

J. B. Hanniman,

Privy Seat,

Nº 69,661.

Patented Oct. 8, 1867.

Fig: 1.

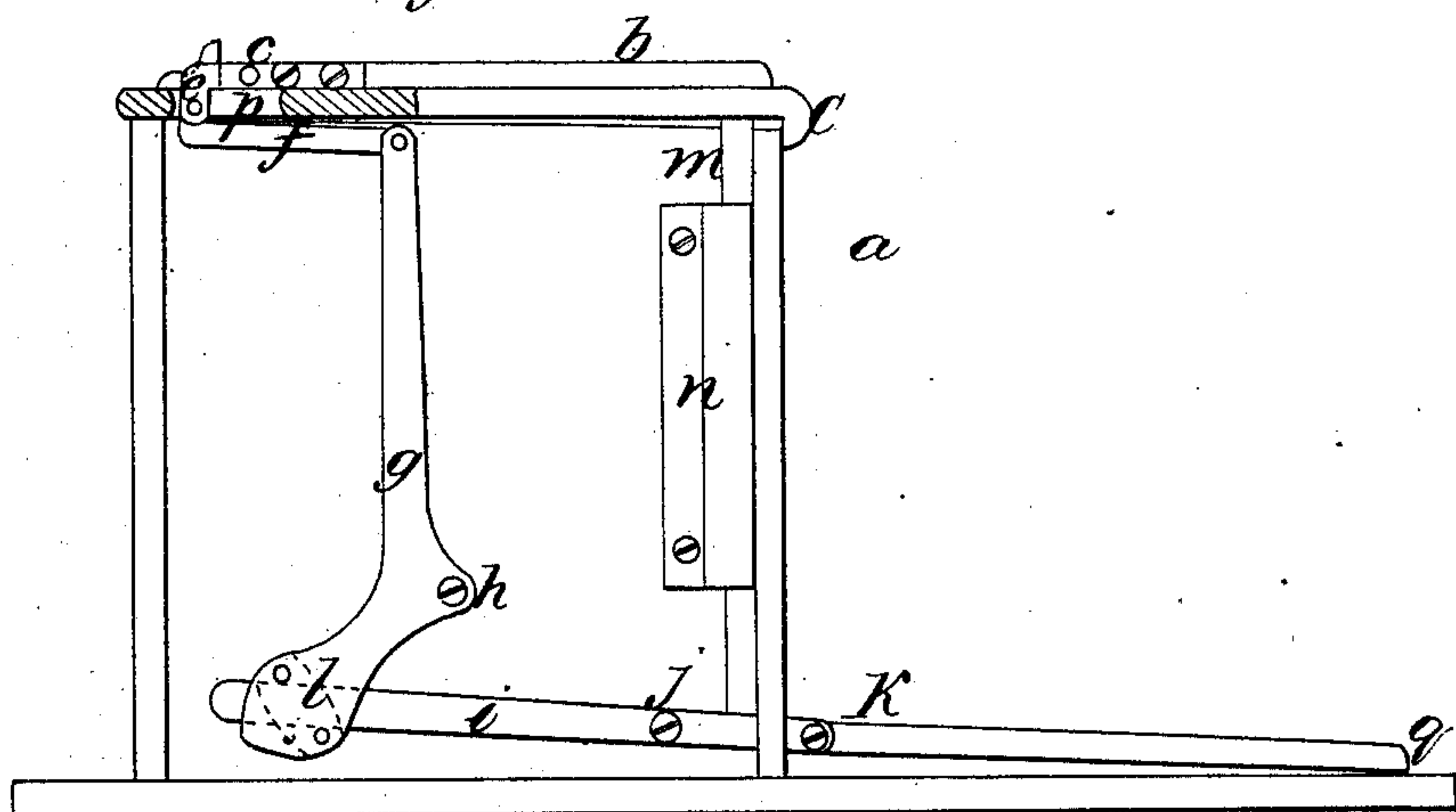
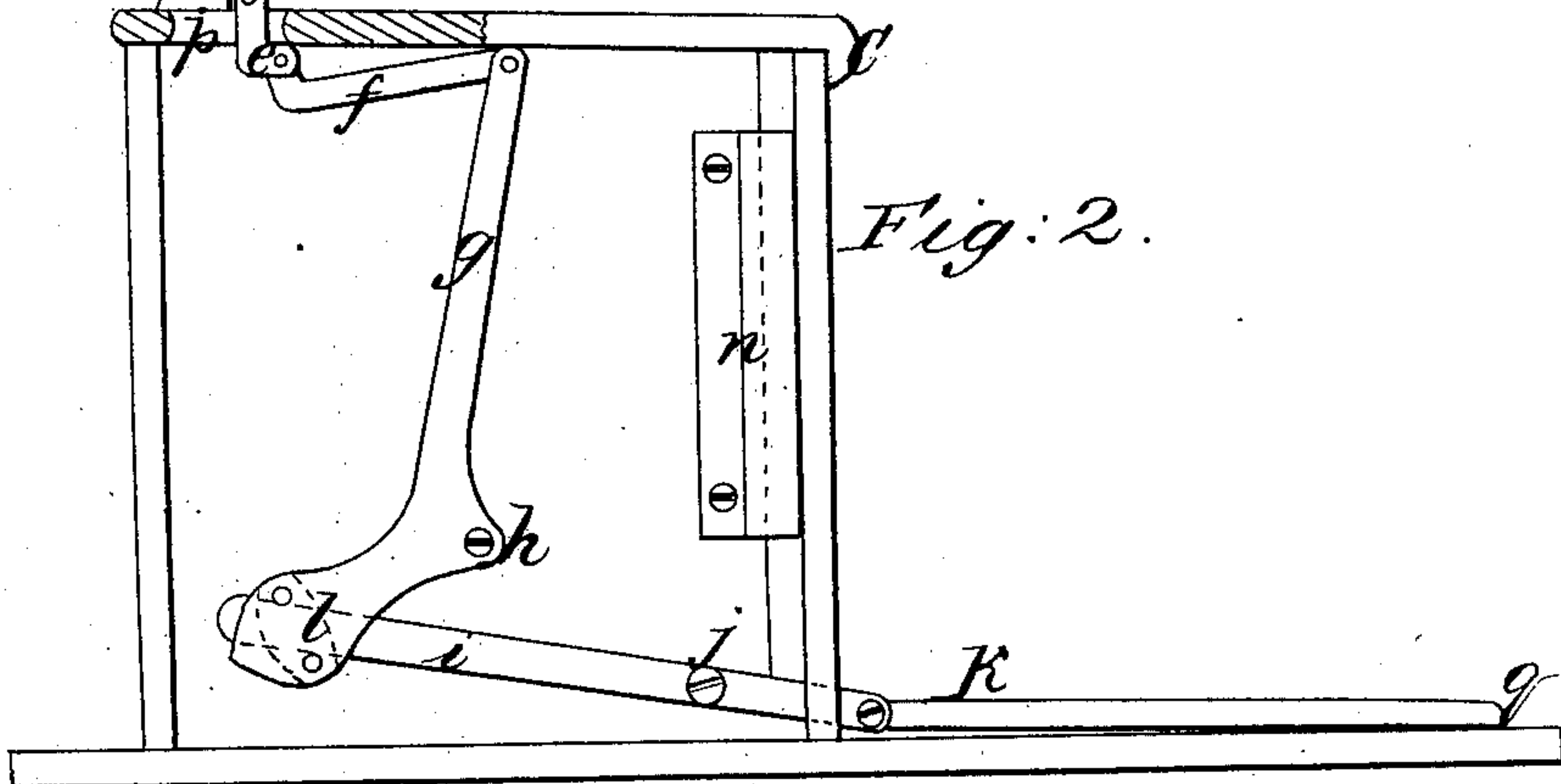


Fig: 2.



Witnesses;
Gustav Perry
A. H. Dryburgh

Inventor;
John B. Hanniman
pr.
Nor Sanborn & Hann
Attys

United States Patent Office.

JOHN B. HANNIMANN, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

Letters Patent No. 69,661, dated October 8, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN WATER-CLOSETS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. HANNIMANN, of Detroit, in the county of Wayne, and in the State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Water-Closets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable those skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which drawing—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the seat of a water-closet, the outer casing being removed to show the system of levers by which the cover is raised.

Figure 2 is a like elevation, the cover being open.

The object of my invention is to cause the cover of a water-closet seat to open and close automatically, the arrangement being such that the approach of any person about to use the apparatus effects the throwing up of the cover, and his departure effects its closing again. The weight of the occupant also causes the cover to be held back, so that it will not bear against him.

The letter *a* designates the box which contains the basin and other parts of a water-closet, the upper part of said box being closed by the seat *C*, which has the usual opening therein. The seat *c* is so secured at its rear to the box *a* as to be capable of a slight vertical movement at its front edge, where it is seen to rest on a vertical bar, *m*, which slides up and down behind the guide *n*, said bar *m* resting upon lever *i* and operating to keep the cover open, as hereinafter explained. The seat *c* is in this example loosely bolted to the top of the box, but it may, if preferred, be hinged. The cover *b* is pivoted at *o*, on both its sides, to standards (not here seen) which rise from the seat *c*. From the sides of the cover, behind the pivots *o*, extend arms *e*, only one of which is seen in the drawing, that have vertical extensions, which work through slots *p* made in the seat *c*. To said vertical extensions are hinged the rear ends of connecting-rods *f*, whose other ends are hinged to the top of vibrating elbow-levers *g*, that are pivoted at *h* to the sides of the box. The lower shorter ends of levers *g* are designated by the letter *l*, and they are weighted so as to be able to close the cover *b*, as hereinafter explained. The letter *i* designates horizontally-arranged levers pivoted at *j* to the sides of box *a*, near its bottom, and connected to the part *l* of lever *g* by a sliding joint, which is in this example formed by two pins that hold an inner plate to the part *l* of lever *g*, as indicated by dotted lines. The rear end of lever *i* moves in the space formed between the pins and between said inner plate and the side of said part *l*, and lever *g* is allowed to move to and fro on lever *i* in its vibrations on pivot *h*. The forward ends of levers *i* are hinged to the rear edge of platform *k*, whose forward edge is allowed to rest on the floor at *q*. The system of levers seen in the drawing on that side of the box which is represented, is repeated on the other side, but, if preferred, said levers may be arranged at one side only.

The operation of the apparatus is as follows, observing fig. 1, where the cover *b* is shown closed, as it is intended to be while the water-closet is not in actual use: The weight of a person upon the platform *K* causes the horizontal levers *i* to vibrate on their fulcrum *j*, so as thereby to throw the upper end of lever *g* in a forward direction, said lever *g* drawing with it the connecting-rod *f*, which, through its jointed attachment to the cover *b*, causes the said cover to be turned upward off the seat *c*, its movement being limited by the stop *d*, arranged on the back part of the seat. The platform *k* lies free on the floor, resting thereon along the front edge *q* and forming a lever. Said edge is consequently the fulcrum of the leverage of the platform. When it is desired to reach the top of the cover *b* to clean or dust it off, the platform *k* is turned up and allowed to lean against the front of the box, so that a servant can approach and reach the cover *b* without throwing it up by stepping on said platform. So long as the weight of any person remains on the platform *k* the cover *b* remains in the position shown in fig. 2; but when such person moves off the platform the weighted end *l* of lever *g* brings that lever to the position shown in fig. 1, and closes the cover *b*. In order to prevent injury to the cover or the seat in closing the cover their adjacent surfaces may have small rubber or other cushions, which will, by their elasticity, prevent injury as well as noise. Fig. 2 represents seat *c* close down upon the box *a* as it appears when brought down by the weight of an occupant, the vertical bar *m* being thereby pressed down upon the shorter end of lever *i*, so as to cause the occupant to hold up the cover *b* after his weight has been by sitting down partially removed from the platform.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The arrangement and combination with the lever *j* of the seat *c* and sliding bar *m*, substantially as described.

J. B. HANNIMANN.

Witnesses:

T. P. BENOIT,

W. P. BENOIT.