(No Model.)

J. W. PATTERSON.

COIN OPERATED MECHANISM.

No. 531,327. Patented Dec. 25, 1894.

FIG. 1.

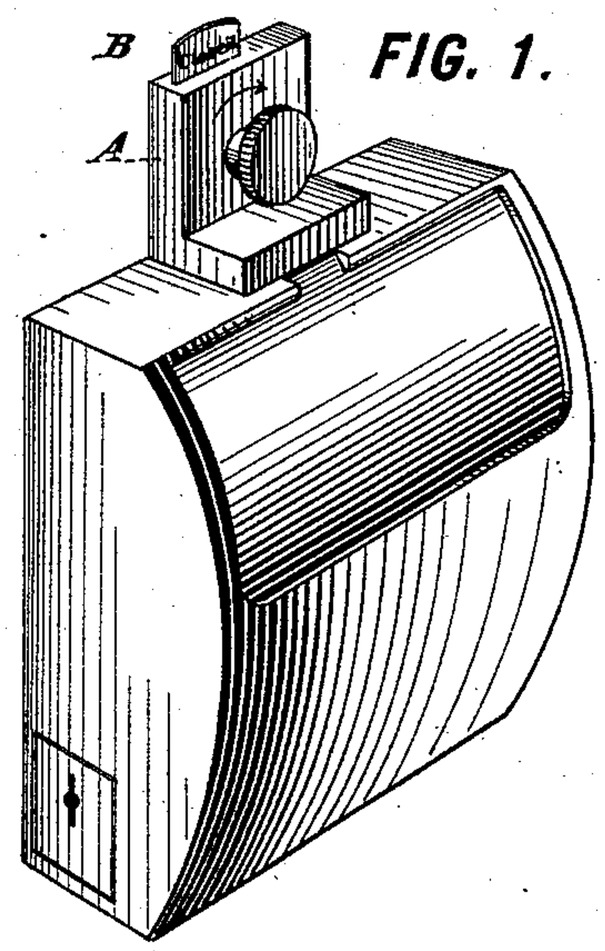


FIG. 2.

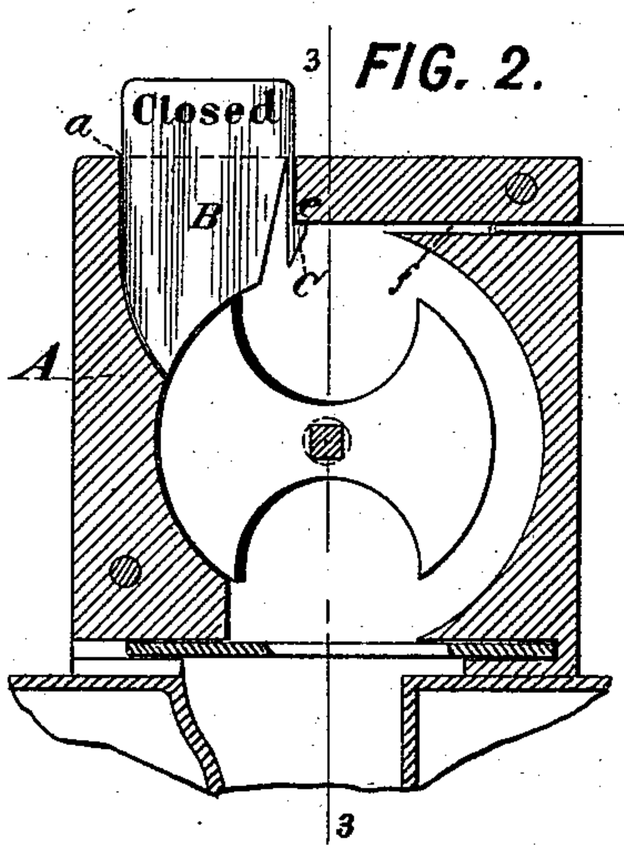


FIG. 3.

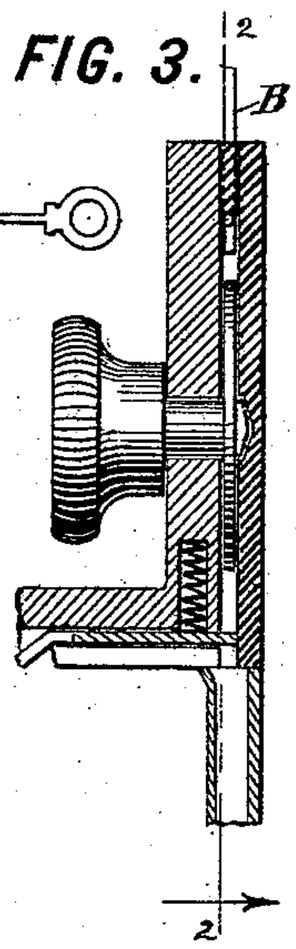


FIG. 5.

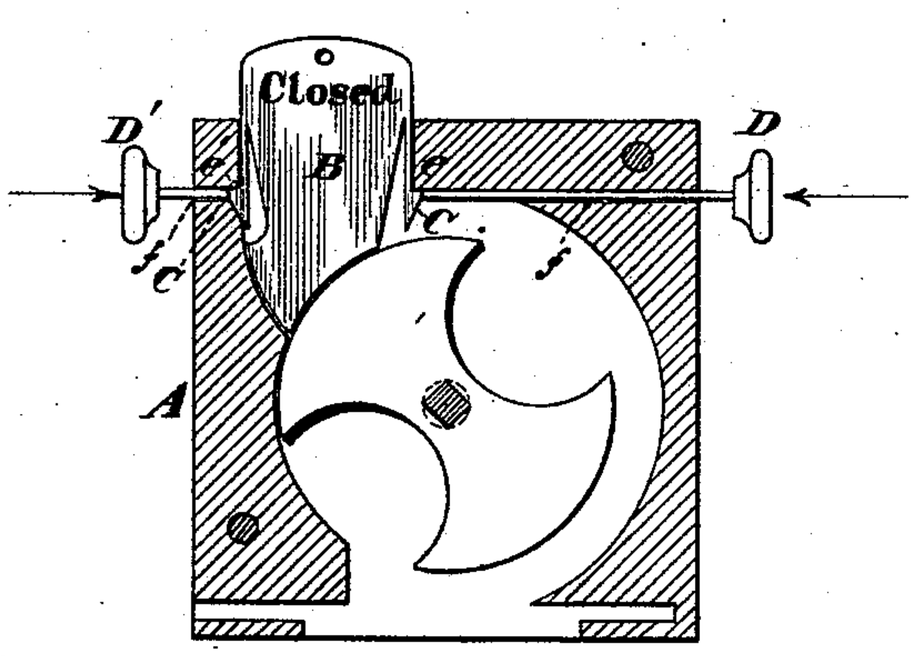


FIG. 4.

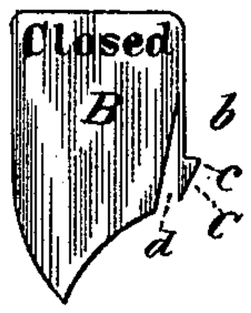


FIG. 6.

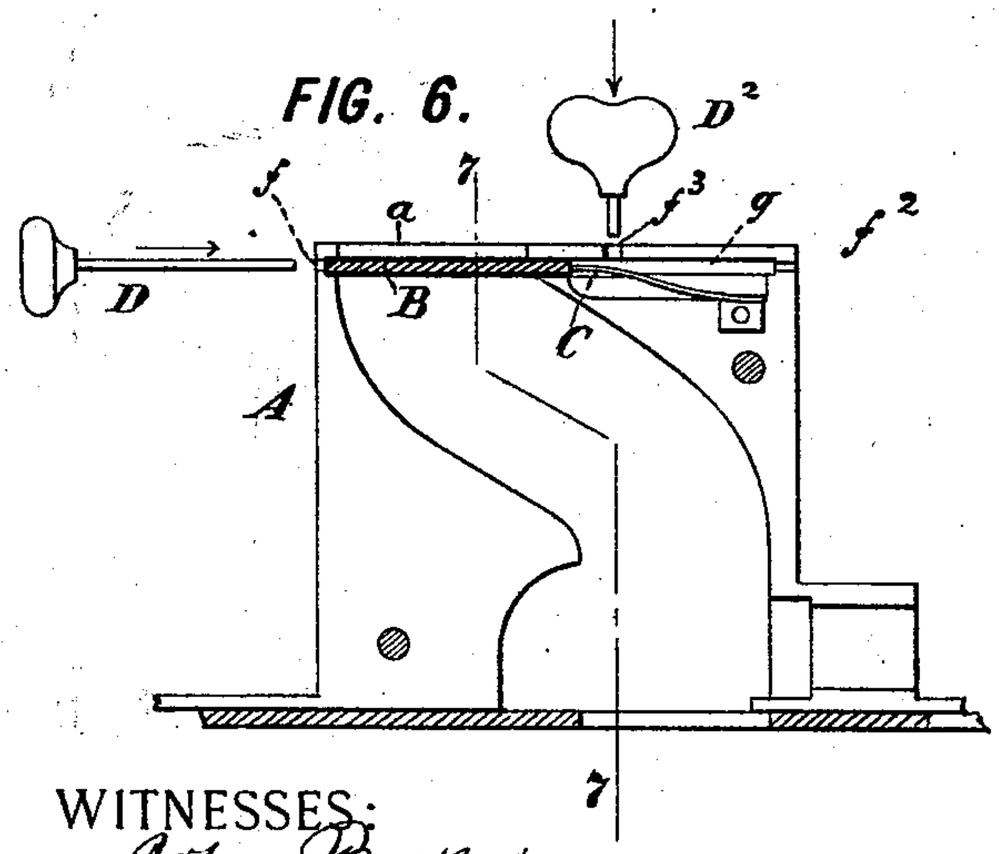
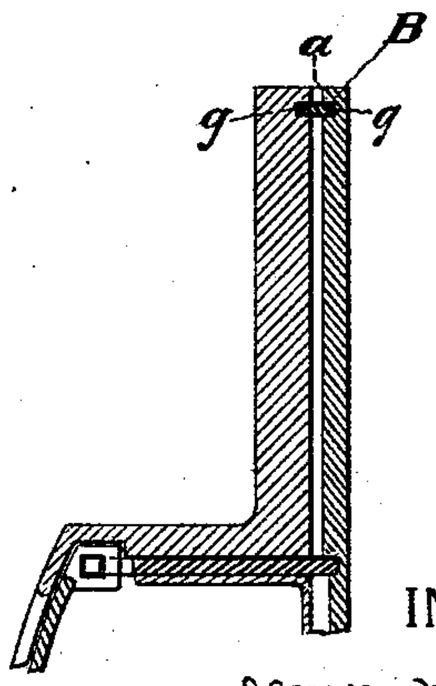


FIG. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES WILLIAM PATTERSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

COIN-OPERATED MECHANISM.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 531,327, dated December 25, 1894.

Application filed September 24, 1889. Serial No. 324,930. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES WILLIAM PATTERSON, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and uesful Improvements in Stoppers for Coin Operated Mechanism of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to coin-operated mechanisms in general—that is to such mechanisms or devices as are actuated or released, through the medium of an inserted coin. Such mechanisms include coin-actuated locks-automatic vending machines, weighing machines, and rental devices, such as those for the renting of opera-glasses in theaters, and numerous other mechanisms or devices for various purposes. In the practical use of such coin-actuated mechanisms it becomes at times desirable to render them inoperative. For example in the case of opera glass rental boxes in theaters which are used also as halls for holding public meetings, political conventions, &c., it is desirable whenever such a meeting is to be held in the theater to be able to render the opera-glass boxes inoperative in order to afford security that the opera glasses shall not be taken from the boxes and used at such times, since there is greater liability of the glasses being stolen by the class of persons present at such meetings than by those who frequent theatrical performances. It is desirable not only that the boxes shall be rendered inoperative, but that the insertion of coins in the attempt to operate them shall be prevented.

My invention provides means for attaining these objects. I provide the coin operated mechanism with means for closing or blocking the coin slot at will, which means may be considerably varied, but which consists preferably of a movable filling-piece arranged to be inserted in or displaced into the coin slot so as to prevent the insertion of a coin. This filling-piece is provided with a catch, preferably a spring catch, for fastening it in position to close the slot, and the case in which the coin slot is formed is made with a hole for the insertion of a separate key to engage and retract said catch in order to permit of the removal or displacement of the filling-piece to open the slot. In my preferred construction the filling-piece consists of a separable plate or plug of such size and shape that it may be thrust into the coin slot, and with a spring catch formed on it to engage a suitably arranged shoulder within the case and thereby to hold the filling-piece in the slot.

In the accompanying drawings I have shown my invention as applied to the coin-actuated locks of opera-glass boxes for theaters, but obviously my invention is applicable as well to other coin-operated mechanisms or devices.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an opera-glass box showing its slot closed by the application of my invention. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary front view of the lock on a larger scale in vertical section on the line 2—2 in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse section thereof on the line 3—3 in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a view of the plate or filling-piece removed. Fig. 5 is a similar view to Fig. 2 illustrating a slight modification. Fig. 6 is a similar view to Fig. 2 showing a different construction of coin-actuated lock and illustrating a modified form of my invention. Fig. 7 is a vertical transverse section of Fig. 6 on the line 7—7.

As my invention has nothing to do with the particular construction of the coin-actuated locks to which I have shown it as applied, it will not be necessary here to describe these locks. Suffice it to say that the lock shown in Figs. 1 to 5 is that described in the application of A. H. Fancher, Serial No. 316,506, filed July 5, 1889, and that the one shown in Figs. 6 and 7 is that shown in the application of C. S. Patterson, Serial No. 313,140, filed June 5, 1889.

Let A designate the case of a coin-actuated lock (or it may be the case of any other coin-actuated mechanism) which is provided with a coin-slot or conduit *a* through which to introduce the coin to operate the lock or other mechanism.

Let B designate a movable filling-piece for closing or blocking the coin-slot *a*, and C a catch, preferably a spring catch, for locking the filling-piece in place.

In the construction shown in Figs. 1 to 5 inclusive, the filling-piece B consists of a plate of metal, or other material, of the proper thickness and width to enter snugly within the coin-slot and when inserted therein to

fill the same and close it tight against the insertion of a coin. This plate is made preferably of spring metal and is cut so as to form an elastic tongue or leaf spring *b* at one side terminating in a tooth *c*, with a notch or space *d* behind the tooth so that the latter may be pressed back. In inserting the filling-piece into the slot this tooth is thus pressed back and when the filling-piece is fully seated within the slot the tooth passes a shoulder *e* within the case and flies outward beneath said shoulder so that by its engagement therewith it prevents the lifting out of the filling-piece. The filling-piece is preferably high enough so that a portion projects above the case, and on this portion I prefer to mark the word "Closed." Thus by the insertion of the filling-piece and its fastening by means of the catch C, the coin-operated mechanism is rendered inoperative.

In order to enable the attendant to remove the filling-piece B, he is provided with a pin or other suitable key D, shown in Fig. 2, and a hole *f* is formed in the case A through which he can insert this key and in such position that when the key is inserted it will come against the catch C, so that by pressing upon the key the tooth *c* of the catch may be pressed back far enough to clear the shoulder *e*, whereupon the attendant by grasping the projecting portion of the filling-piece may lift it out.

In Fig. 5 the filling-piece is shown as provided with two catches C on opposite sides, the one engaging the shoulder *e* and the other a shoulder *e'*. To release the catches it is necessary to insert two keys D and D' through holes *f* and *f'* respectively, and to simultaneously press both keys in order to disengage both catches.

Either of the constructions just described constitutes a simple and convenient means for closing the coin slot. In case of opera-glass boxes, an attendant has only to take a pocketful of the filling-pieces and go through the theater inserting one in the slot of each box; and when it is desired to render the boxes operative again he will go through the theater and remove the filling-pieces by inserting the key D into the key-hole of each box with one hand while he pulls out the filling-piece with the other.

It is not essential to my invention that the filling piece shall be separable from the case of the coin-actuated device, as it may instead be permanently connected with the case but so mounted as to be movable into and out of the coin-slot. As examples of such modification I have shown two constructions in Figs. 6 and 7, respectively.

In Figs. 6 and 7 the filling-piece consists of a slide B movable in grooves *g g*, as best shown in Fig. 7, and so proportioned that when moved to the right in Fig. 6 it will leave the coin-slot open, and when moved to the left it will close it. It is so moved by means of a key D, which is thrust through the key-hole f^2 in order to move the filling-piece to the left, or through a key-hole *f* to move it back to the right. When moved to the left it is fastened there, in order that it cannot be slid back by inserting a penknife or other instrument through the slot, by means of a spring catch C, which in this instance, is attached to the case A (instead of being carried by the filling-piece B as in the previous construction). This catch consists of a leaf spring the end of which flies up against the end of the sliding plate B and prevents the retraction thereof. To re-open the coin-slot it is necessary to use a key D^2 which is thrust downwardly through a keyhole f^3 to press down the spring C, whereupon by pushing with the key D the plate B is slid over the end of the spring C, after which by removing the key D^2 the plate can be pushed by the key D to its extreme right hand position, in which position the spring C serves to prevent its accidental displacement by bearing frictionally against its under side.

My invention may be otherwise modified in many ways without departing from its essential features which are defined in the claim.

I am well aware that coin-actuated selling machines and other mechanisms have been provided with automatic means for closing the coin-slot either when the stock of goods is exhausted or when the mechanism is not in proper condition for the reception of a coin; but such means cannot be used to close the coin-slot at will and thereby lock up the mechanism and render it inoperative when so desired, as is the purpose of my invention.

I claim as my invention the following defined novel features or combinations, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, namely:

The combination with a coin actuated lock casing provided with a coin chute, a key hole and special key, of a stopper adapted to close the coin chute and provided with a spring catch which engages a suitable projection in the casing, thereby fastening it in position to close the slot and whereby it may be released by the said key passing through the key hole and disengaging the spring catch.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES WILLIAM PATTERSON.

Witnesses:
GEORGE H. FRASER,
ARTHUR C. FRASER.