

Pick-up Hive and Honey Barrow

THE lifting of heavy supers of honey from the hive on to the apiary truck, and from the truck into the honey-house at extracting time, also the lifting of full colonies of bees when moving apiaries or re-arranging hives, is heavy work, and any reliable device which would make the work easier and reduce the time taken to a minimum should be welcome to beekeepers. In recent years the use of various types of hand trucks, trolleys, and barrows has considerably reduced the amount of lifting in many modern honey-houses to a minimum.

Little headway has been made, however, in easing the work of the beekeeper in the apiary itself. The barrow (or carrier) illustrated in this article as used by Mr. Wm. Adamson, of Wedderburn, is especially useful in the handling of honey supers and hives. One of the barrow's main features is that it will pick up three supers of honey or a complete three-storey hive from ground level in a single operation, and, with the use of a suitable ramp, load them right on

to the apiary truck, and also assist to unload them with no actual lifting on the part of the operator.

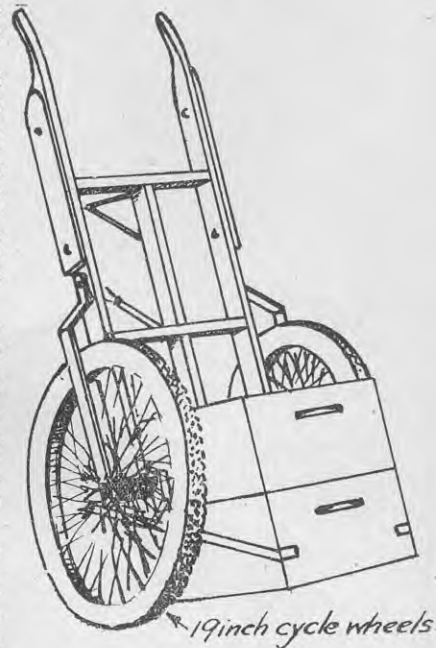
The barrow is made from a pair of motor cycle wheels carrying a flat wooden framework, with the usual barrow shafts. The picking up operation is achieved by the grasping action of the two arms which protrude in front, which open readily when the lever on the back of the barrow is pressed, and spring together when the lever is released, and so embrace the bottom super.

To load the barrow the shafts are held in a vertical position, the arms are opened by pressing the back lever, and the barrow is pushed hard up to the supers or hive to be moved. The lever is then released and the arms close around the bottom super. By bringing the shafts down to a horizontal position the load may be wheeled where required.

When using the barrow to load on to a truck, it will be necessary to have three planks of 9in. x 2in. timber about 10ft. long, which can be placed from the ground to the tail of the truck, spaced so that the outside planks will each carry a wheel, while the operator walks up the middle one, which should be suitably cleated to provide a foot-hold. Two empty supers placed under the middle of the planks will lessen the strain on the timber and prevent excessive sagging.

If a shallow excavation is made in each apiary so as to lower the back wheels of the truck 6in. to 1ft., the loading will be greatly facilitated.

—I. W. FORSTER, Apiary Instructor, Invercargill.



19 inch cycle wheels.

