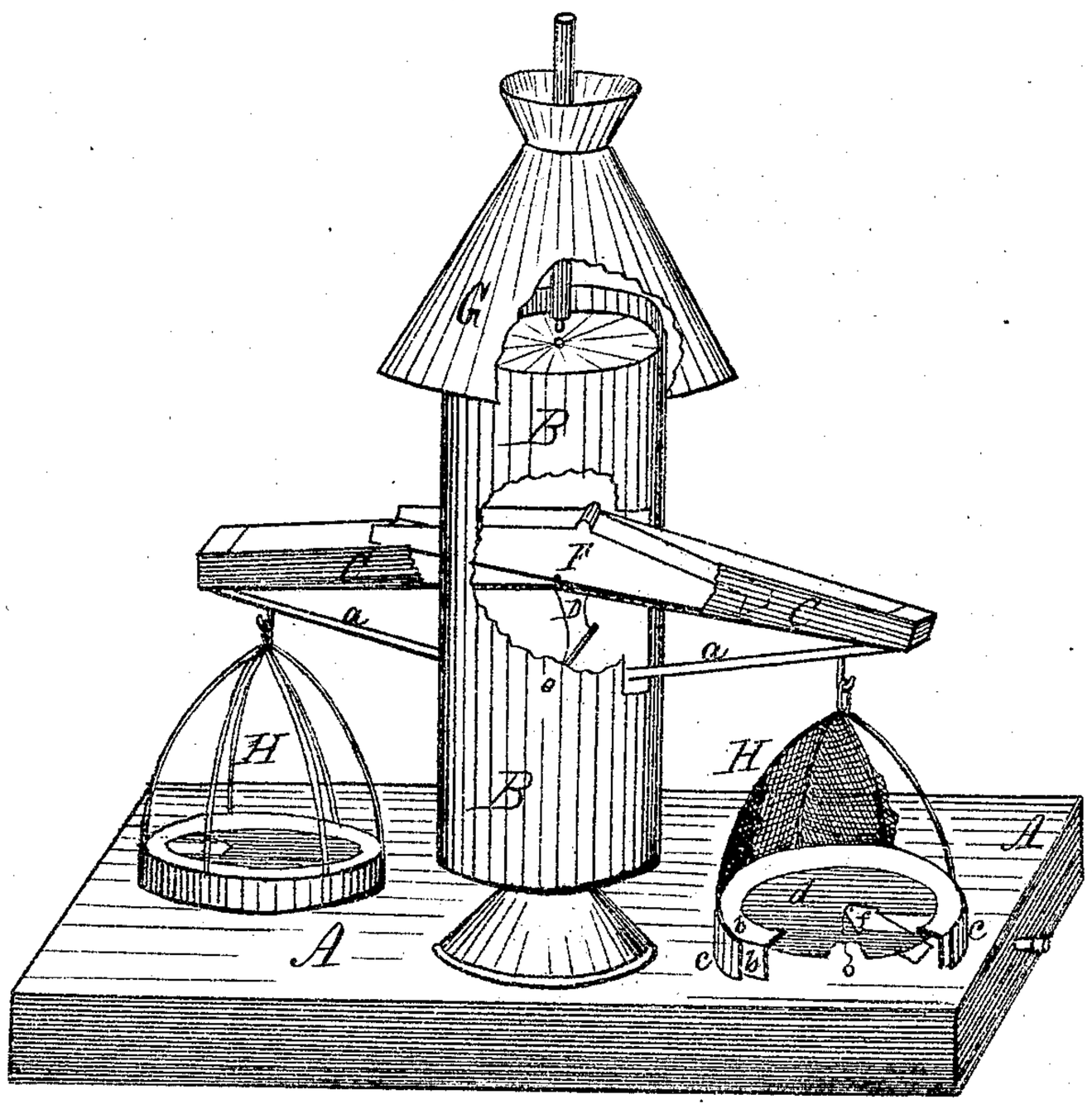
[51.]

No. 118,747. Patented Sep. 5. 1871.

FRANK L. ROSENTRETER'S

Automatic Fly-Trap.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK L. ROSENTRETER, OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN AUTOMATIC FLY-TRAPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 118,747, dated September 5, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK L. ROSENTRETER, of Des Moines, in the county of Polk and State of Iowa, have invented an Automatic Fly-Trap, of which the following is a specification:

My invention is an automatic fly-trap; and consists in a mounted oscillating trough or beam with an oscillating bucket within, and conical traps suspended at the ends of the beam, all made and combined in such a manner that they will be operated by the dripping or flow of water from a reservoir placed on the top of the shaft upon which the beam is mounted.

The drawing is a perspective view, showing the several parts of my trap in position.

A A is the base and forms a tank for holding the water that descends from the reservoir, and may be made of metal or other suitable material, and of various forms and sizes. B B is a cylindrical hollow shaft, used to support the beam. It stands upon an ornamental conical foot, and has a concave top and also a concave bottom to carry off the water through center holes. C C is the oscillating trough-like beam. It is made to droop outward from the center. It rests upon a fulcrum and has hollow tubes running from the ends to the center to carry the water away from the ends of the beam. D is the fulcrum, the ends of which are journals, resting and bearing upon the sides of the hollow shaft. *a a* represent the hollow tubes connected with the beam. F is an oscillating scoop-shaped bucket suspended in the center of the trough or beam. It has a weighted partition-wall in the middle, which serves as a balance, and also as a means of alternately turning the dripping water from one end of the beam to the other. G is a movable reservoir with a funnel-shaped mouth. It may vary in form. It has a valve or opening in the center of its bottom, through which the water is allowed to drip or flow to the oscillating bucket F. A screw, or slide, or plug, or valve, may be used to regulate the passage of the water. H H represent my movable traps suspended to the ends of the beam by means of a hook or its equivalent. In the drawing a section is removed from the one on the right hand, in order that its construction may be illustrated. *b b* is the base of the trap, made like a round box-lid or cover, having its center cut out. To this base is attached a skeleton wire frame of conical form. This frame is covered with netting, wire-gauze, or any material that will admit the light and confine the flies. *c c* is a movable rim that holds the netting close to the base. *d d* is a movable disk-cover that is held in the upper edge of the base by means of catches. A section, of oblong form, is cut out of this cover. This opening is opened and closed automatically by means of an oscillating trap-door. *f* is the trap-door. It is pivoted at the inner end of the opening and extends above the cover. To this extension is attached a string that passes through a hole in the cover. To the string is attached a small weight. When the trap H descends and rests upon the base A this small weight also rests. This action opens the trap-door *f*. When the trap H is lifted the small weight closes the trap-door.

To operate my invention, fill the reservoir with fluid and open the valve. When one side of the oscillating bucket is filled it will turn outward and empty into the trough-beam. That end of the beam will descend and allow the trap H to rest on the surface of the base, while the opposite end and trap attached will rise. By baiting the surface of the base, immediately under the traps, with molasses, or its equivalent, the flies will be attracted and gather there. When the traps alternately descend they cover the flies in the dark chamber. The flies immediately rise to the light above and pass through the open trap-door into the net formed over the skeleton frame, from which they can be removed at pleasure.

When the reservoir is exhausted the tank or base may be emptied through the outlet provided on the end, and the contents poured intothe reservoir again. A pump may be connected to elevate the water from the tank to the reservoir.

My automatic trap thus formed is an ornametal and useful novelty, that may be placed wherever desired.

A board or its equivalent, with a hole through it, may be used in place of my tank, and any ordinary vessel may be used for a reservoir.

My oscillating bucket and trough-beam may be enlarged and adapted and used as a motive power for driving various kinds of machinery.

I claim as my invention—

1. The trough-like oscillating beam C C, the oscillating bucket F, the tubes *a a*, made, combined, and operated as described, and for the purposes specified.

2. The automatic fly-trap, substantially as described, as a new article of manufacture.

FRANK L. ROSENTRETER.

Witnesses:

G. B. HAMMER,

J. W. HOBBS.