

(No Model.)

G. T. BREWER.
VENT PLUG FOR BEER KEGS.

No. 359,840.

Patented Mar. 22, 1887.

Fig. 1.

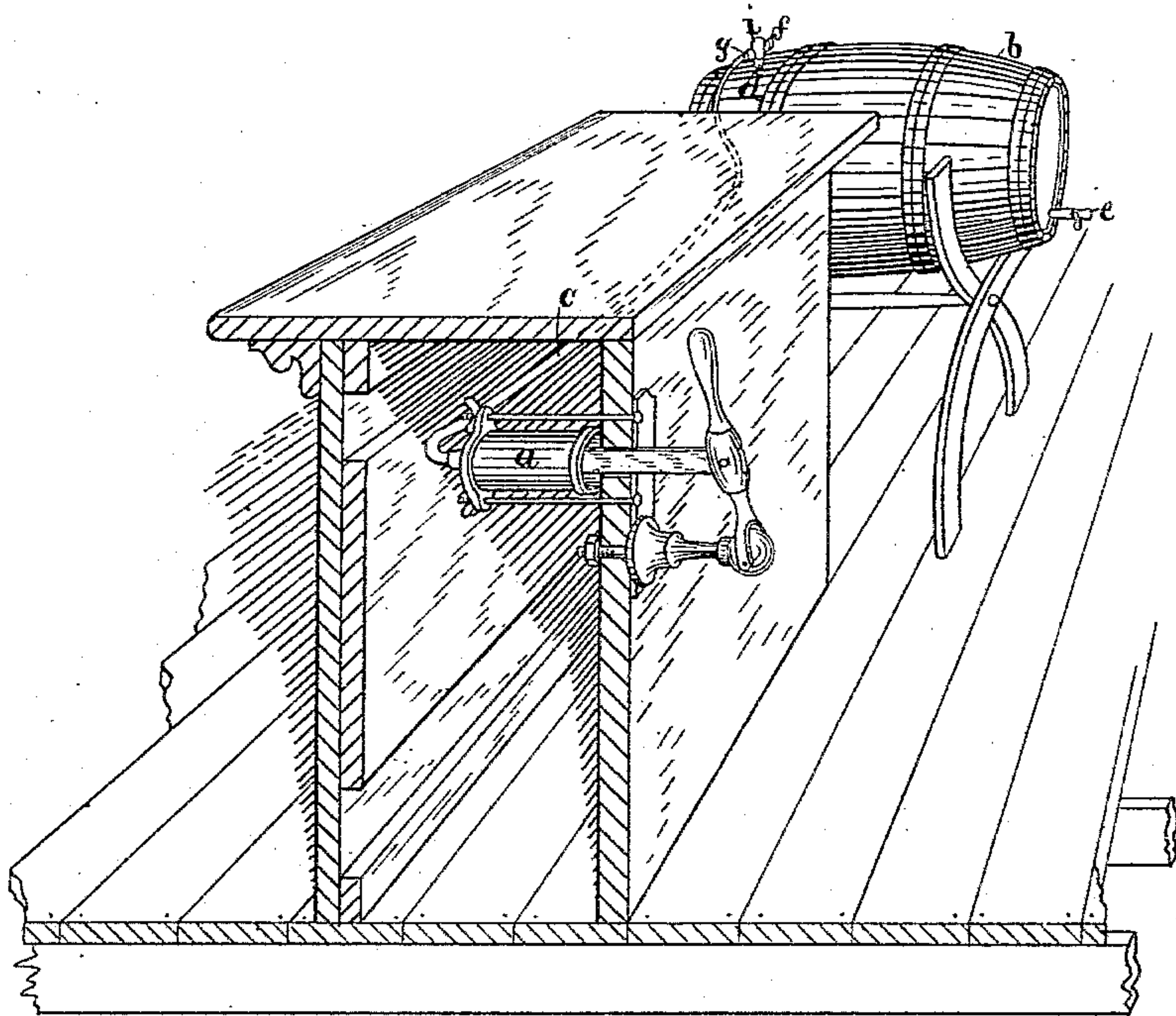
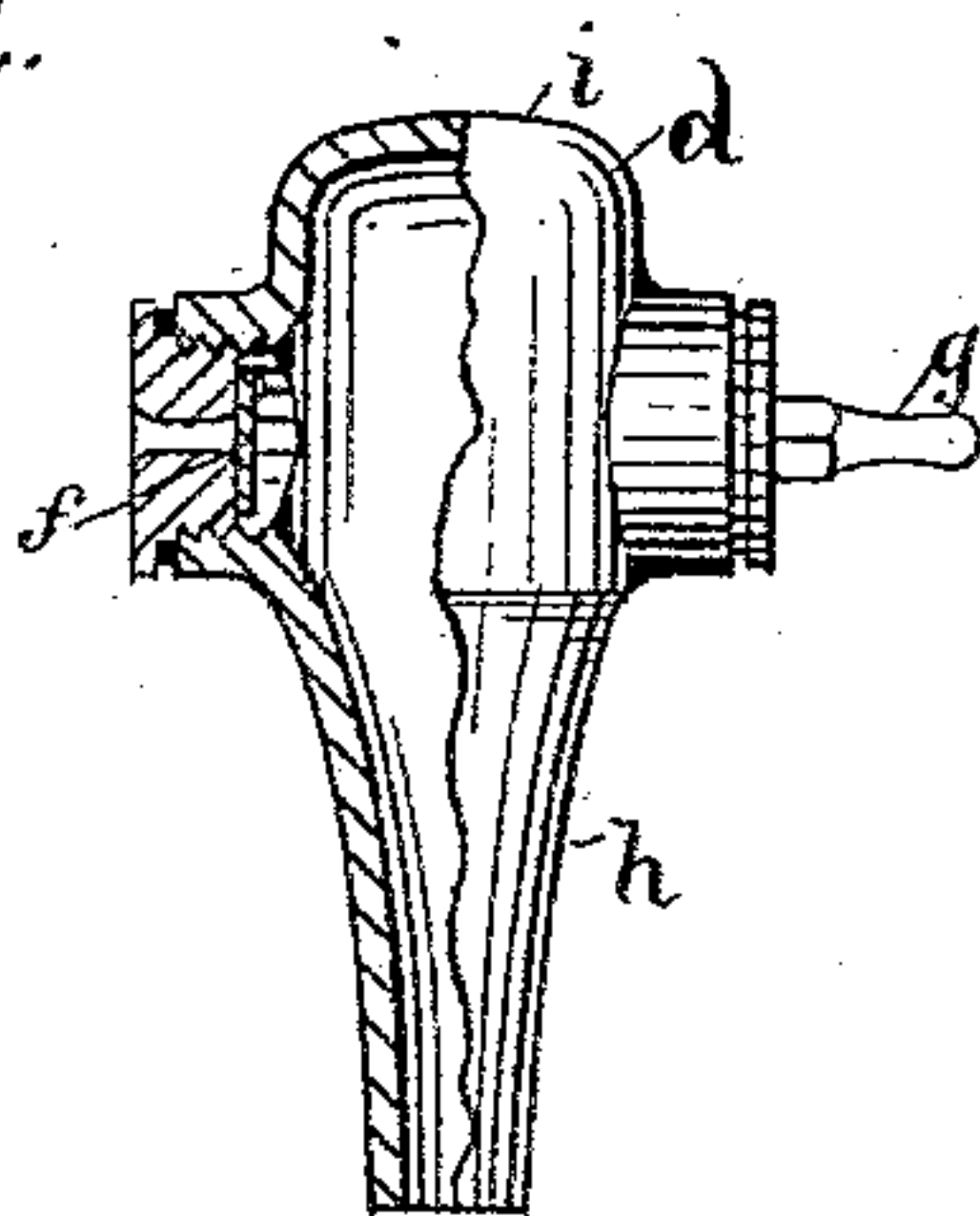


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

Joseph S. Lockwood.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GILBERT T. BREWER, OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

VENT-PLUG FOR BEER-KEGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 359,840, dated March 22, 1887.

Application filed November 25, 1885. Serial No. 183,992. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GILBERT T. BREWER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hoboken, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Aerating Apparatus for Beer-Kegs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of an improvement in the construction of the plug-tap through which air is supplied to beer-casks for taking the place of the beer withdrawn, as hereinafter fully described, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a counter and the accompanying beer-keg and aerating apparatus about as generally used for serving out beer by the glass with my improved plug-tap. Fig. 2 is partly a side view and partly a section of the improved plug as I arrange it.

An air-pump, *a*, is commonly connected with the beer-keg *b* by a flexible hose, *c*, and a plug, *d*, when the keg is placed on tap to pump air in from time to time as the beer is drawn out, so as to maintain more or less pressure, which keeps the beer in better condition, particularly when business is slack and a single keg lasts over night or longer. The pump also serves to prevent a vacuum at times when the drawing is brisk and the flow of the beer through the tap *e* would be obstructed; but in such cases the working of the pump is apt to be neglected, the attendants being too busy to work it as much as is necessary to keep up the supply of air. For such contingencies I construct the plug *d*, which is employed to connect the flexible hose to the keg, with a valve, *f*, in the side opposite to the nozzle *g*, connecting the hose to open automatically in the most ready manner whenever any lack of air may occur in the keg, and thus enable the drawing to be continued without hinderance, no matter how rapidly it may be prosecuted.

My improvement in the plug of the aerating apparatus therefore consists of the same made with the valve attachment *f*, in addition to the

nozzle for the hose, the taper section *h*, for inserting in the hole of the bung, and the head *i*, for driving the plug in tight.

It is to be understood that my improved plug is designed for the apparatus in which the pump is attached in a fixed position, as to a bar, counter, or the front wall of a refrigerator, and connects with the plug by a flexible hose, enabling the plug to be readily removed from the empty kegs and applied to the filled ones, as they are frequently changed, and that the nozzle for the connection of the hose and the head for the driving of the plug are essential features of the device, as well as the automatic valve. It is also to be observed that my improved plug is part of a special apparatus, the essential function of which is to aerate the beer by forcing air in the keg and maintaining pressure of greater than atmospheric density therein to keep the beer lively and fresh over night. Furthermore, the apparatus is such as is liable, without the valve, to expose the beer to an atmosphere of less than the natural density—that is to say, a partial vacuum—if the attendant neglects his duty, all of which are features which distinguish my invention from a beer-pump used merely for forcing beer out through a discharge-pipe that is always open, and therefore has no need of an automatic valve to close in one condition and open in another.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the aerating-pump, flexible hose, and the plug-tap, said tap having the driving-head, hose-pipe connection, and the valve automatically opening inward to admit the air in lack of the supply from the pump, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

GILBERT T. BREWER.

Witnesses:

W. J. MORGAN,
S. H. MORGAN.