J. H. POLHAMUS.

Refrigerating-Cupboards.

No. 135,442. Patented Feb. 4, 1873.

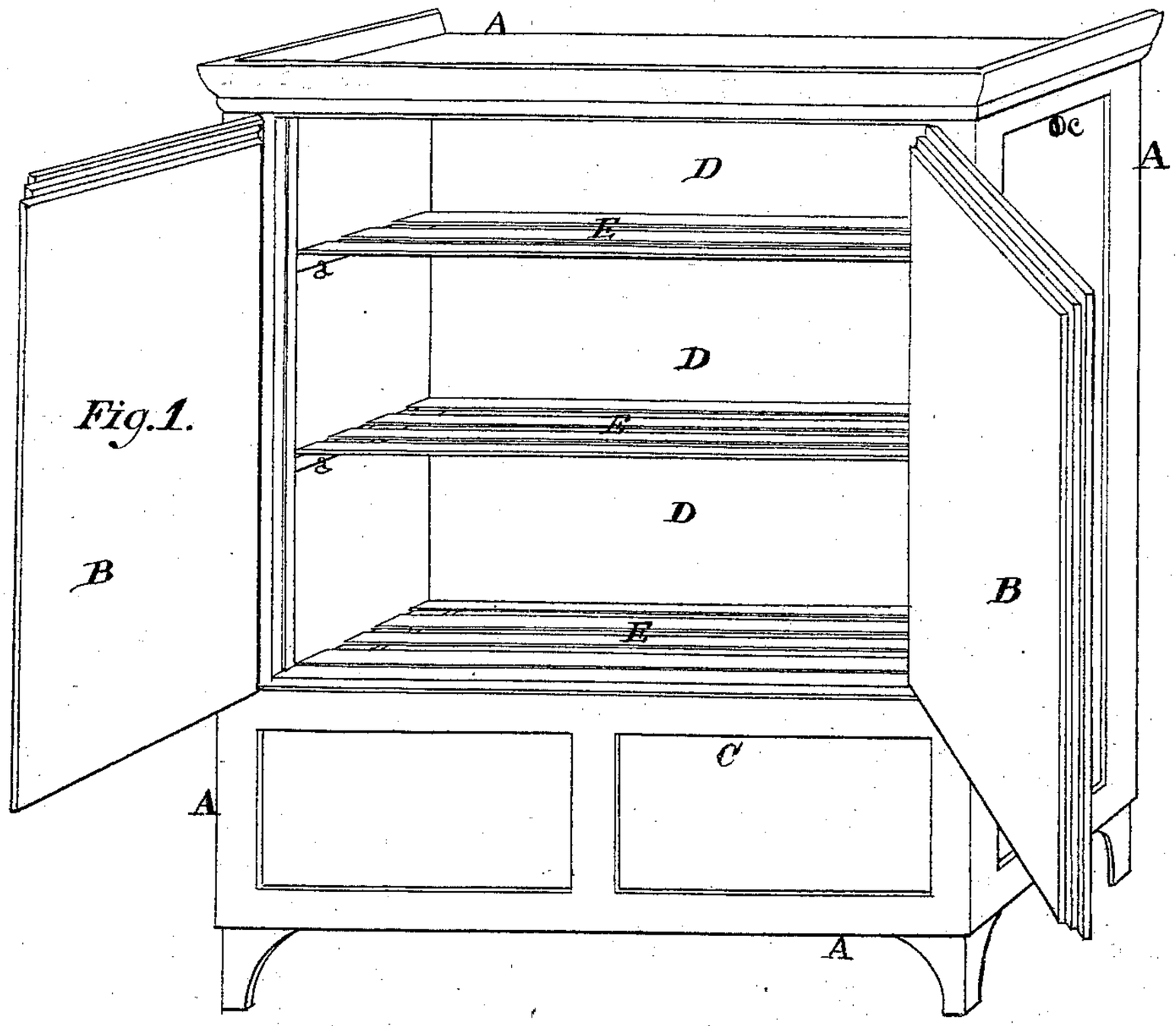

Fig. 1.

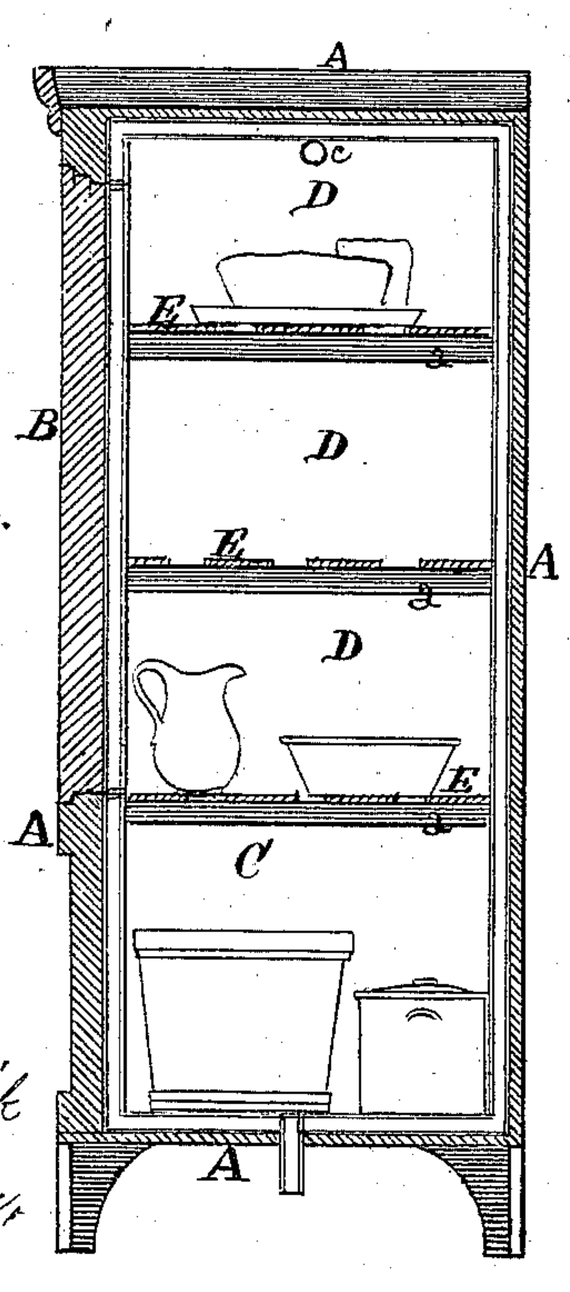

Fig. 2.

WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN REFRIGERATING-CUPBOARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **135,442**, dated February 4, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB H. POLHAMUS, of the city and county of Albany, State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Cupboard; and I do hereby declare that the following is a description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the cupboard embodying the improvements in this invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional elevation of the same.

My invention relates to the construction of a cupboard; and consists in making the walls of the same, and also the doors, bottom, and top, double, and combining with the main cupboard-room a sub-compartment, which will be in open communication with the main room above, which sub-compartment is lined with zinc, and extends in a closed-up manner up to the doors of the cupboard, and the whole space of the cupboard is divided by open-worked shelves, and the whole so constructed and arranged as to render the cupboard-room less susceptible to the changes of the temperature without, and capable in summer months of receiving ice for chilling the said sub-compartment and through the open-work shelves to reduce the temperature of the spaces between the shelves in the main room above—the object of this invention being to render the cupboard adapted in all seasons of the year for receiving and preserving the several varieties of articles of food, whether they be farinaceous compounds, such as bread, cake, pies, or puddings, or raw or cooked vegetables, meats, and the like, without being materially affected by the temperature of the room without, and in summer to enable a housekeeper to use the sub-compartment for holding ice in lieu of an ice-chest or refrigerator, and thereby to variously chill the several parts and render the shelf-spaces better adapted to preserve perishable articles from spoiling.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it in reference to the drawing and the letters of reference marked thereon, the same letters indicating like parts.

In the drawing, A A A A represent the cupboard, which is made with a height of about five feet, and in the usual proportions in width and depth. Instead of the doors B B extending down to the bottom of the cupboard, as is usual, the said doors extend to about fifteen inches from the bottom, and that usual door-space is closed up, so as to form a sort of sub-compartment, C, capable of receiving and preserving from sight any article placed therein. The walls of the said cupboard, also the top and bottom and the doors, are made double or lined with zinc, or both, so as to render the said walls non-conducting in their nature. The main body D D D of the cupboard-room is provided with slatted or open-work shelves E E, supported by proper cleats *a a*, secured to the sides of the cupboard.

The cupboard can be made with any degree of ornamentation, paneling, and the like, as may be desired, and have its capacity for holding increased by extending its width, and decreased by contracting the same; but in no case should its height be materially lessened.

The cupboard thus constructed is rendered far less susceptible of having its room within affected by the changes of temperature, whether in cold or warm weather; and in summer its lower part can be used as a receptacle for ice, which can be preserved in the sub-compartment, and used to variously chill the several parts of the cupboard-room; and when the said sub-compartment is made to hold ice it will as effectually preserve any meats, milk, and the like as a refrigerator or ice-chest, while the upper shelve-rooms will be so variously chilled and have sufficiently-reduced temperatures as will be properly adapted for cooked vegetables, raw and preserved fruits, and food made from farinaceous compounds, such as bread, cake, and other articles of like nature. The height of the upper shelves being so great from the ice in the sub-compartment, it is seen that vapor arising from the liquidation of the ice below will not, on account of the cold settling such vapors, affect the articles on the upper shelves; and the bread, cake, and the like on such shelves will not become water-soaked or soggy, as they would were they held in close contact or proximity with the ice, as in refrigerators.

By the improvements in this invention the cupboard is made to have in its chamber a greater uniformity of temperature, and be made in warm weather to act as a refrigerator in its

lower portion, and thereby enable a family to dispense with the use of an ice-chest, and also better preserve every kind of articles of food from souring, fermenting, or otherwise spoiling.

A ventilator, *c*, communicating from the outside to the inside of the cupboard-room, is provided on each side, at near the top of the said sides, which ventilators consist of small openings of about one and a half inch, more or less, diameter, and are intended to permit the escape of any odors that may arise in the cupboard-room. The said ventilators may be provided with covers, if desired, to close the same.

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

The double-walled cupboard, constructed as described, provided at its base with the ice-chamber, as and for the purpose specified.

JACOB H. POLHAMUS.

Witnesses:

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