

(No Model.)

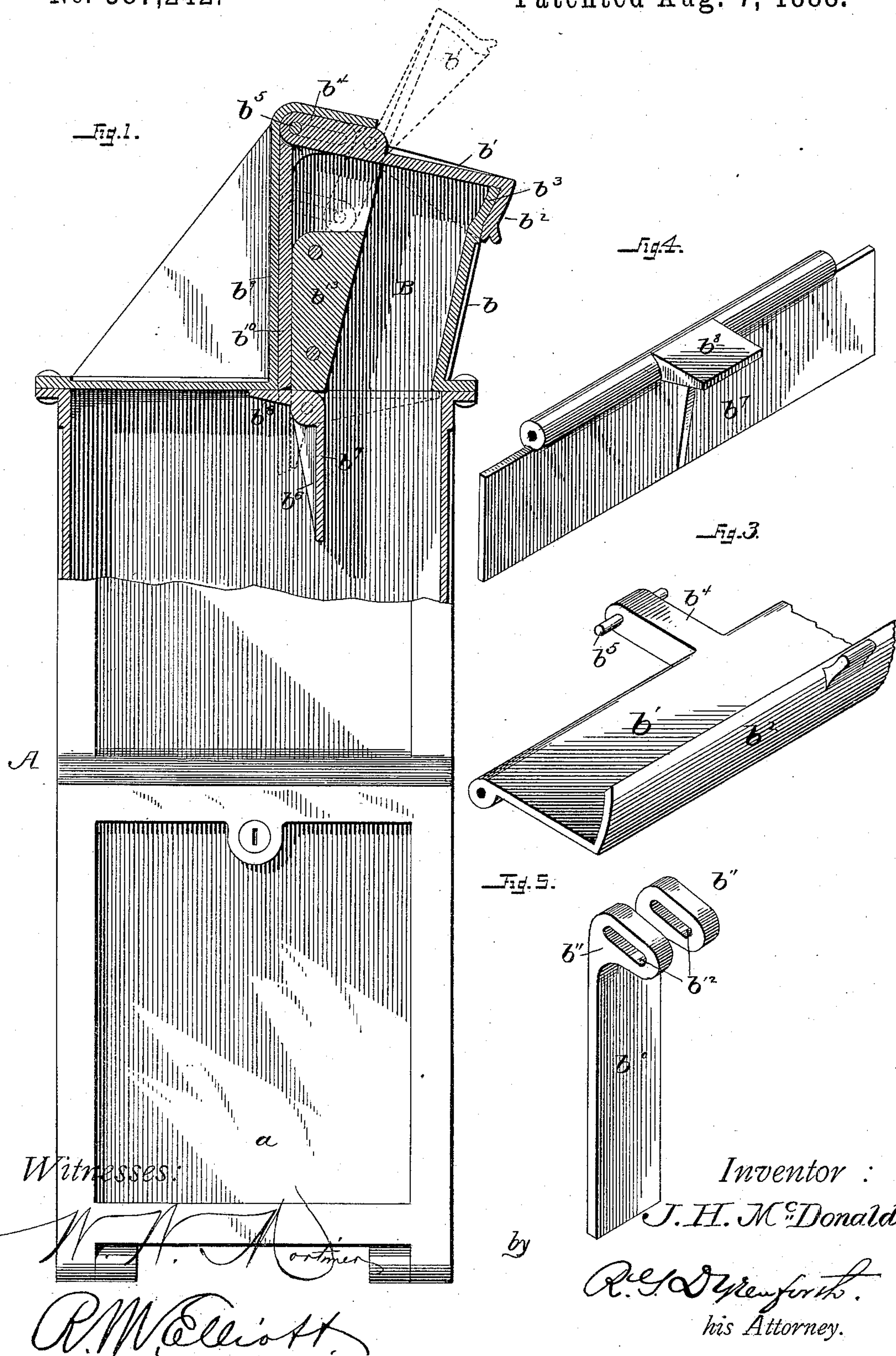
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. H. McDONALD.

LETTER BOX.

No. 387,242.

Patented Aug. 7, 1888.



(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

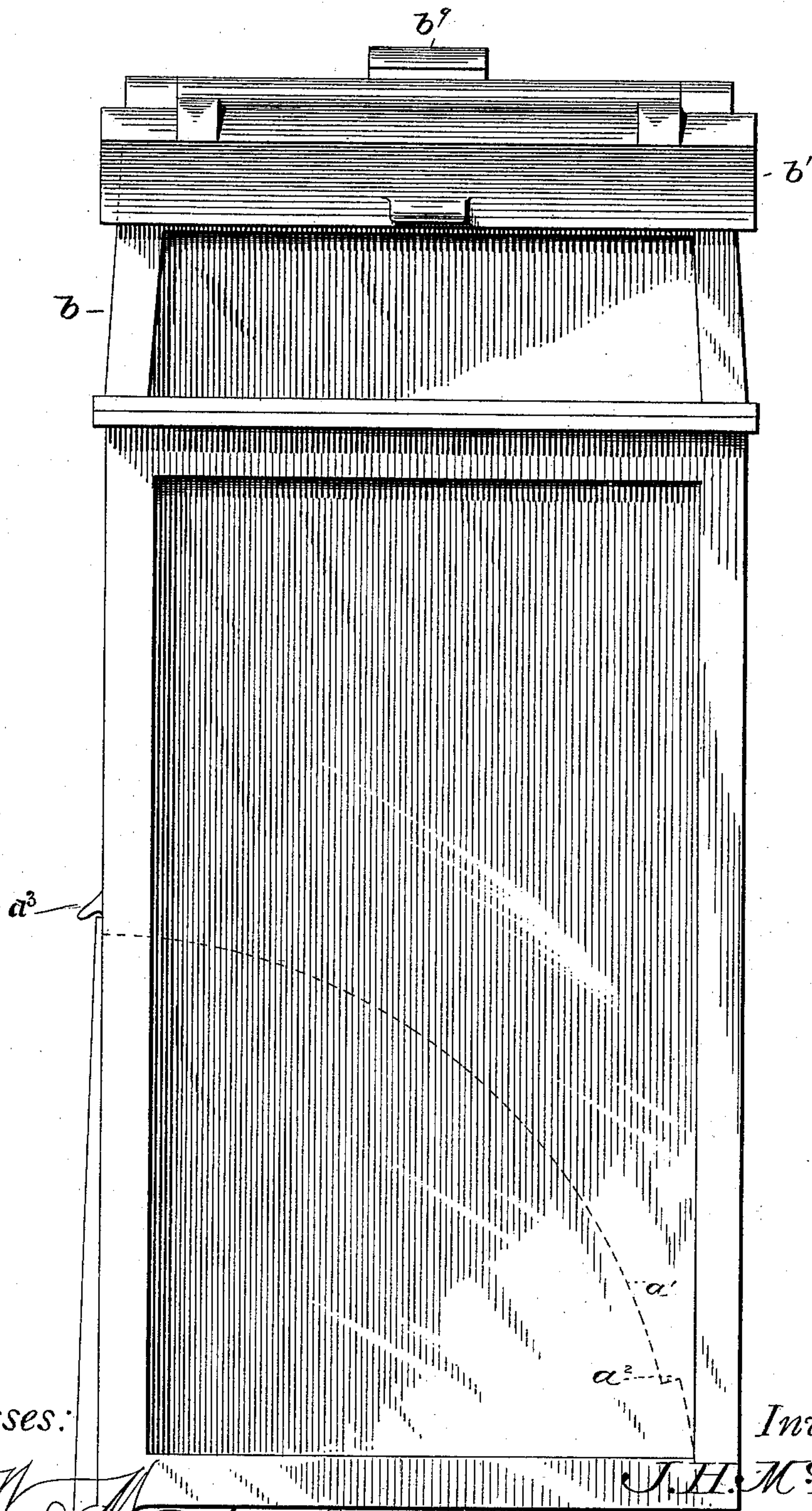
J. H. McDONALD.

LETTER BOX.

No. 387,242.

Patented Aug. 7, 1888.

Fig. 2.



Witnesses:

W. H. Mortimer
R. W. Elliott

Inventor :

J. H. McDonald,
by *A. S. Dyrenforth,*
his Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. McDONALD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 387,242, dated August 7, 1888.

Application filed November 3, 1887. Serial No. 254,206. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail-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.

This invention relates to mail-boxes.

In mail-boxes now in common use the aperture for the deposit of mail matter is necessarily made very small in order to prevent abstraction of the matter within the box by other than the authorized collector, which consequently restricts the use of the box to the accommodation of letters and small packages, while at the same time the construction of the box affords the mail but small protection from the weather.

The object of the present invention is to provide a receptacle for letters and packages of various sizes, one in which matter in the interior cannot be abstracted through the drop-opening, in which the contents will be fully protected from the weather, and one which will afford a simple, cheap, safe, and commodious mail-box.

The invention consists in a mail-box the opening to which is guarded by an exterior and an interior cover at opposite ends of the drop-opening, so arranged that movement of the outer cover will immediately operate the inner one, whereby the inner compartment is always kept closed.

Furthermore, the invention consists in a mail box having a main compartment for the reception of mail matter, and a second compartment or drop-opening into which the mail is first deposited and through which it passes to the main compartment, the second compartment being provided with a cover at its upper end and a pivoted plate at its lower end, and with a sliding plate by which the pivoted plate may be caused to act as a temporary bottom to the second compartment and close the opening to the main compartment while the cover is raised.

Furthermore, the invention consists, in a mail-box, in the combination, with a main receptacle, of a smaller compartment provided with a pivoted cover at its upper end and a pivoted plate at its lower end, a sliding plate

having a lug or lugs at its upper end provided with slots, being engaged by a pin in said cover, and its lower end engaging the pivoted plate, whereby upward movement of the cover will cause the pivoted plate to close the lower end of the smaller compartment, and a reverse movement of the cover will release said pivoted plate and permit it to fall to its normal position for the purpose of depositing its contents into the lower compartment.

Furthermore, the invention consists in the combination, with the main receptacle of a mail-box, of a second compartment provided with a pivoted cover, said cover having a lug extending from it, carrying a pin, a vertically-sliding plate having slotted lugs extending from it, the slots of these lugs being engaged by the pin carried by the cover, and a pivoted plate hung near the lower end of the compartment, said plate being provided with a flange, against which the sliding plate bears, whereby movement of the cover to open the compartment above will cause said compartment to be closed below at its opposite end.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of the specification, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a mail-box constructed in accordance with my invention, the upper portion being in section to show the arrangement of the covers of the drop-opening, the position of the covers when raised for the purpose of depositing a letter or package being indicated by dotted lines. Fig. 2 represents a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 represents a perspective view of a portion of the outer cover of the box. Fig. 4 represents a perspective view of the plate at the lower or inner end of the drop-opening, and Fig. 5 represents a perspective view of the sliding plate which operates the lower cover.

In the drawings A, indicates the main portion of the box, its shape and structure being preferably rectangular and forming the main receptacle or compartment for the deposit of mail matter. At the lower end of one side of the box is provided a door, a , hinged to lugs extending from the bottom of the box. This door is provided with arc-shaped sides a' , extending inward and bearing closely against the sides of the box, the hinge forming the center from which the arc is struck. The curved edge of each side has formed upon it a projection, a^2 , which, when the door has been

swung down upon its hinges, catches against the side of the box just above the door-opening and holds the door in a horizontal position while the collector is removing the contents.

5 Just above the door is formed an overhanging eave or flange, a^3 , for the purpose of preventing entrance of rain or snow. This door is further provided with a lock, the purpose of which is obvious.

10 At the top of the box is provided the drop-opening B, extending the entire width of the box and communicating with its interior, which opening is covered by a rectangular casing, b , forming a passage-way for the introduction of matter to be deposited in the main compartment, the top of the casing having
15 pivoted upon it a lid or cover, b' , the outer side of which has a curved depending flange, b^2 , which, when the drop-opening is closed, fits snugly upon a curved portion, b^3 , of the casing b . The cover is also provided with a lug or short arm, b^4 , extending rearward from it and carrying a pin, b^5 , which extends laterally from each side of the arm, for a purpose hereinafter set forth. At the lower end of the passage forming the drop-opening is pivoted
20 a cover, b^6 , consisting of a flat plate, b^7 , having a short flange, b^8 , formed upon it at its pivotal part or axis about midway between its ends, and extending thence at right angles to the plane of the plate b^7 . When the upper lid is closed, the lower cover or plate by its own weight hangs vertically from its pivot.

Just above the flange b^8 and moving vertically in a small casing, b^9 , is a plate, b^{10} , having extending from its upper end two lugs or projections, b^{11} , having slots b^{12} , engaged by the projecting ends of the pin b^5 . The casing in which the plate b^{10} moves is formed with the
40 casing b , and is so constructed that it serves as a guide-bed for the plate b^{10} . A piece, b^{13} , serves as a guide or stay block. All the moving parts except the outer cover, b' , of the drop-opening are thus placed upon the interior of the box, securely housed and protected from injury, while they occupy but a small amount of space.

When the cover b' is raised for the purpose of depositing a letter or package, the arm b^4
50 upon its rear edge will be depressed, the cover thus acting as a lever, and the pin b^5 , moving in the slots b^{12} , will cause the plate b^{10} to descend, its vertical movement being insured by means of the block b^{13} , secured within the casing and bearing against the face of the plate, holding it against the rear wall of the casing. In its downward movement the end of the plate bears against the flange b^8 , forcing it downward and causing the plate b^7 to rise
60 until it covers the bottom of the drop-opening b , the plate thus forming a temporary bottom to the compartment b while the cover is raised. As soon as the cover is allowed to fall into position over the opening, the plate b^7 immediately drops to its normal position and the contents of the smaller compartment, b , is deposited within the main compartment. The

movement of the cover b' and plate b^7 being simultaneous, the main compartment is at all times closed, or sufficiently closed to prevent
70 the removal of its contents, this being further insured by the flange b^2 upon the door, which rises above the top of the casing only when the plate b^7 has moved sufficiently far partially to close the lower end of the upper compartment. This flange upon the front door, together
75 with side flanges, effectually prevents the entrance of rain or snow and affords ample protection to the interior of the box.

It is obvious that a mail-box of such construction is simple and economical, comprising but few parts, and will afford ample protection to mail matter from the weather and from theft.

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

1. In a mail box, the combination, with a main compartment, of a second compartment, in which the matter is first deposited and
90 through which it passes to the main compartment, said second compartment being provided with a cover at its upper end and a movable plate at or near its lower end actuated by movement of the cover, whereby said plate may be
95 caused to act as a temporary bottom to said second compartment and close the opening to the main compartment, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a mail-box, the combination, with a
100 main receptacle, of a second compartment, said second compartment being provided with a pivoted cover at its upper end and a pivoted plate at its lower end, a sliding plate having a lug or lugs at its upper end provided with
105 slots, being engaged by a pin in said cover and its lower end engaging the pivoted plate, whereby upward movement of the cover will cause the pivoted plate to close the lower end of the smaller compartment, and reverse move-
110 ment of the cover will release said pivoted plate and permit it to fall to its normal position, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a mail box, the combination, with a
115 main receptacle, of a second compartment provided with a pivoted cover, said cover having a lug extending from it carrying a pin, a vertically-sliding plate having slotted lugs extending from it, the slots being engaged by the
120 pin carried by the cover, and a pivoted plate near the lower end of the smaller compartment, said plate being provided with a flange against which the sliding plate bears, whereby movement of the cover to open the compart-
125 ment will cause said compartment to be closed at its opposite end, substantially as shown and described.

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

JOSEPH H. McDONALD.

Witnesses:

ISIDOR GRAYHEAD,
JOS. W. LEONARD.