

Hints for promoting a bee society.

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HINTS

FOR

PROMOTING

A

BEE SOCIETY.



LONDON:

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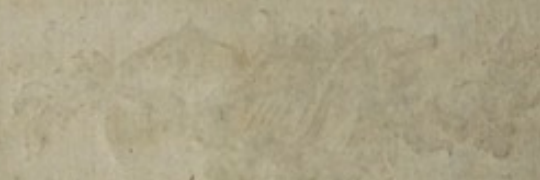
THE NEW

FOR

PROVINCIAL

AND

BEES & CO. LTD.



LONDON:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY BARNES AND BARNES,
No. 13, GOWER STREET.

MODEL

HINTS, &c.

WHEN the expences of every article of subsistence in this country, affords a theme of very general complaint, it is surprising that an industrious and sensible people should neglect so many evident sources of product, and consequently of subsistence, which are variously afforded. For a series of years much has been expended in colonizing and improving distant possessions, whilst our own immediate soil has been strangely neglected; and even at this period, nearly a fourth of the whole kingdom is in com-

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mons, producing little, or in waste grounds, producing still less, support to man or cattle; at a time, indeed, when not an inch of soil should remain useless.

At length, however, a spirit of rational enquiry has pervaded several societies and individuals, through various parts of the kingdom, and agriculture is improving upon the true principles of nature and chemistry; and the time may come when all government and ecclesiastical restraints may cease, and the ground amply reward him whose labour and sweat enrich it.

In a retrospective view, the loss that has been sustained by negligence or ignorance, within the space only of half a century, is almost beyond figures to calculate.—May sound sense and productive industry allow us joyfully to contemplate the future increase of plenty and store!

It is not only the immediate soil, that invites to product; within its bowels wealth lies hid, and above its surface, the
most

most humble plant, as well as the lofty tree, expands its flower, and distils its honey, to invite another community of industrious labourers, which has hitherto been too much disregarded, and whose product, when accepted by the hand of man, is pure gain. The BEE, whose active exertion is pleasing to contemplate, and the product of it profitable to enjoy, is by no means duly encouraged. Within twenty miles of the metropolis, horticulture has most extensively increased; the gardens are enriched with plants of every kind—but the nectarium of the flowers issues in vain, whilst the hive is excluded from a station, where it might be rendered no less an object of ornament than of profit. In the space I have mentioned, 50,000 bee-hives at least might be maintained, which, upon an average, would produce as many guineas annually in honey and wax, two articles of singular use in every family in the kingdom.

Viewing, therefore, the subject as truly profitable and entertaining, I wish to turn
the

the attention of every proprietor of a garden to its promotion, by allotting a small space to a bee-hive, and encouraging its busy inhabitants to cull a rich store from his flowers, and thereby gain to himself a product, not less salutary than pleasant. In this metropolis, where little as well as great objects meet with patrons and partizans, I wish to excite patronage to the industrious bee, by the institution of a society for promoting its increase, not only in the neighbourhood of London, but likewise throughout the kingdom; for even the barren heath is productive under his labour.

Columbarian societies have been formed, for the improvement of the beauty, rather than of the utility, of the pigeon. Of still less use are societies for fancy birds, flowers, and other trivial objects, which have been long established; whilst the bee, whose industry is proverbial, is left without due patronage; and, from neglect, the stocks are annually diminishing; but, with our present agricultural improve-

ments, and increasing horticulture, it may be presumed that a Bee Society will not be deemed the least important institution of the present period.

After the establishment of such a society, premiums might be offered for ascertaining the food most suitable to the bee, the best mode of taking the honey, as well as of constructing the hive, and preserving its denizens.

Where ornament and pleasure have been particularly studied, neat mahogany and glass hives have been constructed in the windows of dwelling-houses; by which means company in a sitting room may see into the glass hive, and be amused by the activity and labour of the industrious community every moment of the day, and learn a lesson of employing their own moments to the most useful purposes.

Some bee-hives are so constructed with glass, of various sizes, as to represent a pyramid; which, at the same time, are highly productive. This is done by placing
over

over the body of the hive, which is of glass, a flat round board, perforated neatly round the edges, with holes sufficiently large to admit the bees readily to pass and repass; over each hole a small glass, like a cupola, is inverted; and as soon as the body of the hive is filled, the bee continues his labour upwards till every glass cupola is richly stored with wax and honey. Over these another flat board, perforated in the same manner, and furnished with glasses, is placed; and even other strata, lessening in diameter, may be so added, as to represent a beautiful and lofty pyramid; a drawing of one, as it now really exists in Mr. Lover's bed-chamber, is here annexed. In this pyramidal form of raising the hive, the bees continue to work without swarming, or leaving the hive, till the glass cupolas are filled with wax and honey; and their stay may be prolonged, by removing the glasses as soon as filled, and substituting empty ones: these glasses may be made of such a size as to suit a family to breakfast,

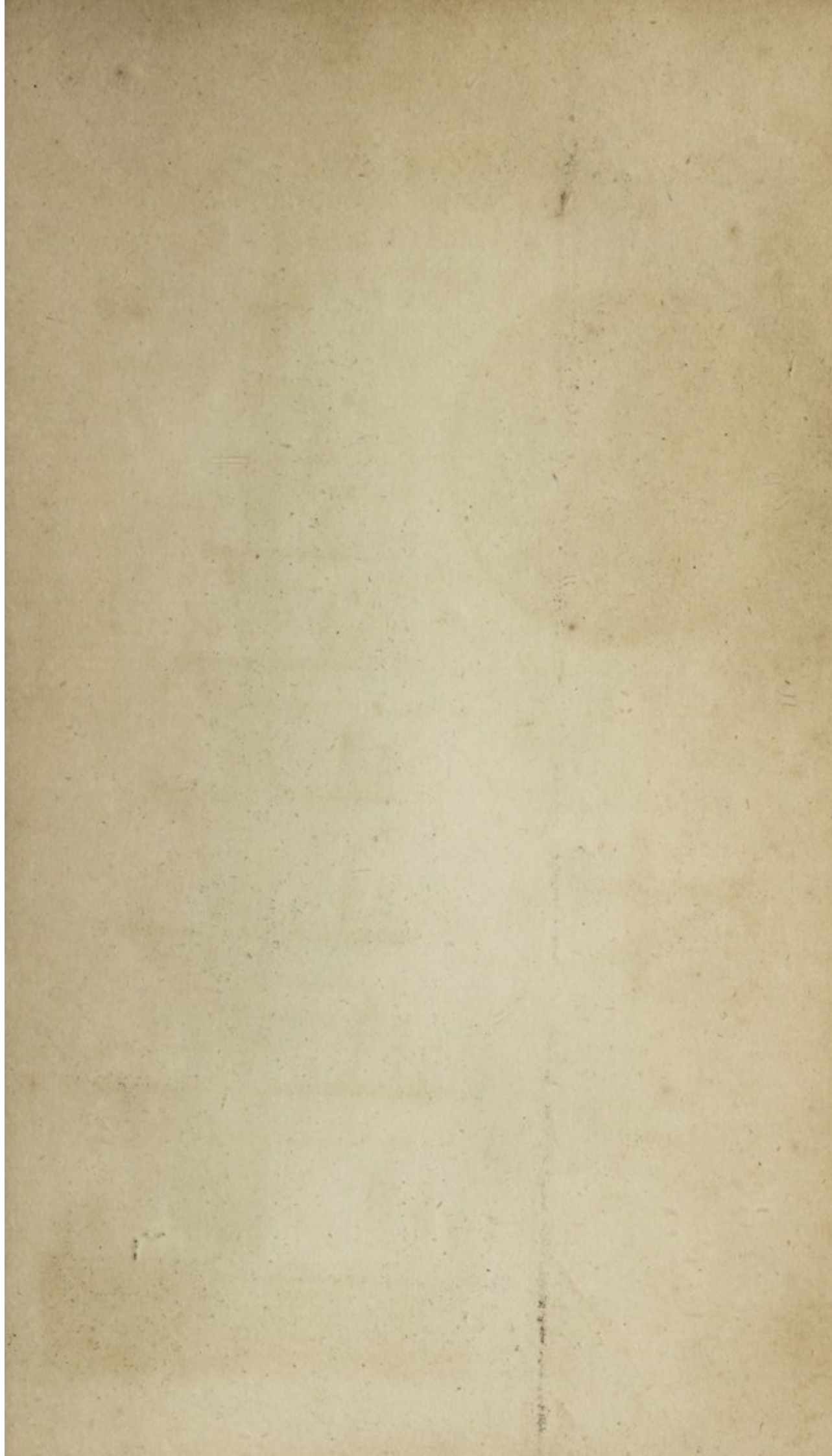
each

each of which may be daily introduced to the table fresh from the hive.

A little honey on bread would save the use of butter on the occasion, and be more wholesome : it is at the same time a luxury, that every family, in possession of a garden, may command without expence, and certainly with the addition of rational amusement. To unite this with profit is the intention of these hints, which experience will improve upon, and amply reward the proprietor of this most industrious community of labourers, who seek no reward in return, but house and shelter, from the inclemency of the seasons.

except which may be easily introduced to
 the table from the fact that a
 A little more on this subject would have the
 use of the table in the occasion, and be more
 profitable. It is at the same time a
 one, that every family, in the possession of a
 gathering may command without expense,
 and certainly with the addition of a few
 at a distance of 10 to 15 miles this is a
 as the number of these might be much ex-
 pensive, both in the expense of the table, and
 toward the proprietor of the table, who
 directs the company of the table, who
 is not toward in return, but to the end
 the fact from the necessity of the table

EXPLA.



Plan of a Colony of Bees

Fig 1.

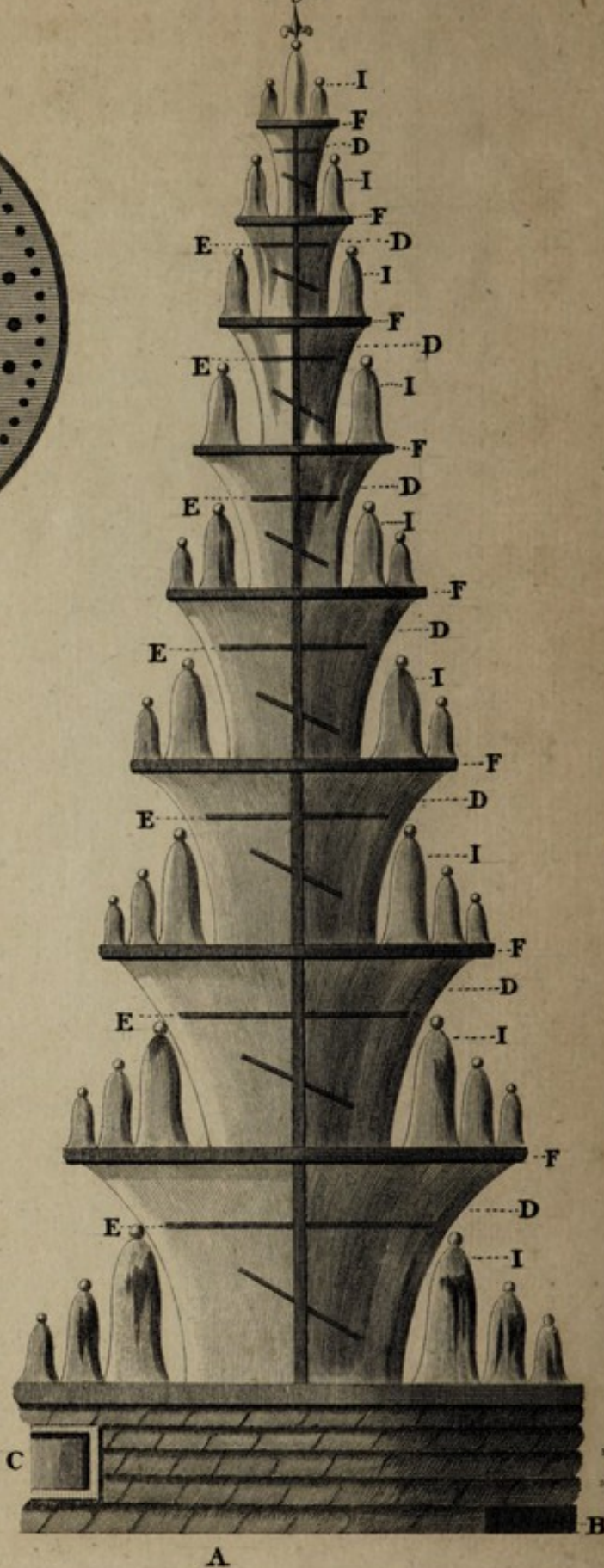


Fig. 2.

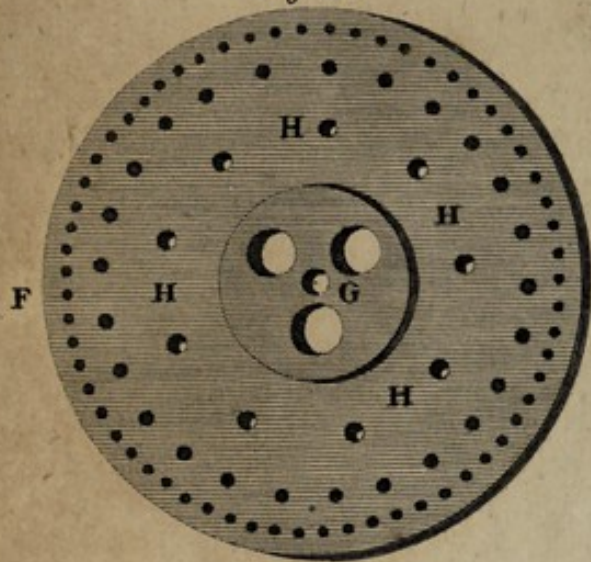
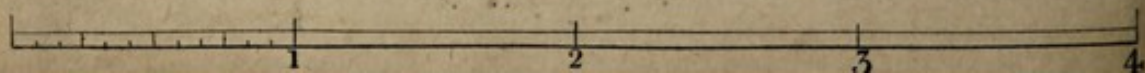
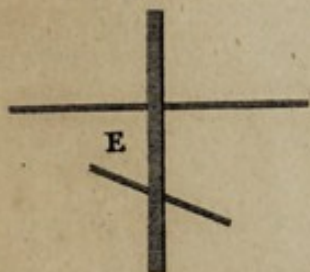


Fig. 3.



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE,

Exhibiting the Plan of **LOVER's Colony of BEES.**

- A. The straw bee-hive, inclosing a large glass D.
- B. The mouth or entrance for the bee-hive.
- C. The door behind the hive, which opens, to admit a view of the bees and internal structure of the honey-combs.
- D D, &c. Large glasses placed on the hive, which may be continued to any elevation, by the intervention of the flat circular board, F. fig. 2.
- E E, &c. Cross sticks placed in the hive, and within each of the large glasses D D, &c. for the bees to fasten the combs upon. One of these cross sticks is more clearly exhibited in fig. 3.
- F F, &c. Flat circular boards, one of which is placed over each of the large glasses D D, &c. and perforated to admit a free passage for the bees. The large holes G. as represented in fig. 2. are included under a large glass D. and the small holes H H, &c. are covered by smaller glasses, each resembling inverted cupolas I I, &c. of different sizes at the pleasure of the proprietor.

These cupolas, in the original colony, surround the large glasses D D, &c. but are omitted in the engraving, in the front of each, in order to exhibit these large glasses more obviously, with the cross sticks E E, &c. included within them; hence the strata of glasses above the straw hive appear as a section.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATE.

Explaining the Plan of Hoover's Colony &c.

- A. The new beehive, including a passage to the old one.
- B. The room or entrance for the bees.
- C. The door behind the hive, which opens to admit a view of the bee and internal structure of the colony.
- D, D, &c. Large shutters placed on the hive, which may be opened to any elevation, by the insertion of the flat circular board, F, fig. 2.
- E, F, &c. Glass plates placed in the hive, and within each of the large shutters D, D, &c. for the bees to fasten the comb upon. One of these glass plates is more easily removed, fig. 8.
- F, F, &c. The circular boards, one of which is placed over each of the large shutters D, D, &c. and per- forated to admit a free passage for the bees. The large shutters G, &c. are represented in fig. 9, and included under the name of shutters, and the small boards H, &c. are covered by the large glass plates, each containing its own separate glass, and different from the plates of the other shutters.
- I. The circular boards, in the original colony, surround the large shutter D, D, &c. but are omitted in the colony, in the front of entry, in order to admit the bees to enter more easily, with the cross shutters I, &c. instead of within them; and the glass plates above the new hive appear as a