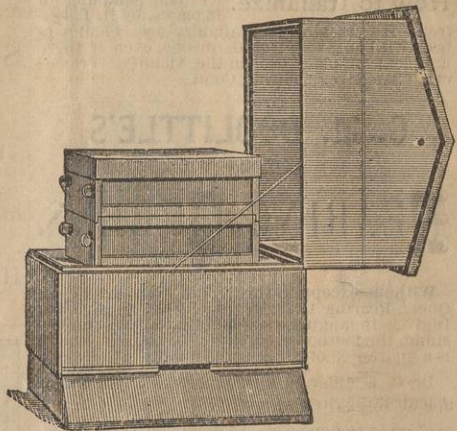
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Two hundred second-hand machines, all kinds, sizes and prices. Bicycles, Safeties and Tricycles for Boys and Girls. Send for Catalogue and Price Lists. Mailed free. **AGENTS WANTED.**



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Safe arrival and satisfaction guaranteed.

Jacob T. Timpe, Grand Ledge, Mich.

(Mention the Bee-Hive.)

How to Italianize.—A little pamphlet of 16 pages, by H. L. Jeffrey. It tells how to Italianize 100 colonies of bees with only two Italian queens, even if there are plenty of black bees in the vicinity. Price, 5 cts. Bee-Hive, Andover, Conn.

G. M. DOOLITTLE'S

— METHOD OF —

REARING QUEENS.

Without exception this is the best article on Queen-Rearing that Mr. Doolittle has written. It gives, in language so plain that all can understand, the method used by Mr. D. himself, which is a guarantee of its valuable qualities.

Dr. C. C. Miller, of Marengo, Ills., a prominent apicultural writer, says of it:

"You have done a good thing in putting in pamphlet form Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens. It is of value, and gotten up nicely."

CONTENTS:

A sketch of G. M. Doolittle, wherein his Early Love of Bees, Reading Bee-Books and Papers, Influence of the Teachings of E. Gallup, Good Queens, Writing Articles, etc., are interestingly described. Following this comes Mr. Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens. The first subject treats on the Importance of Good Queens, showing how necessary they are if one would be successful. The Old Way of Rearing Queens is then described and its defects clearly shown, followed by the Method Now Used, and its disadvantages. Eggs and Food are then discussed. The way of arranging and fastening the Queen-Cups is then clearly described and fully illustrated. The Cell-Building Colony is next described, followed by Larvæ for Queen-Cells; Transferring the Larvæ; Advantages of this Method; Points to Remember; Natural Queen-Cells; How to Make the Nuclei; How to Cut Out the Cells, and How to put Cells in Nuclei. This is followed by pithy points gleaned from Mr. D.'s writings, as follows—Honey; Queens; Scraps; Honey-Combs, Reports.

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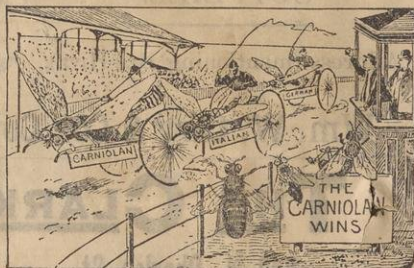
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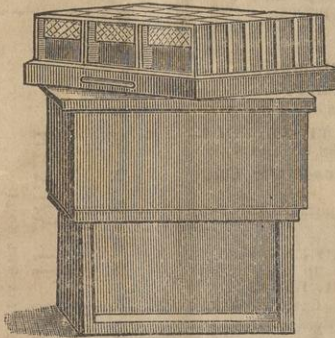
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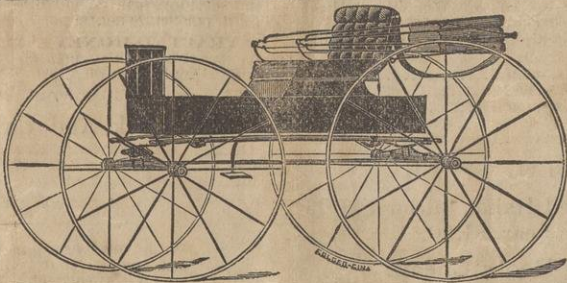


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