

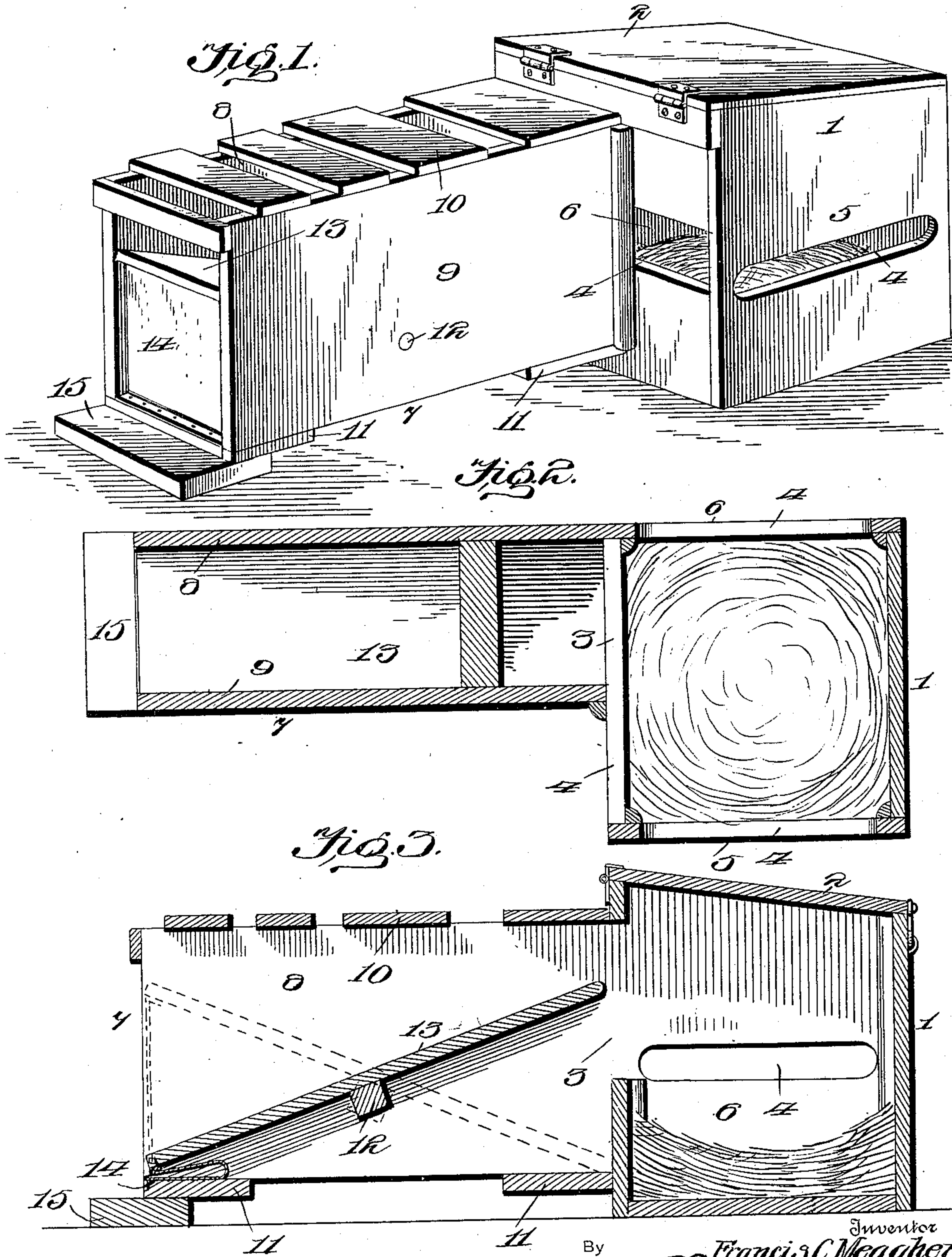
No. 658,112.

Patented Sept: 18, 1900.

F. C. MEAGHER.  
HEN'S NEST.

(Application filed May 31, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## HEN'S NEST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 658,112, dated September 18, 1900.

Application filed May 31, 1900. Serial No. 18,622. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS C. MEAGHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Orlando, in the county of Logan and Territory of Oklahoma, have invented a new and useful Hen's Nest, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in hen-nests of that type which is characterized by a closed nest-box provided with a somewhat-constricted passage controlled by a tilting platform which permits the hen to pass freely to and from the nest and protects her from intrusion while setting. In those devices of this type with which I am familiar the tilting platform is so arranged with relation to the opening or doorway into the nest-box that the hen can gain access to the nest through the door without tilting the platform to effect the closure of the passage against intrusion, and no provision has been made for preventing hens from nesting under the front end of the platform, and thereby imprisoning the setting hen, or for preventing chicks from getting under the platform and getting crushed as the platform is tilted by the hen passing from the nest.

One object of my invention is to construct the device in a manner to cause the inner end of the tilting platform to effect the closure of the opening or doorway into the nest-box when the hen is off the nest and to necessitate the tilting of the platform by the hen in order to gain access to the nest-box, and thereby insuring the closure of the outer end of the passage-way and the protection of the hen against intrusion when she is on the nest.

A further object of the invention is to close the opening into the passage-way below the tilting platform by a flexible guard-curtain which precludes the possibility of the imprisonment of the hen in the manner described and the possible injury to the chicks.

To the accomplishment of these several objects the invention consists in the construction and arrangement hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and succinctly defined in the appended claims.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my hen's nest complete. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view thereof; and Fig. 3 is a vertical

longitudinal sectional view, the tilting platform being shown in dotted lines in position to close the front end of the passage-way—as, for instance, when the nest is occupied—and being shown in full lines in position to close the door into the nest-box—as, for instance, when the nest is unoccupied.

Referring to the numerals of reference, 1 indicates a nest-box, preferably of substantially-rectangular form, provided with a hinged cover 2, an opening or doorway 3 at one side of its front end and a series of horizontal openings 4 in its side walls 5 and 6 and in its front end at one side of the doorway to provide light and ventilation and to permit the hen to view the eggs within the nest-box. From the front of the nest-box is extended a comparatively-narrow passage-way 7, defined by side walls 8 and 9, (the wall 8 being an extension of the wall 6 of the nest-box,) and the transverse top and bottom slats 10 and 11, only two bottom slats 11 being preferably provided and located, as shown, at opposite ends of the passage-way. The wall 9 of the passage-way 7 is located at one edge of the doorway 3 and extends approximately from the vertical center of the front wall of the nest-box, so that the doorway, while being located adjacent to one side of the nest-box, is presented directly across the end of the passage-way 7. Within the passageway is tiltably mounted upon a rock-shaft 12, journaled in the walls 8 and 9, a counter-balanced tilting platform 13, longitudinally and transversely coextensive with the longitudinal and transverse dimensions of the passage-way, the axis of the rock-shaft 12 being located substantially in the horizontal plane of the lower edge of the doorway 3 and midway between the ends of the passage-way, so that as the front end of the tilting platform is depressed to the position indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3 by the passage of the hen the inner end of the platform will be elevated sufficiently to prevent the hen from returning to the nest-box without depressing the inner end of the platform to cause the outer end thereof to be elevated for the purpose of effecting the closure of the outer end of the passage-way, and thereby preventing other hens from gaining access to the nest-box. The transverse slats or rails 11 constitute stops which limit the depression of the op-



posite ends of the platform when it has been tilted to the positions shown in Fig. 3.

The device as thus far described comprehends a complete embodiment of my invention in its broadest aspect, since one of the essential features of the invention is that arrangement of the tilting platform with respect to the doorway which causes the inner end of the platform when elevated to obstruct the doorway in order to compel the tilting of the platform before the hen can pass into the nest-box. I prefer, however, to develop the invention still further by providing a flexible guard-curtain 14, designed to close the outer end of the passage-way 7 when the outer end of the platform is elevated, the purpose of this curtain being to prevent hens from setting under the elevated end of the platform, and thereby imprisoning the hen in the nest-box, and to prevent chicks from getting under the platform and being injured by the tilting of the platform when the setting hen leaves the nest-box. The curtain 14 is therefore coextensive with that space defined by the outer rail 11 and the opposed transverse slat 10 and between the outer ends of the side walls 8 and 9 of the passage-way, the curtain being of some flexible material and secured along its upper and lower edges to the rail 11 and the under side of the platform 13 at its outer end, the edges of the curtain being disposed outwardly in order to cause the said curtain to fold under the platform when the curtain is depressed. 15 indicates a block supporting the outer rail 11 and extending slightly therebeyond to form a step to facilitate the entrance of the hen to the passage-way.

In use the operation of my device is as follows: The bottom of the nest-box 1 is covered with suitable nesting—as, for instance, straw—and for the first few days the hen is placed in the box by raising the cover 2; but after she has identified the nest as her own this will not be necessary, as she will see the eggs through the openings 4 and will follow around the sides of the nest until she finds the entrance to the passage-way 7. Passing up the tilting platform beyond which she can see the upper portion of the doorway said platform will be tilted to lower the inner end from its obstructing position, permitting the hen to pass into the nest-box but elevating the outer end of the platform to close the passage-way against the entrance of other hens, and thereby protecting the setting hen against intrusion, the elevation of the outer end of the platform serving to present the flexible guard-curtain 14 across the entrance for the purpose stated. When the hen leaves the nest-box, the preponderance of weight upon the outer end of the platform will tilt it to its initial position, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3.

From the foregoing it will be observed that I have produced a simple and inexpensive hen's nest, which will effectually protect the

hen against intrusion, to which it will be impossible for the hen to gain access without effectually closing the passage-way, and which is so constructed as to make it impossible for the setting hen to be imprisoned or chicks to be injured by the movement of the platform; but while the present embodiment of my invention appears at this time to be preferable, I do not desire to limit myself to the structural details defined, but reserve to myself the right to effect such changes, modifications, and variations as may fall properly within the scope of the protection prayed.

What I claim is—

1. A hen's nest comprising a nest-box having a doorway, a passage-way extending from the nest-box, and a tilting platform located within the passage-way with its inner end located obstructively before the doorway into the nest-box in one position of said platform to compel the tilting of said platform in order to gain access to the nest-box.

2. A hen's nest comprising a nest-box, a comparatively-narrow passage-way extending from the nest-box, said box being provided with a doorway disposed across the end of the passage-way, and a tilting platform within the passage-way and having its axis of movement substantially in the horizontal plane of the lower edge of the doorway to present the inner end of the platform obstructively before the door to compel the tilting of the platform in order to gain access to the nest-box.

3. A hen's nest comprising a nest-box having a doorway formed in the front wall thereof adjacent to one side of the box, a narrow passage-way extending from the front of the box with the doorway of the latter presented across its end, a tilting platform within the passage-way with its inner end disposed obstructively before the doorway, and a guard for protecting the space below the outer end of the platform.

4. A hen's nest comprising a nest-box having a doorway, the passage-way leading to the doorway, a tilting platform within the passage-way, and a flexible guard-curtain secured at its opposite ends to the outer end of the platform and to the bottom of the passage-way to completely close the space within the passage-way below the elevated outer end of the tilting platform.

5. A hen's nest comprising a nest-box having a doorway, a passage-way extending from the nest-box, a tilting platform located within the passage-way, and a guard located below the outer end of the platform to completely close the entrance to the passage-way under the elevated outer end of the platform.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

FRANCIS C. MEAGHER.

Witnesses:

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WINFIELD S. HOOVER.