

(No Model.)

H. S. SCHAADT.
LETTER BOX.

No. 396,767.

Patented Jan. 29, 1889.

Fig. 1,

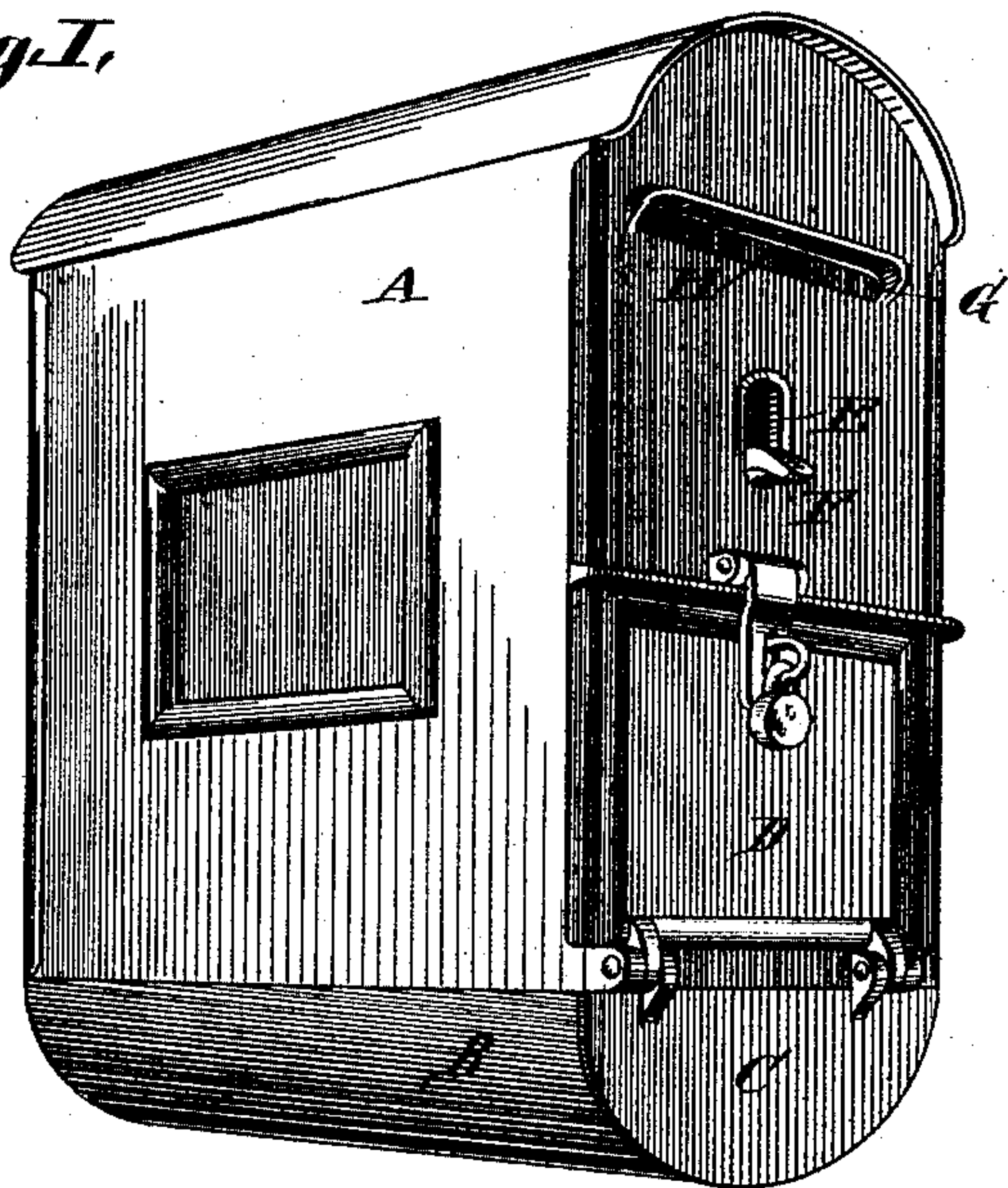


Fig. 2,

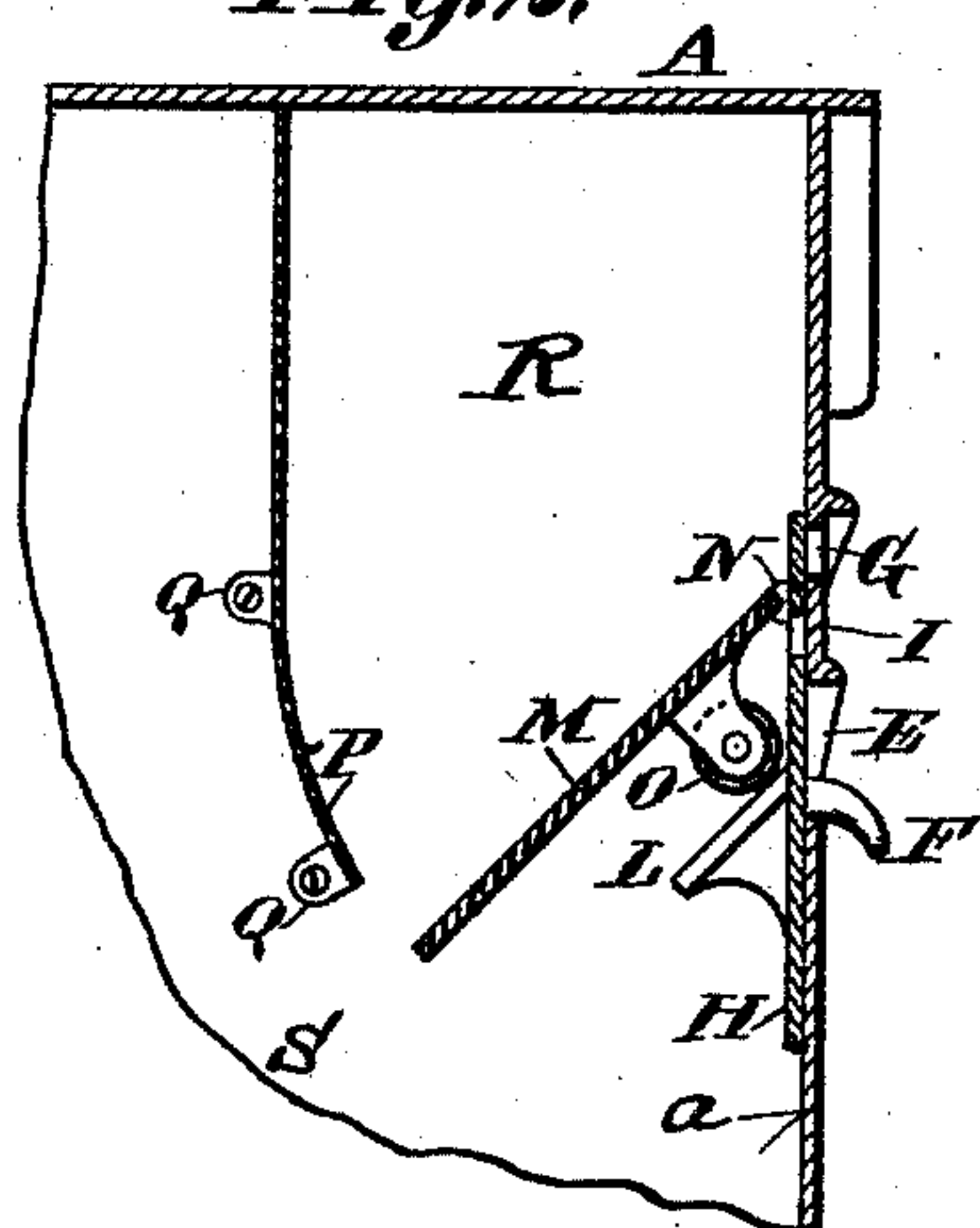


Fig. 3,

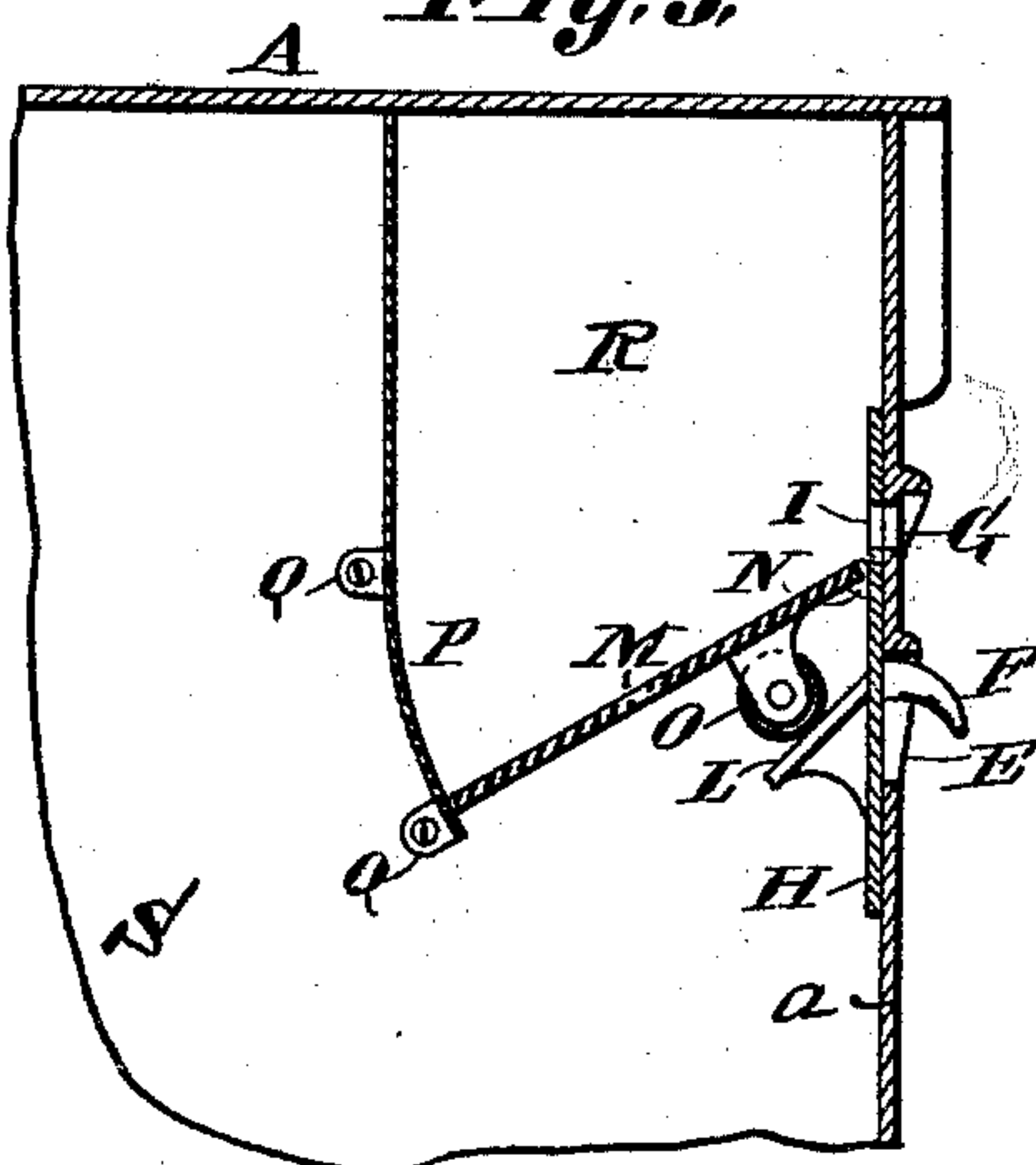


Fig. 4,

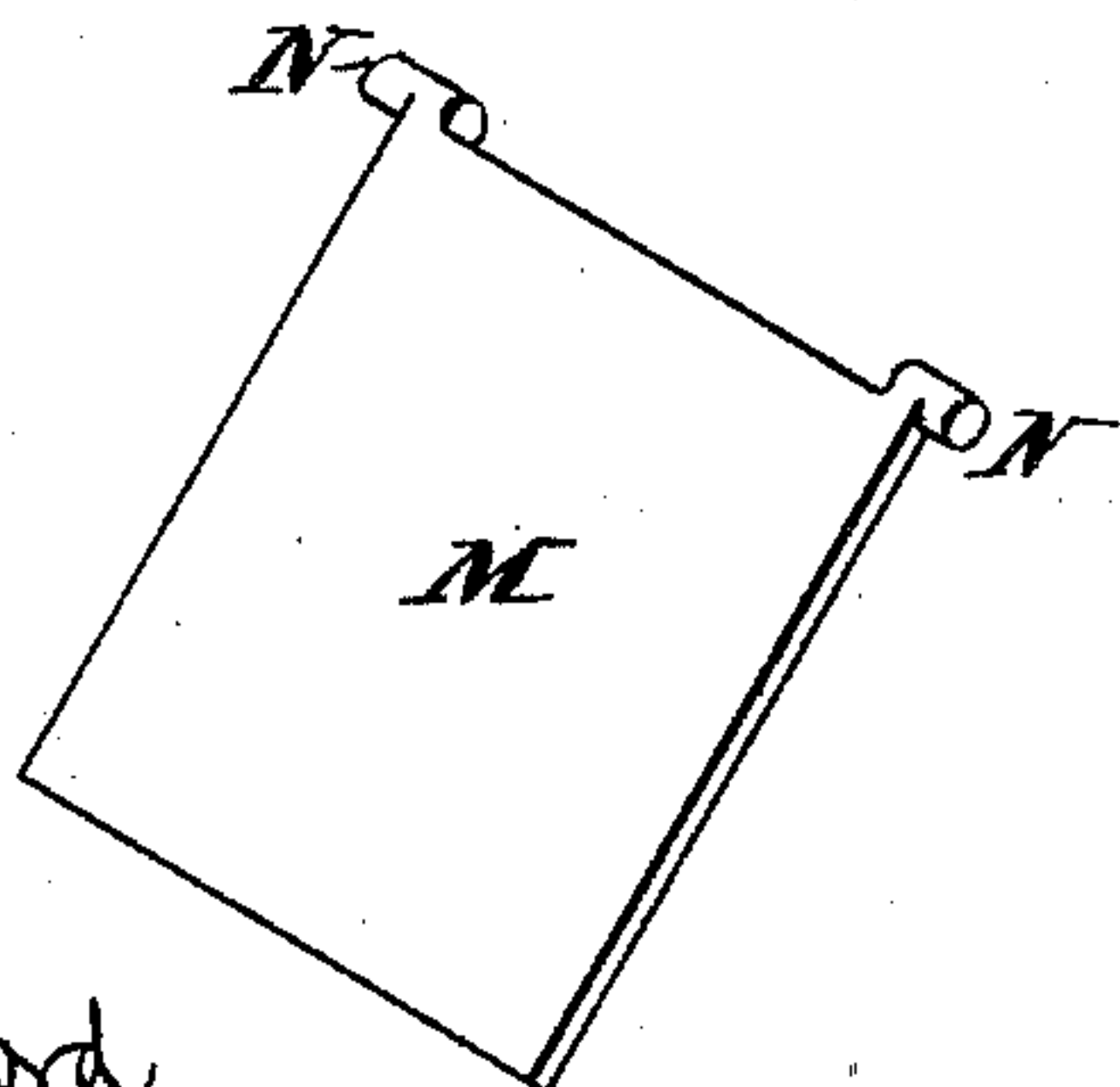
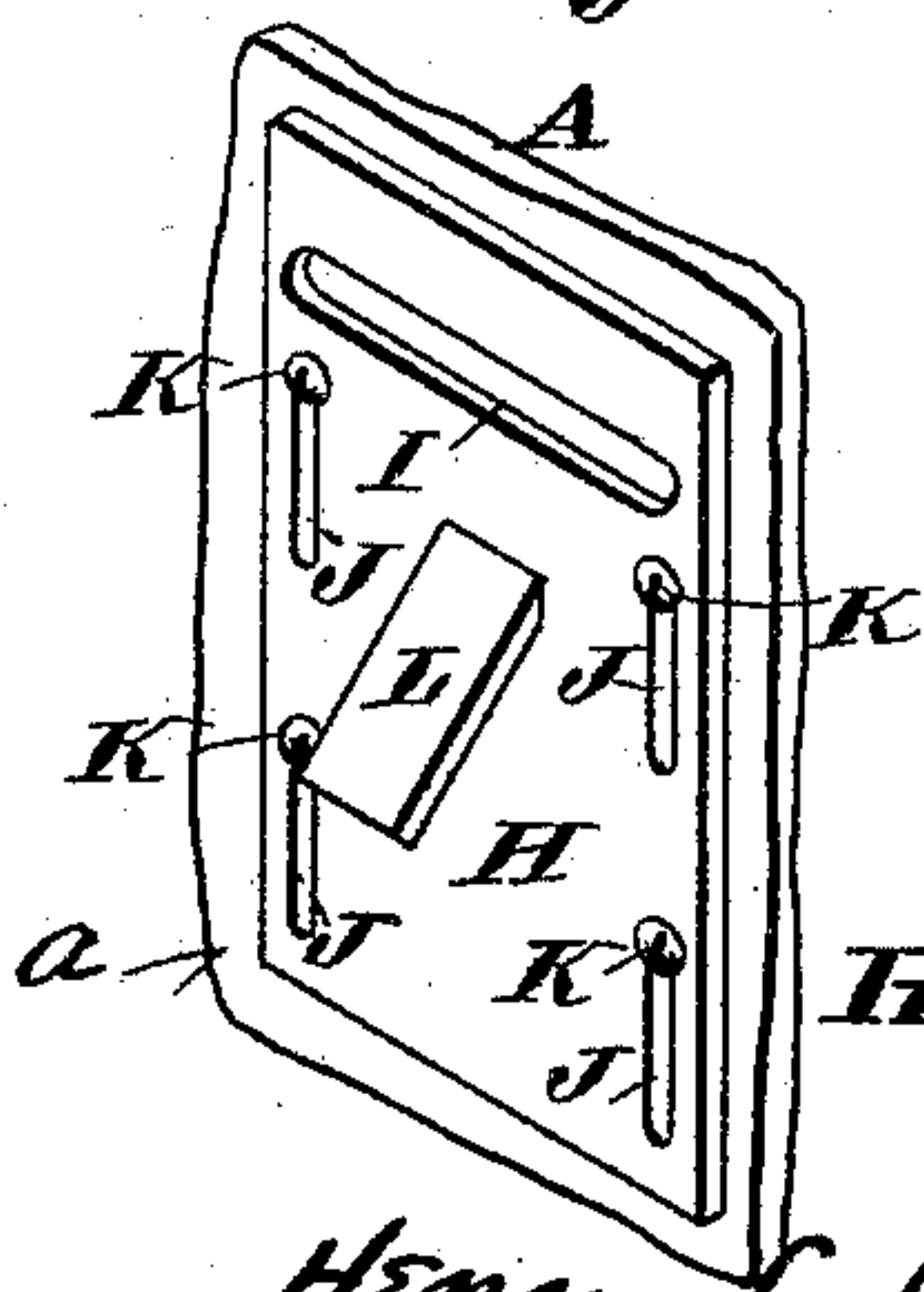


Fig. 5,



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY S. SCHAADT, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 396,767, dated January 29, 1889.

Application filed April 3, 1888. Serial No. 269,447. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY S. SCHAADT, of St. Louis, Missouri, have made a new and useful Improvement in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The aim of this improvement is to provide means whereby an improper interference with the mail matter deposited in a letter-box is prevented.

An additional feature of the improvement is an auxiliary compartment for the reception of bulky less valuable matter—such as newspapers—all substantially as is hereinafter more specifically set out and as claimed, and as illustrated in the annexed drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the improved letter-box; Fig. 2, a vertical longitudinal section of that portion of the letter-box which contains the opening through which the mail matter is introduced into the box. The view includes the means employed in connection with such opening for preventing access through the box-opening to that portion of the interior of the letter-box in which the mail matter is deposited. The movable parts are adjusted as when the box-opening is closed. Fig. 3 is a similar section, the parts being as when the box-opening is open to admit mail matter; Fig. 4, a view in perspective of the valve; and Fig. 5, a view in perspective, from the interior of the letter-box, of the slide used in opening and closing the box-opening and closing and opening the valve.

The same letters of reference denote the same parts.

The leading feature of the improvement is a combination of parts whereby the aperture in the box for admitting mail matter can be opened and closed, and when opened access to that part of the box in which the mail matter is ultimately deposited is prevented, so that whatever instrument is introduced through the box-aperture cannot reach mail matter previously deposited.

A represents a letter-box of the ordinary construction, saving as it is modified or supplemented by the improvement in question. The aperture for introducing the letters thereinto is shown at G in the usual manner.

P represents a partition, which, with a part conveniently termed a "valve," M, is used to form the compartment or space R immediately beyond the aperture G within the letter-box. This space R is intended to hold only a few letters at a time, and its dimensions need only to be large enough for that purpose. The partition P is usually a fixture, and it is so made and arranged that letters cannot pass through or over it. The valve M is so shaped and arranged that it can be moved to close the passage between the end *a* of the box and the partition P, so that the letters placed in the space R cannot pass therefrom, and when moved in the opposite direction the letters can pass into the main portion S of the interior of the letter-box. When the passage is closed, as shown in Fig. 3, no instrument—such as a rod, a hook, or a cord having a weight attached and coated with an adhesive substance—can be inserted in the letter-box so as to reach the main compartment S therein and extract the mail matter therefrom. On the other hand, when the valve is opened, as in Fig. 2, the box-aperture G is closed. Thus in neither position of the valve or whether the box-aperture is opened or closed can access be had to the mail matter deposited in the letter-box, saving through the regular opening used by the collector of the mail matter.

The most desirable means for operating the valve and closing and opening the box-aperture is as follows: H represents a slide arranged upon the inner side of the end of the box and adapted to be moved upward and downward, as indicated by its two positions shown, respectively, in Figs. 2 and 3. It has an aperture, I, which, when the slide is raised, coincides with the box-aperture G, and at such time mail matter can be introduced through the combined apertures G I into the space E. When the slide H is lowered, its aperture I is moved to be out of line with the box-aperture G, and an imperforated portion of the slide comes opposite the aperture G, and nothing can be introduced into the letter-box. The slide is provided with a handle, F, which projects through an opening, E, in the box, and upon the inner side of the slide is an incline, L. When the slide is raised, the in-

cline encounters the valve, or, preferably, a roller, O, upon the valve, and the valve is thereby turned on its journals N N into the position of Fig. 3. When the slide is lowered, 5 the support of the valve is withdrawn, and the valve, by reason of its gravity, aided by that of any mail matter upon it, drops into the position of Fig. 2. The valve-journals N N turn in suitable fixed bearings, (not shown,) 10 which are not attached to the slide, but are in the letter-box end *a*. The partition is held by the fastenings Q. The slide H works upon suitable guides, K, which pass through the slots J in the slide. When the handle F is 15 released, the weight of the slide causes it to drop.

B represents the auxiliary chamber for the bulky less valuable mail matter. It is located at the bottom of the letter-box, and access is 20 had thereto by means of the door C. This chamber occupies a space not needed for other purposes, is easy to reach, and whatever is de-

posited within it is protected from the weather.

I claim—

1. A letter-box having a compartment or space, R, separated from the main portion S of the interior of the letter-box by means of a valve and a partition, and also having a slide for opening and closing the box-aperture, said slide and valve being connected, and when one is moved to close the box-aperture the other is moved to open the passage from said compartment, as and for the purpose described. 25 30

2. The combination, in a letter-box, of the slide H, having the aperture I and the incline L, and the handle F, with the valve M, having the roller O and being journaled, substantially as described. 35

Witness my hand this 30th March, 1888.

HENRY S. SCHAADT.

Witnesses:

C. D. MOODY,

C. C. LOGAN.