(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. W. MEAKER.

POCKET BOOK OR WALLET.

No. 246,179. Patented Aug. 23, 1881.

Fig. 2.

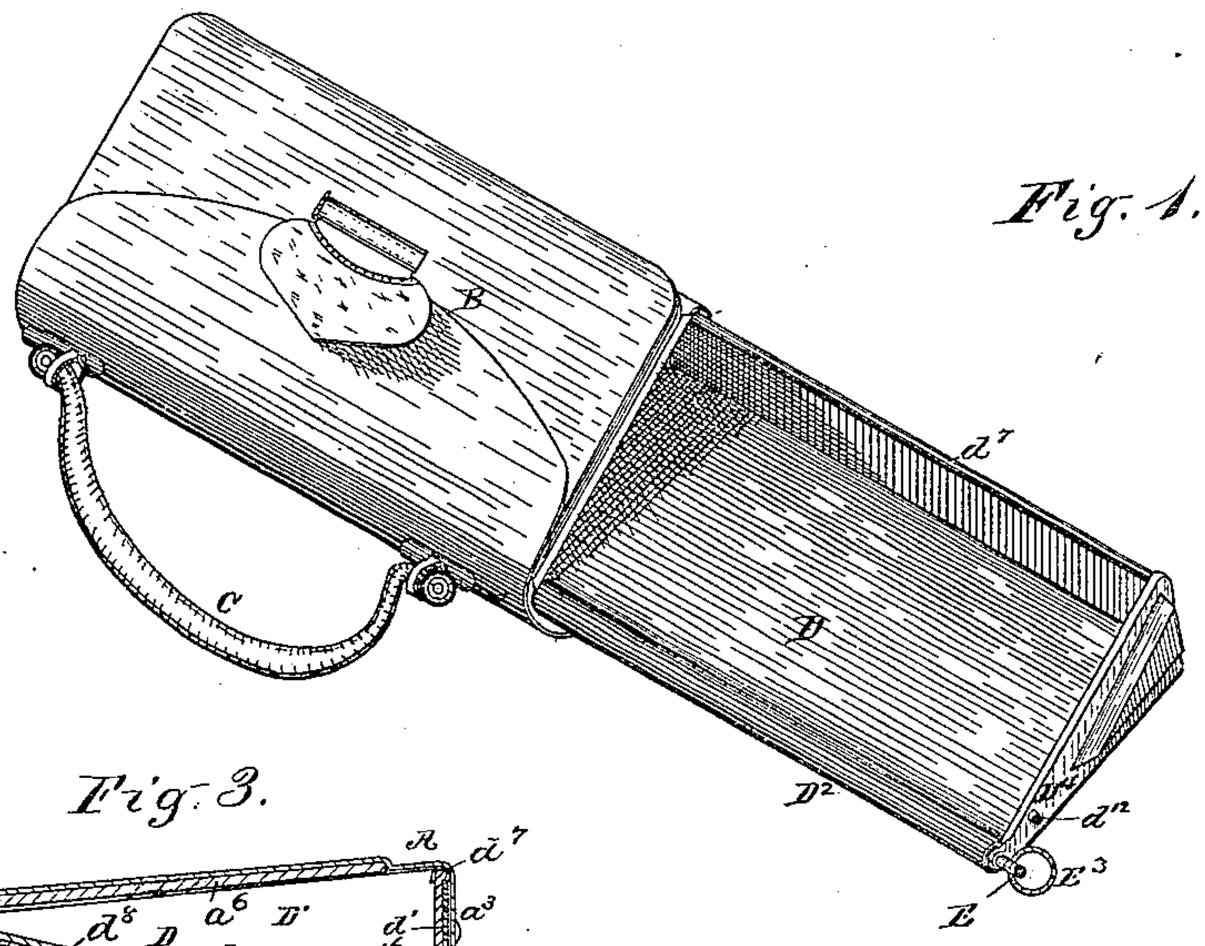


Fig. 1.

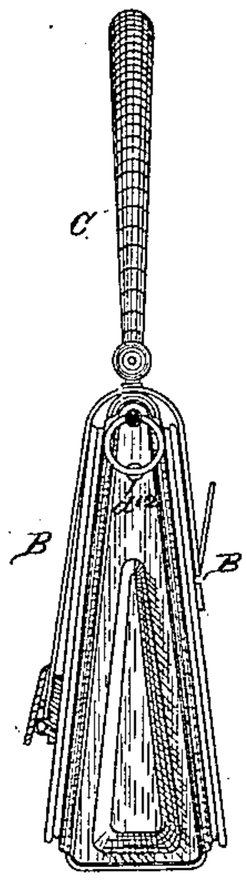


Fig. 3.

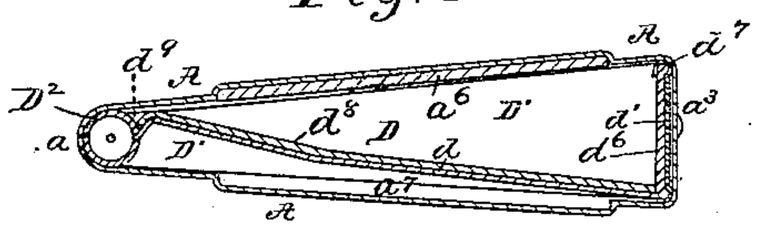


Fig. 4

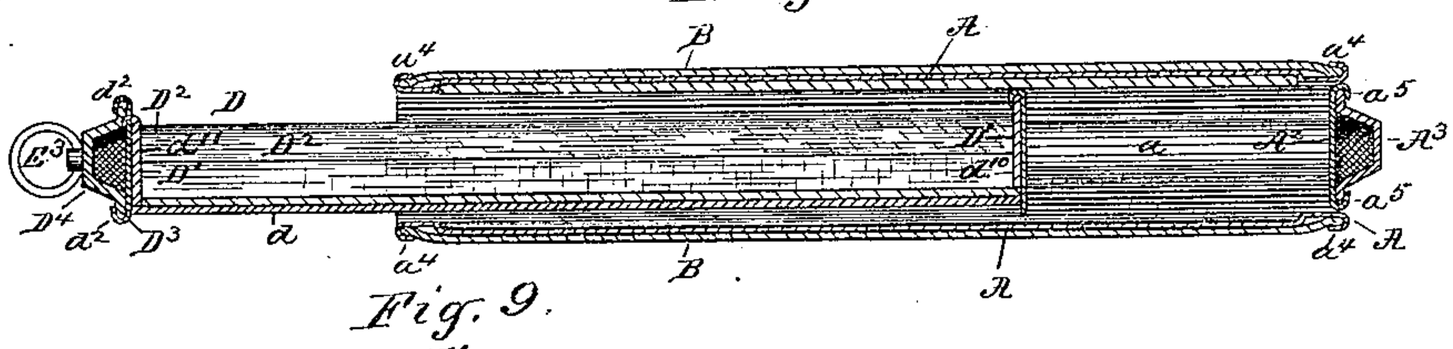


Fig. 5.

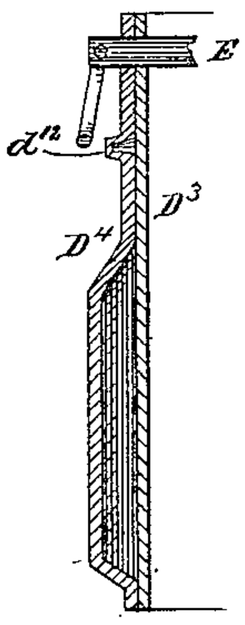


Fig. 9.

Fig. 6 Fig. 7.

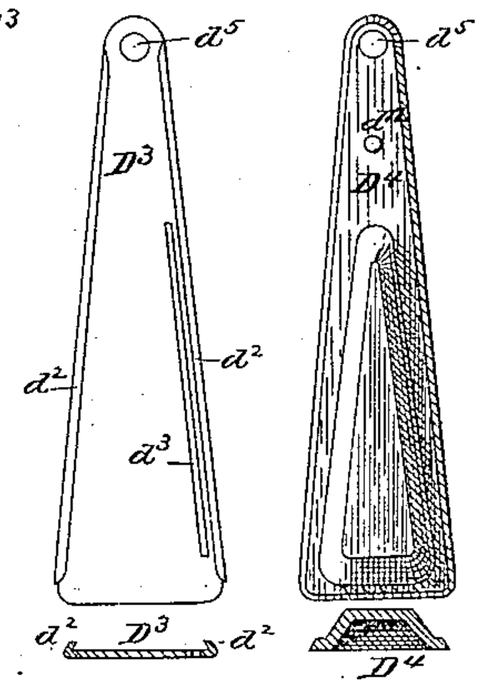
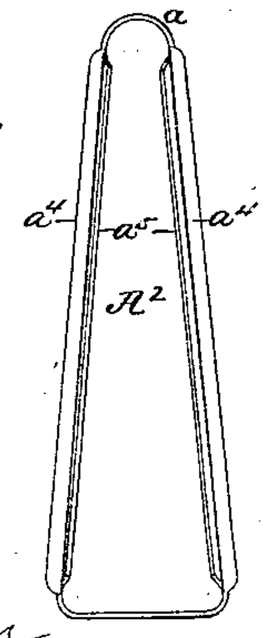


Fig. 8.



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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

J. W. MEAKER.

POCKET BOOK OR WALLET.

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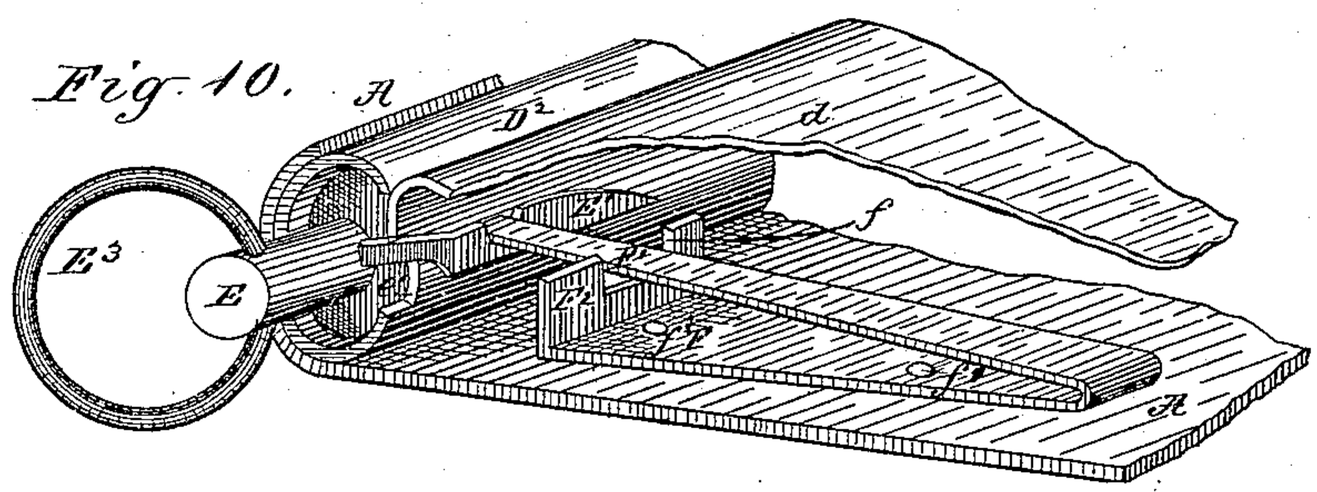
Fig. 10.



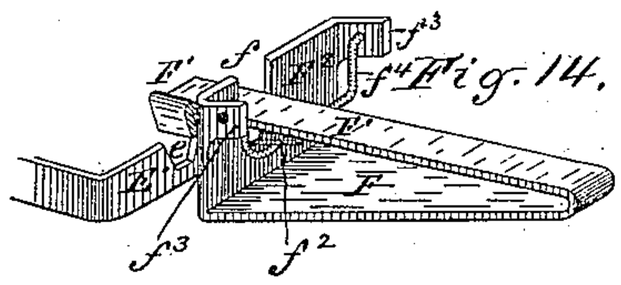


Fig. 14.

Fig. 15.

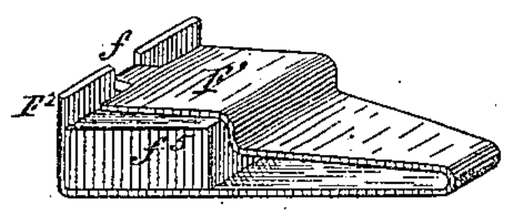


Fig. 16.

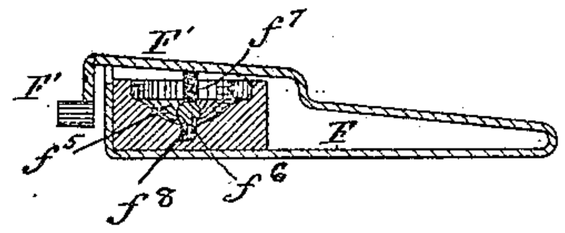


Fig. 11.

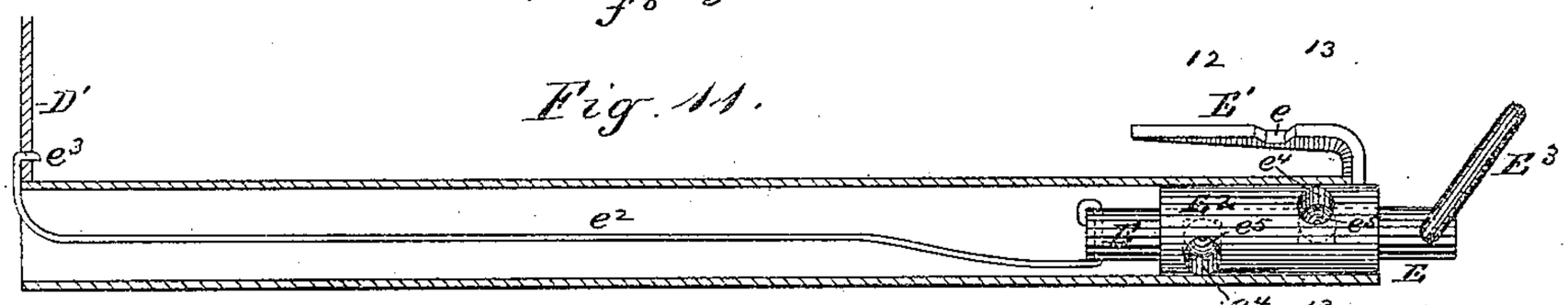


Fig. 12.

Fig. 13.

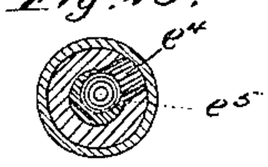
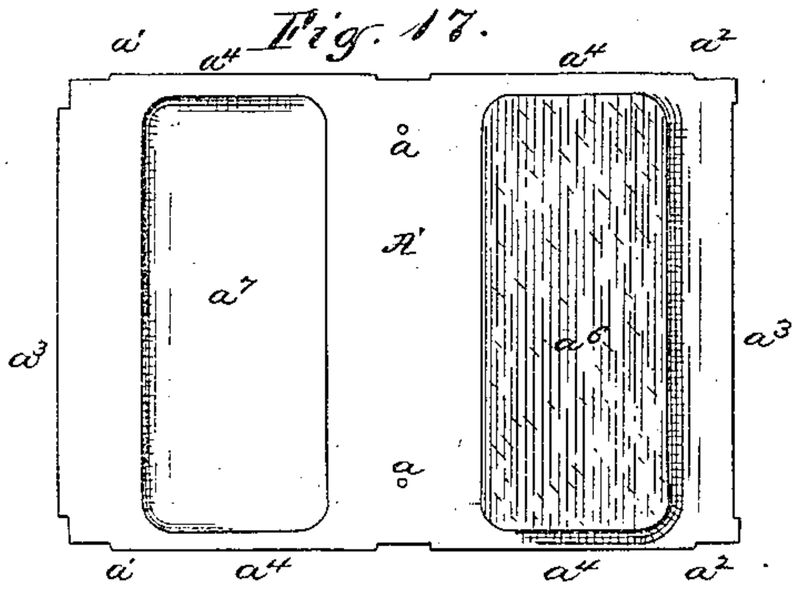


Fig. 17.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WESLEY MEAKER, OF AUBURN, NEW YORK.

POCKET-BOOK OR WALLET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 246,179, dated August 23, 1881.

Application filed July 12, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. MEAKER, of Auburn, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pocket-Books or Wallets; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to pocket-books or wallets having a compartment intended as a receptacle for coin, constructed on the principle set forth in Letters Patent No. 225,993, granted to me under date of March 30, 1880; and it consists in the improvements herein described and claimed.

In this invention the coin-receptacle is a drawer, and the present improvements relate more directly to the construction of the drawer, to its surrounding case, to its arrangement in the book, and to its fastening devices.

The object of the invention is to make the article as a whole more convenient, beautiful, and durable, and the fastening for the coin-receptacle more certain and reliable in its action.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an end view of the pocket-book or wallet containing my improvements. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same in horizontal position and with the coin-drawer open. Fig. 3 is a central transverse section of the coin-drawer and its surrounding rigid case. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal section of the pocket-book or wallet (wanting the outside pockets) vertical to the same when held in a horizontal position. Fig. 5 is a central vertical section of the outermost drawer end detached, together with a part of the rotating lock-bar. Fig. 6 is the metal part of said drawer end, both in elevation and section, detached. Fig. 7 shows the ornamental or finishing part of said drawer end, both in elevation and section, detached. Fig. 8 is a view of the closed end of the case in which the drawer runs before the leather or the ornamental part is affixed thereto. Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the case and drawer, bottom up, the latter being partly open, and the former being broken away to show the several parts of the locking mechanism thereto severally attached. Fig. 10 is a perspective view of the drawer-catch and neighboring parts, enlarged. Fig. 11 is a longitudinal section of the tube when the pocket-book or wallet is held in a horizontal position, showing the torsion-spring, the rotating bar carrying the catch and ring, and the fixed tubular bearing of the bar, together with the radial holes and their contained balls. Fig. 12 is a transverse section of Fig. 11 through 12 12. Fig. 13 is a transverse section of Fig. 11 through 13 13. Fig. 14 is a perspective view of the portion of the fastening devices that are fixed within the shell of the pocket-book or wallet, being a modification in which the stop is applied to the latch instead of the rotating bar of Figs. 10 and 11. Fig. 15 is a perspective view, and Fig. 16 is a vertical sectional view, of still another form of latch and stop intended to be applied to the shell. Fig. 17 is a plan view of a blank of which the shell is formed, showing two depressions therein, one of which has a piece of cloth fastened therein.

A, Fig. 3, is a sheet-metal shell of general triangular form when viewed in transverse section.

B B are the parts covering said shell, and here shown as including a band of leather, which surrounds the shell A closely, and a number of pockets attached thereto, together with their flaps and fastenings, which pockets are arranged on both sides of the shell or case A, but are in themselves wholly of the ordinary construction.

C is a handle by which the pocket-book or wallet is carried or suspended, being attached to the body of the book at the thin margin of the shell A.

D is a drawer, made of sheet metal, and fitted to slide into the shell A at one of its triangular ends, which is left open for this purpose. The sheet-metal shell is formed of a blank, A, Fig. 17, which is bent to party-cylindric form at the central line, a a, so as to bring the sides toward each other, and is further and more sharply bent in the lines a' a' a^2 a^2, so as to bring the edges a^3 together in the base of the triangle so formed, as shown in Fig. 3, at which point said edges are soldered together. Short

wings or flanges a^4, provided on the opposite margins of the blank A′, are thrown up for the purpose of furnishing a ready and secure fastening for the leather which immediately covers the sides of the shell. When said leather has been applied closely to the exterior of the shell the flanges a^4 are preferably pressed down firmly over the edges of said leather, as shown in Fig. 4. Thus turned, the flanges not only hold the shell and leather from relative longitudinal movement, but form a part of the ornamental ends of the book. One end of the shell A is closed by a sheet-metal head, A^2, set into said end and soldered or otherwise secured in place, as shown in Figs. 4 and 8. To this head is applied an ornate facing, A^3, of tortoise-shell or other suitable material. For the purpose of holding such facing in place the head A^2 is made wide enough to allow its longer or vertical edges a^5, Figs. 4 and 8, to be turned outward, and after the head is fastened the facing is inserted between said edges, which are then pressed inward upon the corresponding edges of the facing A^3, so as to hold the latter firmly in position. The facing is prevented from slipping out endwise by the shell, within which it is thus held.

The drawer D is a rigid receptacle, the parts of which will be described with reference to its normal or horizontal position when open. Said drawer is of sheet metal, consisting, essentially, of an inclined bottom, d, a vertical back, d', and two vertical triangular ends, D′ and D^3, with a supporting marginal part, D^2. The back d' slides contiguous to the base of the triangular shell A, and the ends fit closely but freely within said shell. The drawer is arranged to stand, when in position to be opened, with the back d' outward, and therefore with the free edge of its inclined bottom inward, or toward the person, as shown in Fig. 2. The inner margin of the drawer terminates in a tube, D^2, which fits the curve of the shell at a, Fig. 3. Said tube is preferably made of the same piece of sheet metal with the bottom d, in which case said bottom preferably first rises to near the level of the top of the tube D^2, and thence is bent downward, forward, upward, and backward to complete the tube, as seen clearly in Figs. 3 and 10.

The object of the tubular form of finish for the margin of the drawer is threefold: first, to give a desirable thickness and rigidity to this part of the drawer; second, to support said margin of the drawer when drawn out; and, third, to provide space for parts of the locking device which will be hereinafter explained.

The outer or exposed end of the drawer D is provided with an ornamental facing corresponding with that of the case or shell A, already described. Fig. 6 shows the outer end piece or head, D^3, of said drawer, with its marginal flanges d^2, and Fig. 7 shows the ornamental facing D^4, fitted by its beveled edges to set within said flanges d^2 of the head D^3. In this case the facing is restrained from withdrawal endwise by the bar E, (belonging to the locking mechanism,) which passes through the coincident holes d^5 of the parts D^3 and D^4, as shown in Fig. 5.

The drawer and the upper inner face of the shell A are lined with velvet or other suitable material for the purpose of preventing noise from movement of the coin within its inclosure. The manner of securing the lining is shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The surface of the metal being suitable, or suitably prepared, the lining is cemented thereto by any fit adhesive substance. The exposed edges thereof are additionally held or protected, so far as possible or necessary, as shown. Thus the upper edge of the back lining, d^6, of the drawer is held by being clamped beneath a flange, d^7, turned down upon it from the upper margin of the back d', as seen in Fig. 3. The front edge of the bottom lining, d^8, is disposed within the groove d^9, Fig. 3, where it is not exposed. Said edge may be clasped at this point beneath the edge of the metal, if desired. The upper edge of the inner end lining, d^{10}, is held—as that of the back lining is held, and as shown in Fig. 4—by being clamped beneath the overturned metal of D′. For the purpose of securing the upper edge of the outer end lining, d^{11}, the metal end piece or head, D^3, (whose margin is used to hold the external ornament D^4, and is therefore not available to secure the lining,) is provided with the long narrow slot d^3 near said margin, through which slot the lining passes, being folded over on the outside of said head and held by or beneath the facing D^4, as shown in Fig. 4. The lining a^6 on the upper inner face of the shell is made secure by being set and cemented in a depression of said face, as shown in Fig. 3. The shell A is provided with two such depressions opposite to and corresponding with each other, made before the blank A′, from which the shell is formed, is bent, and the lining mentioned is fixed in one of these depressions, also before the blank is bent. The opposite and vacant depression, a^7, Figs. 3 and 17, serves to prevent the drawer or its inner head, D′, from binding on the shell when the drawer is slid, and also to strengthen the shell.

The locking devices of the drawer will next be described.

As fully set forth in the before-mentioned Letters Patent, such devices should be contrived to allow the drawer to open only when the pocket-book or wallet is held in a horizontal, or proximately horizontal, position, in order that the coins may not be spilled when the receptacle is drawn out. This effect is herein provided for by distinctively novel features of construction, which consist, generically, in a catch composed of two moving parts, one of which is attached to the drawer and the other to the shell, said parts being actuated to mutual engagement by springs, and being combined with a stop or stops applied to one or the other, whereby the parts are allowed to

disengage only when the pocket-book or wallet is held in the required or horizontal position. The stop may be applied to either the drawer-catch or the shell-catch, and several alternative devices are here shown.

In the spring-catch attached to the drawer, as here shown, the rotating and protruding bar E is supported in the outer end of the tube D^2 by a thick fixed tube or cylinder, E^2, and carries the bent catch E′, having the notch *e* in its inclined upper surface. The limit of rotation of the bar E, and therefore of upward and downward swing of the catch E′, is determined by the notch *e′*, cut in the end of the tube D^2. The bar E is rigidly connected at its inner end with a spring-wire, e^2, which extends through the tube, and is fastened at its remote end to some stationary part of the drawer, as seen at e^3, Fig. 11. In securing the wire e^2 in place as described, it is given a torsional strain, which tends to hold the catch E′ in the raised position shown in Fig. 10. The catch E′ may be depressed by turning the bar E on its axis, and for this purpose the ring E^3 is hung loosely in the outer extremity of the bar, as seen in various figures of the drawings. By applying this ring so as to hang when the pocket-book or wallet is suspended, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5, it is also in the most favorable attitude to be conveniently seized between the thumb and forefinger when the book is brought to a horizontal position preparatory to loosening the catch and opening the drawer.

Co-operating with the spring-catch E′ of the drawer, mounted and operated as described, the shell A has a spring-latch, F′, Fig. 10, which engages with the notch *e* of said drawer-catch. The entire latch device, as shown in this figure, consists of a part cut from sheet metal, having, first, the base portion F; second, the upturned end F^2, rising parallel with and in proximity to E′, and having the notch *f;* and, third, the long tongue F′, bent over to lie in the notch *f* and extended to engage with the notch *e* of the catch E′, as already described, and as clearly shown in Fig. 10. The base F is fastened to the shell by solder, or by rivets *f′* or otherwise.

The torsion-spring e^2 is stronger than the spring-latch F′, so that the latter is upheld by the former above the bottom of the notch *f*, as shown in Fig. 10.

So far as above described, the catch E′ and latch F′ operate as follows, to wit: When the drawer is open the latch F′ rests on the bottom of the notch *f* and the catch E′ is held raised by the torsion-spring e^2. When the drawer is being closed the point of the catch E′ passes beneath the latch F′, which, being weaker than the torsion-spring of said catch, is lifted, and finally falls into the notch *e*. In opening the drawer the catch E′ is depressed by rotating the bar E, as stated. The latch follows the catch until it strikes the bottom of notch *f*, where it is arrested, and further rotation of the bar carries the catch out of engagement with the latch and permits the drawer to be drawn out. The catch serves as a stop for the drawer.

For the purpose of preventing the disengagement of the spring-catch and the spring-latch, as just described, when the drawer is not horizontal, or nearly so, either one of two means may be employed—namely, first, a stop or stops to arrest the rotation of the bar E, and the consequent depression of the catch E′, and, second, a movable stop corresponding in function with the bottom of the notch *f*. I prefer the former, and in Fig. 11 show the stops used to restrict the movement of the catch E′, operating in certain positions of the pocket-book or wallet. Said stops consist of two oppositely-inclined radial holes, e^4, extending downward through one wall of the cylinder E^2, (which is of less thickness than the diameter of the holes,) and nearly or quite through the bar E, as more plainly shown in Figs. 12 and 13. In each of these holes is placed a ball, e^5, which is of size suited to move freely but rather closely in the hole containing it. The surrounding tube D^2 covers the ho'es and confines the balls. When the pocket-book or wallet is held horizontal, both balls fall wholly within the bar E and offer no impediment to its rotation; but when the pocket-book or wallet is inclined in either direction sufficiently to allow one of the balls to roll outward, said ball, being partly in the bar and partly in the outer fixed cylinder, E^2, prevents rotation of the bar, and consequently prevents disengagement of the catch E′. The more nearly horizontal the holes e^4 the more nearly horizontal the pocket-book or wallet must be held in order to be opened. This form of stop is supposed to be present in the devices of Fig. 10.

In the application of the stop to the latch instead of to the catch, provision is made for allowing the latch to follow the catch throughout the entire movement of the latter, except when the pocket-book or wallet is horizontal, or nearly so. For this purpose the notch *f* is much deeper than shown in Fig. 10. Two forms of such application are shown in Figs. 14, 15, and 16.

In Fig. 14 the latch F′ has a projection, f^2, on its under face, and the part F^2 has the ears f^3, in which is hung very loosely the bent wire yoke f^4, which, being always pendent, swings beneath the projection f^2 when the pocket-book or wallet is held horizontal, but which hangs at one end or the other of such projection when the book is held much inclined from a horizontal position. Nothing in this construction prevents the rotation of the bar E and the depression of the catch E′ to the full extent of its possible movement as allowed by the notch *e′*, Fig. 10; but when the yoke f^4 engages the projection f^2 the latch F′ is arrested and allows the catch to escape it, while if said yoke hangs at one side of said projection the latch follows the catch and continues in engagement therewith throughout the range of its movement.

In Figs. 15 and 16 the latch is arrested by other means operating to the same purpose as the pendent yoke f^4—that is to say, f^5 is a cup having a concave bottom and containing the shot f^6, which is retained in the cup by the latch F′, which is made broad at this point for the purpose. At the center of the cup-bottom a small hole, f^8, is drilled, over which the shot has obviously broader bearing, so that it will be retained at this point by its gravity while the cup is slightly tilted, but from which it will escape to one side if the cup or book is much inclined from the horizontal. Directly over the center of the cup the latch F′ is provided with a depending pin, f^7, beneath which the shot may roll when the latch is normally supported by the catch E′. Therefore, when the book is brought to a horizontal position the ball rolls inward to the center of the cup, and if then the catch E′ be depressed the pin f^7 strikes the ball f^6 and arrests the latch, thereby allowing the catch to be freed. In any much inclined position of the book, on the other hand, the ball will not be in place to intercept the pin f^7, and the latch will follow the catch, preventing disengagement thereof.

It is understood from the patent before mentioned that the inclined bottom or side of the drawer here shown is intended to facilitate the selection and the withdrawal of a selected coin by pressing the same with the finger and sliding it up the incline and out into the hand.

It will be observed that the ball-stops applied to the bar E and tube E^2 operate negatively or by their non-engagement to allow the fastening to be released in the desired position of the drawer, while the stops shown in Figs. 14, 15, and 16 operate positively or by their engagement to effect the same end.

By reference to Fig. 5 it will be seen that a projection, d^{12}, is formed on the facing D^4 of the outer drawer end, against which projection the ring E^3 falls when the book is suspended from its handle C. By means of this projection the ring is sustained at a sufficient distance from the facing to enable it to be readily seized and raised when the drawer is to be opened.

I claim as my invention—

1. In a pocket-book or wallet, the combination, with the coin-drawer, of a rigid case or shell surrounding the drawer and an outer covering enveloping the case, substantially as described.

2. The pocket-book or wallet described, consisting, essentially, of a central rigid coin-receptacle, D, the surrounding rigid shell A, and the outer flexible leather-work or pockets, B B, secured to the shell, substantially as described.

3. The combination, in a pocket-book or wallet, of the central coin-drawer, D, having the sectionally-triangular form shown, the correspondingly-shaped rigid shell A, closely surrounding the drawer, the outer leather-work, B B, secured to the shell, and the suspending-handle C, attached at the thinner margin of the pocket-book body, substantially as described.

4. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the surrounding rigid shell A, having the general form shown, the drawer D, having its back and the free edge of its inclined bottom fitted to the shell, whereby the drawer is guided and supported from the shell when drawn out at any distance, substantially as described.

5. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the coin-drawer D, having a lining, the rigid covering or shell provided with a facing of cloth or similar material opposite the open side of the drawer, substantially as described.

6. In a pocket-book or wallet, the shell A, forming the inclosure of the drawer, and provided with the depression over the drawer, having the cloth a^6 secured therein, substantially as described.

7. In a pocket-book or wallet, the shell A, forming the inclosure of the drawer, and constructed of a single sheet of metal joined at the back of the drawer, substantially as described.

8. In a pocket-book or wallet, in combination with the drawer and a relatively-fixed part of the book, having a suitable latch, the rotating bar E, the attached catch E′, and a torsion-spring, e^2, arranged and operating substantially as described.

9. In a pocket-book or wallet, in combination with the drawer and the relatively-fixed shell, a fastening for the drawer, consisting, essentially, of two movable parts, secured, one to the drawer and the other to the shell, and each actuated by a spring to secure their mutual engagement when the drawer is closed, and a stop or stops arranged to operate in a required position of the drawer to allow the fastening to be disengaged, substantially as described.

10. In a pocket-book or wallet, in the fastening for the drawer, the combination, with the tube D^2, of the fixed cylinder E^2, the rotating bar E, carrying the catch E′, and the torsion-spring e^2, arranged and operating substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

11. In a pocket-book or wallet, in the fastening for the drawer, the combination, with the recessed rotating bar E and its spring, and with the attached catch E′ and its stop or stops, of the relatively-fixed tube E^2, having inclined holes e^4 opposite the recesses in the bar E, and the confined balls e^5, all arranged with reference to each other and to the drawer substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

12. In a pocket-book or wallet, the drawer-fastening comprising two moving parts, attached, one to the drawer and the other to the shell, and both spring-actuated to mutually engage, as set forth, and also comprising a stop or stops arranged to procure the disengagement of the parts in a certain fixed position of the drawer, the part attached to the drawer provided with a spring of greater

strength than that attached to the shell, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

13. In a pocket-book or wallet, in combination with the vertically-movable notched catch E′, its supporting-spring, and its arresting stop or stops, the spring-latch F′ and the notched upright part F^2, together arranged and operating substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

14. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the shell A, the depressed head or end piece, A^2, having lateral flanges a^5, and the ornamental facing A^3, secured by said flanges a^5, substantially as described.

15. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the drawer, the end piece, D^3, having the flanges d^2 and aperture d^5, the facing D^4, fitted to enter between said flanges, and also having the coincident aperture d^5, and the bar E, projecting through said aperture, as shown, whereby the facing is held in place within the flanges of the end piece, substantially as described.

16. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the ring E^3, applied to the rotating bar E, the projection d^{12}, arranged to support the ring out in position where it may readily be seized and raised, substantially as described.

17. In a pocket-book or wallet, combined with the outer end lining of the drawer, the sheet-metal end piece, D^3, having the slot d^3, and the outer facing, D^4, together arranged as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN WESLEY MEAKER.

Witnesses:

SAMUEL M. EDDY,

WARREN E. WILKINS.