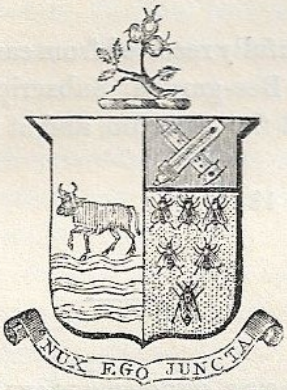


PROPOSALS FOR FORMING A SOCIETY, TO BE CALLED "THE OXFORD APIARIAN SOCIETY."

The object of this Society to be twofold.

I.—To promote an improved and more extensive system of Bee management among the cottagers, by the diffusion of information on the subject; the loan, not the gift, of Hives, their cost to be repaid from the produce; and the annual distribution of prizes, of which due notice will be given in the Oxford Papers, with conditions to be observed by the competitors.

II.—To promote a more extensive and scientific knowledge concerning the natural history and cultivation of Bees among the higher classes.

To further this latter object, a small plot of ground to be rented within a very short walking distance of Oxford, and Hives of all sorts to be established there. The ground to be open to the members of the Society, and visitors admitted by tickets from subscribers, on payment of one shilling. Cottagers to be admitted by tickets, gratis.

The subscriptions to be 1*l.* 1*s.* for the first year; for sub-

sequent years 10*s.* 6*d.*, to be devoted to lending new Hives, distributing prizes, and establishing an experimental garden or gardens, and other purposes connected with the objects of the Society.

Donations thankfully received from casual visitors towards the support of the Bee-garden. Subscriptions to be received by Mr. Kirtland, at the Museum, and at the Bank of Messrs. Parsons and Co.

Oxford, Feb. 28, 1833.

RULES OF THE OXFORD APIARIAN SOCIETY,

Agreed on at a General Meeting, held at the Ashmolean Museum, by permission of the Curator, on Tuesday, May 15, 1838, P. B. Duncan, Esq. in the chair:—

I.—That the Society be called the "Oxford Apiarian Society."

II.—That each member pay 1*l.* 1*s.* the first year, and 10*s.* 6*d.* on subsequent years. Subscriptions, after the present, to be payable at the beginning of the year. Ladies to pay half the above sums. Donations thankfully received to aid in forming a permanent fund to promote the loan of Hives.

III.—That the affairs of the Society be under the management of a president and committee, who shall make their report at an annual meeting in June.

IV.—That Mr. Duncan, of New College, be president of the Society.

V.—That Mr. Hill, of Christ Church; Mr. Bigge, of Merton College; Mr. Cotton, of Christ Church; Mr. Acland, of Christ Church; Mr. Hobhouse, of Balliol College; and Mr. Hawkins, of Jesus College, be members of the committee, with power to add to their numbers.

VI.—That Mr. Cotton, of Christ Church, be secretary of the Society.

VII.—That Mr. Kirtland be honorary secretary.

VIII.—That Messrs. Parsons and Co. be treasurers to the Society, and pay the drafts of the committee on demand.

IX.—That the object of the Society be to promote an improved and more extensive system of Bee management, especially among cottagers, and to collect and arrange information on the subject:—

1. By keeping a garden for the verification of the most important experiments, the institution of new ones, and by recording observations. All experiments to be under the direction of the committee.
2. By providing Hives and models for sale.
3. By advancing Hives and Bees to deserving cottagers; the Hives to be paid for the following year by instalments, or by the produce, as may be agreed on. The Hives, if not approved, to be returned.
4. By giving prizes for specimens of Bee produce, the conditions to be observed by competitors to be declared by the committee.

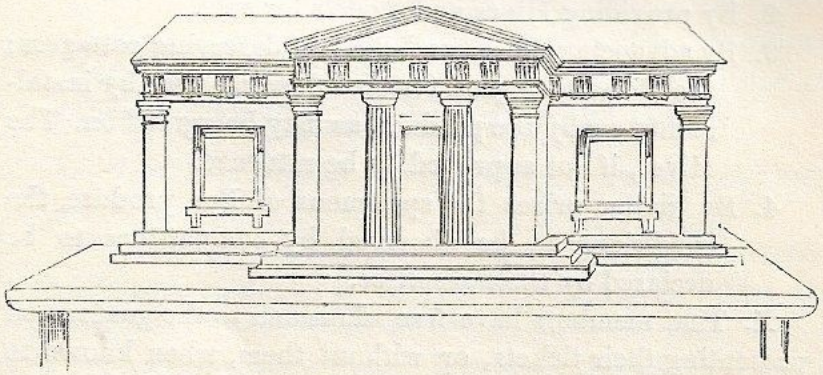
X. That members have free admission to the gardens on presenting their tickets, or without them, when known to the superintendent. Non-subscribers to be admitted by tickets, signed by subscribers, on payment of sixpence at the garden. That family tickets do admit any number (*bonâ fide* relations), on the payment of one shilling. That cottagers be admitted on presenting a *free* ticket, signed by a member. Applications for tickets to be addressed to the secretary. That no money be received at the garden except the payment for admission. That all visitors inscribe their names in a book kept for that purpose, and deposit their tickets with the superintendent when they first enter the garden.

XI.—Subscribers to have the privilege of recommending

cottagers for the loan of Hives, and the option of purchasing honey at a reduced price. They may also be supplied with swarms of Bees, by application to the secretary.

XII. That a book be kept at the garden, in which visitors are requested to write their names, and offer any remarks or suggestions on the management of the garden. That some of the best works on Bees be procured for the use of members.

N.B.—All communications, the result of experiment, &c., will be thankfully received, and questions answered, if addressed, post paid, to the secretary, who will also receive the names of the neighbouring gentry and others desirous to become subscribers.



TEMPLE HIVE.

NOTES FROM SOCIETY'S SCRAP BOOK.

Bean piercing.—Barnett and E. O. saw the Bees PIERCING the beans in the bean-field, at the end of May, 1838.

Bees drinking.—It is very curious that not a single Bee has been seen drinking, since the showers in the beginning of June, 1838. At the end of May, and before the beans came out

into flower, they were seen by dozens at a time in the water-trough.

Imperfect embryos thrown out.—June 7. An *imperfect Queen* was found by Barnett thrown out from No. 22. All the soft and watery matter had been sucked out; as I believe is the usual habit of the Bees, when they throw out imperfect pupæ. The specimen will be put among others which will soon be in the room. W. C. Cotton.

Queens trumpeting.—June 14. A young queen was heard *crying* in the swarm, No. 22. It had swarmed.

May 31.—Barnett expected it to cast; but if it has additional room, I think we shall prevent it.

Queens—when cast out of Hives.—June 21. No less than four Queens were picked up, being cast out of the Hives. One alive; three dead.

Drones killed in Hives not intending to swarm.—June 26. A very weak swarm (16), which we have with difficulty preserved up to this time, was seen killing its drones.

June 21.—(Swarmed June 1) killing drones.

Wasp's nest in a Hive.—1839, *May* 10. A wasp's nest found fixed to the top of the empty Bagster's Hive. Queen wasp killed. Soon after another wasp began to build in the same spot.

Weight of a Swarm. How to calculate it.—A swarm, on Saturday, June 9, weighed *four pounds.* It has been calculated, (see Wildman,) that 4480 Bees go to a pound. Ergo,

4480
4

17,920 Bees in the swarm.

The wooden box was weighed before and after, which gives the clear weight of the swarm. W. C. Cotton.

Prevention of Swarming.—1839, *June* 19. Mr. Nutt is certainly right in ascribing swarming to want of coolness, and want of room. Yet, in some instances, this is difficult to be

discerned, owing to the impossibility of knowing *all* that the Bees are doing inside their Hives. *E. g.* The Bees had made a considerable quantity of comb in a straw Side-Hive; but after staying there some time, they swarmed and left the new combs empty. This seemed quite unaccountable at first; but, some time after, Barnett gave what was undoubtedly the true reason, viz. that the Bees which took to the Side-Hive were the first swarm; but when the cast was hatched, the two Hives became too crowded for all. Consequently, the Queen with the Bees in the old Hive swarmed, and were naturally followed by those in the Side-Hive. Had an additional Hive, or even a cap, been added to the Hive, this would probably have been prevented. This proves that in some cases it may be necessary to open a second Side-Hive, before the first is nearly full; and, therefore, unless a large bell-glass or straw cap be used, when there is only one side box or Hive, a strong stock will always be liable to swarm, even though the Bees may have taken to the Side-Hive. H. W. Lloyd.

Bottom boards.—Bottom boards on Cotton's plan are liable to several objections. In the first place, such thick wood is too expensive for cottagers. This is proved at once by the utter impossibility of getting them to try it. In the next, they do not answer well. The zinc, with which the passage of communication is covered, soon warps, and lets in the light as well as the air, and rain. It also bends down and makes the passage smaller than at first intended. Again, half of the passage is cut in one board, and half in the other. Each half slopes down to the rim of the board, so that, when both the boards are pushed close together, the centre is the lowest or deepest part of the passage, and the Bees, in passing, must go first down and then up hill, as it were, from one Hive to the other. The Bees are apt to drag their rubbish and dead men to wherever they see any light, consequently this passage is sometimes blocked up by them at once, before they have taken to the Side-Hive at all. These objections are entirely obviated by Mr. Taylor's doubling-board, and by the communication-

bridge. The latter is so simple that any cottager may make it for himself. H. W. Lloyd.

Passage of communication in collateral boxes.—Any one who has seen Mr. Nutt's as well as Mr. Cotton's boxes, will have observed, that, in the former, the passages from the middle to the side-boxes are far more numerous than in the latter. In this respect, Mr. Nutt has decidedly the advantage over Mr. Cotton; but then his way of cutting off the communication between them, when the honey is to be taken, is inconvenient.

N. B. The great thing seems to be to have the passage to reach as far along the very top of the box as possible.

Nadir Hives.—June 22. Art is ever most successful when it acts most in accordance with nature. In Bee-keeping, this has been shown by nothing more than the greater success which has attended our experiments with Nadir than with Collateral Hives. In two instances, where the former have been tried, the Bees have instantly begun to work; and, in a short time, have made a surprising quantity of comb. In building combs, Bees naturally begin at the top of a Hive, and work downwards. Hence they are more readily induced to enter a Hive placed below their old one, than a side one, up which they have to crawl before they can begin. In the latter, they have to begin quite afresh: in the former, they almost continue their old combs in the upper Hive. An accidental observation led me the more irresistibly to this conclusion. Having occasion to open the feeding-drawer of a centre box, the passage of which into the side-box was open, I discovered the Bees hanging down quite into the drawer, but yet unwilling to enter the side-box. H. W. Lloyd.

Objections made to us that our system is not new.—It has been objected to us that there is nothing new in our system; that all our plans are to be found in some old book or another on Bees, and that some of them have been practised even more than a hundred years ago. True; we acknowledge that the principles upon which we go have all been discovered by

others; but these are known to only a certain number. All that we pretend to, is the endeavour to establish these principles on so sure a footing, by means of experiments, that there may be no excuse in future for the practice of destroying Bees; and, secondly, to show how straw Hives may be made by cottagers for themselves, in which Bees may be prevented swarming, and pure honey obtained with little or no additional expense to that incurred on the old plan.

Popular objection answered.—That our system would encourage too great an increase in Bee-population: see "The Cottager's Bee-book," by Mr. Smith, of Queenington.

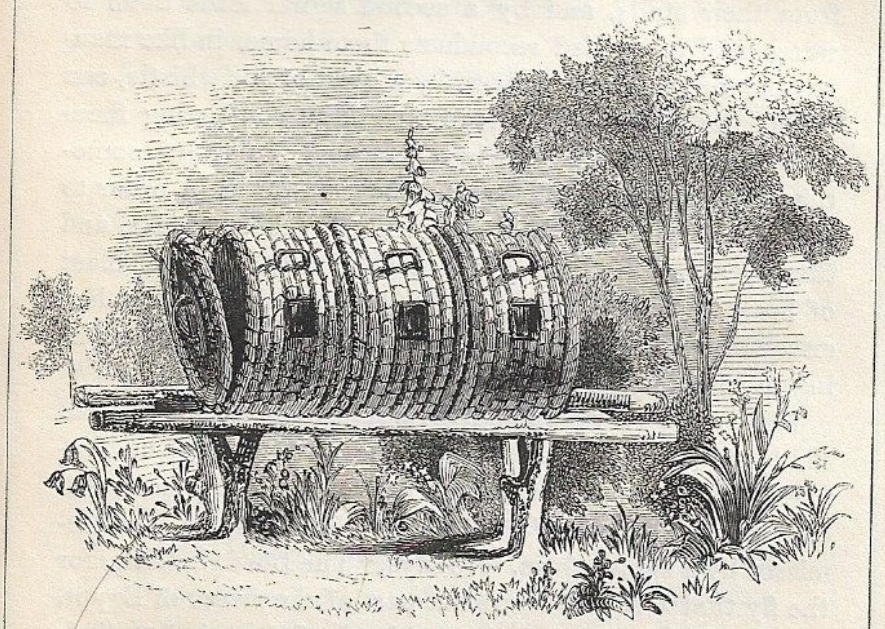
It is objected that if Bees are never destroyed they will go on increasing interminably, and in a short time will overstock the country, so that, after a certain lapse of time, our land will be in the same condition as that described by Herodotus, where no people could live for the quantity of Bees that were in it. The fallacy of this notion will appear by a little reflection. In every stock of Bees there is only one Queen, who lays all the eggs of the stock, and of these only a certain definite number. It is well known that Bees live only one year; so that in the course of two seasons a generation of Bees has passed away and a new one succeeded it. It follows, therefore, that in every stock only a sufficient number of young ones will be brought up to replace those that have died in the common course of nature. H. W. Lloyd.

Collateral Straw Hives.—I do not think that the collateral system in straw Hives can ever answer. It is impossible to cut out any of the rings of straw at the bottom, in order to fit in a wooden passage or communication-board, without spoiling the Hive. The doubling-board certainly seems to answer, but then it is too expensive for cottagers. The Nadir Hive plan must be the one, if any, to supersede the old one of swarming and burning. H. W. Lloyd.

Pasteboard Hives.—Mr. Drewitt, to whom the paper-mill at the Weirs belongs, offers to make square pasteboard Hives, at sixpence a-piece. I see no reason why they should not answer

as well as boxes, and the sooner they are tried the better. He has a fine stock of Bees in a round one of this kind, with a bell-glass at the top in which they are working.

H. W. Lloyd.



SICILIAN, OR BARREL HIVE.

EXTRACTS FROM MY OWN NOTE-BOOK.

BEES IN SIBERIA.

Another advantage which may be received from the most barren and the most northern countries, such as Lithuania and Muscovy, is the keeping of Bees; and although these insects do sufficiently secure to man the fruit of their labours, by that admirable form of government and polity which they observe among themselves: yet are they so