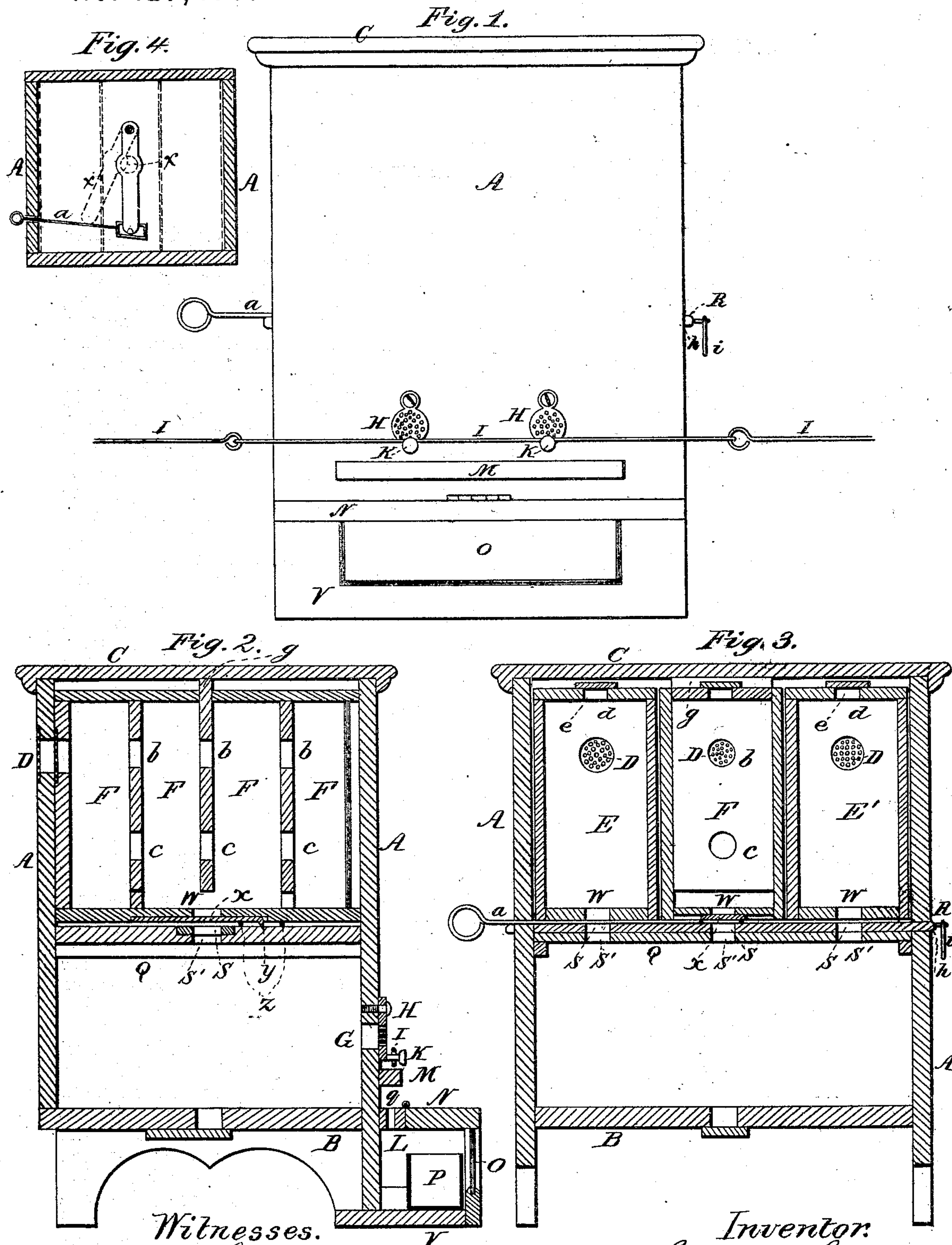


SAMUEL V. GREER.  
Improvement in Bee-Hives.

No. 127,479.

Patented June 4, 1872.



Witnesses.  
Wm Howard  
H. L. Perrine,

Inventor:  
Samuel V. Greer  
By Theodore Mungen, Attorney.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL V. GREER, OF GLASGOW, KENTUCKY.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BEE-HIVES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 127,479, dated June 4, 1872.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL V. GREER, of Glasgow, in the county of Barren and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Bee-Hives; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a vertical section from front to rear, and Fig. 3 is a vertical lateral section. Fig. 4 is a bottom view of the comb-boxes and brood-chamber, showing the button X on the latter.

This invention relates to certain improvements in bee-hives; and consists in the construction and combination of the several parts hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A is the case or shell of the hive; B, a removable bottom, held in place by screws; and C is a removable cap. The rear of the case A has three openings, D D D, covered with perforated material, communicating with like openings, covered in like manner, in the comb-boxes E E' and the brood-chamber F for the purposes of ventilation. The front of the case A has two circular openings, G, which form the entrances for the bees. Two perforated buttons, H, secured by screws, are arranged and operate to open or close the openings G at the will of the operator; being connected by a wire, I, which is coiled around a stud, K, on each button H, and extend beyond the ends of the hive, where the wire I may be connected with similar wires on the adjacent hives so as to operate any number of buttons H when the hives are arranged in line. A moth-trap, L, is attached to the front of the case A, a short distance below the openings G. A strip, M, is secured to the front and parallel with the bottom of the case A and serves as a rest upon which the bees may alight previously to entering the hive. The moth-trap L is a box, V, extending the full length of the hive, having a hinged cover, N, and a glass front, O. The entrances *q q* to the moth-trap L, made small enough to prevent the bees from passing through them, are in the top of the box V, under the strip M, and in a direct line below the openings G. A tin trough or cup, P, placed within the box V, is filled with grease to destroy the moth after it has gained

access to the trap. A partition, Q, is placed at a distance from the top of the case A of exactly two-thirds of the whole distance from the top to the bottom. A slide, R, has openings, S, corresponding with openings, S', in the partition Q. The slide R is inserted into its place in the partition Q through a slot, *h*, in the end of the case A, and provided with a ring, *i*, by which it may be drawn partially out, thereby shutting off communication between the upper and lower chambers, made by the partition Q. The comb-chambers E and E' have openings, W, directly over the right and left hand openings S', and the brood-chamber F has a similar opening, W, over the central opening S' in the partition Q. The bottom of the brood-chamber F is recessed on its lower side and provided with a button, X, one end of which works on a pivot, the other being provided with a stud, Y, which depends therefrom, so as to be caught by a loop, Z, on the end of the wire rod *a*. The brood-chamber F is divided vertically into four compartments, communication being unbroken near the bottom, while for the remainder of the way up, except through the orifices *b* and *c*, communication is intercepted. The central partition *g* of the brood-chamber F protrudes through the top of the chamber F. The said top is removable. The brood-chamber may be lifted from the case A by grasping the projecting portion of the partition *g*. The comb-boxes E E' have openings *d d* upon their tops provided with buttons *e e*. The fronts of the boxes E E' and the brood-chamber F are of glass for facilitating inspection. Screws with rings are inserted in the tops of the boxes E E', by which they may be lifted from the case A.

In order to get the bees into the hive in the first instance, remove the cap C and the chambers E E' and F; drive the bees into the upper chamber; place a false cap with a hole in it upon the top of the case A, and smoke the bees down into the lower chamber. Draw the slide R so as to close communication between the upper and lower chambers, and thus imprison the bees in the lower chamber. Remove the false cap, replace the chambers E E' and F and the cap C, and push the slide R to its place. The brood-chamber F is placed in the center of the hive for the reason that the bees naturally congregate at the center to brood. When the bees are in the brood-chamber F,



by simply pushing the rod *a* inwardly the button *X* closes the opening *W* in said chamber and imprisons the bees. The chamber *F* can then be removed and placed in another hive without inconvenience. To rob the hive it is only necessary to remove the cap *C*, turn the buttons *d* so as to expose the openings *e*, and then smoke the bees down to the lower chamber, where they should be imprisoned by drawing the slide *R* so as to cut off communication between the upper and lower chambers. The boxes *E* and *E'* can then be removed and the honey taken out without permitting the escape of a single bee.

At sundown the wire *I* should be drawn so as to cause the perforated buttons *H* to close the openings *G*. The moth-miller begins to fly after sunset, and as it alights upon the hive it seeks entrance through the openings *g*. After entering it naturally flutters against the glass front *O* and is knocked into the cup *P* filled with grease, from which it cannot extricate itself. By the arrangement of the wire *I* and perforated buttons *H* a great number of

hives can, if arranged in line, be closed at sundown and opened at sunrise with very little trouble.

Having thus described and explained my improvement, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The perforated buttons *H* provided with studs *K* and connected by the wire *I*, as described, in combination with the openings *G* in the case *A*, for the purposes set forth.

2. The brood-chamber *F*, having opening *W* and removable top, and the button *X* provided with stud *Y*, in combination with case *A* having partition *Q* provided with openings *S'*, substantially as described, for the purposes hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in bee-hives, as above described, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 19th day of March, 1872.

SAMUEL V. GREER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

WM. WRIGHT,  
ELBERT HAMONS.