

(No Model.)

R. DUERR & G. F. ROHN.

KEY HOLDER.

No. 301,970.

Patented July 15, 1884.

Fig. 1.

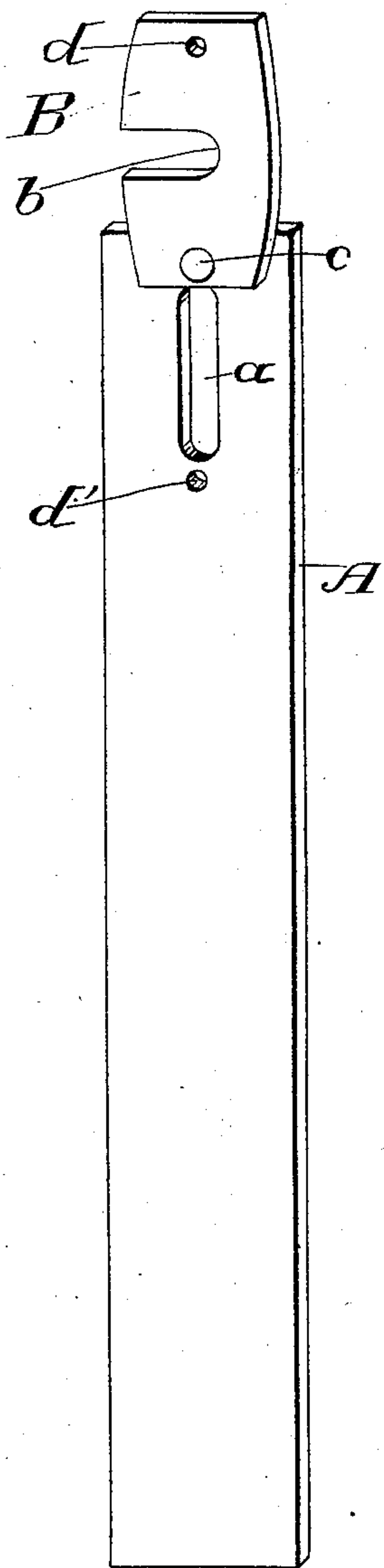


Fig. 2.

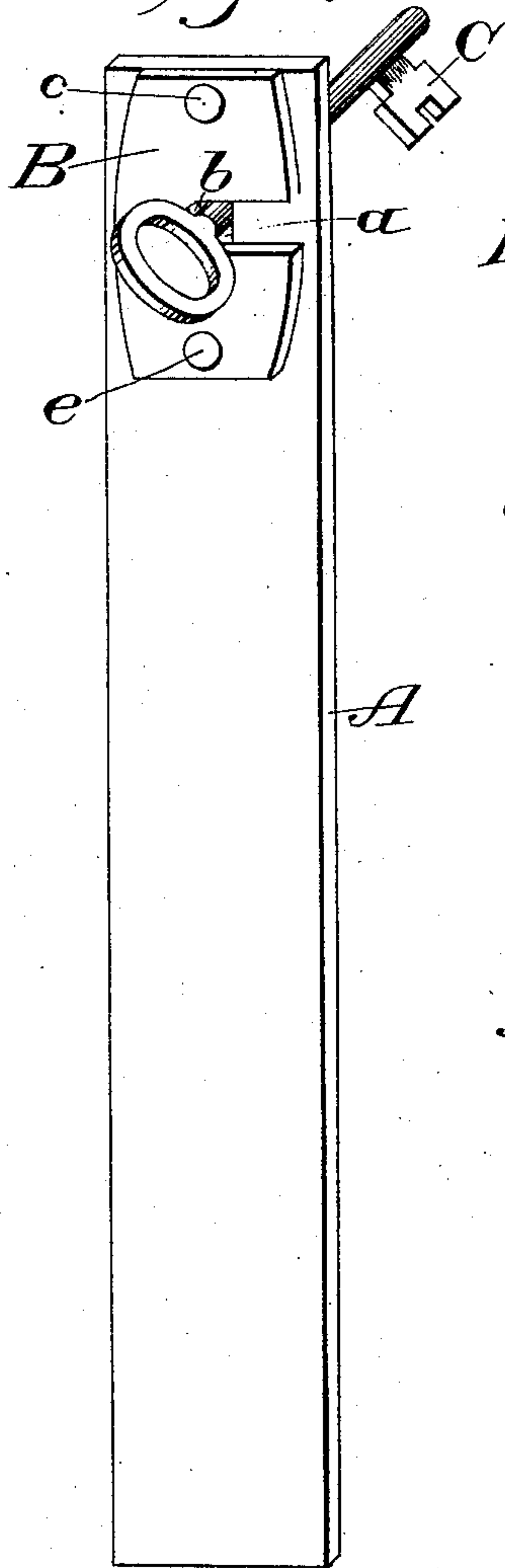
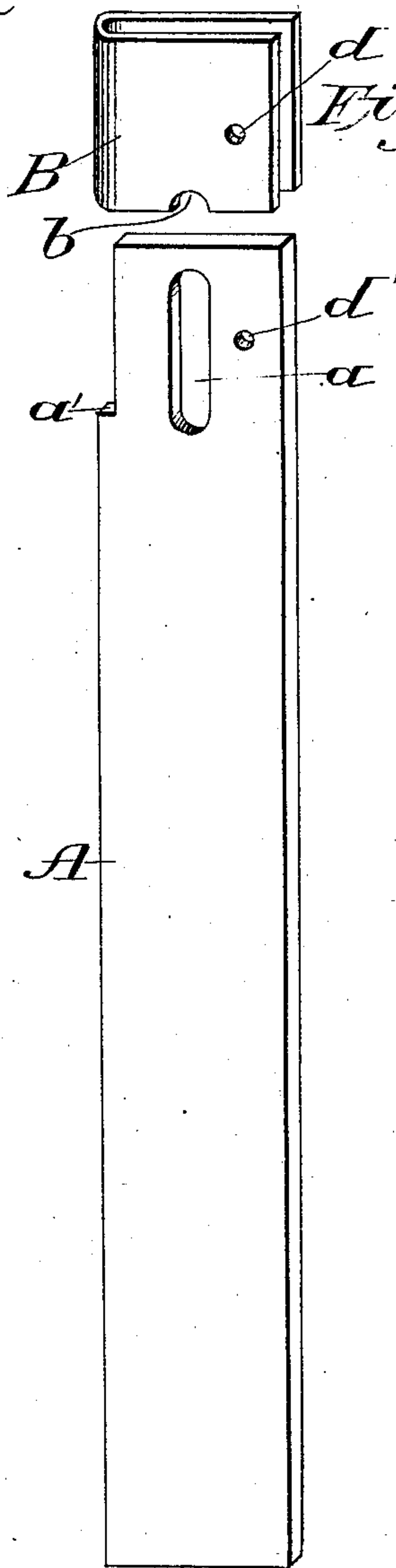


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

E. J. Jones
R. Platz

Inventors:

Robert Duerr
George F. Rohn

By

Stout & Underwood
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT DUERR AND GEORGE F. ROHN, OF MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

KEY-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 301,970, dated July 15, 1884.

Application filed May 19, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROBERT DUERR and GEORGE F. ROHN, of Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee, and in the State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Key-Checks; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

Our invention relates to key-checks such as are used in hotels or on board steamboats for saloons and state-rooms, &c.; and it consists in an improved check designed for use with different keys successively, all as will be more particularly set forth hereinafter.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of our key-check without the key. Fig. 2 is a similar view with a key secured thereto, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modified construction.

Heretofore in providing hotel and other keys with metallic checks it has been customary to unite the two together in such a manner—as by slitting the check and then hammering the check metal around the key—that the two could only become separated by destroying either the check or key, and if the latter became broken or was to be changed an entirely new check had to be provided, necessitating constant expense, aggregating in a large hotel a very considerable amount of money every year; and to obviate this is the principal object of our present invention.

A represents the holder of our check, and is preferably a strip of metal, usually of the shape shown, though that is immaterial, as the shape and size of this piece A are merely a matter of taste or custom, and in this piece we cut, punch, or otherwise form a slot, *a*, of sufficient size to admit the head of a key.

B is the movable piece, and the form of this is immaterial also; but it should preferably be provided with a notch, *b*, extending a certain distance into one side, so that as the piece B is brought to place on the piece A the shank or stem of the key, previously inserted, as described, through the slot *a*, may be caught and held securely between the edges of the slot and notch, as illustrated in Fig. 2, and when in position the parts A and B are united by any suitable fastening device, such as rivets. Now, should the key become broken, or should

it be desired to substitute a new key for any reason for the one thus secured within the check, the rivet or other fastening device can be removed at trifling expense of time or money, and the parts A and B sufficiently separated to remove the piece of the old key and to put a new key in place thereof, which can be secured in similar fashion.

In Figs. 1 and 2 we have shown the preferred form of our device, wherein the part B is shown pivoted by permanent rivet *c* to the piece A, which piece is then swung around so that its notch *b* will embrace the stem of the key C, (previously inserted to place through the slot *a*,) and then the temporary rivet *e* is driven through the coinciding holes *d d'* in the parts B and A, respectively, and slightly upset, so as to secure said parts and the contained key all firmly together.

In Fig. 3 we have shown the movable part B as double and adapted to slip on the end of the part A, (either from the end or side, and a shoulder or lock, *a'*, being formed on the part A,) and then when the parts B and A have been adjusted to place over the contained key, so that their holes *d* and *d'* coincide, as in the other form illustrated, a temporary rivet is in like manner introduced therethrough and its end slightly upset, as before. It is a very simple matter to remove this rivet with a pair of pinchers, or even with a hammer and nail, and thus the parts A and B can be almost instantly separated, if desired, at any time, and the key they have held removed, to be replaced by another.

As already stated, it is not absolutely necessary that the movable part B should have a notch, *b*, in one edge, but a much neater check is formed when the notch is made, and there is no appreciable extra cost; but the same effect could be attained by a rounded or concaved edge in the forms shown, or even by a plain-edged strip, the essence of our invention consisting in the combination of a movable piece with the holder having a slot, which latter is partially covered by the movable piece secured to the holder, as described; and, further, we do not limit ourselves to any particular kind of fastening device, but prefer to use rivets, because they are simple, secure, and cheap.

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

1. A key-check consisting of a holder having a slot for the admission of the head of a key, in combination with a movable piece adapted to be secured to the holder by a suitable fastening device, whereby when the key is in place in the check it cannot be removed therefrom without breakage or the removal of the securing device, but so that another key could then be similarly inserted and secured, substantially as set forth.

2. A key-check consisting of a holder having a slot, *a*, in combination with a movable piece having a notch, *b*, and a securing device, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing we have hereunto set our hands, at Milwaukee, in the county of Milwaukee and State of Wisconsin, in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT DUERR.
GEORGE F. ROHN.

Witnesses:

H. G. UNDERWOOD,
H. J. FORSYTHE.