No. 615,860. Patented Dec. 13, 1898.

P. D. LAIBLE & H. FREDRICK.

BEER OR MINERAL WATER BOX.

(Application filed Jan. 20, 1898.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

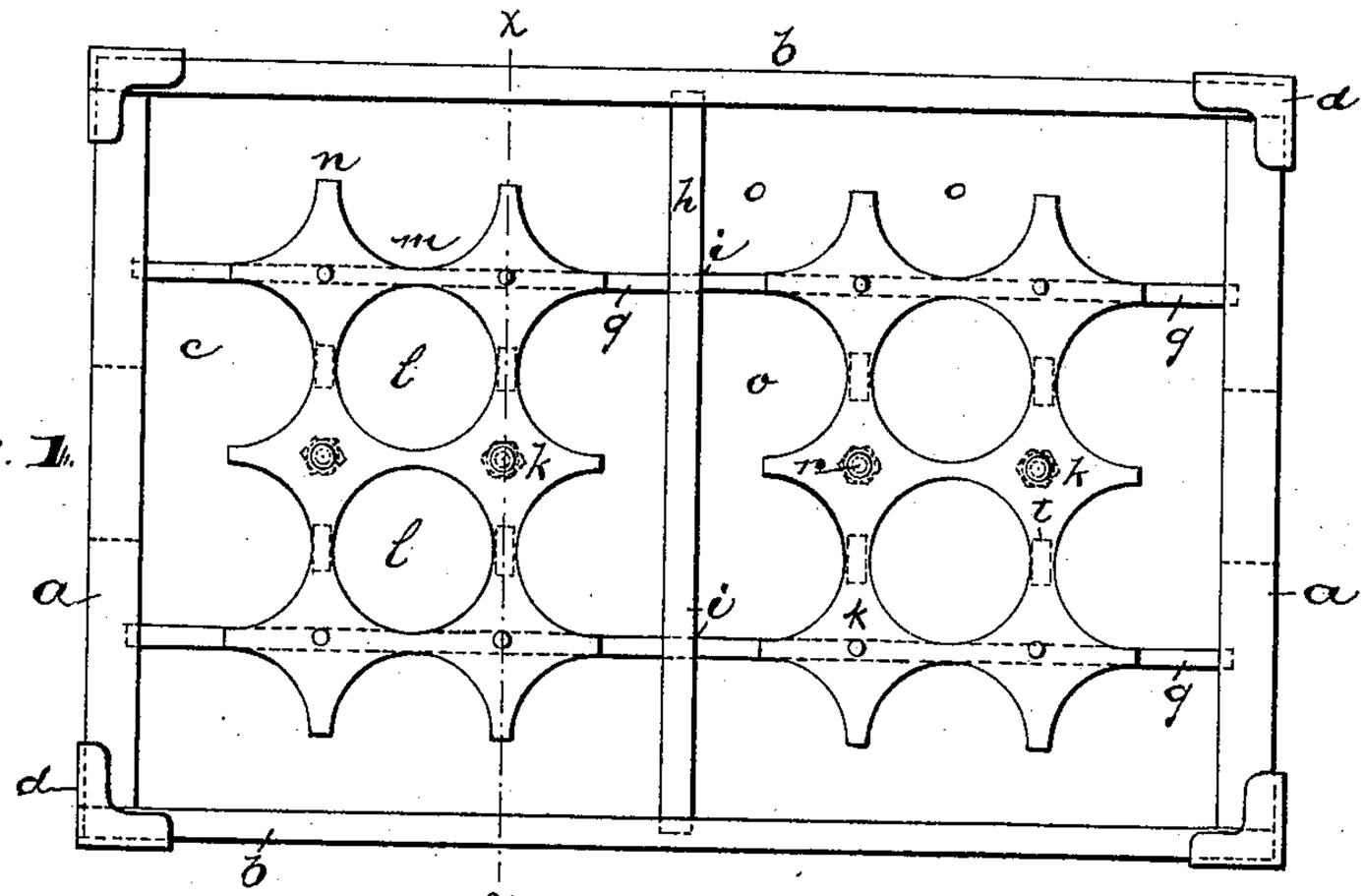

Fig. 2.

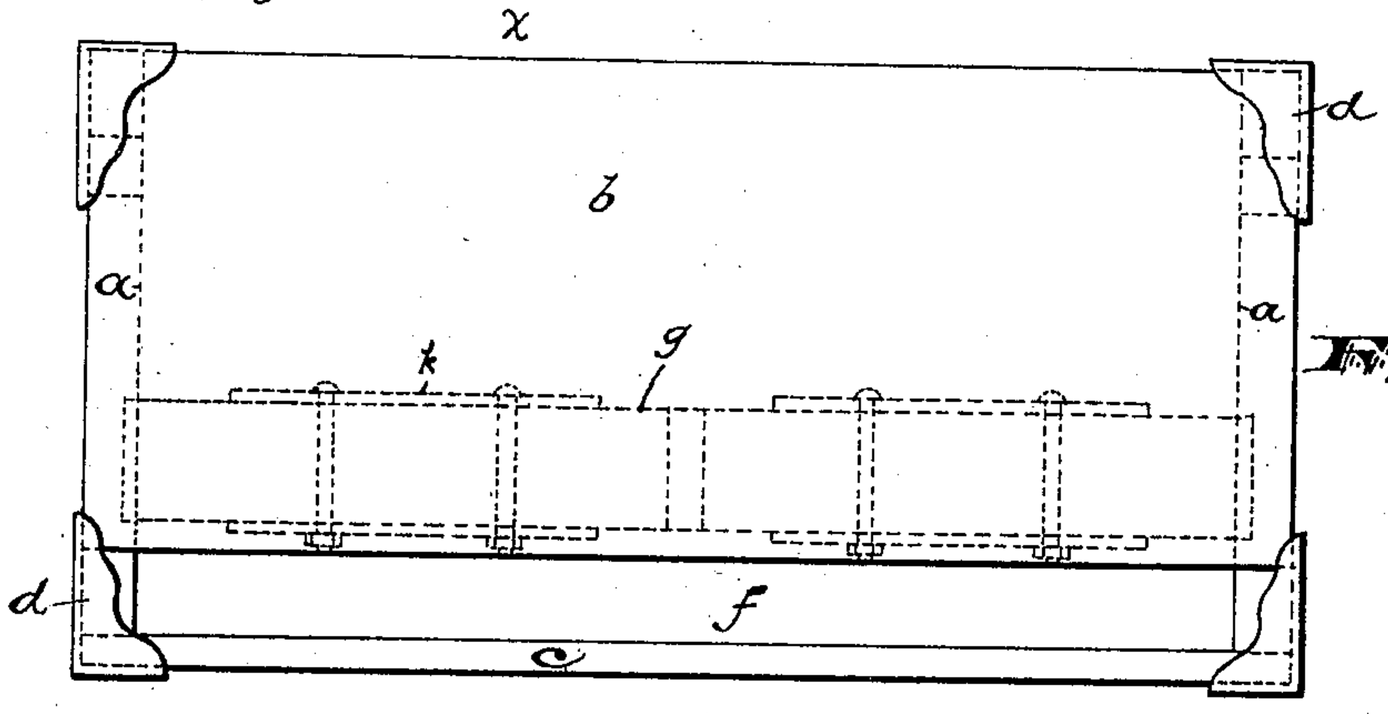

Fig. 3.

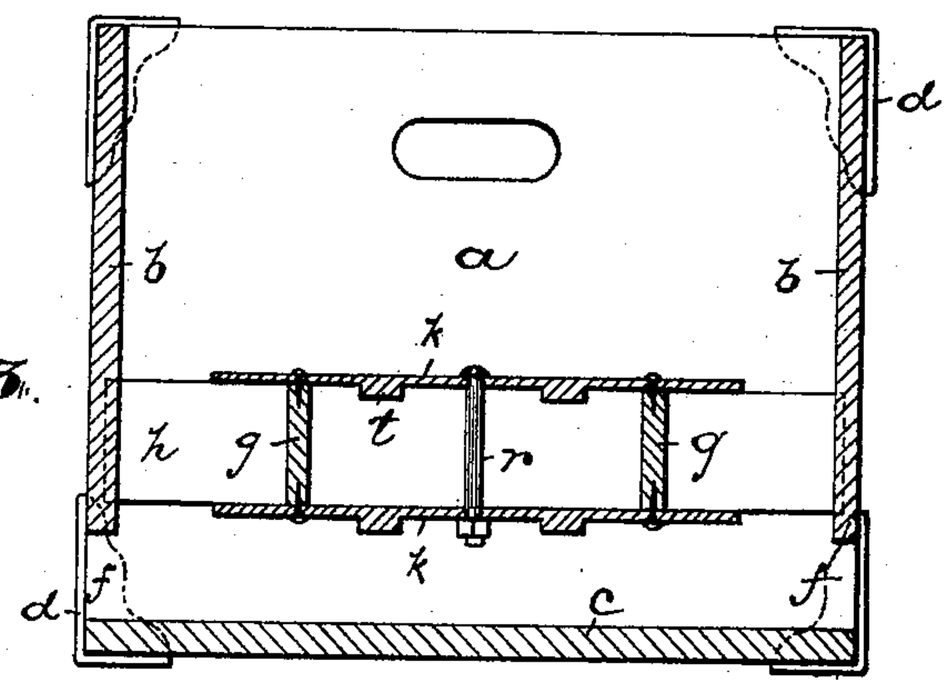

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Fig. 4.

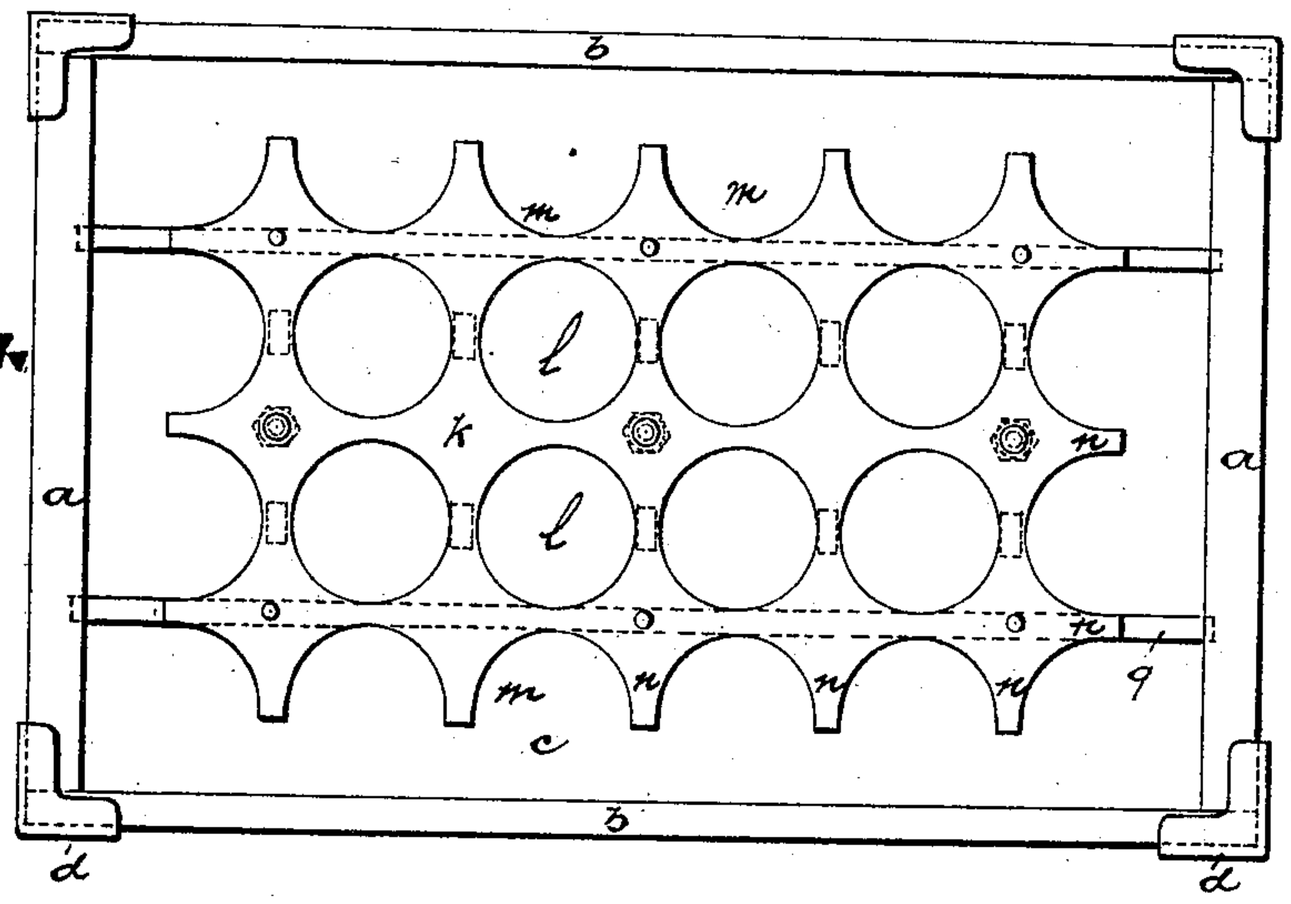
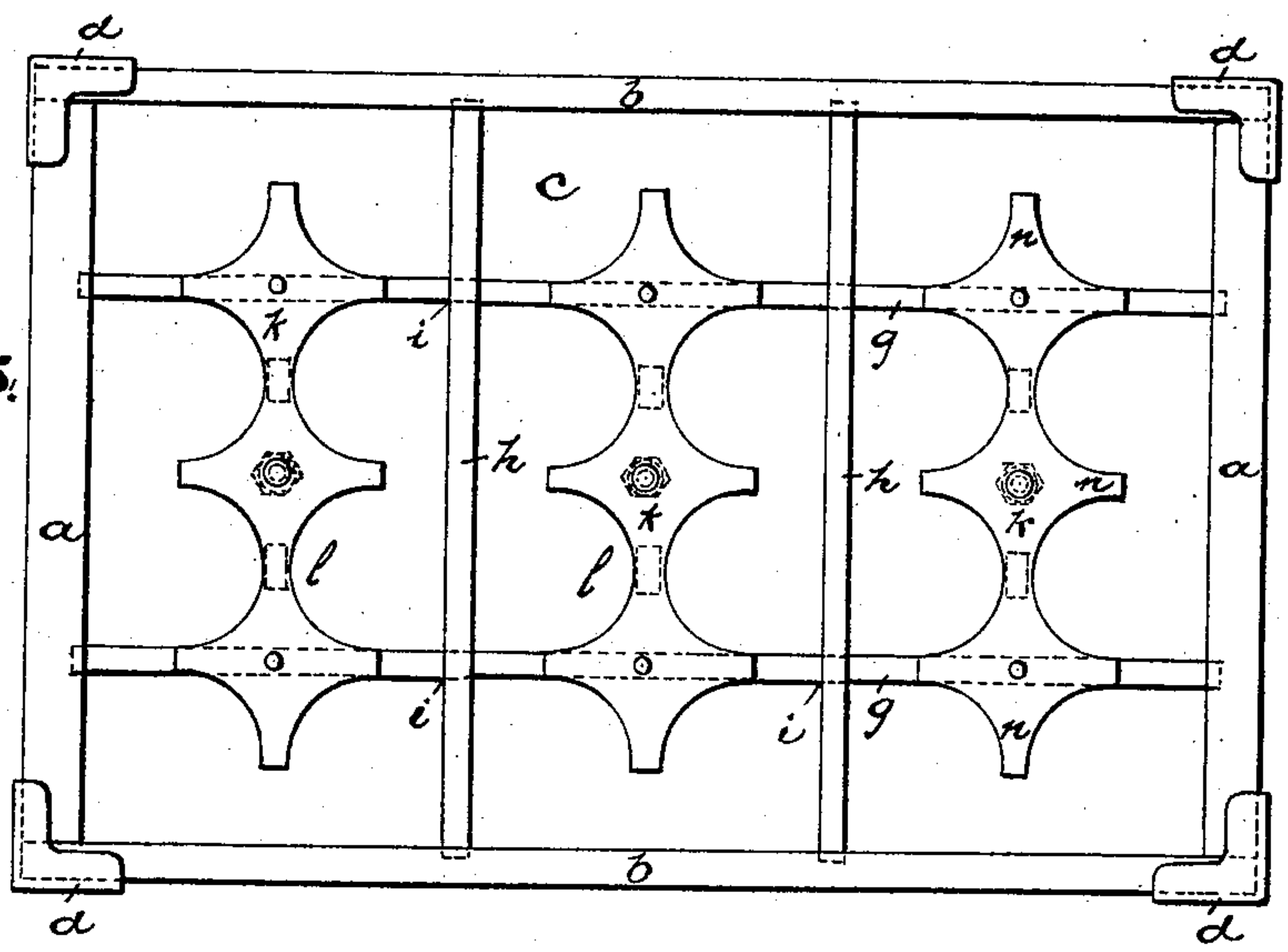


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PHILIP D. LAIBLE AND HENRY FREDRICK, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

BEER OR MINERAL-WATER BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 615,860, dated December 13, 1898.

Application filed January 20, 1898. Serial No. 667,312. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PHILIP D. LAIBLE and HENRY FREDRICK, citizens of the United States, residing at Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Beer or Mineral-Water Boxes; and we 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The objects of this invention are to provide a box for holding bottled mineral water, beer, or similar packages of liquid which shall be of more simple construction than the boxes heretofore in use, which is more cheaply and easily made, but at the same time more durable, and which may be more easily and conveniently cleaned, and to secure other advantages and results, some of which may be hereinafter referred to in connection with the description of the several parts.

The invention consists in the improved box for bottled mineral water, beer, &c., and in the arrangements and combinations of parts, all substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embraced in the clauses of the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several views, Figure 1 is a plan of the improved box. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same. Fig. 3 is a section on line *x*, Fig. 1; and Figs. 4 and 5 are plans of certain modifications of arrangement, all of which will be hereinafter more fully described and explained.

In said drawings, *a a* indicate the ends of the improved box. *b b* indicate the longer sides thereof, and *c* the bottom. The box is of ordinary rectangular form, made, preferably, of wood, and is bound at the corners with the strengthening-pieces or corner-clamps *d*. These corner-clamps are preferably cast of metal, each in a single piece, and are shaped to form a right trihedral angle and fit over the corner of the box to cover the joining of pieces at said corner.

The pieces *b b*, forming the sides of the box, are of a width somewhat less than the height of the box or the end pieces thereof, and when nailed in place flush with the top of the box they leave longitudinal openings *f f*, Figs. 2 and 3, at each side next to the bottom.

Within the box and at a height above the bottom about equal to or greater than the width of said openings *f f* are vertical partition-strips *g g*, extending longitudinally at a proper distance from the sides *b b* of the box to allow room for a bottle to stand between said side and strip. These strips are of sufficient width and thickness to give the desired strength and support to certain plates, hereinafter referred to, and any number of them may be used in accordance with the size of the box and number of bottles to be packed, they being placed at such distances apart as to allow one or more bottles to stand between. A similar transverse strip or strips *h* cross the middle of the box to laterally support the longitudinal strips. These are suitably joined at the points *i i*, where they cross one another in the same horizontal plane. Recesses or mortises are cut in the walls of the box to receive the ends of the strips *g g h*, and thus hold the framework which they form in place at the proper height to give the most advantageous support to bottles standing in the box and to allow access of a stream of water directed beneath said framework through the openings *f* for purposes of cleaning. Upon the upper and lower sides of the framework formed by said strips *g g h* are secured horizontal plates *k k*, formed of wood, metal, or any suitable material. Said plates have in the preferred construction interior apertures *l l*, adapted to receive bottles, and at the outer edges have semicircular recesses *m m*, with projections *n n* between. These projections are a distance apart about equal to the diameter of a bottle, and the recesses *m* are thus adapted to admit a portion of the circumference of a bottle. The longitudinal strips *g g* are so placed in relation to the plates that they coincide vertically with an opposite pair of the projections *n n* and do not interfere with the insertion of bottles into the recesses *m* or aperture *l*. Spaces *o o* are thus provided around the horizontal plate *k* between said plate and the walls of the box and the supporting-strips *g g h*, which spaces will each

admit a bottle and support the same in upright position. Said horizontal plates *k* are secured in place by nails or screws extending into the supporting-strips. Further rigidity and security are obtained by rods or bolts *r*, passing from plate to plate and inserted in holes provided therefor. The upper end of the rod has a head, and the lower end is threaded to receive a nut, so that by tightening said nut the plates may be drawn firmly into place.

At such parts of the plate as it is necessary for strength and rigidity I may form in casting a rib *t* on the under side of the narrow portion between adjacent openings or between openings and recesses and in the same vertical plane therewith.

One objection to boxes heretofore in use has been that they afford lodgment for dirt, dust, or moisture, which cannot easily be removed, and the bottles when taken from the box soil whatever they are stood upon.

By our invention a light open supporting-frame is provided for the interior of the box and one which presents very little opportunity for the lodgment of dirt or foreign matter. Furthermore, the box may be readily and thoroughly cleaned by directing a stream from a hose against the interior parts, and by the open construction the water is enabled to reach all parts and then escape through the open spaces at each side of the box, or a brush or cloth may be inserted through the openings *f f* and the bottom of the box dusted or wiped, so that the bottoms of the bottles will be clean and not soil the table or bar upon which they are stood after being removed.

If desired, the supporting-frame may be separable from the box; but this is not necessary, since it can be easily cleaned if permanently connected thereto.

It will be understood that the horizontal plates *k* may be made having a greater or less number of recesses and projections and with more or fewer interior openings or none at all. The number of strips may also be varied. For example, one horizontal plate may suffice for the whole box, as shown in Fig. 4; or a greater number of transverse strips may be used, with separate plates therebetween having no interior openings, as shown in Fig. 5.

It will thus be seen that various deviations may be made from the exact construction we have shown without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention, and we do not wish to be understood as limiting ourselves to such exact construction.

Having thus described the invention, what we claim as new is—

1. In a box for holding bottled mineral water, beer, or other liquid, the combination with longitudinal and transverse vertical supporting-strips extending across the interior of the box and elevated above the bottom, of plates secured to the upper and lower edges of said strips and having interior openings adapted to receive bottles and support the same, and bolts or rods connecting said plates, substantially as set forth.

2. In a box for bottled mineral water, &c., the combination with supporting-strips extending across the interior of the box and elevated above the bottom, of plates secured to the upper and lower edges of said strips, said plates having interior openings and at the edges alternate recesses and projections, substantially as set forth.

3. In a box for holding bottles of mineral water, beer, &c., the combination with vertical supporting-strips extending across the interior of the box and elevated above the bottom, of plates fastened at the upper and lower edges of said supporting-strips substantially parallel to the bottom of the box, the edges of said plates having alternate projections and recesses forming with the adjacent walls and strips, spaces for bottles, substantially as set forth.

4. The herein-described box for holding bottled beverages, having a closed bottom and having two opposite sides elevated at their lower edges above the plane of said bottom and forming openings contiguous to said bottom which extend the entire length of the box and provide an unobstructed passage from side to side of the box, vertical supporting-strips crossing the interior of the box and lying entirely above said openings, and plates secured to the upper and lower edges of said strips and having interior openings and marginal recesses adapted to receive bottles, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination in a box having corner-clamps *d*, and openings *f*, in the sides, of supporting-strips *g*, *h*, plates *k*, and rods or bolts *s*, all arranged and combined, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing we have hereunto set our hands this 15th day of January, 1898.

PHILIP D. LAIBLE.
HENRY FREDRICK.

Witnesses:
CHARLES H. PELL,
C. B. PITNEY.