

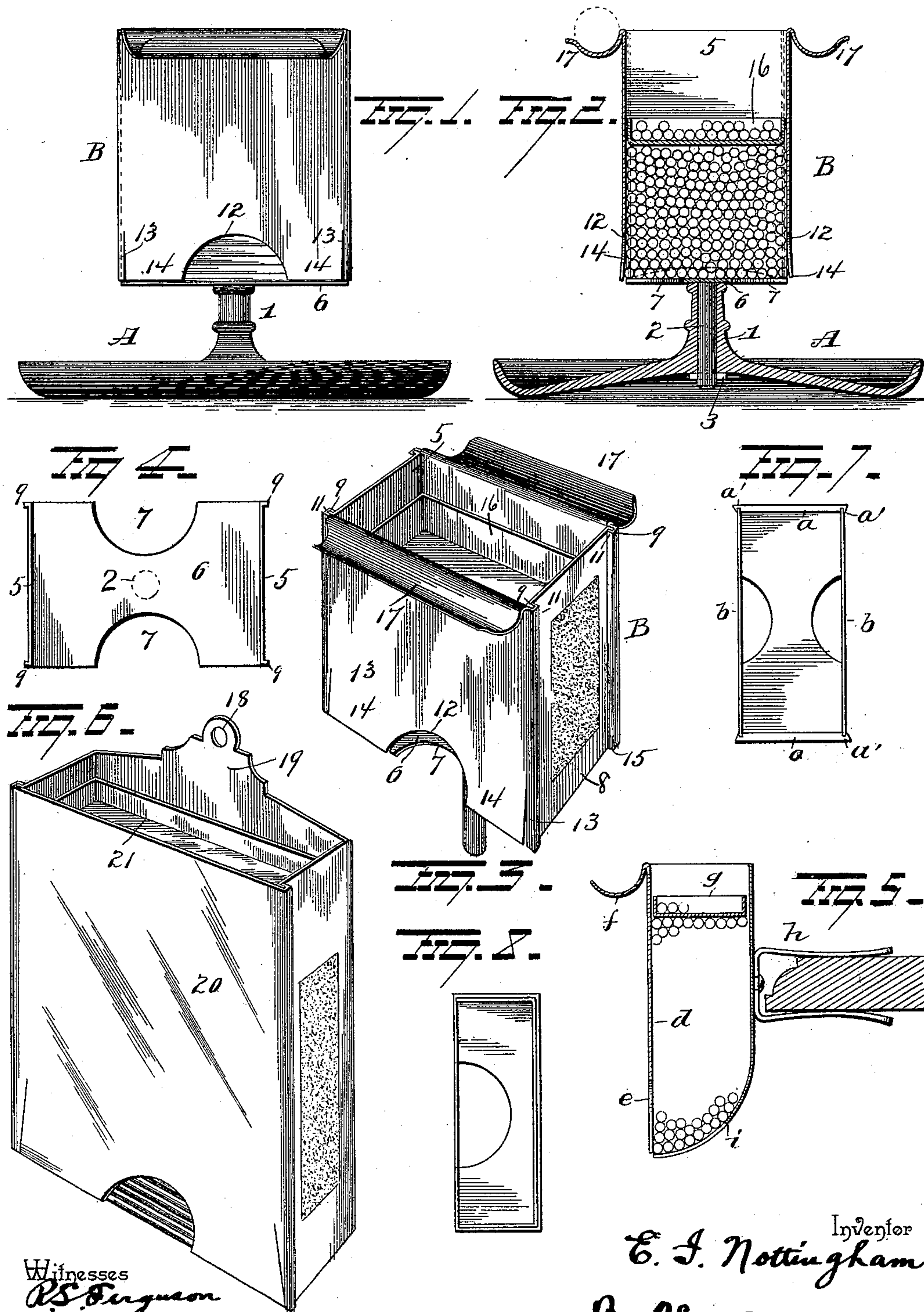
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. I. NOTTINGHAM.
RECEPTACLE FOR MATCHES, &c.

No. 587,269.

Patented July 27, 1897.



Witnesses
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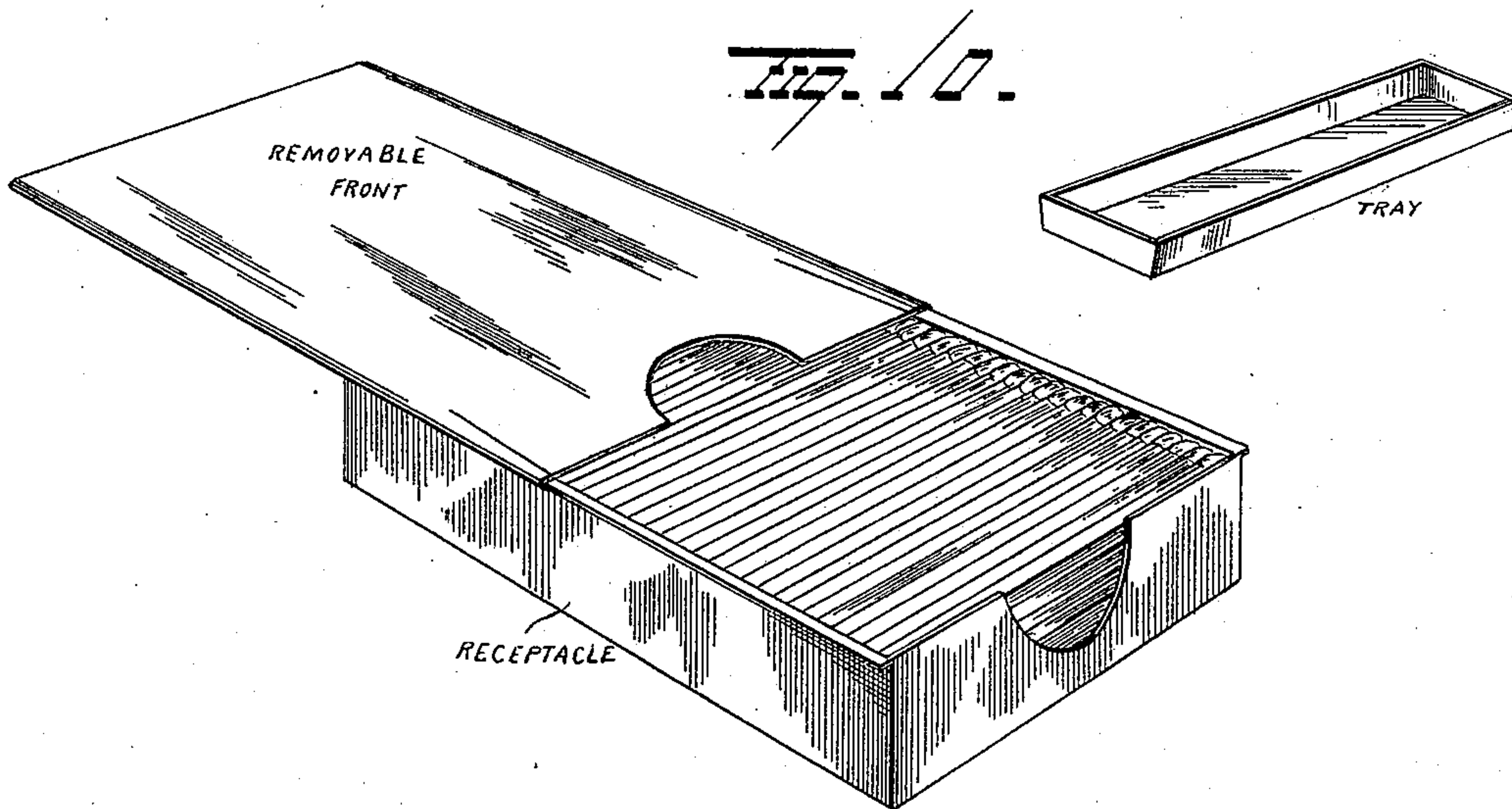
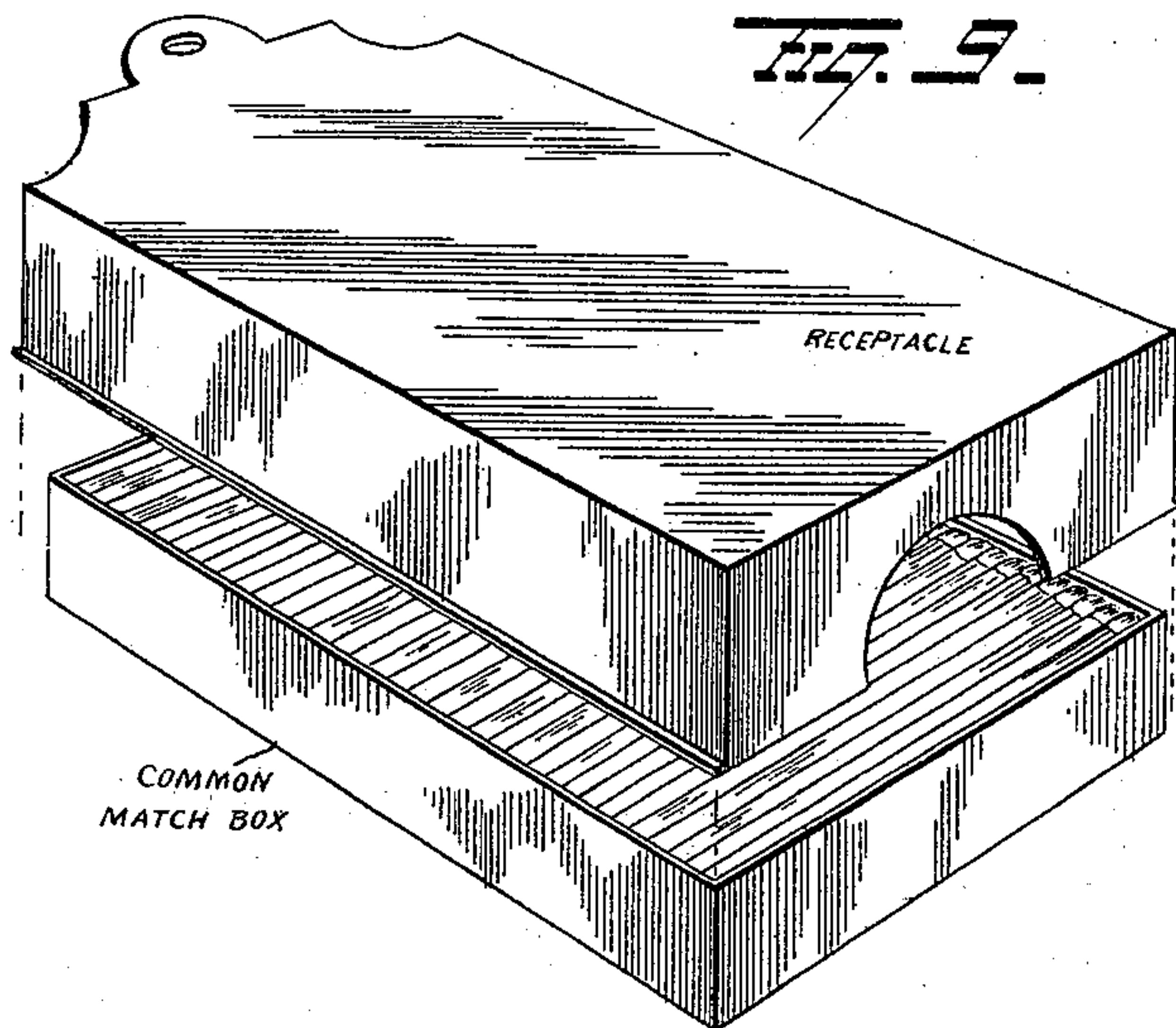
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

E. I. NOTTINGHAM.
RECEPTACLE FOR MATCHES, &c.

No. 587,269.

Patented July 27, 1897.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN I. NOTTINGHAM, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
ASSIGNOR TO FREDERICK W. BUCKLER, OF SAME PLACE.

RECEPTACLE FOR MATCHES, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 587,269, dated July 27, 1897.

Application filed February 25, 1897. Serial No. 625,050. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN I. NOTTINGHAM, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Receptacles for Matches, &c.; 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 an improvement in receptacles for matches, &c., the object of the invention being to provide a simple and convenient device for containing matches and from which matches can be readily withdrawn one at a time.

A further object is to provide in a single structure a receptacle for live matches and a receptacle for dead matches.

A further object is to so construct a match-receptacle that the entire contents of a full box of matches can be placed in said receptacle in regular order at a single operation, said receptacle being also adapted to receive dead matches and permit their ready removal.

A further object is to construct a receptacle for matches in such manner that the matches can be removed singly therefrom and to provide a compartment within the same structure for dead matches, the bottom of the dead-match compartment being supported by the live matches and movable downwardly as the supply of live matches diminishes.

A further object is to produce a receptacle for matches which shall be simple in construction, cheap to manufacture, which shall be neat and ornamental in appearance, and effectual in all respects in the performance of its functions.

A further object is to provide a simple, ornamental, and efficient device for receiving live and dead matches, cigars, and cigar-ashes.

With these objects in view my invention consists in a receptacle comprising a body portion constructed at its lower end to permit the withdrawal of matches, said body portion being divided into two compartments by a movable partition to be supported by live matches in the lower compartment, the upper compartment being adapted for the reception of dead matches.

My invention further consists in a receptacle comprising a body portion constructed at its lower end to permit the withdrawal of matches one at a time and a tray for the reception of dead matches, said tray being adapted to be supported by the live matches in the receptacle.

My invention further consists in a match-receptacle comprising a body portion having an open slot in its bottom and a removable front, the lower end of said front having an open slot to cooperate with the slot in the bottom to facilitate the withdrawal of matches and spring-lips at each of said recesses in the front; and my invention further consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations and arrangements of parts, as hereinafter set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a receptacle embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of my improved match and cigar receiver. Fig. 4 is a view of the bottom of the receptacle. Figs. 5, 6, 7, and 8 are views illustrating modifications. Figs. 9 and 10 are views exemplifying the manner of filling the match-receptacle.

A represents a tray, made preferably of cast metal and provided in its center with a tubular standard 1, on which a receptacle B is mounted and through which a shank 2, projecting from said receptacle, passes, whereby to permit the latter to be revolved, and said shank is made at its lower end with a transverse hole through which a pin 3 passes to prevent the accidental displacement of the receptacle.

The receptacle B may be conveniently made of sheet metal and comprises a body portion having an open upper end 5 and a closed bottom 6, the opposite edges of which latter are made with open slots 7. The body portion of the receptacle, comprising the ends 8 and bottom 6, is substantially U-shaped in form, and the ends 8 are provided at each edge with small flanges 9, adapted to receive ways formed at the edges of removable pieces or plates 11. The lower edge of each front piece is made with an open slot 12, which registers with the slots 7 in the bottom 6 and cooperates

therewith to permit a single match to be readily grasped by the user. The lower end of each front piece is slit near its outer edges, as at 13, whereby to form spring-lips 14, which when a match is being withdrawn by the user will permit the passage of the ends thereof from the receptacle, said spring-lips serving at the same time to prevent any accidental escape of matches. Ordinarily the spring of the metal will be sufficient to hold the front pieces properly in place, but to avoid any possibility of said pieces dropping or being pushed too far downwardly stops 15 may be provided. By removing one of front pieces the entire contents of one or more full boxes of matches can be placed within the receptacle in regular order at a single operation. This is an important feature of my invention, in that it permits a full supply of matches to be placed in the receptacle very quickly and evenly and without danger of getting them mixed and in confused positions.

The receptacle B is provided with a tray 16, which normally rests upon the matches and is intended for the reception of dead or burned matches, which can be readily inserted through the open upper end of the device. The receptacle B is thus divided into two compartments by means of a movable partition, the lower compartment being for the accommodation of live matches, which can be withdrawn singly, as above explained, and the upper compartment being for the reception of burned or dead matches.

It is apparent that during the use of the device when all the live matches have been used the receptacle will contain only dead or burned matches, which latter can be readily removed by withdrawing one of the front pieces or by inverting the device.

The bottom of the receptacle may, without detracting from the efficiency of the device, be made flat, as shown in full lines in Fig. 2; but said bottom can, if desired, be made convex, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, so as to make the approach of the matches toward the front pieces (when only a few are left in the receptacle) more certain.

While the receptacle can be conveniently made of sheet metal, as above explained, still it may, if desired, be cast, (with the possible exception of the front pieces,) and in such case the ends *a a*, Fig. 7, may be made with vertical grooves *a'* at their edges for the reception of the removable front pieces *b*.

The upper ends of the removable front pieces 11 are preferably made with curved lips or troughs 17, which serve as cigar-holders, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 2, the ashes from the cigars being permitted to fall into the tray A, the latter thus constituting an ash-receiver. The lips or trough also serve as thumb-pieces by which the front pieces can be readily removed.

A cheap and convenient form of my invention is shown in Fig. 6, in which form the tray A is omitted, and the device is adapted

to be supported by a pin passed through a hole 18 in an extension 19 of the body portion of the receptacle. In this form of the invention the body portion comprises a back, bottom, and sides made in a single piece and a single front piece 20 is employed, the front piece being made the same as above explained in connection with the form of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3. The tray 21 shown in Fig. 6 is also the same as that shown in Figs. 2 and 3. With the form of the invention shown in Fig. 6 a whole box of two hundred matches can be placed within the device at one operation by removing the front piece. When the receptacle shall have become filled with dead matches, it can be readily emptied by removing the front piece.

If desired, the receptacle can be made in the form of a box having a slide similar to the common form of boxes in which matches are packed, as shown in Fig. 8, the features of my invention being at the same time carried into effect.

Sometimes it is desirable to so construct a match-receptacle as to permit its ready attachment to a counter, a mantel, or article of furniture, and for such purpose the form shown in Fig. 5 may be adopted. In this form the sliding front *d*, having the open slot *e* and spring-lips, cigar-holder *f*, and tray *g* will be used as in the other forms of the invention, and the device will be supported on a counter or other place by means of a spring-clamp *h*. In this form of the invention and also in the form shown in Fig. 6 the bottom *i* may be curved and made a contiguous part of the back of the device.

It is evident that my improved receptacle is well adapted for toothpicks as well as matches and that its use will result in greatly economizing either.

I am aware that it has been heretofore proposed to construct a match-box having cooperating notches in its front and bottom and slits in the front to form spring-lips at each side of the notch in the front of the box, and I make no claim, broadly, to such a construction.

My improvements are simple in construction and ornamental in appearance and effectual in all respects in the performance of their functions.

Various slight changes other than those above described may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of my invention or limiting its scope, and hence I do not wish to limit myself to the precise details herein set forth; but,

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

1. A receptacle comprising a body portion constructed at its lower end to permit the withdrawal of matches, said body portion being divided into two compartments by a movable partition adapted to be supported by live matches in the lower compartment, the upper

compartment being adapted for the reception of dead matches, substantially as set forth.

2. A receptacle comprising a body portion constructed at its lower end to permit the withdrawal of matches, one at a time, and a tray for the reception of dead matches, said tray being adapted to be supported by the live matches in the receptacle, substantially as set forth.

10 3. In a receptacle, the combination with a body portion approximately the size and shape of a standard box of matches and adapted to contain matches in regular order and having a slotted bottom to support the matches, of a
15 removable front to facilitate the placing of the contents of a full box of matches into the receptacle at one operation, said removable front having a slotted lower end to cooperate
20 with the slotted bottom of the body portion of the receptacle, the lower end of said removable front having slits therein whereby to form spring-lips at each side of the slot in said front, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination with a base, of a receptacle revolvably supported over said base and
25 constructed with two compartments, one above the other, for the reception of live and dead matches respectively, and means for permitting live matches in the lower compartment to be withdrawn one at a time, substantially
30 as set forth.

5. In a receptacle, the combination with a body portion approximately the size and shape of a standard box of matches and adapted to contain matches in regular order and having
35 a slotted bottom to support the matches, of a removable front to facilitate the placing of the contents of a full box of matches in the receptacle at one operation, a curved lip on said removable front adapted to serve as a
40 handle whereby to remove said front and also as a cigar-holder, said removable front having a slotted lower end to cooperate with the slotted bottom of the body portion of the
45 receptacle, the lower end of said removable front also having slits therein whereby to form spring-lips at each side of the slot in said front, substantially as set forth.

6. As a new article of manufacture, a receptacle having an open slot in its bottom, a
50 removable front having an open slot at its lower edge to cooperate with the slot in the bottom, a spring-jaw at each side of the slot in the front and a movable tray within the
55 receptacle, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDWIN I. NOTTINGHAM.

Witnesses:

R. S. FERGUSON,
VERNON E. HODGES.