

(Model.)

J. HARVELL.

RAT TRAP.

No. 364,924.

Patented June 14, 1887.

Fig. 1.

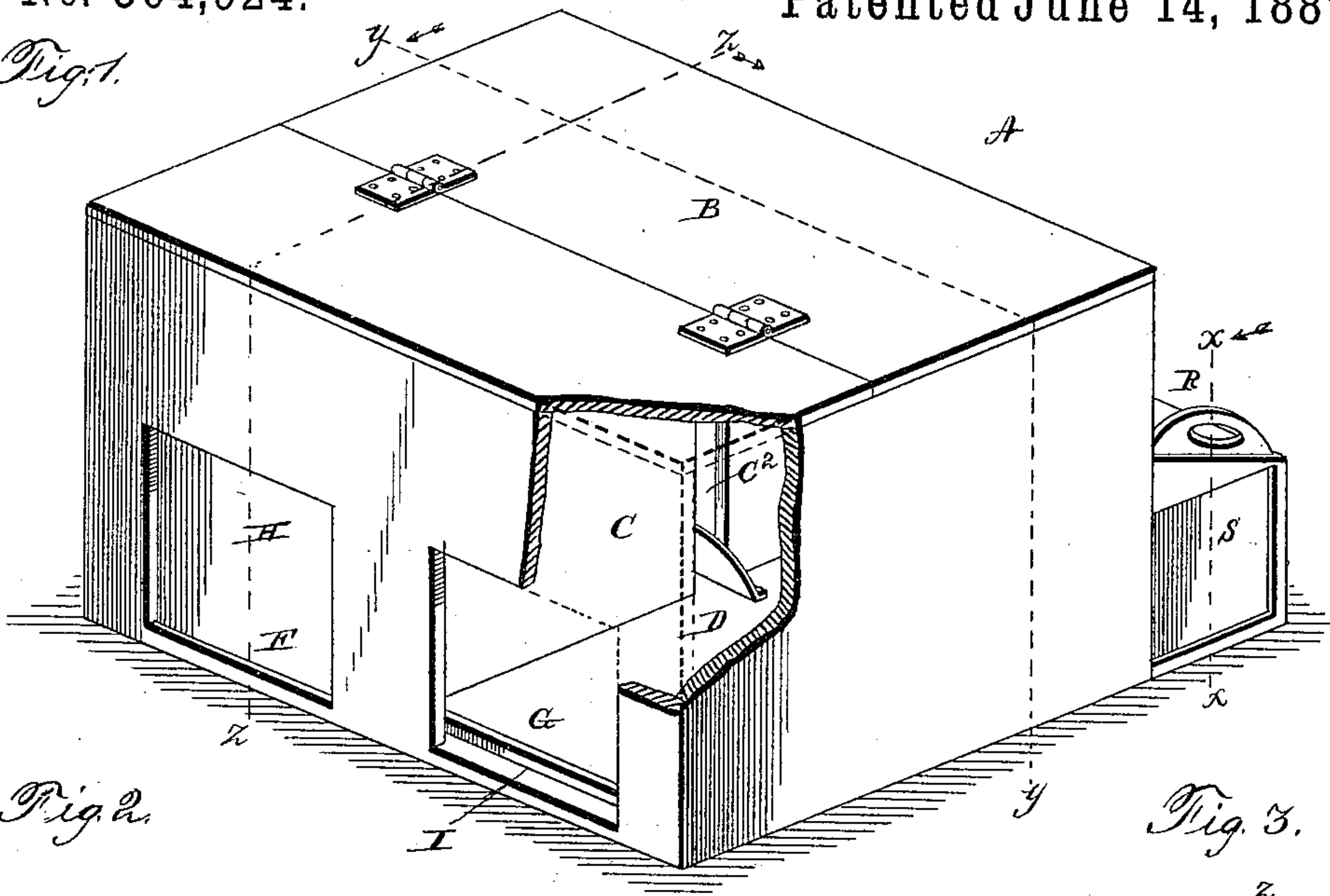


Fig. 2.

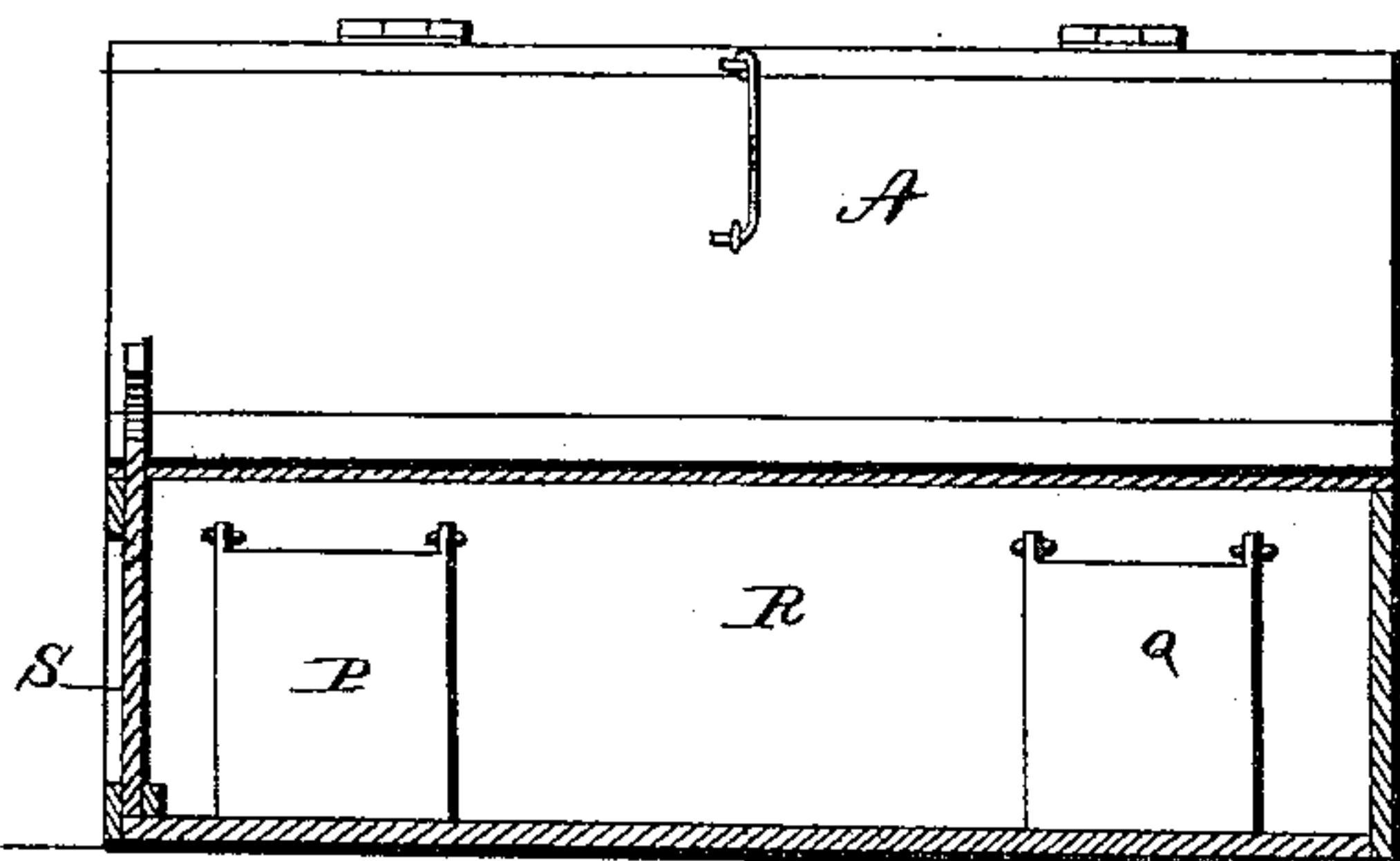


Fig. 3.

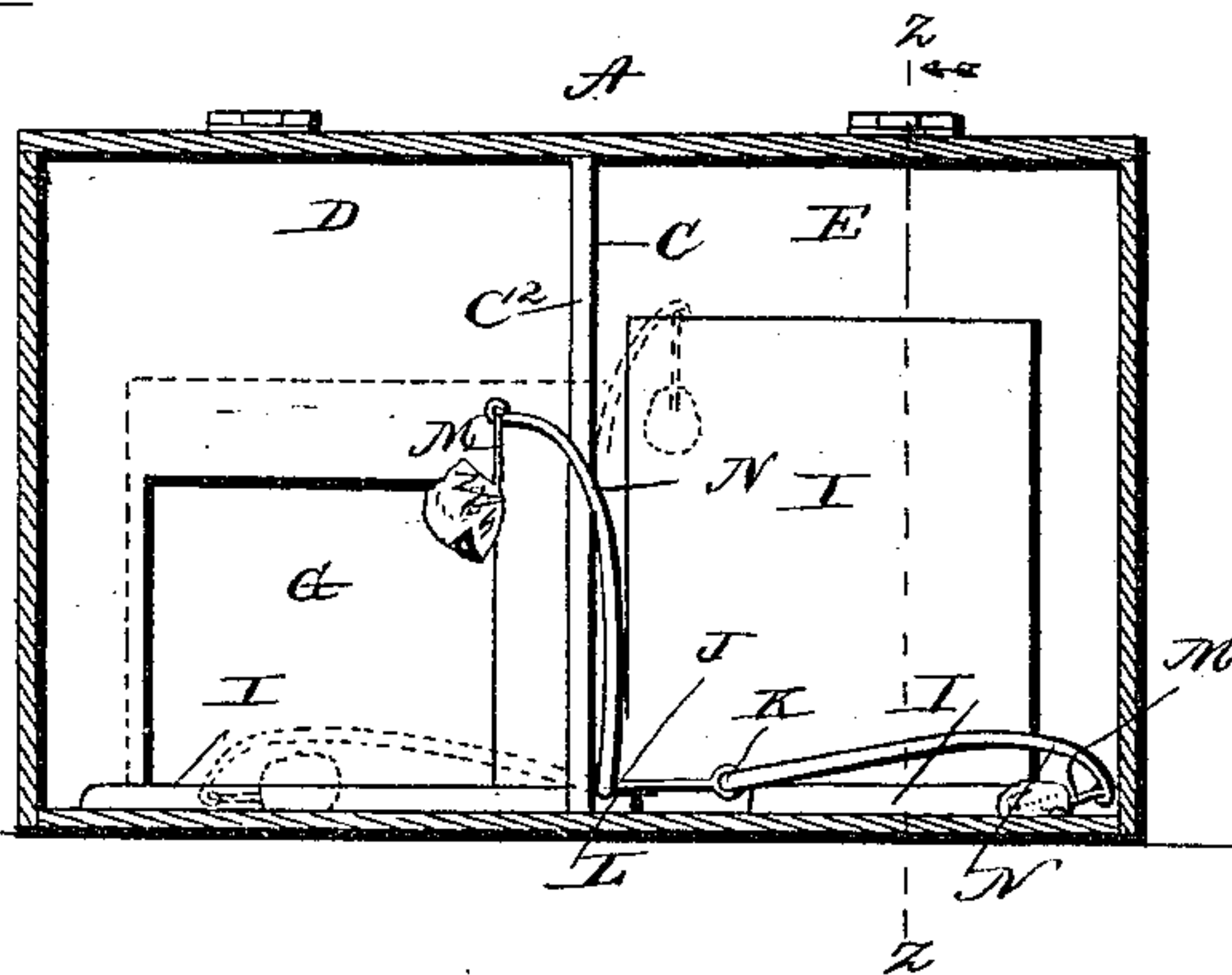
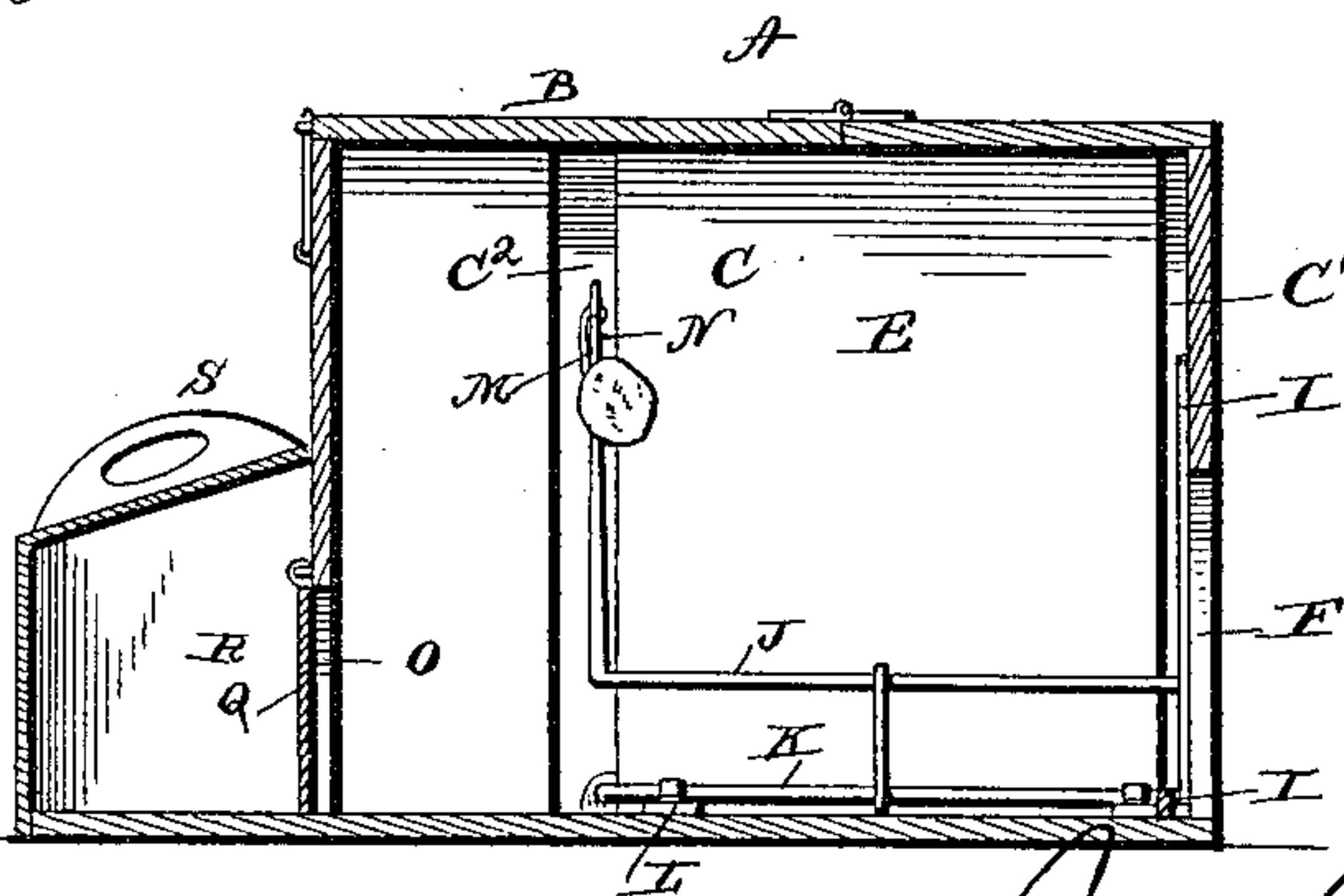


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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RAT-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 364,924, dated June 14, 1887.

Application filed April 18, 1887. Serial No. 235,190. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB HARVELL, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Raymond, in the county of Montgomery and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Rat-Traps; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved trap, part of the outer casing or walls of the same being broken away and indicated in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the plane indicated by line *xx*, Fig. 1, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow on that view. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the plane indicated by line *yy*, Fig. 2, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow on that view; and Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view taken on line *zz*, looking in the direction indicated by the arrow.

The same letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention consists in a new and improved trap, which is constructed with two main and two auxiliary compartments, and with one main and two auxiliary swinging doors in such a manner that when the main swinging door is swung over by the rat or other animal, so as to entrap the said animal, it by the same movement opens or "sets" the other main compartment for the reception of another animal, the animals thus trapped passing from the main compartments into the auxiliary compartment, in which they are retained by the auxiliary swinging doors, and from which they are removed by opening end or side doors, which can only be opened by hand, and my invention will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

Referring to the several parts by letter, A indicates the square or rectangular casing of my improved trap, consisting of the four walls, the bottom, and the top having the hinged portion B, through which access can be obtained to the interior of the trap. This trap can be built of any desired size, as it is adapted

to trap any kind of animal, from a mouse to a wolf or bear. The interior space of this casing A is divided by a central vertical transverse partition, C, into two main compartments, D and E, and the front side or wall of the casing A is formed with the two openings F and G, registering, respectively, with the forward end of these two compartments. These openings may be made of any desired size. The forward end of the vertical partition C does not extend forward quite in contact with the forward side of the casing A, leaving a space, C', or it may be formed with a vertical slot at that point.

H indicates the main swinging door, which is of a size sufficient to close either of the openings F or G, and which, when swung down into its closed position, fits in grooves or guides I, which serve to hold it firmly in its closed position, and this door has rigidly secured to its lower inner end or point the forward ends of two parallel operating-shafts, J K, the lowermost one of which is secured and turns in bearings L in the center of the bottom of the casing A at the foot of the central partition, C, as clearly shown in the sectional views, Figs. 3 and 4. The rear ends of these lever-rods are bent upward at right angles, as shown, and to their upper ends are hinged or connected the hooks M M, on which the bait is suspended.

The vertical partition C is formed at a point registering with these upwardly-bent rear ends of the levers with a vertical slot, C², of sufficient length and width to admit of the passage through it of the handles or bent rear ends N, as the main door H is swung from side to side, as hereinafter described.

It will be seen that when the door H is lying on its side edge to either side it effectually closes one of the openings F or G, leaving the other opening perfectly unobstructed, as shown, with the bent end of one lever projecting through the slot C² into the upper rear part of that main compartment. Now the rat or other animal, scenting the bait on the hook M, enters through the opening G, which in Fig. 1 is shown as opened by the door H being swung over to close the other opening, F, thus entering into the compartment E, and as soon as he seizes and pulls down on the bait on the hook M he draws upon that end of that lever or shaft K, so as to swing the door H

upon its end pivot, or upon the end at which it is pivoted; and as this door is hinged or pivoted, as shown, on one extreme end or corner it will be seen that it is very evenly balanced, and will swing with a very slight pull to either side, as the case may be. The door thus swings over to the left as soon as the rat seizes the bait on the hook M, and falls of its own weight down to the left, so as to close the opening G, through which the rat entered into the compartment E, by this one movement trapping or securing the rat in that compartment, and at the same time opening the entrance to the other compartment, D, and elevating the hook and bait of the other lever to the upper part of the slot C².

The rear wall of each of the main compartments D and E is formed, near the lower part thereof, with an opening, O, of sufficient size for the mouse, rat, or other animal designed to be trapped to pass through, but much smaller than the forward opening of the compartment, and to the outer or rear side of these openings are hinged the swinging auxiliary doors P Q, which thus open in one direction only, enabling the animal to pass from the main compartments through these doors, but not to return. These doors open into an auxiliary compartment, R, which is secured to the outer side of the rear wall of the casing A, as shown, and which is provided at one end with a sliding door, S, which cannot be opened by pressure from within, but only by sliding it up by hand. The rat or other animal thus entrapped in the main compartment, as before described, will in its endeavors to escape push up the swinging auxiliary door at the rear of that main compartment and pass through the opening O into the auxiliary compartment R, the door P swinging down closed by its own weight behind it. The animal is thus retained in the auxiliary compartment, and prevented from returning into the main compartment, from which it could escape when the swinging door H is swung over to close the other main opening, and may be removed from the auxiliary compartment by raising the sliding door S, for the purpose of destroying it. The forward opening, F, being thus opened when the door H is swung over to close the opening G, permits of another rat entering into the compartment D and seizing the bait on that hook M, when the door H is swung over, in the manner before described, so as to entrap the rat in that compartment, and the rat thus trapped will also, in his efforts to escape, force his way into the auxiliary compartment, in the manner before described, by raising the door Q, which closes of its own weight behind him, retaining the animal in the auxiliary compartment.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction, method of operation, and advantages of my improved trap will be readily understood. It will be seen that by

constructing and arranging the swinging door H and the operating-levers in the manner described as the trap entraps one animal in one of its main compartments it sets itself automatically to trap another, and will repeat this operation indefinitely as long as the bait lasts, so that the only thing necessary to be done is to renew the bait when required, which is readily done by raising the hinged lid B. The animals caught or trapped in the main compartments pass into the auxiliary compartment, in which they are retained and prevented from escaping, and are removed by raising the sliding door S. Various modifications of the several parts of my trap may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In an animal-trap, the combination, with the two main compartments having the forward end openings, of the single main swinging gate, arranged as described, and the levers secured at their forward ends to one corner of the same, and having the bent rear ends, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In an animal-trap, the combination, with the casing having the central vertical partition formed with the vertical slot or slots, and having the large openings in its forward side, of the single main swinging door, arranged as described, and the levers secured at their forward ends to one corner of the said door having the upwardly-bent rear ends, and the bait-hooks secured thereto, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with the main casing having the vertical partition formed with the slot or slots, and having the forward and rear end openings, of the main swinging door, arranged as described, the levers secured at their forward ends to one corner of the said door, and having the upwardly-bent rear ends, the auxiliary hinged swinging doors, and the auxiliary casing having a sliding door, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with the main casing having hinged top, the vertical partition formed with the slot or slots, and the forward and rear end openings, of the main swinging door, arranged as described, the levers secured at their forward ends to one corner of the said door, and having the upwardly-bent rear ends, the bait-hooks secured thereto, the auxiliary hinged swinging doors, and the auxiliary casing having the sliding door, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JACOB HARVELL.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS M. JONES,
WALTER S. PARROTT.