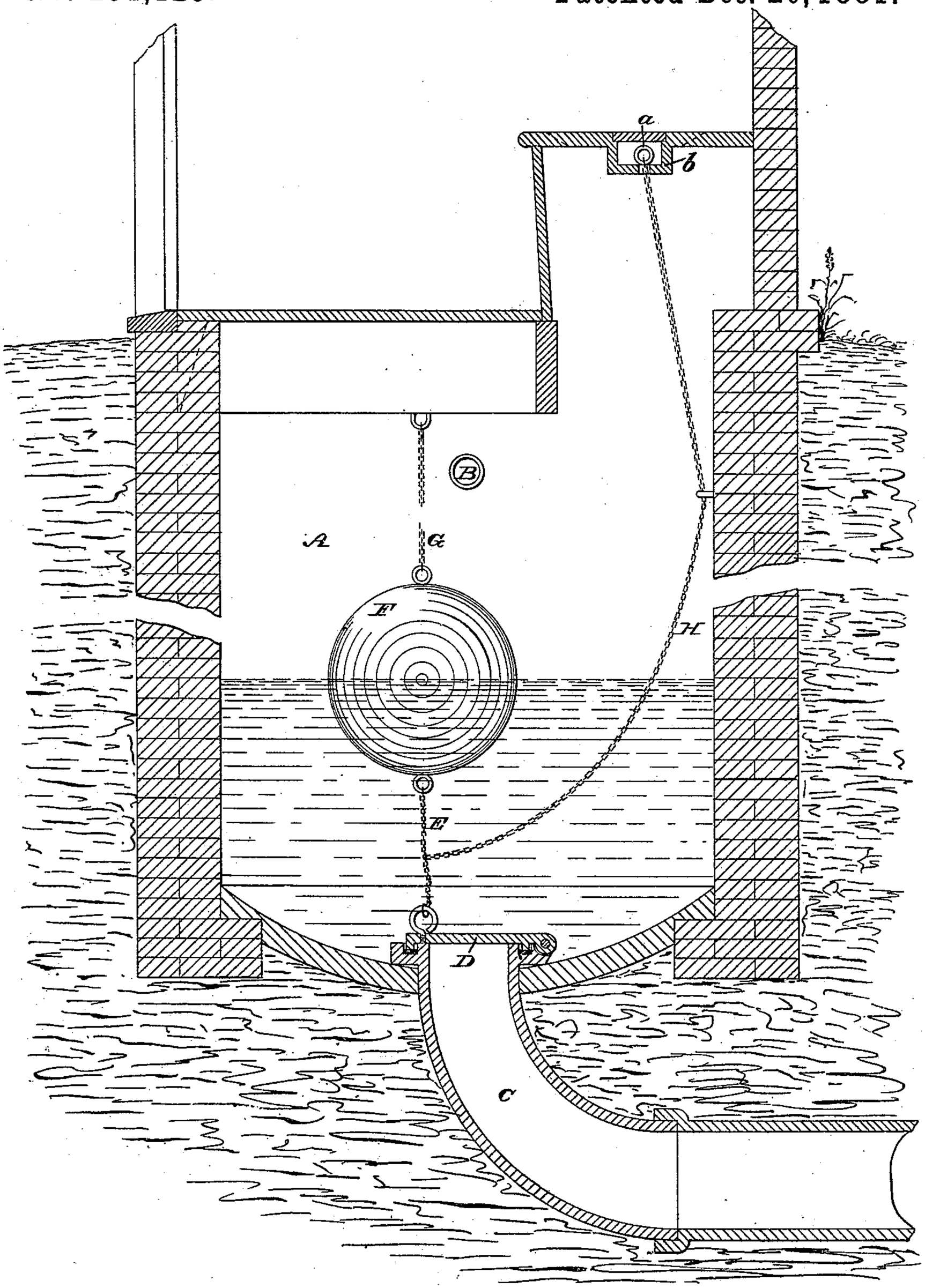
(No Model.)

H. C. MEHRING.

WELL CLEANER.

No. 251,125. Patented Dec. 20, 1881.



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WELL-CLEANER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 251,125, dated December 20, 1881.

Application filed September 27, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY C. MEHRING, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Well-Cleaners, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawing, in which the figure is a vertical section of the well-cleaner embodying my invention.

The object of my invention is the ready cleansing of a cesspool or well through a drain or outlet to a sewer or other place of discharge by means of a valve which may be opened by hand and automatically.

The invention consists of a valve, a float connected thereto, and a hand-operated chain, &c., attached to the valve, or to the connection of the float and valve, whereby the valve may be opened by the hand-connection without raising the float, and when the water in the well rises to a certain height the valve is automatically opened by the float without the latter being required to rise the length of the hand-connection. The hand-connection and connection of the valve and float are entirely outside of the float, so that said float cannot bind on the connection, and the float and connection cannot clog one with the other.

Referring to the drawing, A represents a cesspool or dug privy-well of usual construction, and B represents an inlet or pipe, which may be employed for directing water, &c., from the yard, spouts, water-closets, &c., into the well.

At or near the bottom of the well is an outlet or drain pipe, C, which opens into the well and communicates with a sewer or other place of discharge, said drain being properly supported on masonry, brick-work, &c., at the bottom of the well, and having fitted to its upper end a valve, D, for closing the drain.

To the valve D is connected a rod, cord, or chain, E, which depends from a float, F, which latter is suspended by a rod, cord, or chain, G, from the floor of the privy or side of the well, so as to be out of reach or concealed, and thus not be tampered with.

H represents a rod, cord, or chain which is attached to the chain E, and has its upper end within convenient reach in the privy.

When it is desired to clean the well the valve D is opened by raising the connection or chain H and the matters flow through the drain C into the sewer. By releasing the connection H the valve immediately closes and remains closed, thus preventing the escape of sewer-gas into the well.

The base of the well is preferably concave, dishing, or depressed, and the upper end of the drain-pipe projects above the center of said base, whereby a certain amount of water may remain on the base to keep it moist and cover the joint of the valve and its seat on the drain-pipe, said seat being grooved and packed, and the valve being flanged to dip into the groove and provide a seal for the valve. The buoyancy of the float F is greater than the weight of the valve D, and the length of the connection or chain E is such that when the valve D is closed and the water, &c., in the well rises to a height where it is important that the well should be drained thereof, should it not have been attended to by operation of the hand-connection H, the said float, lifted by the water, raises the valve D, and the contents of the well immediately flow out of the drain, and so the well is emptied, the automatic operation of the valve preventing overflow of the well or filling of the well higher than is desirable.

The handle or ring *a* at the upper end of the chain H is inclosed in a box, *b*, on the privy-seat, properly locked or otherwise guarded, for preventing improper access to said chain.

As the float is suspended by the chain G, it is prevented from being battered, as it cannot drop to the bottom of the well or be thrown around to any extent by the operation of the hand-connection H.

I am aware that it is not new to provide a water-closet with a valve having a spindle which sustains a float and operates the supply-valve, said spindle having checks or collars, one above and the other below the float, whereby when the spindle is raised by hand it lifts both the float and valve, as well as operates the supply-valve, and when the float rises by the action of the water it lifts both the valve and spindle. In the former case it necessitates greater exertion to open the valve by hand, and in the latter case a larger float is requisite, owing to its necessity of lifting the entire weight of the spindle and valve, all of which objec-

tionable features are remedied by my construction, the connection E being furthermore sustained by the float, thus dispensing with a guided valve-spindle, as exists in the water-closet above referred to.

I am also aware that sewers have been provided with valves to which are attached floats, each having below it a chain connecting it with the valve, and above it a chain by which the valve may be opened; but in this case when the valve is raised by hand the float is also lifted with it.

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

1. The privy-well A and drain-pipe C, having a valve, D, in combination with the float F, the connection E, the top suspension-chain, G, and the independent hand-operated connection H, whereby the said hand-operated connection may be raised without lifting the float and the float may rise without materially lifting the hand-connection, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The drain C, with valve D, the float F, and well A, in combination with the concealed suspension-chain G, the hand-connection H, and the inclosing-box *b*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:
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