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D. B. COLLINS.  
Earth Closets.

No. 121,489.

Patented Dec. 5, 1871.

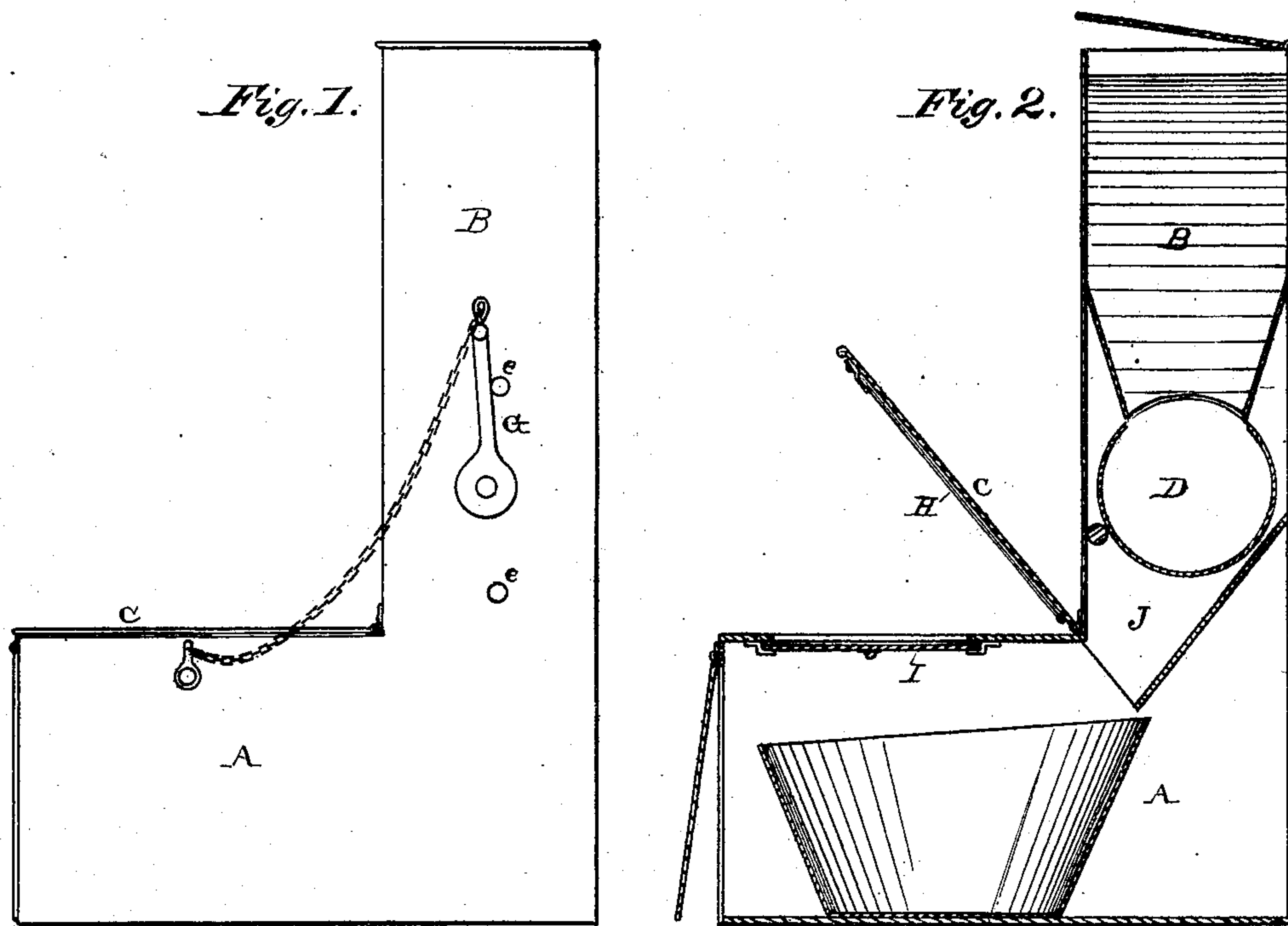
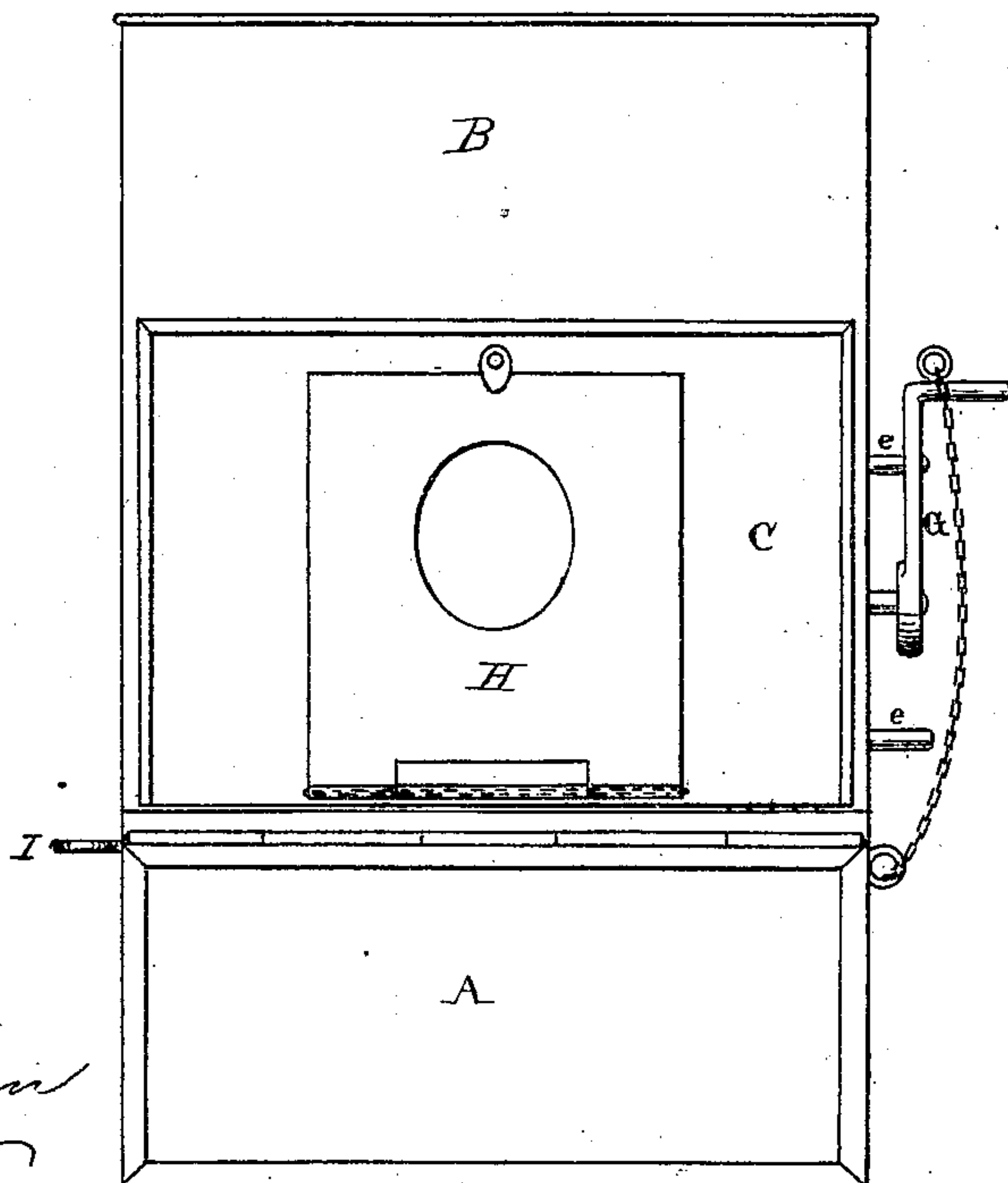


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:  
F. A. Lehmann  
J. P. Mercer.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DENNIS B. COLLINS, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN EARTH-CLOSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 121,489, dated December 5, 1871.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, DENNIS B. COLLINS, of Richmond, Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Earth-Closets, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention consists in the construction of an earth-closet in which the service-box is so arranged that the earth may be dropped upon the excreta before the person using the closet rises from the seat, thereby preventing the disagreeable odor from escaping into the room, and in the arrangement of certain devices hereafter fully set forth and explained.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a side view of my closet. Fig. 2 is a section view, and Fig. 3 a front view of the same.

A represents the frame, which is provided with the hopper B and lid C in the usual manner. Underneath the hopper is placed the cylindrical service-box D, which is provided with a journal at each end, so that it can be readily revolved partly around. One of these journals extends through the side of the frame, and has a crank, G, attached to it for the purpose of operating the revolving box D. Secured to the end of the crank is a chain, cord, or any suitable connecting device, so as to bring the crank within easy reach of the person using the closet without rising from the seat. Suitable stops *e e* prevent the box from turning too far in either direction. Hinged to the under side of the lid C is a child's seat, H, for the convenience of children, and which is so arranged that it can be buttoned to the lid so as to be kept out of the way when not in use. Under the seat there is arranged a slide, I, the handle of which projects through the side of the frame, within reach, so as to cut off all possibility of the smell from escaping under the lid into the room.

The operation of my device is as follows: The service-box is turned so that its mouth comes just under the hopper, where it receives its charge of earth. As soon as the person is done using the closet he pulls the chain or cord before rising from the seat, which causes the service-box to turn partly around and discharge its contents through the chute J into the pail upon the excreta. This charge of earth, together with the dust which is raised in falling, at once absorbs all the unpleasant effluvia, and prevents the slightest escape of it into the room where the closet is kept. Where the service-box is operated by the lid, as it has always been done heretofore, the moment that the person rises from his seat the whole of the unpleasant odor escapes instantly into the room before the lid can be closed, and thus the atmosphere is kept always tainted.

If desired a spring can be attached to the end of the crank so as to draw it back to its first position, carrying the box with it as soon as the cord or chain is released, so as to have the closet always ready for use.

The devices employed in my closet are few and simple, and less liable to get out of repair than any of those now in use.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The cylindrical service-box D, having a crank attached to one end, and provided with a suitable cord or chain, and stops *e e*, so that it can be operated before rising from the seat, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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