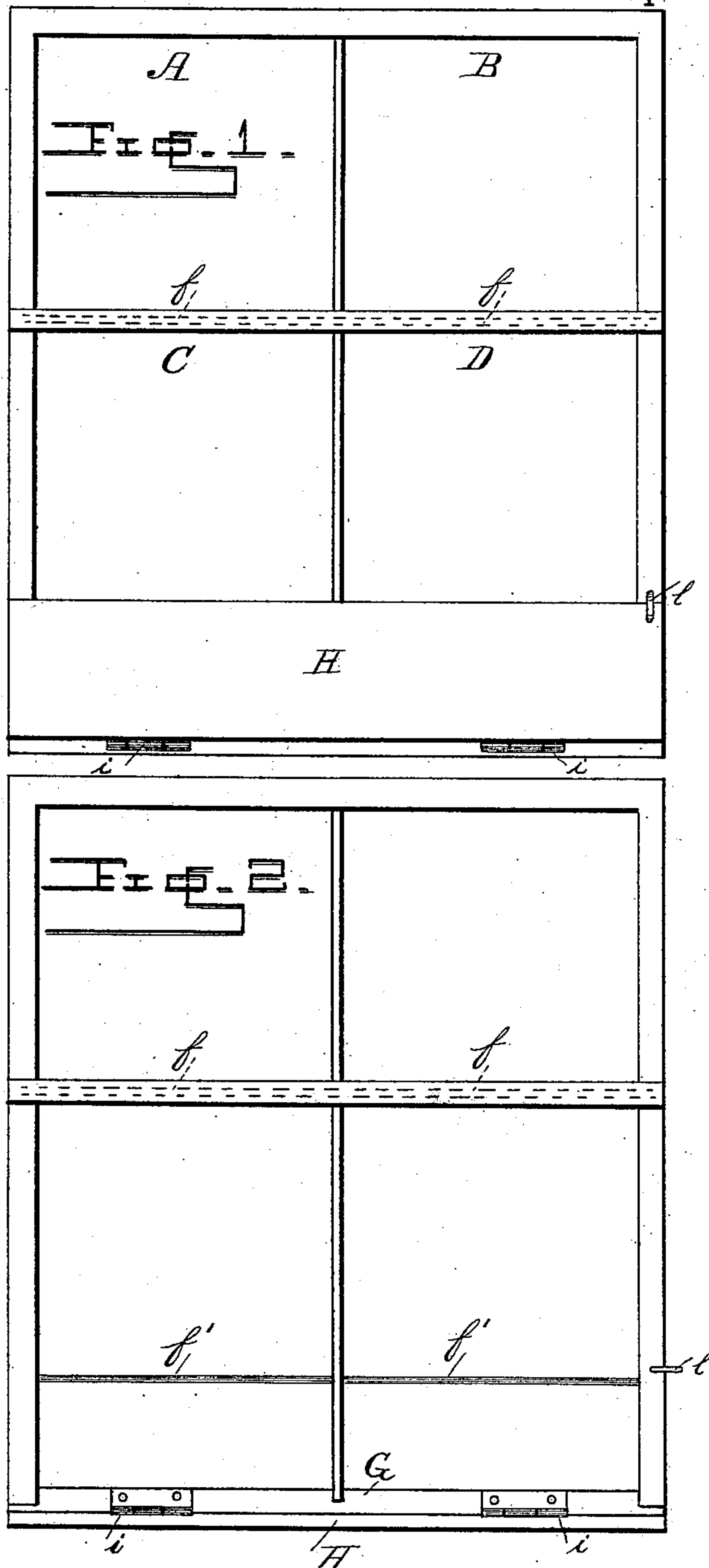


(No Model.)

J. McLANE.
LETTER BOX.

No. 361,172.

Patented Apr. 12, 1887.



WITNESSES:

John H. Blackwood
R. G. DuBois

INVENTOR:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN McLANE, OF MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 361,172, dated April 12, 1887.

Application filed March 2, 1886. Serial No. 193,751. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN McLANE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Milford, in the county of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to the construction of boxes for holding letters, cards, papers, and similar articles.

It is old to make a letter-box having a floor for the pigeon-holes composed of wire rods, whereby the floor is made practically entirely open, leaving no lodging-place for dirt or dust thereon.

My improvement consists in furnishing such a box or a series of boxes with what I term a "dust-pocket."

It is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which Figure 1 is a front elevation of a series of pigeon-holes, showing the dust-pocket closed; and Fig. 2 a similar view showing the pocket open.

A, B, C, and D are pigeon-holes, provided with the open wire-rod floors $ff'f'$.

It will be noticed that the bottom G of the entire box is but a short distance from the lower floor, f' , and that this space is closed at one end, or may be at both ends, by a door, H, hinged to the face of the bottom G at $i i$, and adapted to be closed by a catch, l .

When my improvement is used with an or-

dinary post-office or lock box, the casing around the front of the boxes conceals the dust-pocket and takes the place of the door on that side.

The manner of hinging the door, or of fastening the same when closed, is immaterial.

By the old method of open floors in such boxes above alluded to, the lower floor extending through the series of pigeon-holes was solid, and thus all the dirt and dust falling from above was accumulated in the lower tier of receptacles.

My improvement keeps free all the pigeon-holes from dust, and the dust-pocket can easily be cleaned, of course without disturbing the contents of the receptacles above.

My improvement is well adapted for use in connection with letter-carrier tables, as well as for the ordinary letter-boxes used in post-offices, and for letter lock-boxes, &c.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

In combination with a letter-box or similar structure provided with pigeon-holes having open wire floors, a shallow dust-pocket arranged beneath said pigeon-holes and closed and concealed from view by means of a door or casing at the rear thereof, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN McLANE.

Witnesses:

JOS. H. BLACKWOOD,
ANDREW PARKER.