

(No Model.)

J. P. LINDSAY.
HOUSE DOOR LETTER BOX.

No. 461,117.

Patented Oct. 13, 1891.

Fig. 1.

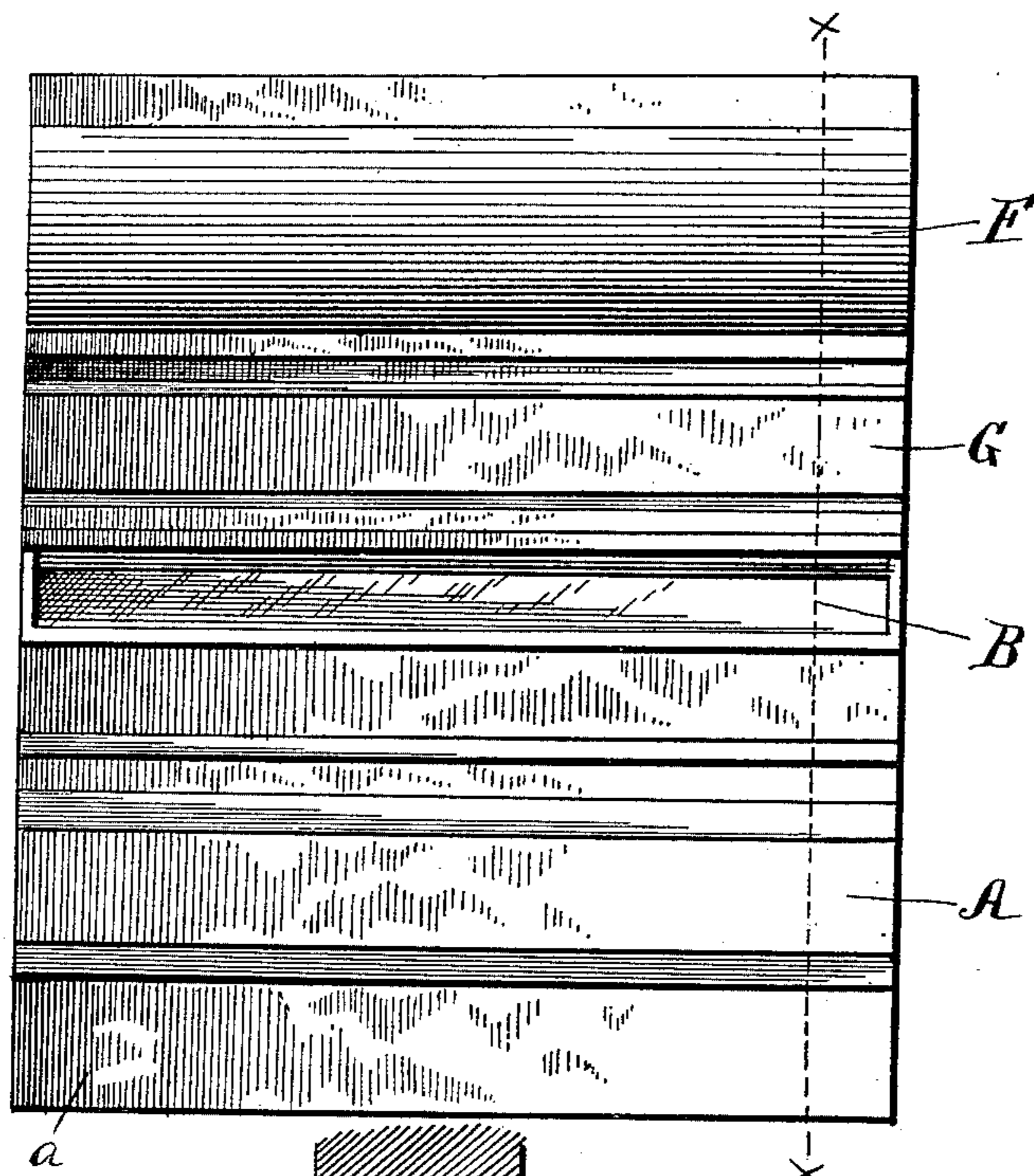


Fig. 2.

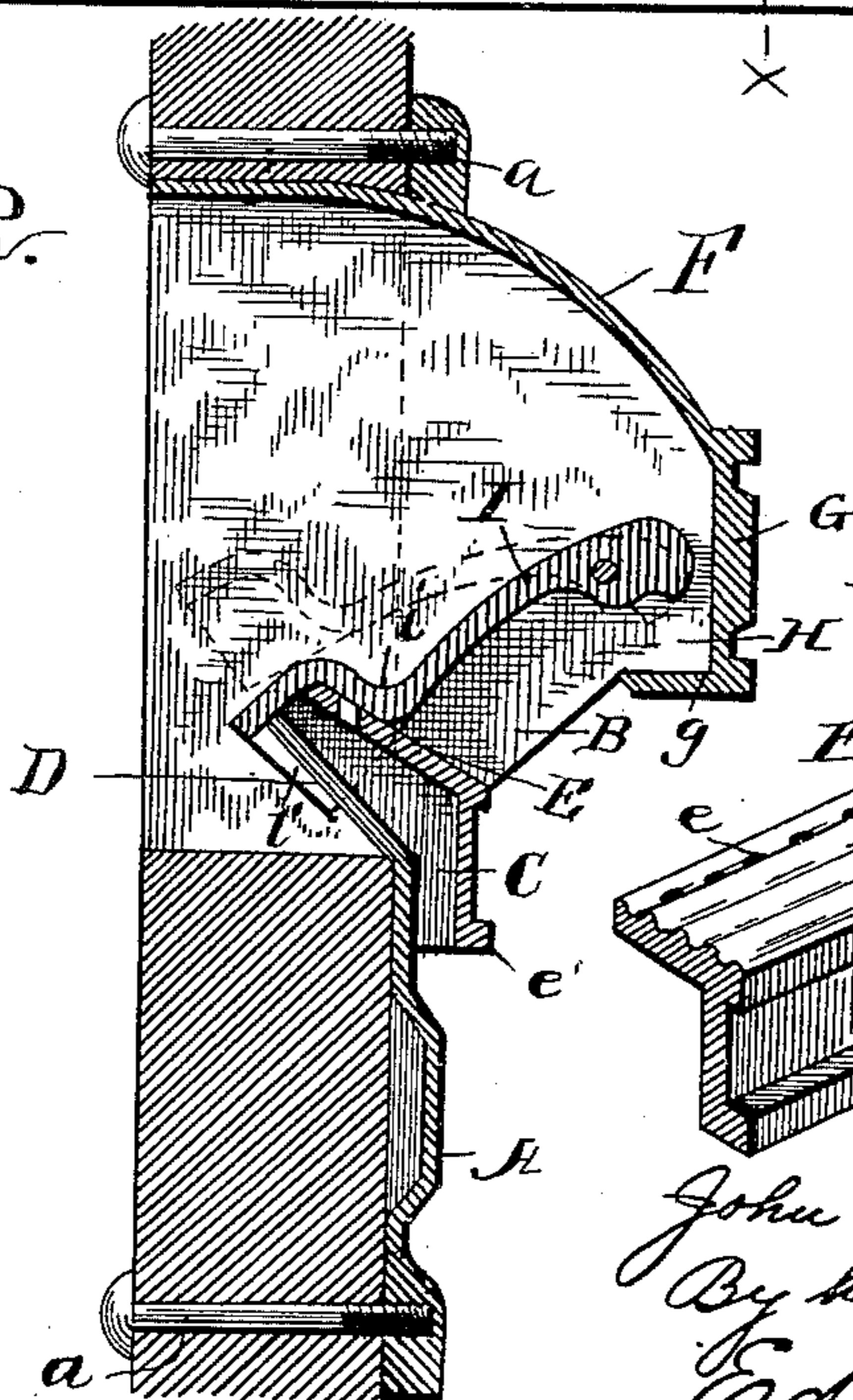


Fig. 3.

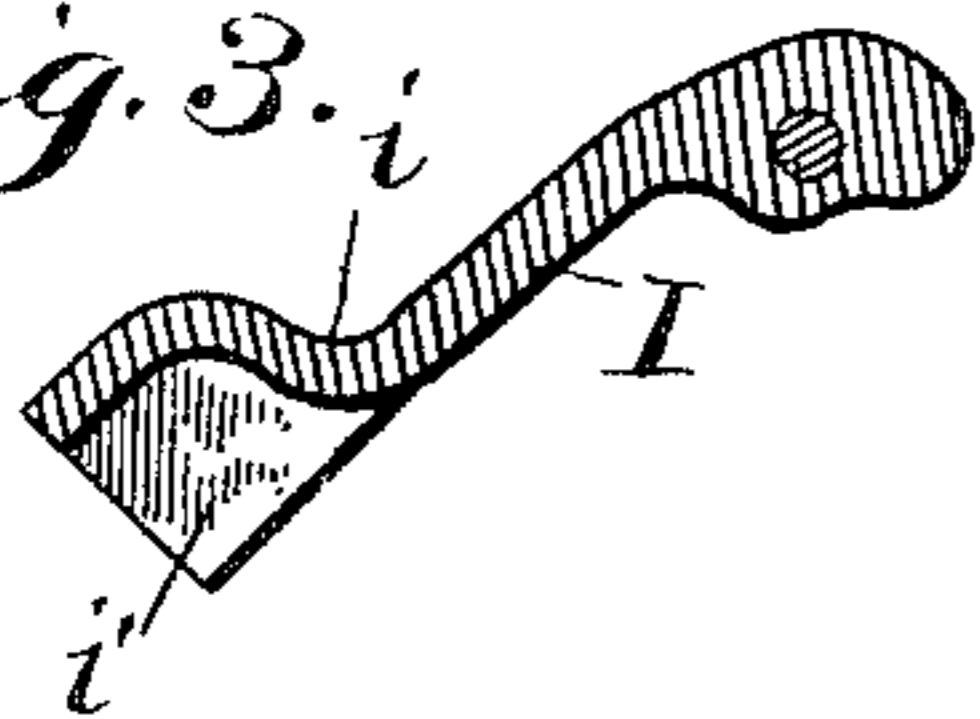
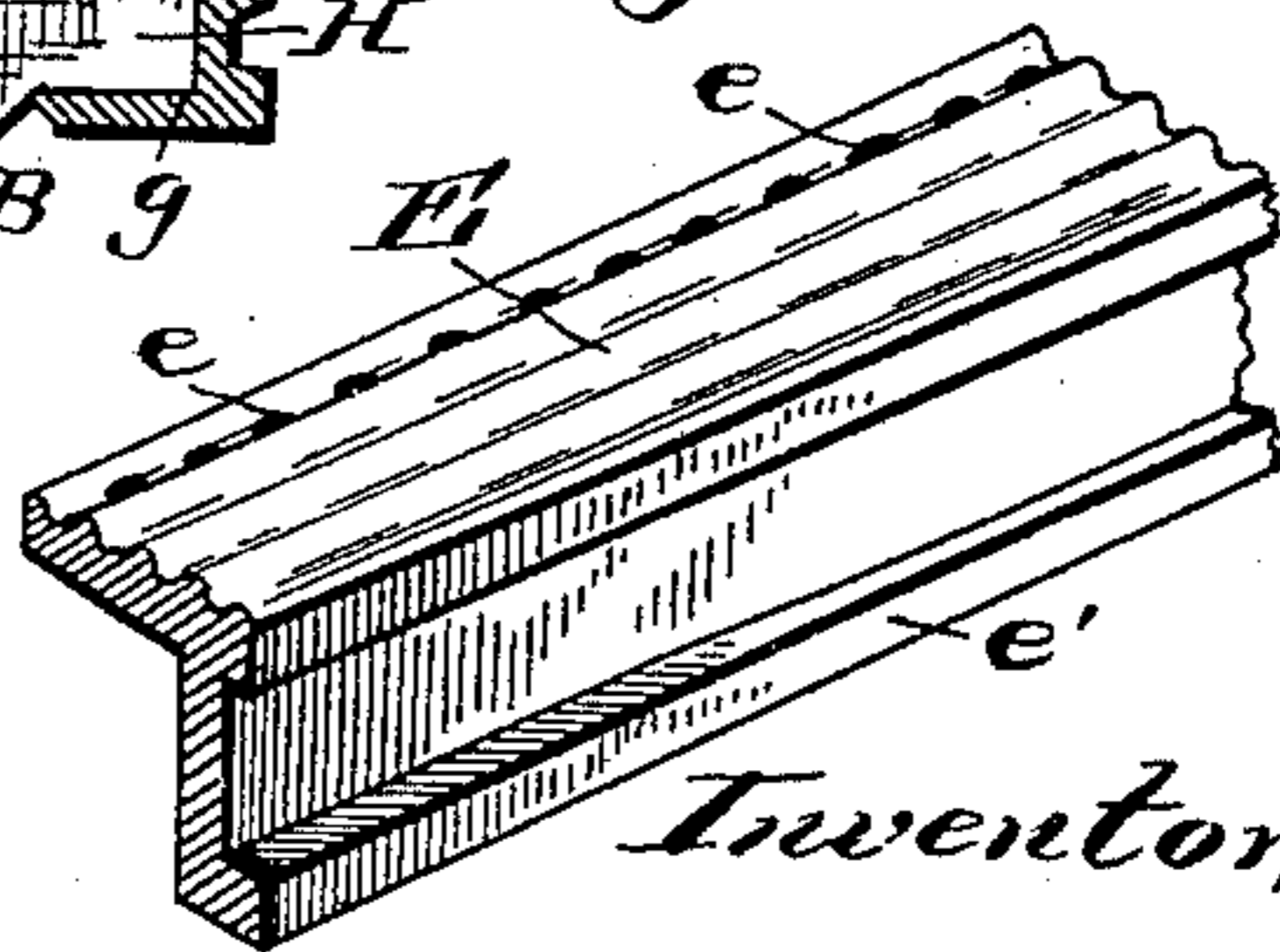


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. LINDSAY, OF WEST DERBY, VERMONT.

HOUSE-DOOR LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 461,117, dated October 13, 1891.

Application filed March 4, 1891. Serial No. 383,745. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. LINDSAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at West Derby, in the county of Orleans and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Self-Closing Letter-Receiver; 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 improvements in self-closing letter-receivers; and it has for its object to provide a neat and efficient device for receiving letters, parcels, or other mail-matter which automatically closes to prevent tampering with such matter or peculations by evil-disposed persons; and a further object is to provide means for conveying water and dust which may accumulate on the receiving bed or plate to the outside of the door.

With these ends in view my invention consists of an incised face-plate provided with a perforated receiving plate or bed and having a large receiving-opening above the bed and a small conduit-opening below said receiving-bed. Projecting outwardly from the upper portion of the receiving-opening and extending downward in front of said opening, substantially to the plane of the upper end of the receiving bed or plate, is a curved hood, which has its lower end chambered, in which is pivoted an automatic angular closing-plate arranged to fit over the receiving bed or plate and conduit and provided with a weighted short end opening in the chamber formed by the hood, whereby the closing-plate may be readily raised to introduce mail-matter in the opening and closed again by gravity.

To enable others to more readily understand my invention, I have illustrated the same in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of my improved device arranged for operation on a door. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the angular closing-plate, and Fig. 4 is a detail view of the perforated receiving bed or plate.

Referring to the drawings, in which like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings, A designates the face-plate, which is attached to a door by means of screws *a* or other suitable means, which face-plate can be ornamented so as to present an attractive and neat appearance. The face-plate is provided with two apertures or openings B C, the large opening B providing for the passage of letters and parcels to the inside of the door, and the small opening C serves as a conduit to conduct water, dust, &c., to the outside. The opening and conduit are of suitable proportions to the size of the face-plate and the door to which the appliance is secured, and the upper end D of the face-plate is bent inwardly at an obtuse angle to form the lower side of the conduit C, whereby water and dirt which drop into the conduit into the receiving-bed or accumulate in any other manner therein are conducted to the outside and prevented from issuing from the opening B. The large opening B extends from the receiving-bed E almost to the upper end of the face-plate, but a small flange is provided by which said face-plate is secured to a door.

The receiving plate or bed E may be cast of one piece and bent at an obtuse angle to conform to the angle D of the face-plate, or it may be constructed of two pieces, as preferred; but in either case the receiving bed or plate is provided with suitable perforations *e*, which open into the conduit C, and the face-plate may be corrugated and the perforations extend in the grooves, as shown in Fig. 4. The receiving bed or plate extends inwardly a sufficient distance to catch any water or dirt which may be driven upon it, and such accumulated water or dirt is discharged directly upon the base D of the conduit through the perforations *e*, from where the same is then conveyed to the outside of the door. The lower end *e'* of the receiving plate or bed is bent or arranged in a vertical position, parallel to the face-plate and in close juxtaposition thereto, and it is provided with a lug or projection on its lower end, which may be used or adapted to sustain a door-plate or a notice of the collection and delivery of the mail. Arranged in the upper end of the larger aperture B is a hood F, which curves out-

wardly and downwardly in front of the opening B, and it has the straight vertical sides. The lower free end of this hood is provided with a vertical straight portion G, which may
 5 be formed with the same piece of metal as the hood itself, or it may be constructed separately and secured to the hood by any suitable means. The lower vertical end G of the hood is provided with a horizontal strip or
 10 flange g, which projects inside of the hood, and thus forms a cavity H on the inside of the hood, which has its lower edge substantially in the same horizontal plane as the upper end of the receiving-plate. Pivoted within the
 15 cavity H of the hood is the angular closing-plate I, which extends down to and over the receiving-plate, the inner end of said plate I being bent, as at i, to cover a portion of said receiving plate or bed and extending down-
 20 wardly within the edge of said bed to cover the conduit C and protect the upper ends of the receiving-plate E and the angular end D of the face-plate. The lower end of the angular closing-plate is provided with down-
 25 wardly-extending flanges i', on either side thereof, to more effectually protect the receiving and face plates, and it thus closes the upper end of the conduit and provides an additional precaution against the water or dirt
 30 entering the house. The upper end of the closing-plate I is enlarged and weighted and is arranged to operate within the cavity H, so that it will assist in raising the plate to permit access to the aperture B for the recep-
 35 tion of letters and other mail-matter. By this peculiar and novel arrangement of the hood, the chamber, and the closing-plate the letters and parcels which have been placed in the house cannot be removed from the outside, as
 40 the strip g is close to and substantially in the same plane as the top of the receiving-plate, and the closing-plate is normally closed over said receiving-plate by gravity, and thus prevents water and dust from entering the house
 45 and at the same time prevents the letters or parcels in the house from being extracted by a person on the outside.

When it is desired to pass a letter or parcel through the door, it is simply necessary to
 50 elevate the closing-plate and drop the letter or parcel therein, and when the pressure against the plate is removed it resumes its position by gravity.

Although I prefer to use my improved device
 55 by securing it to the door of an office or dwelling, I also desire to use the same in connection with the ordinary letter-boxes which are commonly used for the reception of mail.

I am aware that changes in the form and
 60 proportion of parts and in details of construction may be used without departing from the spirit or sacrificing the advantages of my in-

vention, and I therefore reserve the right to make such changes as fall within the scope of my invention.

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

1. A self-closing letter-receiver comprising the face-plate, the receiving-opening, the con-
 70 duit, the perforated receiving-bed arranged above the conduit, a hood, and the closing-plate, substantially as described.

2. In a self-closing letter-receiver, the face-plate, a conduit, a receiving-opening, the hood
 75 projecting outward and downward over said opening and having a cavity in its lower inner side, and a closing-plate pivoted in said cavity and depending over the conduit and the receiving-opening to close the same, sub-
 80 stantially as described.

3. In a self-closing letter-receiver, a conduit, a receiving-plate above said conduit, a hood provided with a cavity and projecting
 85 downwardly over the receiving-plate, and an angular closing-plate having its larger weighted end pivoted in said cavity and its lower end depending over the rear end of the receiving-plate and conduit and provided
 90 with flanges i' to inclose the letter, substantially as described.

4. In a self-closing letter-receiver, a receiving-aperture, a hood above said aperture, a receiving-bed, a conduit, and an angular closing-plate having one end pivoted in said hood
 95 and its other end shaped to cover the rear end of said conduit, substantially as described.

5. In a self-closing letter-receiver, a conduit, and a receiving bed or plate arranged
 100 above the conduit and perforated to deposit water and dirt into said conduit, substantially as described.

6. In a self-closing letter-receiver, the combination of a face-plate provided with the receiving-aperture, the hood having the cavity
 105 in its lower end, the weighted closing-plate pivoted in said cavity and adapted to close the receiving-aperture, the perforated receiving bed or plate arranged relatively to the face-plate to form a conduit below said re-
 110 ceiving-plate for conveying water and dirt to the outside, substantially as described.

7. In a self-closing letter-receiver, the face-plate having an inclined portion, the hood, a closing-plate, and the receiving-bed arranged
 115 above the inclined portion of the face-plate to form a conduit, substantially as described.

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

JOHN P. LINDSAY.

Witnesses.

GEORGE E. HINMAN,
 ADELAIDE H. LINDSAY.