

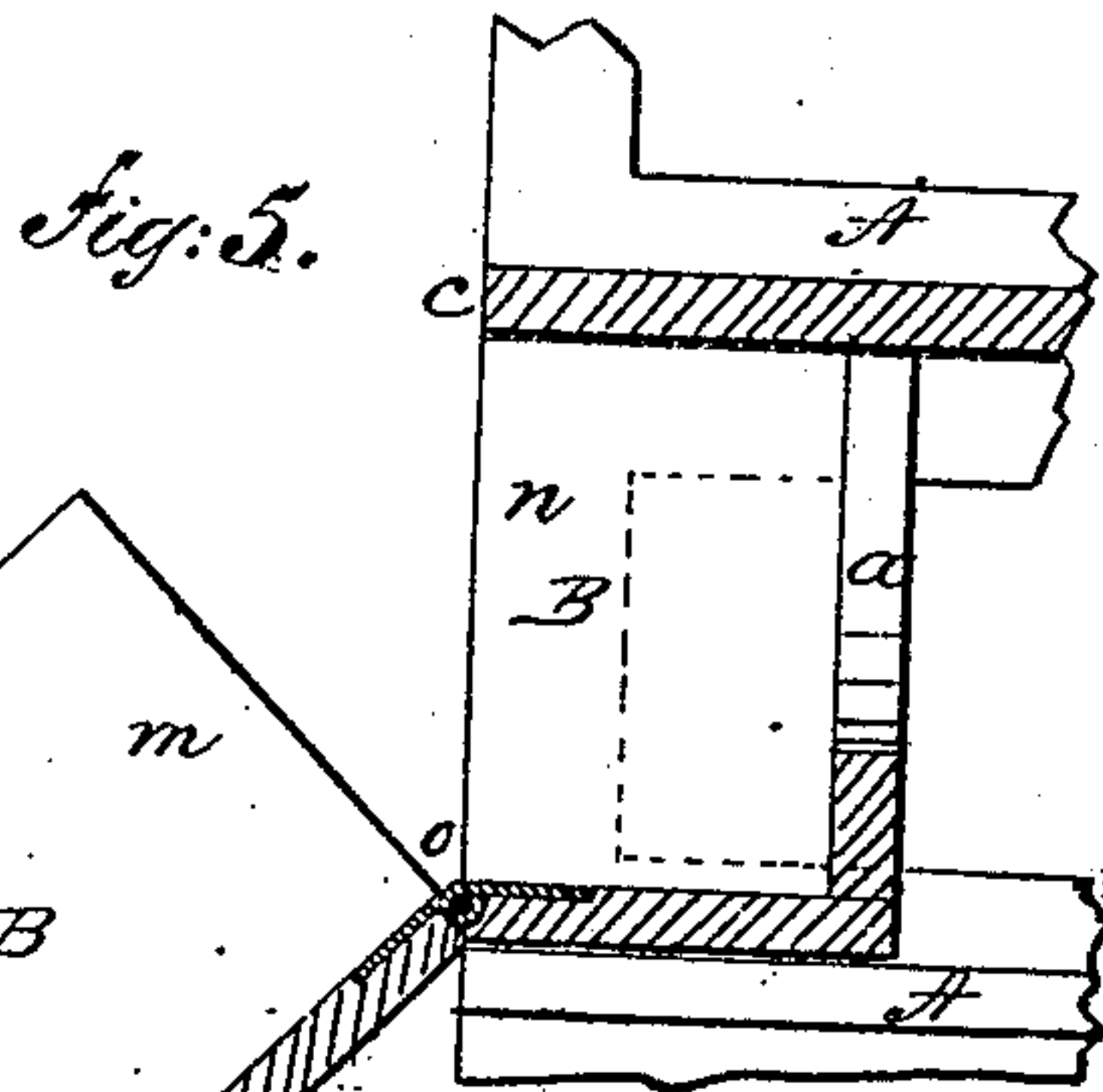
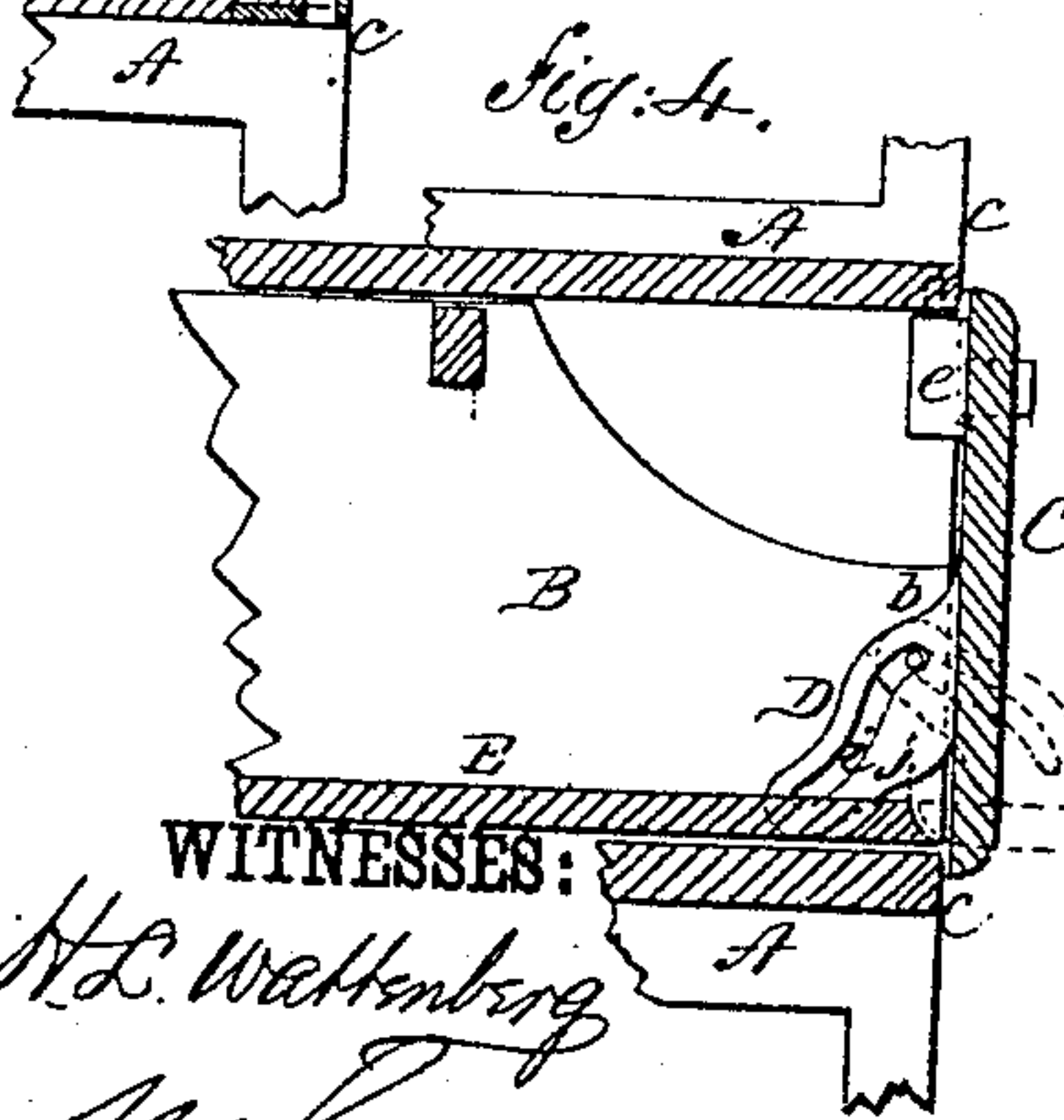
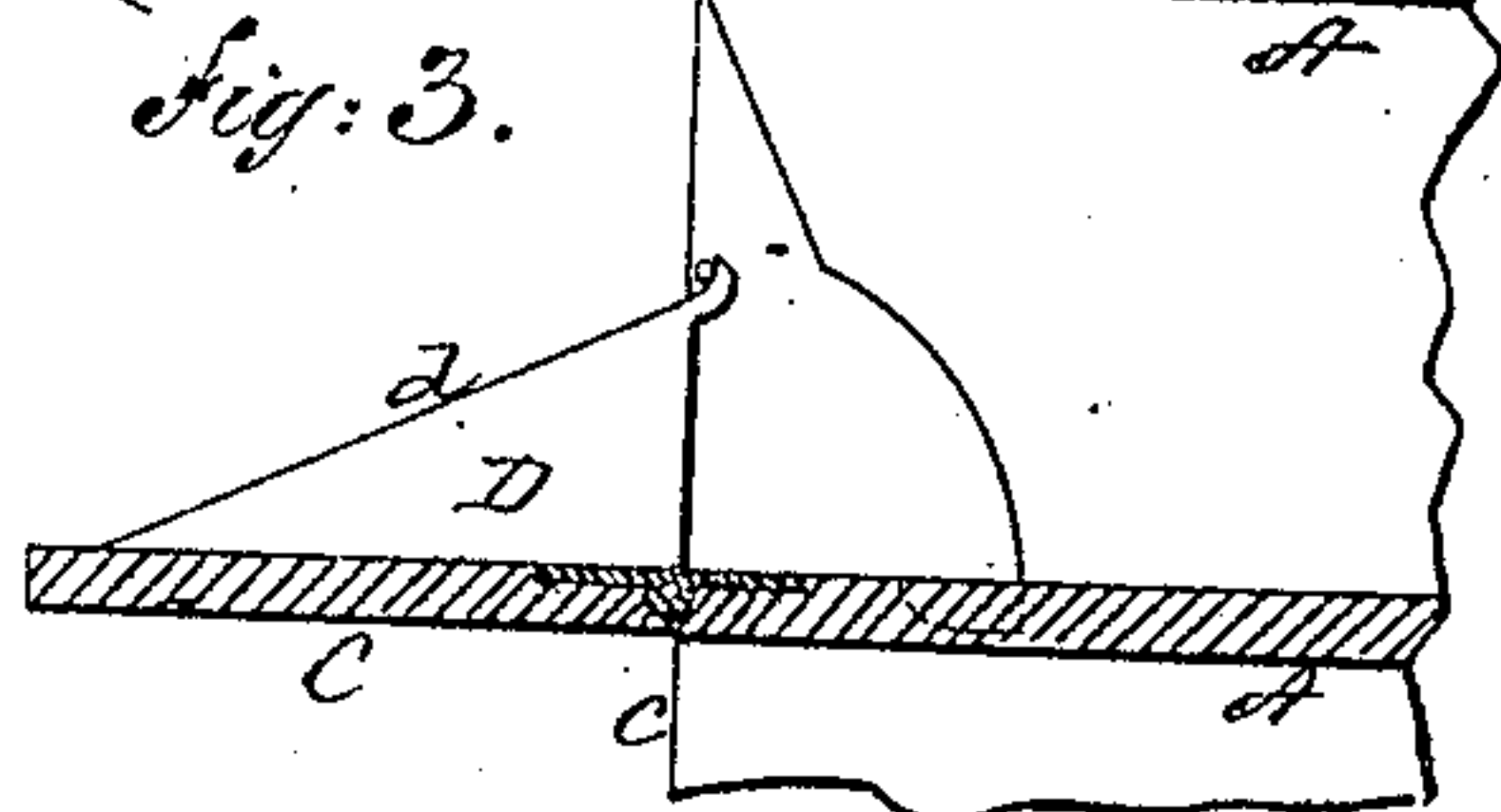
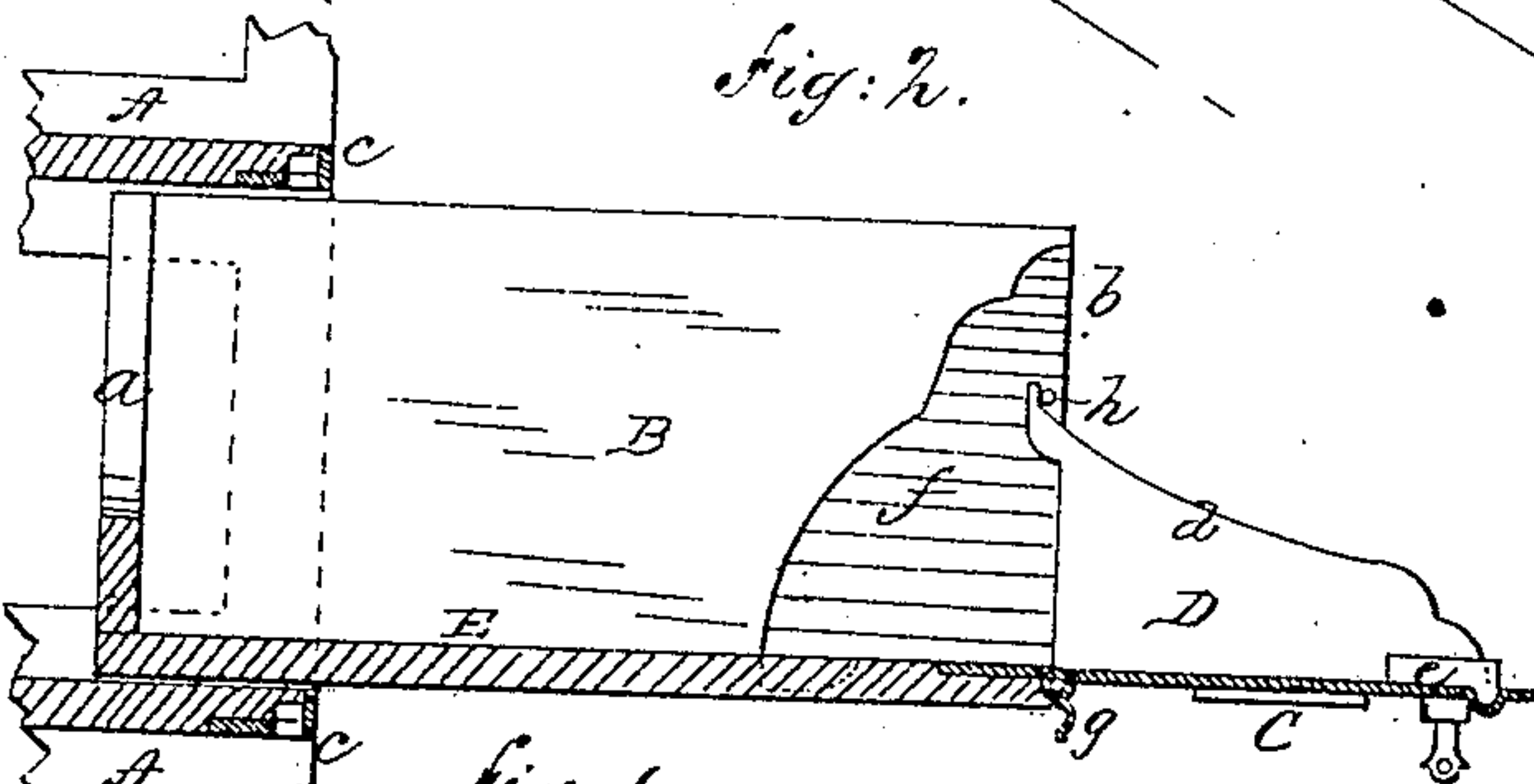
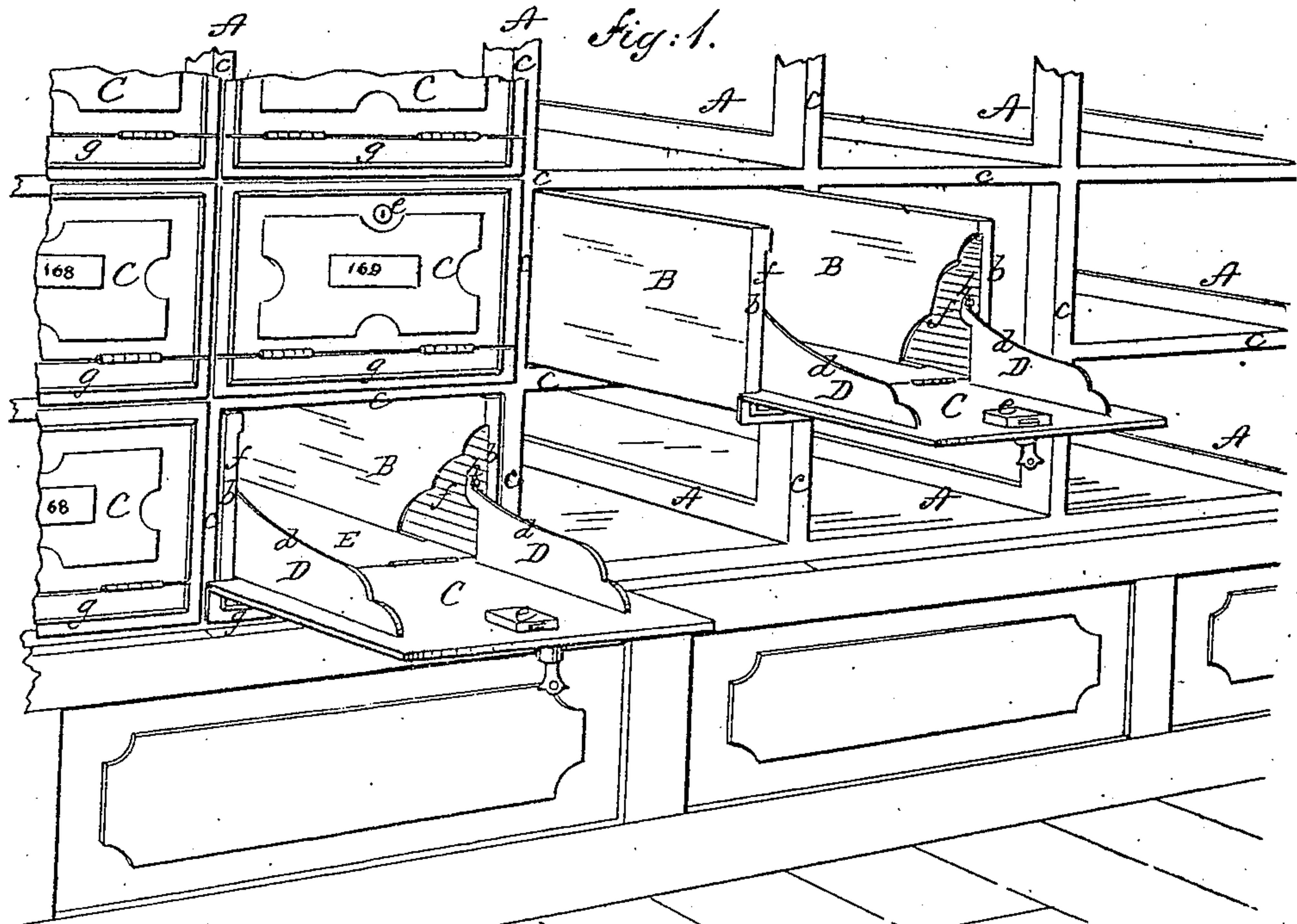
(No Model.)

W. G. STEINMETZ & J. L. CHAMBERS.

Post Office Drawer.

No. 241,439.

Patented May 10, 1881.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM G. STEINMETZ AND JOHN L. CHAMBERS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## POST-OFFICE DRAWER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 241,439, dated May 10, 1881.

Application filed January 24, 1881. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, WILLIAM G. STEINMETZ and JOHN L. CHAMBERS, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Post-Office Drawers for Mail-Matter; and we hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

This invention is in the nature of an improvement in post-office drawers for mail-matter.

The invention consists in open wooden frame-work containing and in combination with post-office drawers, open at their rear ends for the insertion of letters, &c., and their opposite ends provided with hinged metal fronts, which close the front ends of the boxes, and cover, in part, the front edges of the wooden frame-work, the metal fronts having flanges on their inner faces, and provided with locks, whereby the drawers may be secured within the wooden frame-work which supports them.

In the accompanying sheet of drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of wooden frames with drawers according to our invention; Fig. 2, a part longitudinal section of wooden frame and drawer; Fig. 3, a part longitudinal section of wooden pigeon-hole with hinged door, but without drawer; Fig. 4, section showing modification of flanges and hinges for doors, and Fig. 5 modification showing hinged sectional drawer.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures.

To provide a safe and at the same time easily-accessible device for the reception and delivery of mail-matter is the main purpose of this invention. To that end we construct a series of wooden frames, A, open front and rear, and of any desired size. Within these frames are placed drawers B, made of wood or metal. The rear ends of these drawers are open, as at a. Hinged to the lower sides of the front ends of the drawers are metal fronts C, these fronts being of a size sufficient to close, when in the locked position, not only the front opening of the drawers, but also to cover their front edges b, and to some extent the front edges c of the frame-work A. Cast with or otherwise secured to the inner faces of the drawer-fronts C are

flanges D, of sufficient width to enter well into the front opening of the drawer at its sides, and of any convenient shape, but preferably with an angular edge, d. To the upper part of the fronts C are fixed locks e.

Now, our post-office drawers being arranged in a series within the post-office, the mail-matter is inserted through the open rear ends of the wooden frames and drawer, and the box-renter, with his key, unlocks the lock e, permitting the front to fall parallel with and in continuation of the bottom of the drawer, and pulls the drawer out from the wooden frame-work, inserts the edge of the front in his pouch, for which it acts as a hopper, and allows the mail-matter to descend from the drawer into his pouch, returning the drawer to the wooden frame-work, and turning up and locking the front. The bolt of the locks, entering into the wooden frame-work A, fixes the drawer within the wooden frame-work and secures it for the reception of the next mail.

The flanges D, fixed to the inner faces of the drawer-fronts C, not only stiffen and give strength to the sides of the drawer when they are within it, as when the front is in the locked position, but they also act as guards to prevent the mail-matter from falling from the sides of the front when the mail is withdrawn, and, besides, they offer obstruction to the introduction of instruments by unauthorized persons for the purpose of forcing the drawer outward. The sides of the drawer will be recessed, as at f, to receive the flanges, so that they will lie flush within the sides of the drawer and offer no obstruction to the free delivery of letters, &c.

The drawer-front C may be hinged directly to the bottom E of the drawers B; or the front may be divided into two parts, the upper part being hinged to the lower part, g, which lower part is fastened to the bottom E of the drawer. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

The fronts, covering, as they do, the edges of the drawers within the frame A, and also, in part the edge c of the wooden frames themselves, not only protect the edges of the drawers, but, by permitting the several fronts in the entire series of fronts to abut, all the front edges of the wooden frame-work are likewise covered and protected from the introduction of instruments for the purpose of forcing open the fronts.



In constructing these drawers stops *h* may be fixed to their sides, against which the edges of the flanges *D* may strike, thereby relieving the hinges from undue strain and limiting the drop of the front.

If desired, instead of employing the ordinary hinge, the flanges *D* may have slots *i* formed in them, with bolts passing through the slots and sides of the drawers. With this construction, however, a shoulder, *j*, should be formed in the bottom of the drawer, so that the lower end of the front, when it is open and parallel with the bottom of the drawer, shall abut against the shoulder *j* and relieve the flanges and bolts from strain. (See Fig. 4.)

In some instances the drawers *B* may be dispensed with and the fronts *C* be hinged directly to the front ends of pigeon-holes, which will make a serviceable post-office letter box for ordinary use. (See Fig. 3.)

For the admission of light, and to enable the box-renter to look into his box without unlocking the drawer-front, a window may be inserted in the drawer-front, if desired.

Fig. 5 is a modification of our post-office drawer. This drawer is made in two sections, *m* and *n*, hinged together, as at *o*, so that when the drawer is pulled out the front section, *m*, will drop, as is shown in the figure.

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

1. A series of drawers for the reception and delivery of mail-matter, with hinged metal fronts having locks, in combination with suitable open wooden frame-work to receive the drawers, which drawers are open at their rear ends and closed at their other ends by the metal fronts, the fronts being hinged to or near the bottom of the drawers, and covering the front edges *b* of the drawers, and in part the front edges *c* of the wooden frame-work, and the inner faces of the fronts having flanges to enter into the drawers, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. A post-office drawer open at its rear end and provided with a metal front hinged to the bottom thereof, and composed of hinged sections *m* and *n*, in combination with supporting frame-work *A*, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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