

J. H. Springer:
Letter Box.
N^o 42,052. Patented Mar. 22, 1864.

FIG. 1.

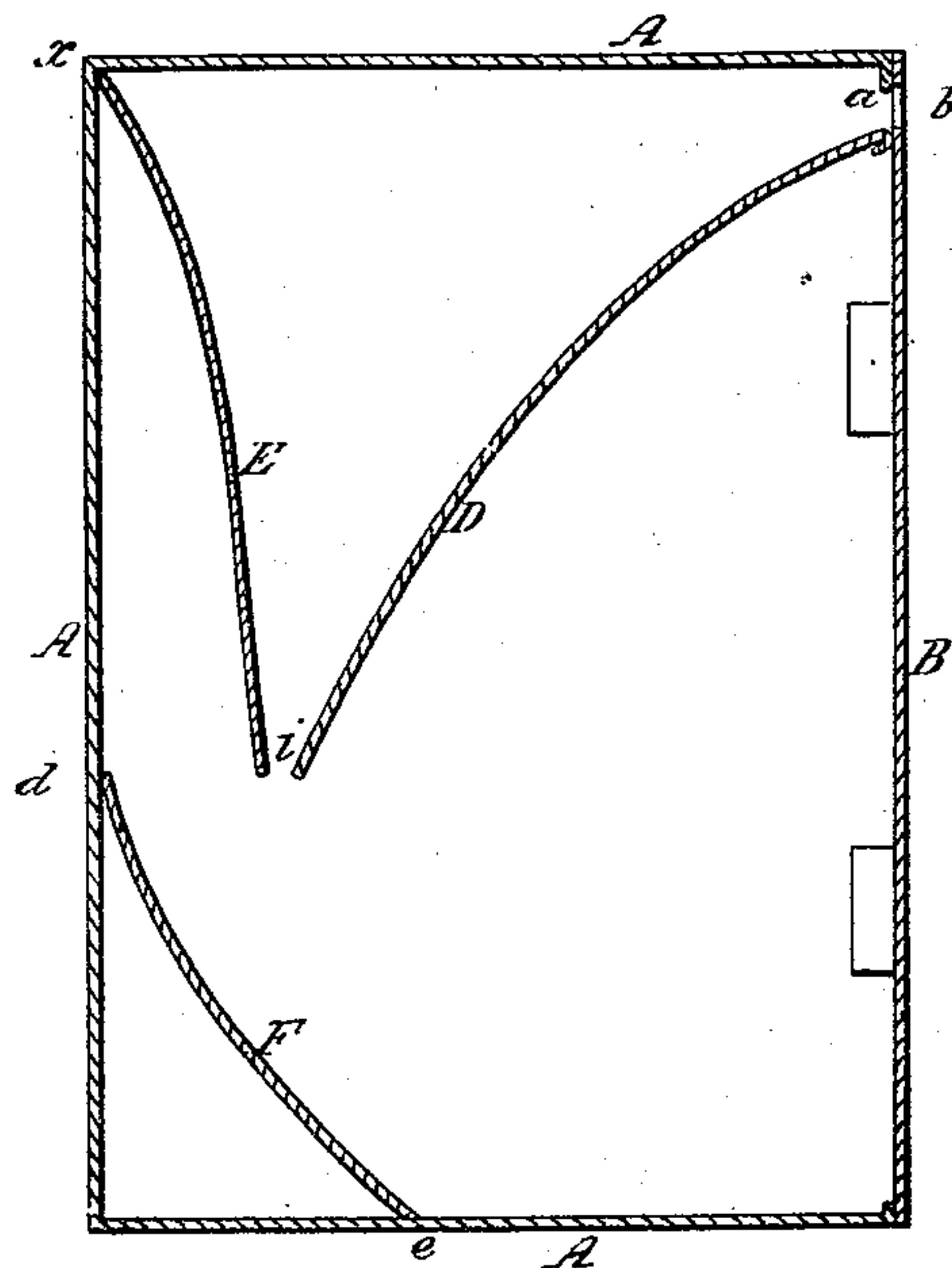
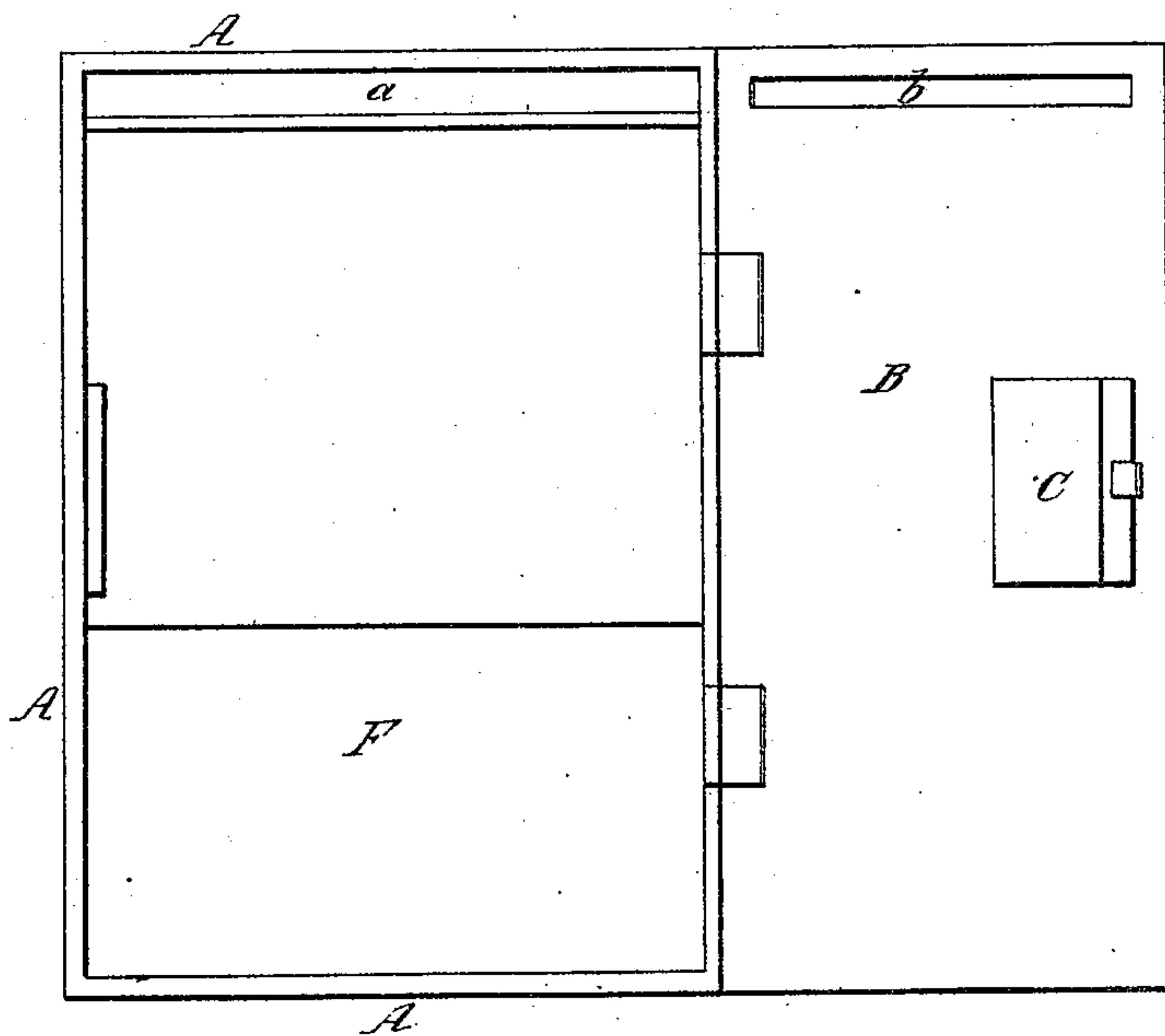


FIG. 2.



Witnesses.

H. Albert Steel

Charles Howson.

Inventor.

Henry Howson

Atty for J. H. Springer

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. SPRINGER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO
HIMSELF AND W. F. WEAVER, OF SAME PLACE.

LETTER-BOX.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 42,052, dated March 22, 1864; antedated
March 9, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. SPRINGER, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improved Letter-Box; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists of a box, of any suitable exterior form, having in the interior three inclined or curved plates, arranged in respect to the opening for the admission of letters, as described hereinafter, so as to prevent the withdrawal of the contents of the box through the said opening.

In order to enable others to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe the manner of constructing the same.

On reference to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a vertical section of my improved letter-box, and Fig. 2 a front view of the same with the door open.

A is a box, of wood or metal, permanently closed on five of its sides, the sixth side being provided with a suitable hinged door, B, on which is a lock, C, of any desired construction, whereby the said door can be secured or released at pleasure. A plate, D, of the form, or approximating to the form, represented in Fig. 1, extends from side to side of the box, and is arranged in the manner illustrated, there being a longitudinal opening, *a*, between the upper edge of this plate and the top of the box, and another opening, *b*, in the door B, coinciding with the opening *a*. Another curved or inclined plate, E, extends from the corner *x* of the box to *y*, and between the lower edge of this plate and that of the plate D is an opening, *i*, of sufficient width to permit letters, newspapers, &c., of ordinary dimensions to pass freely. A third inclined

plate, F, extends from the point *d* to the point *e*. On passing a letter or newspaper through the openings *b* and *a* it will slide down the curved or inclined plate D and drop through the opening *i* between the lower edges of the plates D and E, and then, striking the curved or inclined plate F, will be deflected by the latter toward the front of the box, from which it may, with other letters or newspapers, be removed after unlocking and opening the door B. It will be observed that when a letter or newspaper is deposited in the box great difficulty will be experienced in removing it without unlocking the door, the key of which is in possession of the owner of the box. Even if an instrument or an elastic strip with cement at the end could be passed through the openings *a* and *b*, so as to seize or adhere to a letter, its withdrawal would be frustrated either by the lower edge of the plate D or that of the plate E, with one or other of which the letter must come in contact.

Without confining myself to any particular external form of box I wish it to be understood that I do not desire to claim, broadly, the use in letter-boxes of a plate so arranged as to prevent the withdrawal of letters; but

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

A box furnished with a suitable door, and having in the interior the three inclined or curved plates D E F, arranged in respect to the opening for the insertion of letters, &c., as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOSEPH H. SPRINGER.

Witnesses:

HENRY HOWSER,
JOHN WHITE.