

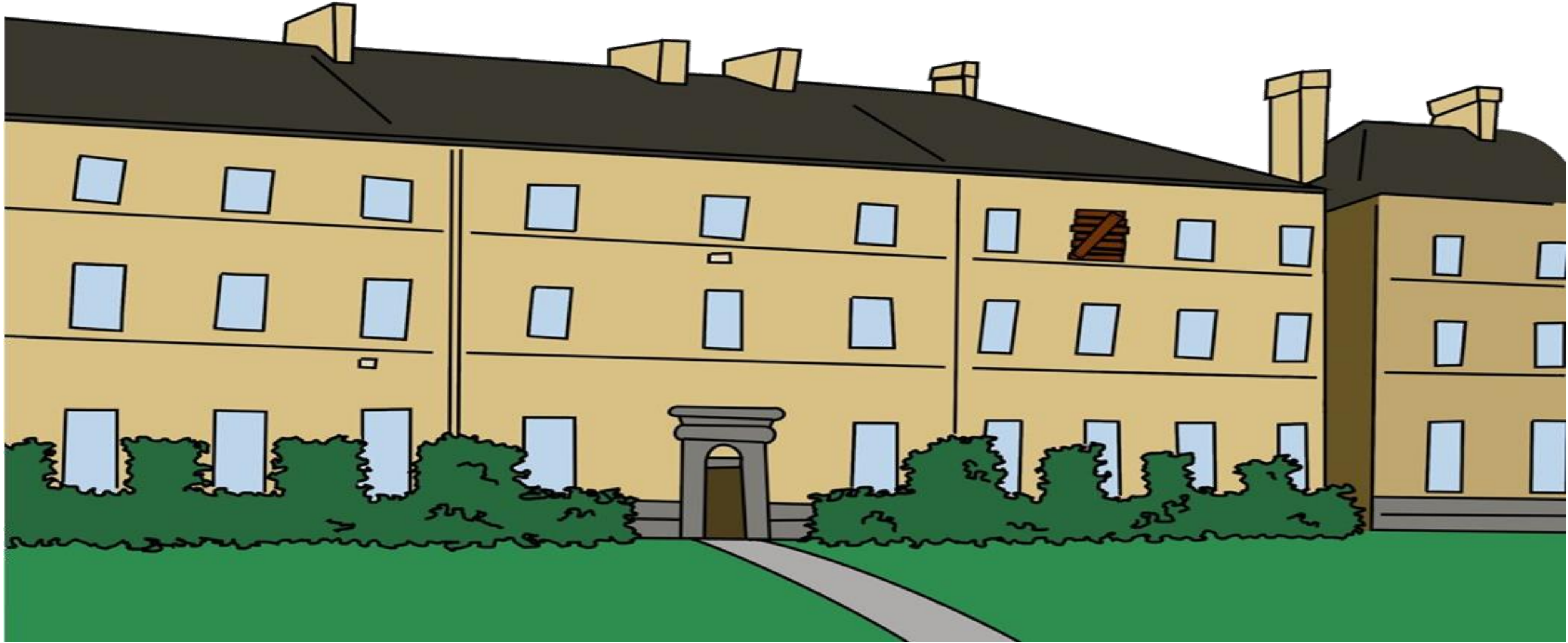
Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
A007 -- VICTORIAN APICULTURE -- JANUARY, 2022



*WELCOME TO TOPIC #007... TODAY, MASTER WATSON
AND I WILL EXPLORE VICTORIAN APICULTURE...*





IN THE ADVENTURE, 'HIS LAST BOW,' I PRESENTED
YOU WITH A COPY OF MY BOOK PRACTICAL
HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE, WITH SOME
OBSERVATIONS UPON THE SEGREGATION OF THE
QUEEN, BASED ON THE STUDY OF MY OWN HIVES.



DOYLE'S DESCRIPTION OF YOUR RETIREMENT INVOLVING AN EXPLORATION OF BEEKEEPING REFLECTED A TRUE MOVEMENT OCCURRING IN BRITAIN DURING THE LATTER HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY.



BEEKEEPING, A COTTAGE INDUSTRY DATING BACK CENTURIES, BEGAN TO SHIFT TOWARD A MORE COMMERCIAL EFFORT AS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INCREASED HIVE EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTION... UNTIL THE 1800s, LITTLE CHANGE OCCURRED IN BEEKEEPING FROM ANCIENT TIMES OTHER THAN WHERE BEES WERE KEPT.



*SPANISH CAVE DRAWINGS DEPICTED PEOPLE
HARVESTING HONEY FROM NATURAL HIVES MORE
THAN 8000 YEARS AGO.*



AT SOME LATER POINT, THESE NATURAL HIVES,
FOUND PLACES SUCH AS HOLLOW LOGS, WERE
MOVED (WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY) TO WICKER
BEEHIVES CALLED SKEPS.



BECAUSE THE SKEPS, BASICALLY UPSIDE-DOWN BASKETS, OFFERED NO WAY TO RETRIEVE THE HONEY EXCEPT TO TURN THE HIVE OVER AND EXTRACT BOTH IT AND THE COMB WITH THE RISK OF A DANGEROUS NUMBER OF BEE-STINGS COTTAGE BEEKEEPERS WOULD PLACE THE SKEP OVER BURNING SULFUR TO KILL THE BEES BEFORE CLEANING OUT THE THEN-DEAD HIVE.



THIS PRACTICE OF KILLING THE HIVE PROVIDED A MAJOR IMPETUS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND APPROACH TO BEEKEEPING: TO FIND A WAY TO HARVEST HONEY WITHOUT DESTROYING THE HIVE.



**THE FIRST MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH WAS THE
MOVABLE FRAME HIVE DEVELOPED BY THE REVEREND
L. LANGSTROTH.**



*WHILE HIS WAS NOT THE FIRST DESIGN INVOLVING
STRUCTURES TO MANIPULATE COMB CONSTRUCTION,
HIS USE OF SCIENTIFIC OBSERVATION AND
EXPERIMENTATION CREATED THE MOST EFFECTIVE
MODEL AND STILL PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR ABOUT
70% OF CURRENT HIVE DESIGNS.*

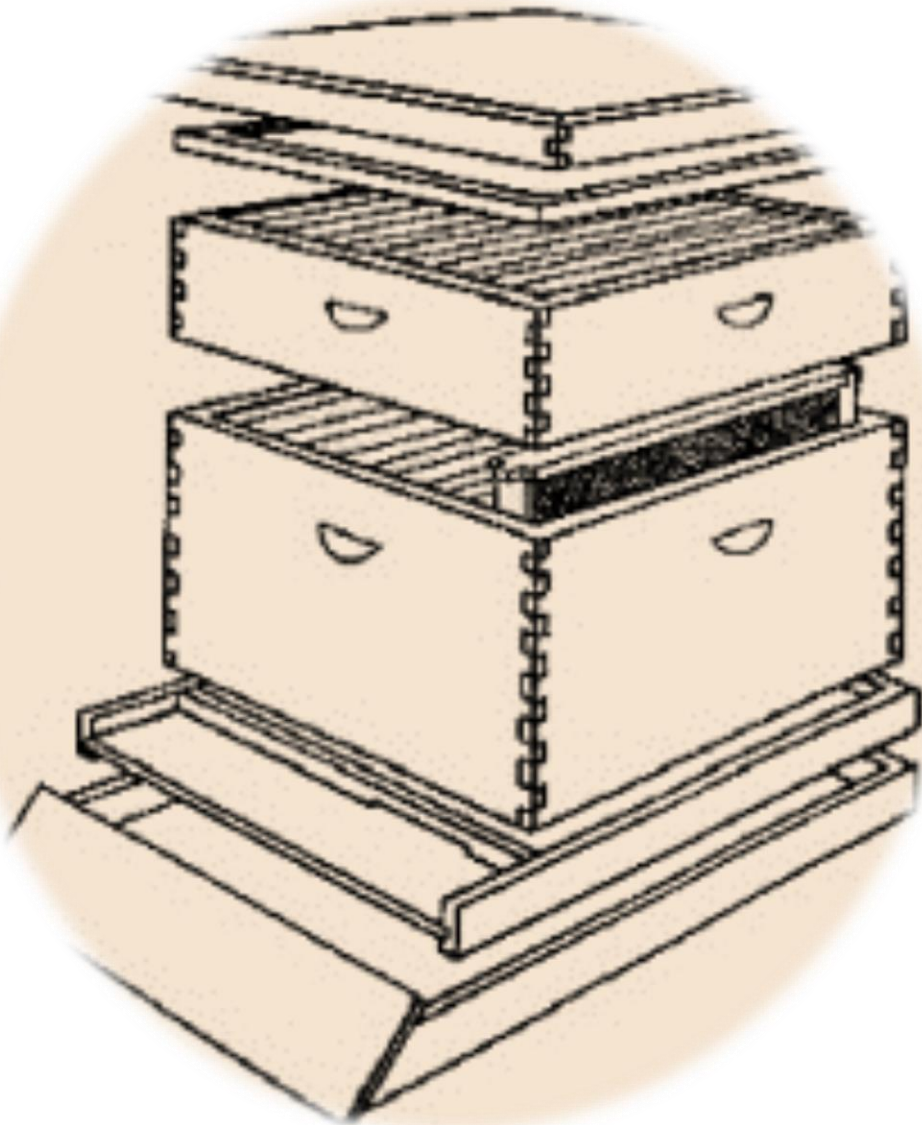




INSTEAD OF ALLOWING BEES TO SIMPLY BUILD THE COMBS BY ATTACHING THEM TO THE SKEP'S SIDE WITHOUT ANY ORGANIZATION...

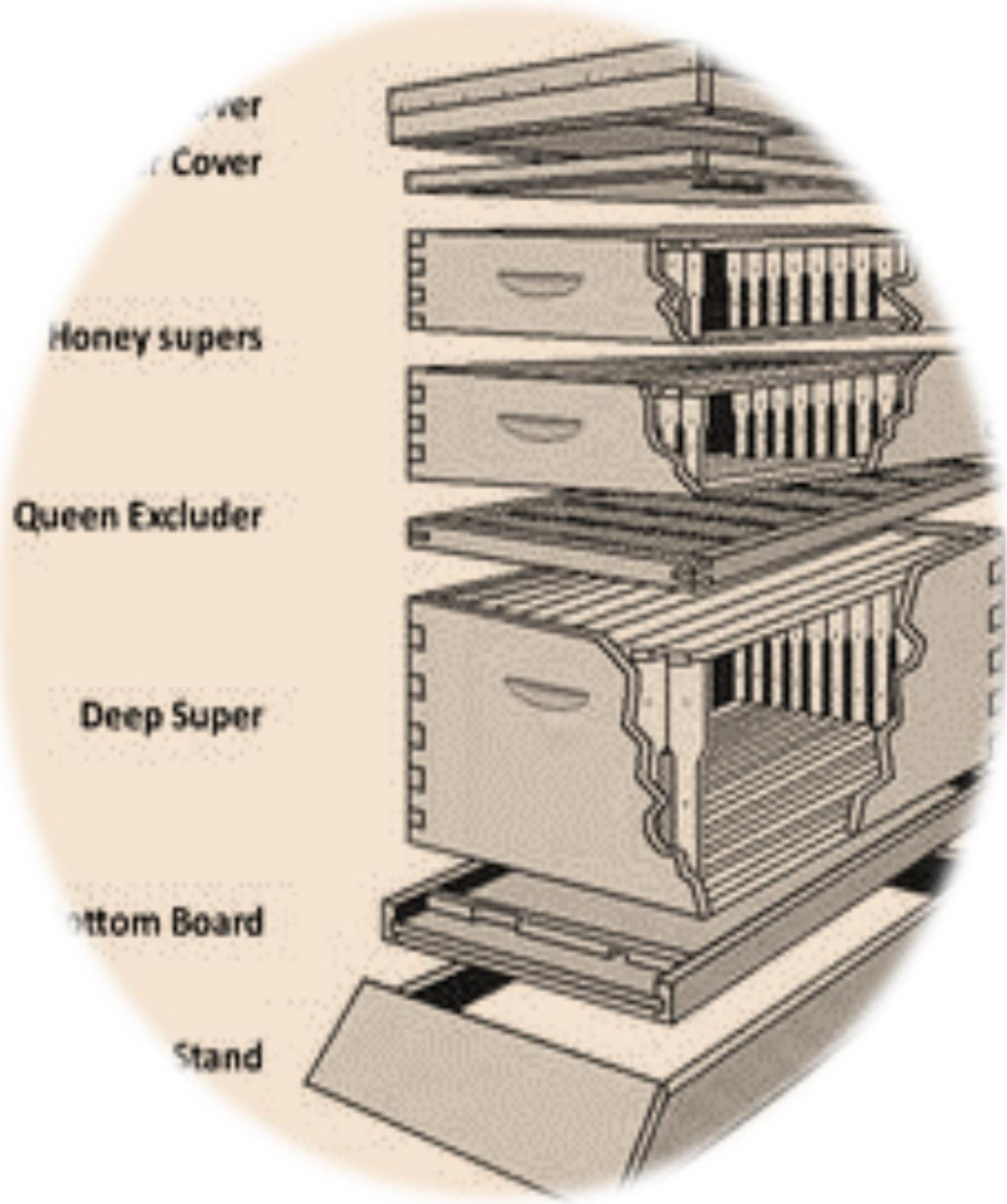


*...LANGSTROTH'S DESIGN INVOLVED HANGING
FRAMES FROM THE TOP OF A BOX-SHAPED
STRUCTURE LEAVING A SCIENTIFICALLY-
DETERMINED DISTANCE BETWEEN THE FRAMES AND
THE BOX'S TOP.*



LANGSTROTH HAD EXPERIMENTED WITH THE SPACING TO DISCOVER HOW FAR APART THE FRAMES HAD TO BE TO ENSURE THE BEES DID NOT CONNECT THE COMB OF ONE FRAME TO THAT OF ANOTHER OR TO GLUE THE LID TO THE BOX.

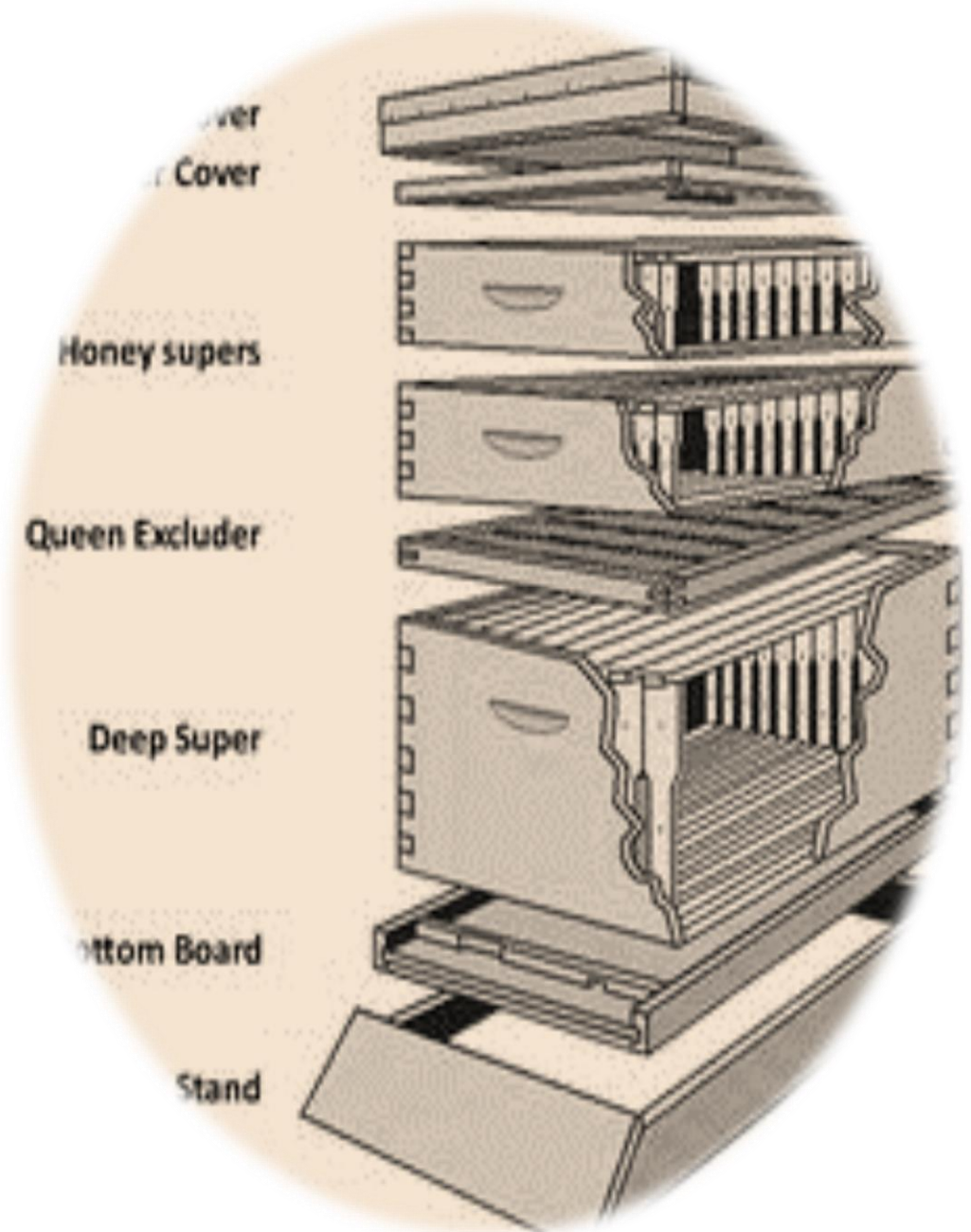




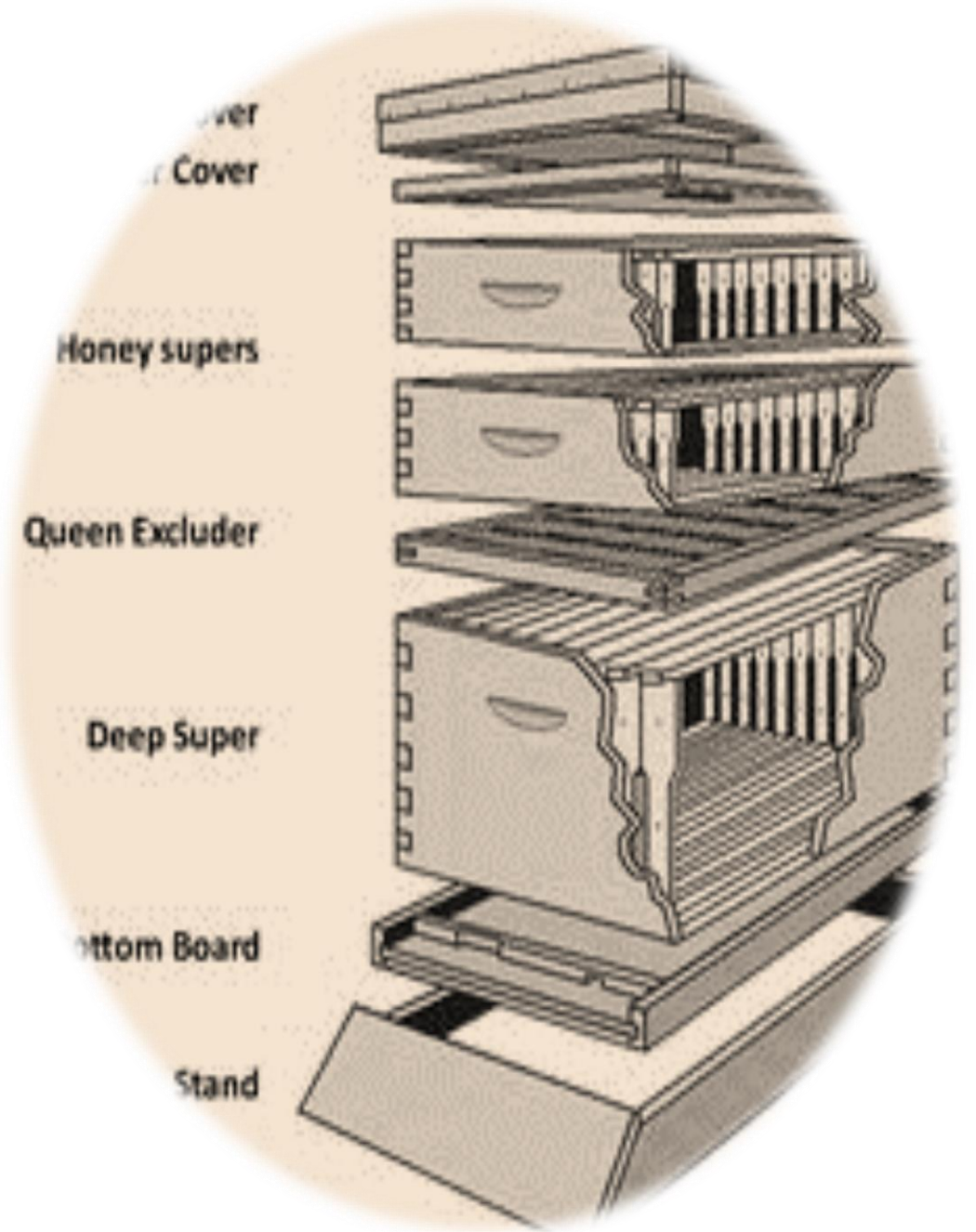
ANOTHER ADDITION TO THE LANGSTROTH HIVE,
AND OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ME, WAS THE
QUEEN EXCLUDER.



DESPITE THE ABILITY TO REMOVE THE FRAMES AND HARVEST THE HONEY AND BEESWAX AS IT WAS PRODUCED, BEEKEEPERS NOTED ONLY ENOUGH HONEY WAS MANUFACTURED AS NEEDED TO SUSTAIN THE HIVE... SEGREGATING THE QUEEN TO ONLY ONE SECTION, HOWEVER, CAUSED THE REST OF THE HIVE TO CREATE MORE HONEY THAN REQUIRED FOR THE BEE POPULATION.



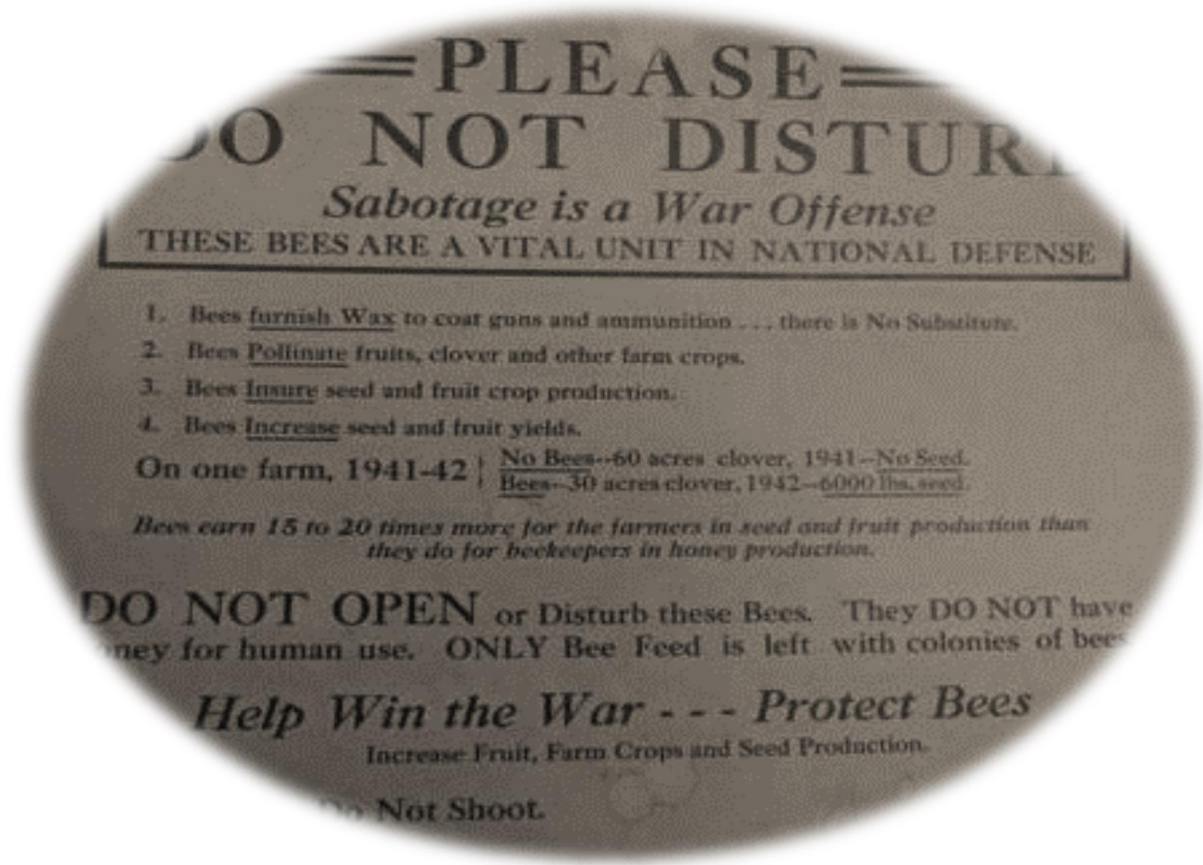
THIS SEPARATION WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY PUTTING A SCREEN OVER THE 'BROOD COMB' WHERE THE QUEEN LAID THE EGGS. THE BARRIER'S HOLES WERE LARGE ENOUGH TO ALLOW WORKER BEES TO PASS, BUT TOO SMALL FOR THE LARGER QUEEN.



AS A RESULT OF THESE CHANGES, HONEY PRODUCTION WAS INCREASED, HIVES COULD BE PRESERVED FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT, AND HIVES COULD MORE EASILY BE TRANSPORTED TO DIFFERENT FIELDS FOR POLLINATION.



THE ADVENT OF WORLD WAR I, HOWEVER, DERAILED THE SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT OF BEEKEEPING.



ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER RELATED GROUPS HAD MADE MAJOR INROADS TOWARD MODERNIZING THE RURAL COTTAGERS...



**...BETWEEN A THIRD TO A HALF OF THE BEEKEEPERS
STILL USED THE STRAW SKEPS, SOMETIMES
MIXING THEM WITH THE MOVEABLE FRAME HIVES
IN THE SAME AREA.**



*THE MORE HUMANE TREATMENT OF THE BEES
REMAINED TO BE RESOLVED UNTIL A LATER DATE.*



IN YOUR RETIREMENT, YOU JOINED A GREAT
NUMBER OF MERCHANTS, CLERGYMEN, AND HEALTH
AND LAW PROFESSIONALS INVOLVED IN THE
SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT OF BRITISH
APICULTURE AS THEY TRANSFORMED A COTTAGE
INDUSTRY TO A MORE HUMANE AND
SCIENTIFICALLY-BASED PRACTICE.



*EVEN IN YOUR THIRD AGE, YOU CONTINUED TO
CONTRIBUTE TO THE LARGER GOOD.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 007 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 008, WE WILL LOOK AT THE WESTMINSTER PALACE.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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- [HTTP://BEESWALES.CO.UK/EN-GB/HISTORY-OF-BEEKEEPING](http://beeswales.co.uk/en-gb/history-of-beekeeping)
- NATURALIZING POWER: ESSAYS IN FEMINIST CULTURAL ANALYSIS
- THE BEAR GUARDING THE BEEHIVE



Baker Street Elementary

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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