

(No Model.)

P. B. DOWNING.
LETTER BOX.

No. 462,093.

Patented Oct. 27, 1891.

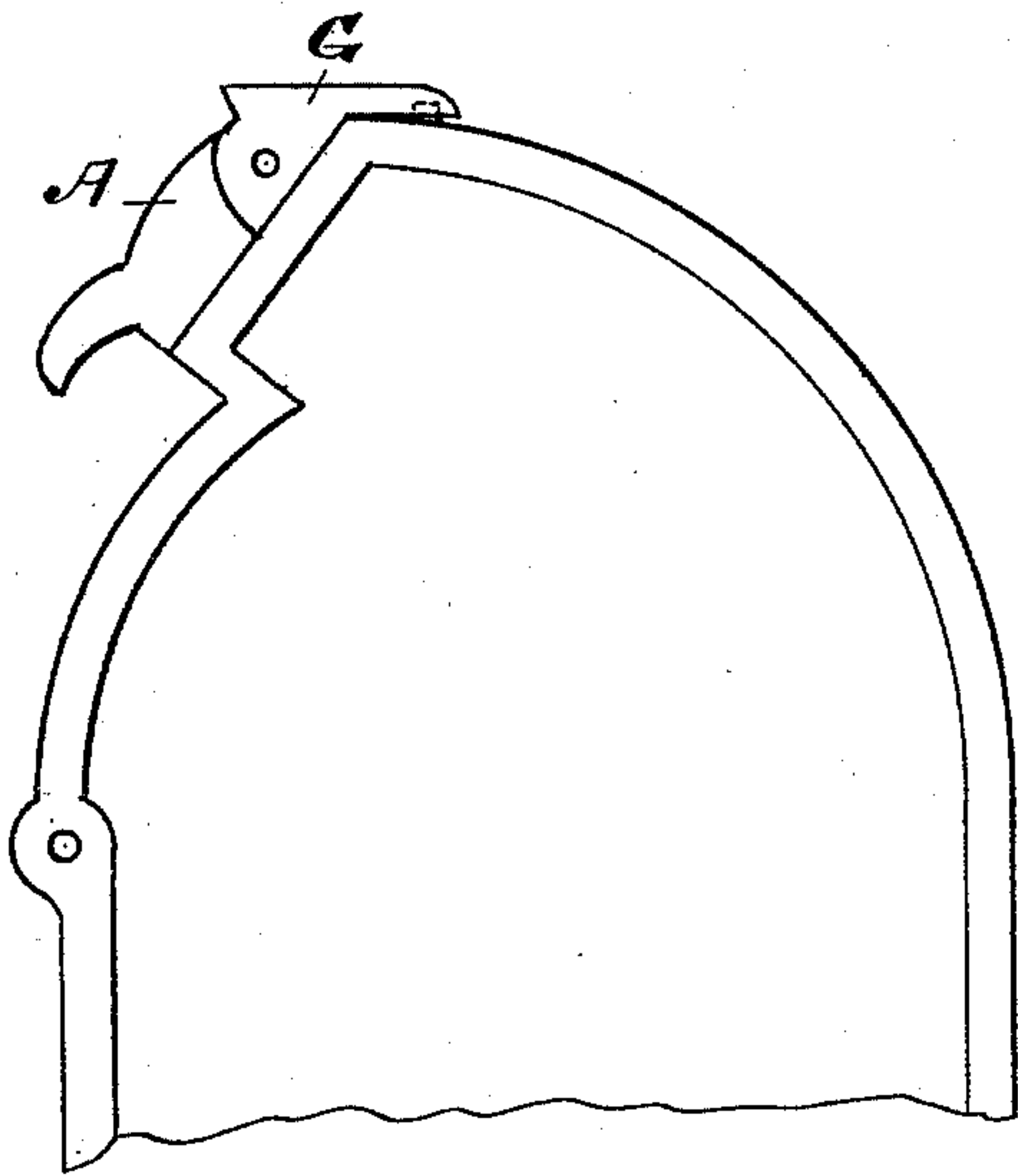


Fig. 1.

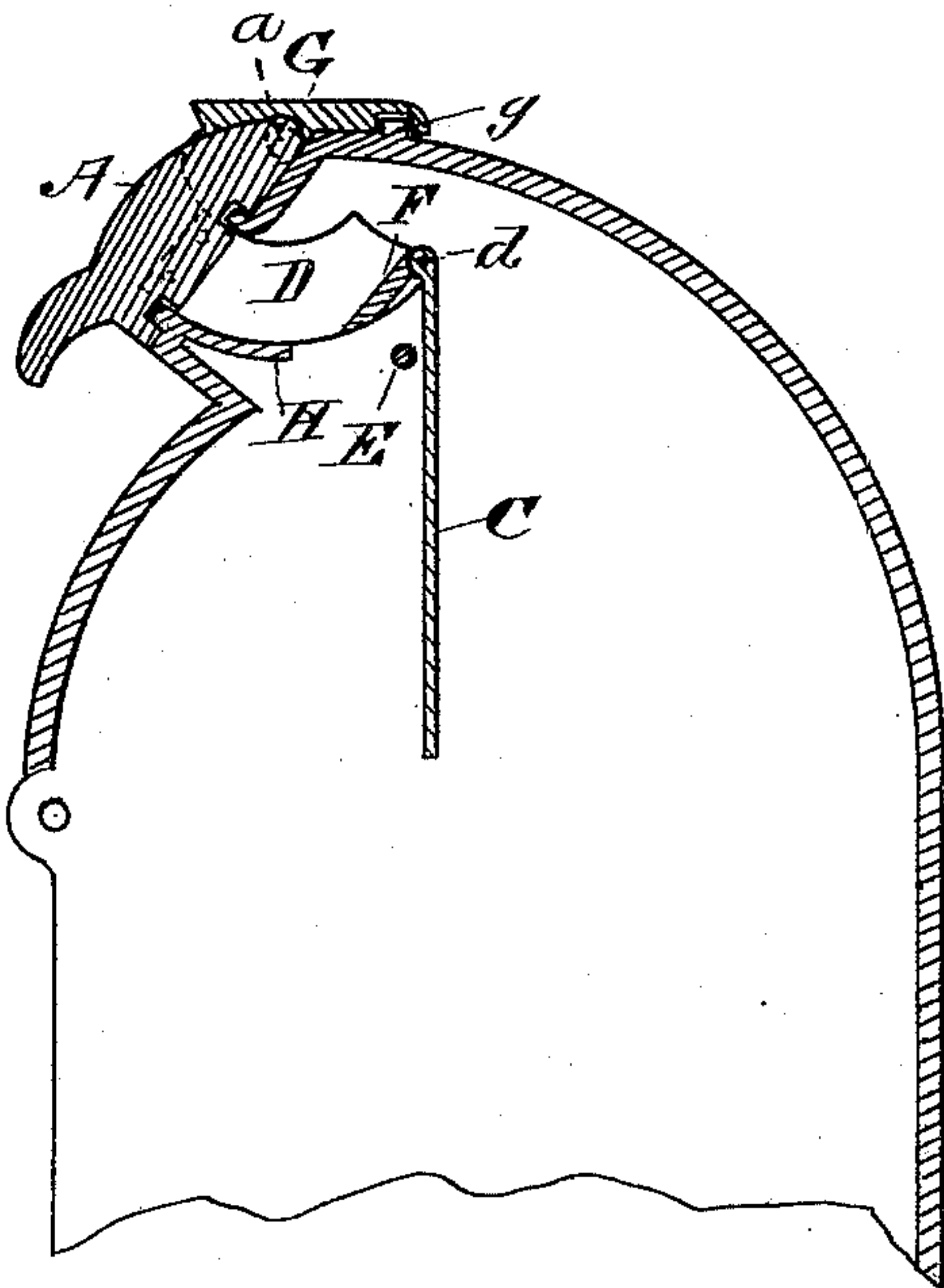


Fig. 2.

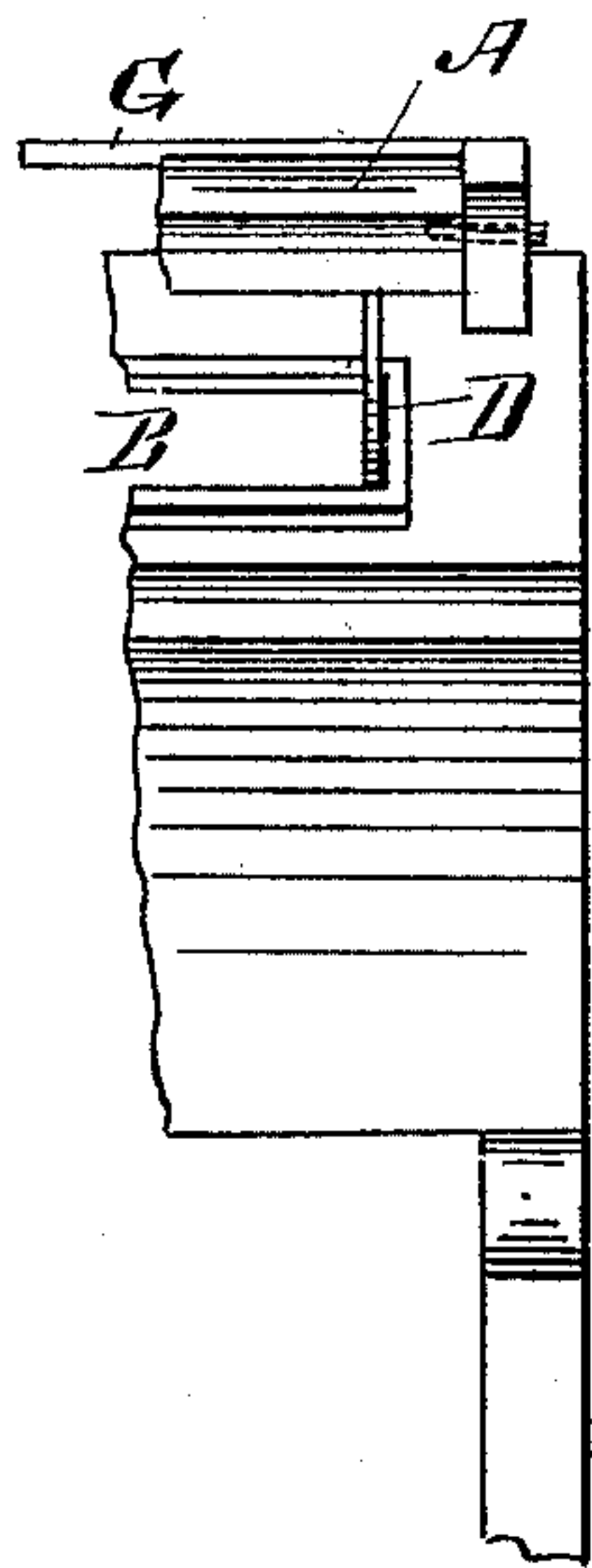


Fig. 4.

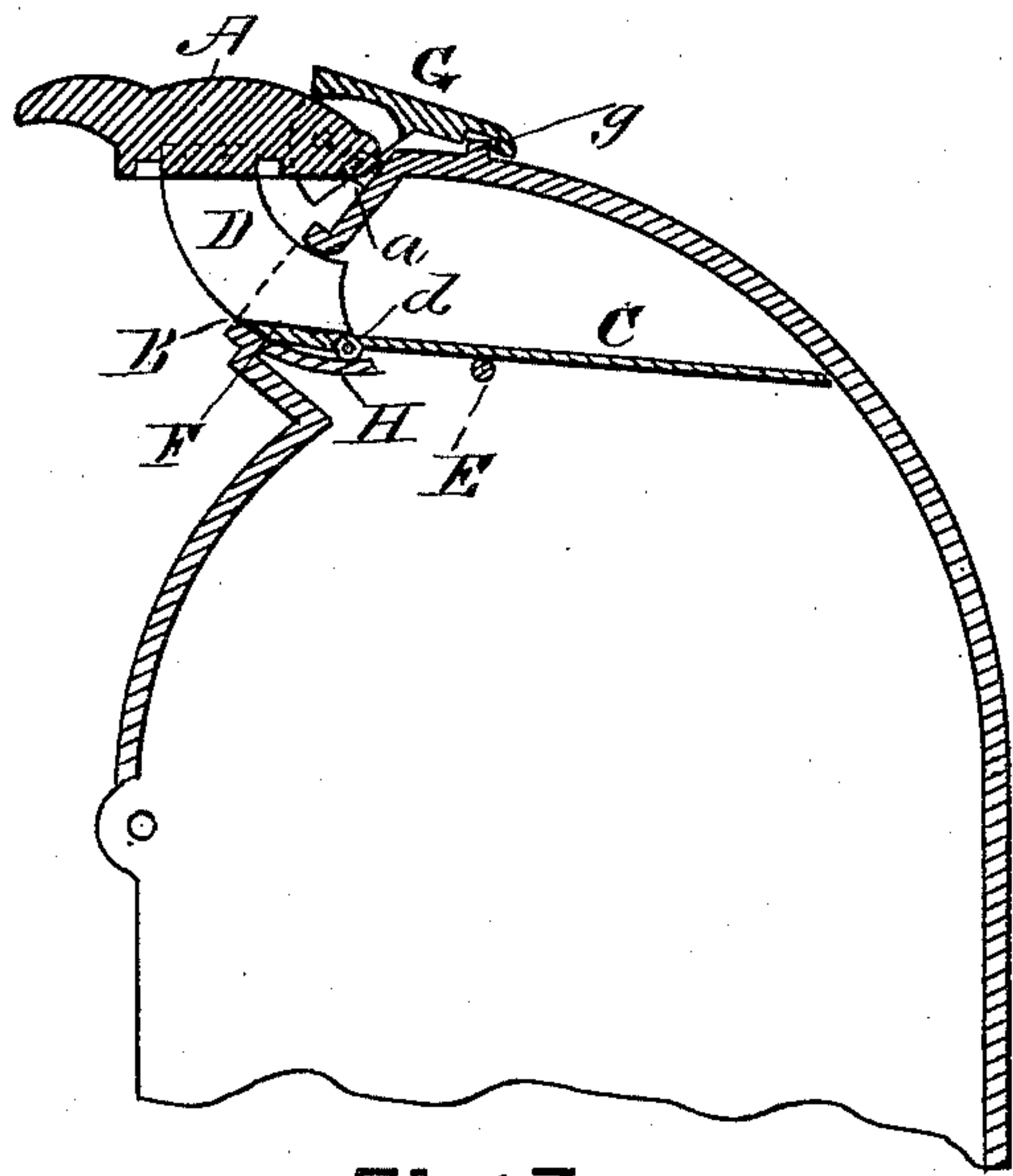


Fig. 3.

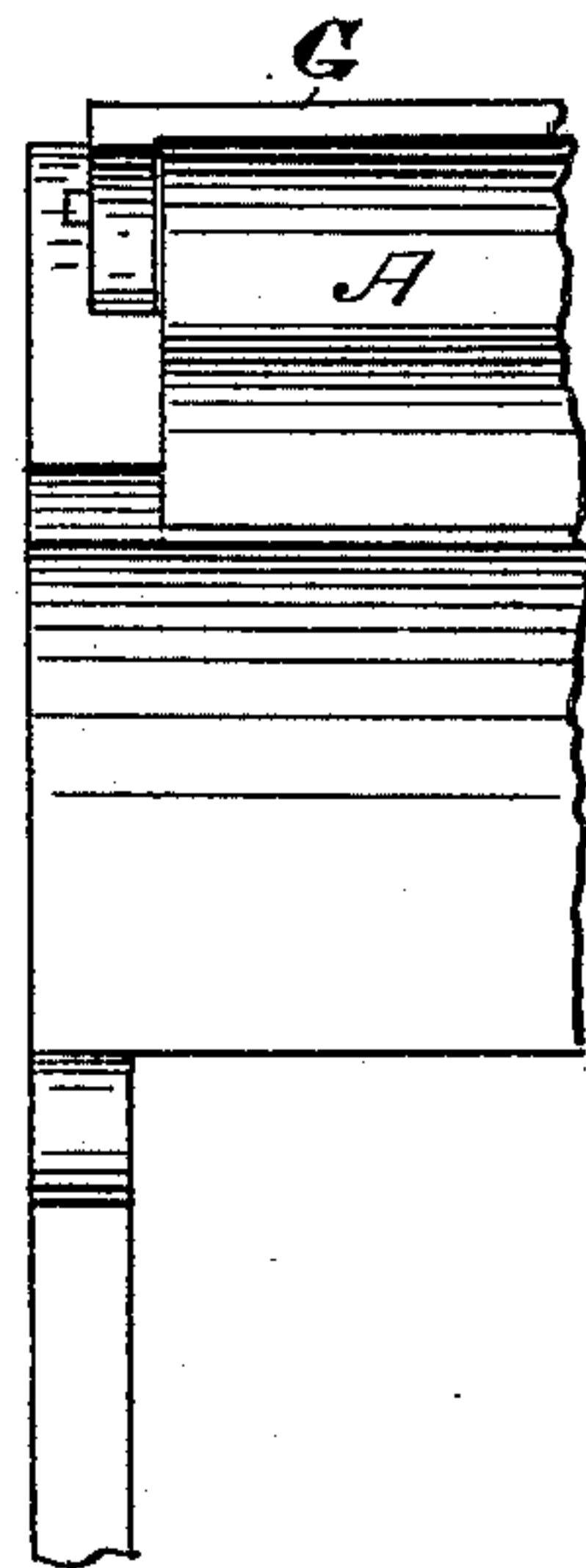


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHILIP B. DOWNING, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 462,093, dated October 27, 1891.

Application filed April 2, 1891. Serial No. 387,382. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PHILIP B. DOWNING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes, particularly letter-boxes for the collection of mail-matter; and its object is to improve the construction of the lid or that portion through which mail-matter is introduced into the box.

It will be understood that my improvement is applicable to letter-boxes generally, so far as the construction of the lower portion is concerned and the devices by which the boxes are opened for the collection of mail-matter.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown my improvement as applied in the form now best known to me to the upper part of a street letter-box.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an end view; Figs. 2 and 3, transverse sections showing the lid in its closed and open positions, and Figs. 4 and 5 front views of a portion of the lid when open and closed.

In the drawings, which show so much of the upper part of a mail-box as is necessary to illustrate my improvement and its application thereto, A represents the cover or lid, which normally covers and closes the mailing-slot B. This cover is hinged to the upper part of the box, and preferably to two short ears *a*, (see Fig. 3,) projecting slightly from the face of the box proper. In connection with this hinged cover and operated thereby I provide a safety-plate C, which when the cover is closed will hang vertically in the box, the plate being pivoted, as shown at *d*, to arms D, extending from the cover A. These arms are preferably arc-shaped plates, as shown, and located so as to slide in and out through the slot B and at its ends, (see Fig. 4,) so as to take off as little as possible from the area of the slot-opening. It will be understood that this plate C corresponds in width to the width of the slot B and in depth to the depth of the top of the box where it is located.

In connection with the safety-plate and to

cause the same to pass automatically when the cover A is raised from its vertical position, as shown at Fig. 2, to its approximately horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 3, to close the entrance into the box proper, I provide an abutment or fulcrum E, which may conveniently be a rod extending from side to side of the box. In this way, as will be seen, when the cover A is raised the pivoted guard-plate is drawn over the abutment, which, acting as a fulcrum, causes the plate to assume an approximately horizontal position and at the same time to cut off communication with the body of the box through the mailing-slot.

To close the aperture which would otherwise exist between the extensions D and the lower edge of the mailing-slot when the cover is partly open, I provide a transverse plate F, (see Figs. 2 and 3,) extending laterally between the arms D at their lower part and of a width sufficient to reach from the edge of the guard-plate C to the lower edge of the mailing-slot. This transverse plate, as will be seen, forms a sort of rigid flooring between the arms, and in connection with the movable flooring formed by the guard-plate furnishes a table or shelf upon which mail-matter will be received when placed in the box. As soon as the cover is dropped the guard-plate, being no longer held upward by its abutment or fulcrum, drops and delivers the mail into the box proper.

A rib H may be located within and across the box immediately under the lower edge of the mailing-slot of a width sufficient to prevent the insertion of a wire or other hook between the edge of the slot and the plate F when the cover is partially opened.

There remains to be described a supplementary device intended to prevent the entrance of rain or snow into the box through the hinge-joint between the box and its cover. This, as is shown in the drawings, consists of a transverse strip G, itself hinged to the cover, as shown. This strip, which I call a "weather-strip," is in length a little greater than the length of the hinge-opening between the box and cover and of a width such that its front edge will rest upon the cover well out beyond the hinge-opening, and its rear edge will extend sufficiently back of the

same to itself cover a storm-rib *g*, formed upon the top of the box and extending transversely across the same in the rear of and substantially parallel to the hinge-opening.
5 The weather-strip *G* may be recessed, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, on its under face, so as to receive into it the storm-rib *g* when the box-cover is closed. When the cover is opened, the weather-strip, being pivoted
10 thereto, will be moved slightly, as is shown in the drawings, but will at all times cover and prevent rain or snow from reaching the hinge-joint, while its rear edge, in connection with the rib *g*, will prevent the beating in of
15 rain or snow from the rear.

I claim—

1. In combination with a letter-box top provided with a mailing-slot, a hinged cover for the said slot, having arms, as described, a
20 guard-plate pivoted to said arms, an abutment or fulcrum to operate the said guard-plate, as set forth, and a supplemental plate

extending transversely between the said arms and of a width sufficient to cover the distance between the pivoted guard-plate and the
25 lower edge of the slot when the cover is opened, all substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination, a letter-box top provided with a mailing-slot, a hinged cover for
30 the slot, a supplemental covering-strip hinged to the said cover and extending rearwardly over its hinge-opening, and a transverse storm-rib in the rear of the said hinge-opening and covered by the said strip, all sub-
35 stantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 28th day of March, A. D. 1891.

PHILIP B. DOWNING.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. TAYLOR,
WILLIAM B. ROE.