

(No Model.)

V. M. HOLLYDAY.
LOCK.

No. 453,082.

Patented May 26, 1891.

Fig. 1.

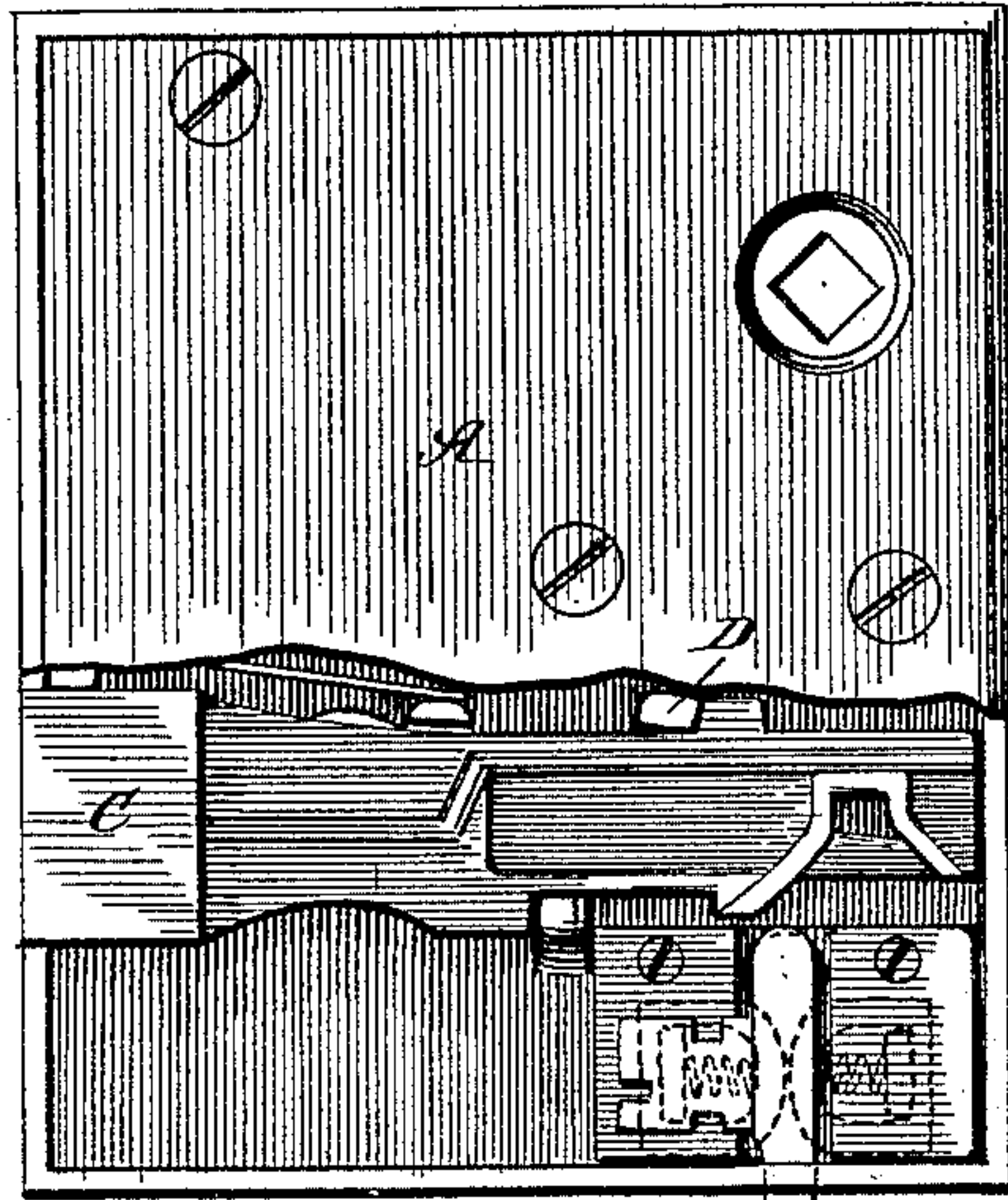


Fig. 2.

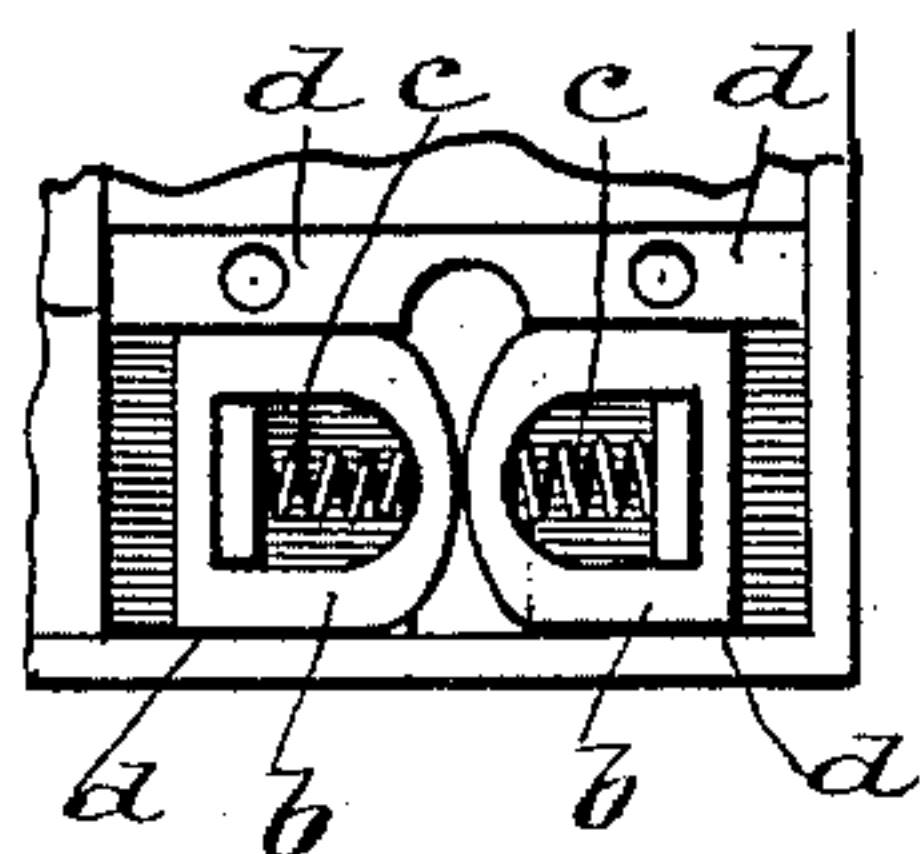
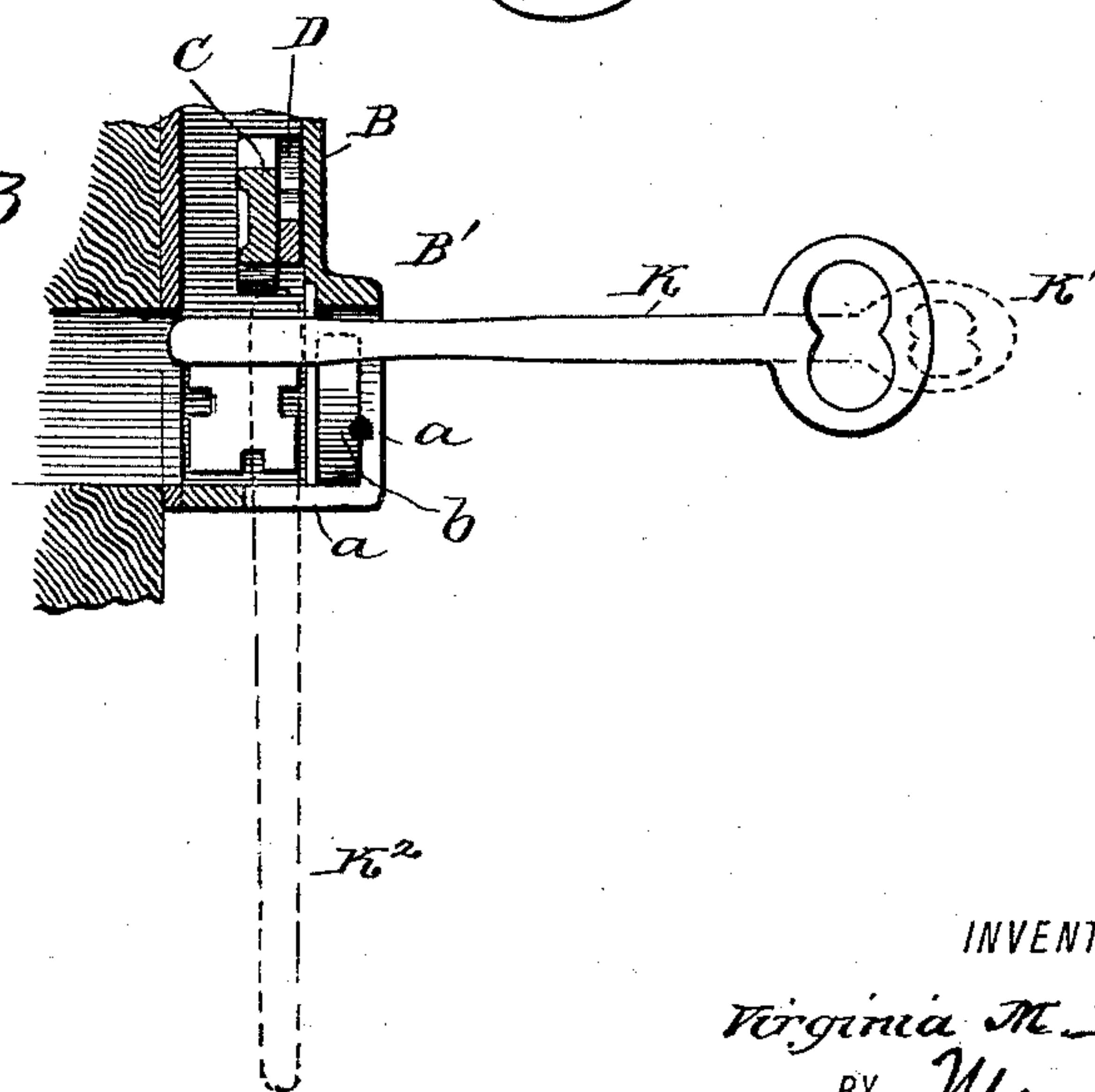


Fig. 3.



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LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 453,082, dated May 26, 1891.

Application filed November 6, 1890. Serial No. 370,556. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VIRGINIA M. HOLLYDAY, of Baltimore city, in the State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Locks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an improvement in locks designed to prevent the falling out of the key when the door is slammed, to prevent the introduction of a skeleton key, and to prevent the key also from injuring the plaster when the door opens against a wall.

It consists in a spring-clamp applied to the interior of the lock and arranged to permit the key to be turned down into a pendent position and there locked in place, as hereinafter fully described.

Figure 1 is a view of my improved lock with the plate partly broken away to show the construction and arrangement of my improvement within. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section taken through the key-hole, and Fig. 3 is a detail.

A is the removable plate; B, the external case; C, the bolt, and D the tumbler. These parts are of the usual construction, except that the external case B is formed with a chamber B' around the key-hole for containing the improvement added. On the inner side of the chamber B' is arranged a clamp for the key, composed of two spring-jaws *b b*, Fig. 3, which shut together or press toward each other upon opposite sides of the key-hole. These spring-jaws are D-shaped pieces of metal that slide in guides *d* on the case, being forced together by spiral springs *c*. These two jaws are placed in the chamber B' and far enough away from the plane of rotation of the key-bit so as not to be in the way of the bit in revolving to throw or withdraw the bolt. The key-hole *a* is also cut down or continued through the bottom of the case, so as to per-

mit the key K to be swung down into a vertically-pendent position, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2.

The operation of my invention is as follows: After the bolt is thrown by the key the latter is turned so that its bit is in a horizontal plane, and the key is partly pulled out, as shown by dotted lines K'. The whole key is then swung down into a pendent position, as shown by dotted lines at K², the extended key-hole permitting this to be done, while the clamping-jaws close behind the shank of the key, as shown in Fig. 1. By this means it will be seen that the key is firmly held against dropping out, and the key-hole is obstructed so that a skeleton key cannot be introduced.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The combination, with a lock and its case having its key-hole extended downwardly through the bottom of the case, of a spring-clamp arranged within the case for holding the key, substantially as shown and described.

2. A lock-case having a projecting chamber around its key-hole, with the key-hole extending down through the bottom of the case, in combination with a pair of clamping-jaws arranged in said chamber to come together across the key-hole, substantially as shown and described.

3. A lock-case having a projecting chamber B' around its key-hole, with the key-hole extending down through the bottom of the case, in combination with the D-shaped sliding jaws *b b*, arranged in said chamber and provided with guides *d d*, and the springs *c c*, arranged within the D-shaped jaws, substantially as shown and described.

VIRGINIA M. HOLLYDAY.

Witnesses:

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