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Patented Aug. 12, 1902.

J. W. ESHLEMAN.
SLOT GUARD FOR TOY BANKS.

(Application filed Nov. 12, 1901.)

(No Model.)

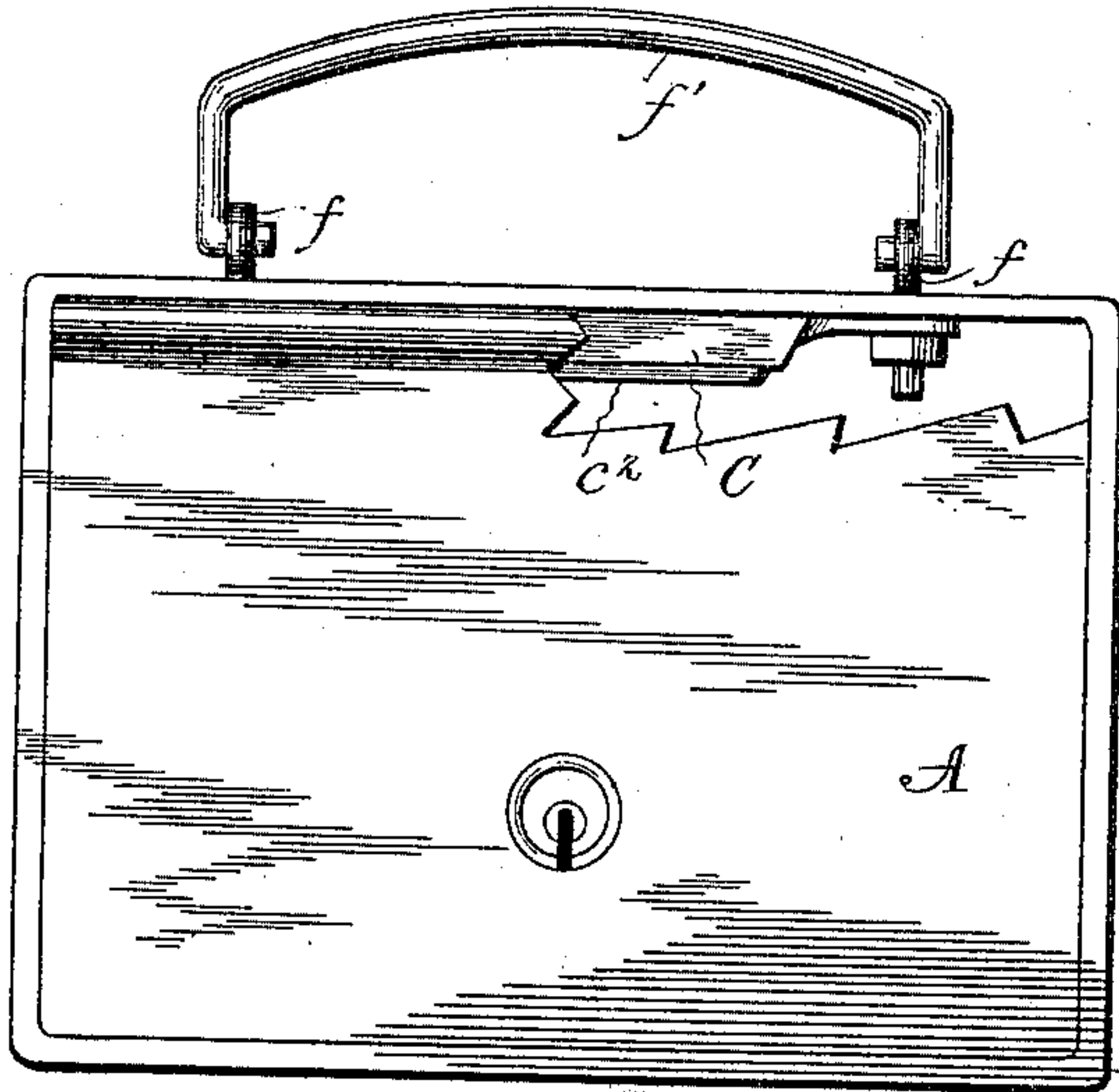


Fig. 1.

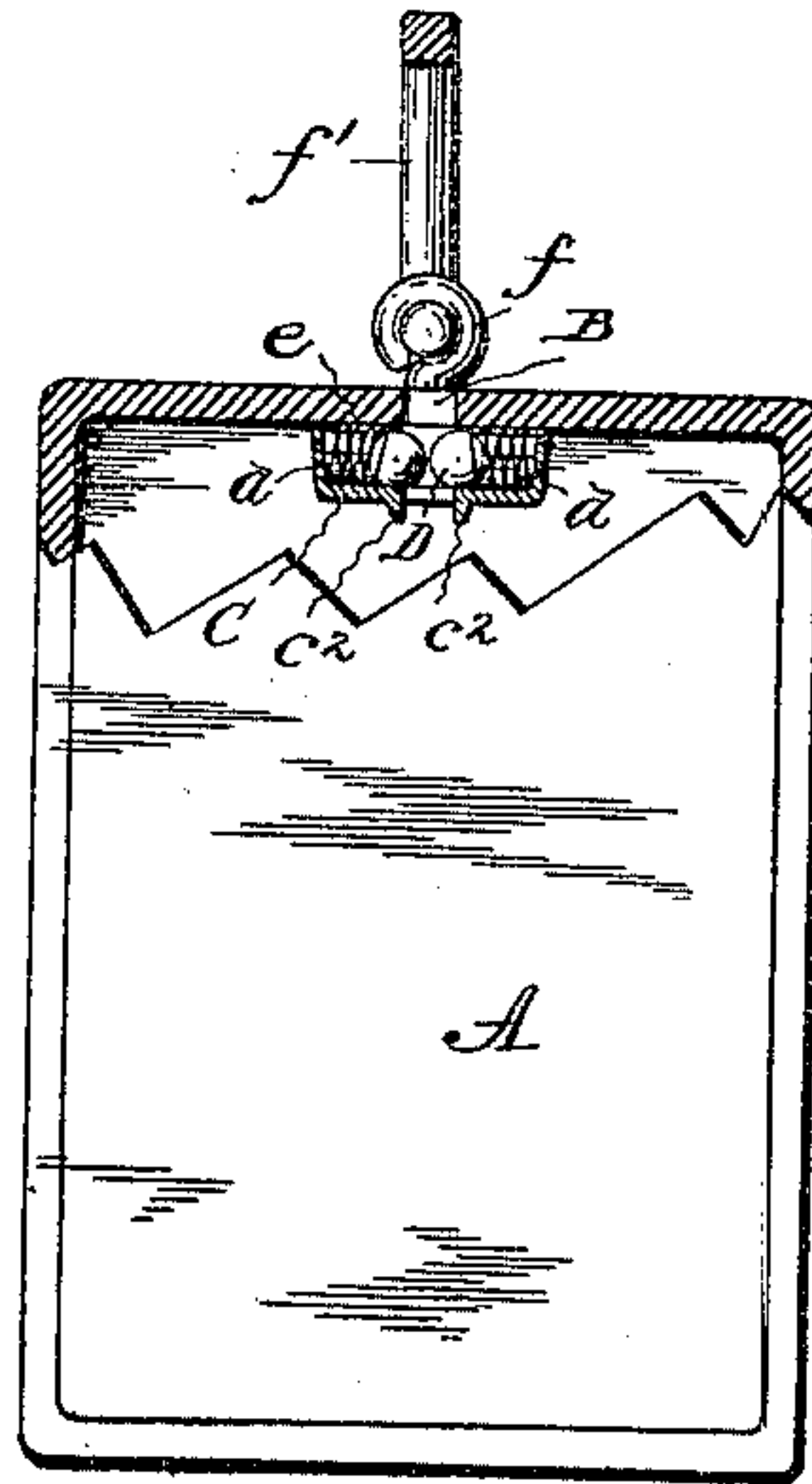


Fig. 2.

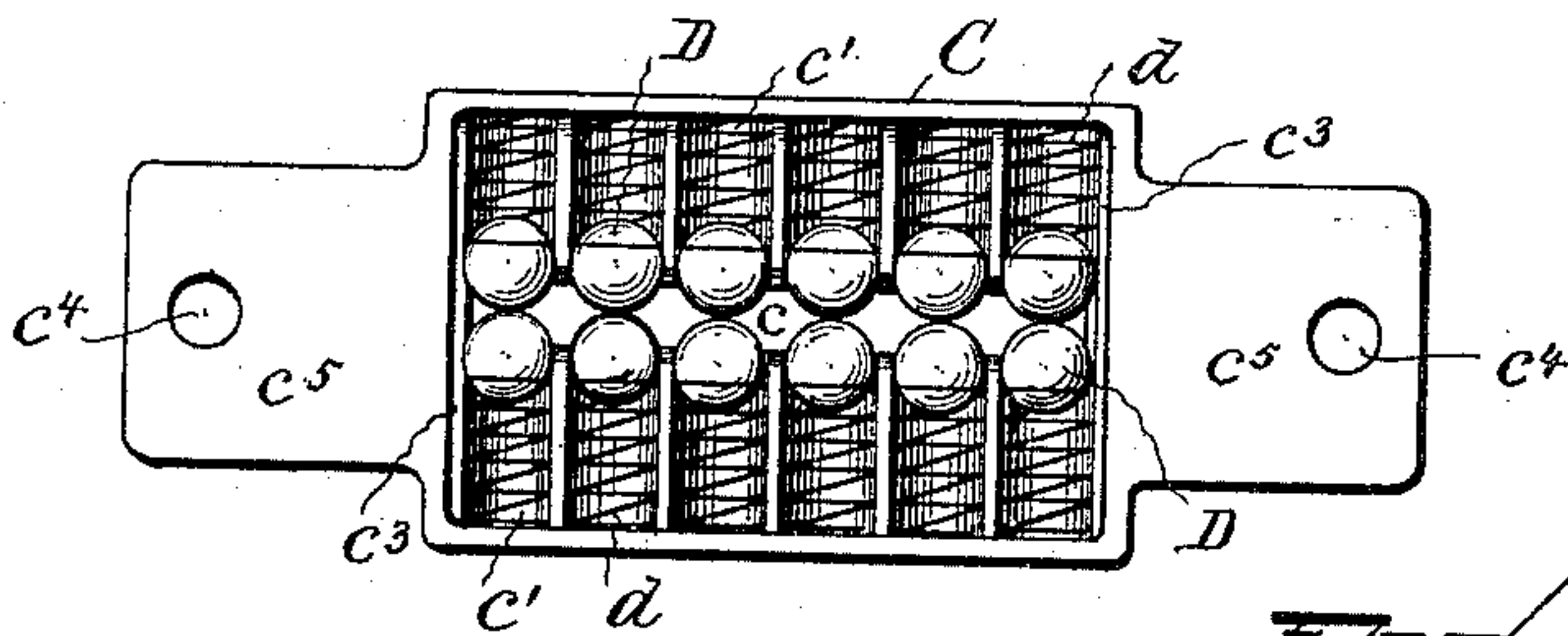


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. ESHLEMAN, OF MOUNT JOY, PENNSYLVANIA.

SLOT-GUARD FOR TOY BANKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 706,913, dated August 12, 1902.

Application filed November 12, 1901. Serial No. 82,006. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. ESHLEMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Mount Joy, in the county of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Slot-Guards for Toy Banks, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide certain devices which will protect the coin-slot in toy money-boxes and effectually prevent the coins being abstracted after they are deposited through the slot; and with this object in view the invention consists in the particular construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter fully described, and more specifically set forth in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which like letters of reference indicate like parts in the several views, Figure 1 is an elevation of a money-box, showing my improved slot-guard applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view. Fig. 3 is a plan view with the covering-plate removed.

Referring to said drawings, A designates a money-box, and B the coin-slot with which such boxes are usually provided.

In carrying out my invention I provide a block or casting C, which is attached to the box A below the coin-slot B and carries a number of spring-actuated balls D, which come together between the slot B and a similar slot *c* in the block or casting. The block or casting C is recessed in its upper side, and in the bottom of said recess are a series of semicircular grooves *c'*, arranged transversely of the coin-slot and parallel with each other, the grooves at one side of the slot *c* being on a line with those at the other side. In each groove is placed a ball D and spring *d*, the latter being interposed between the ball and side wall of the block, so as to move said ball over the coin-slot and against the ball in the opposite groove. It will be noted that two rows of spring-actuated balls are provided, which come together on a line with the longitudinal center of the coin-slots B and *c*, and that the springs will yield to permit the balls to be separated by a coin as it is passed through the slots; also, that the balls are guided by the grooves in which they play,

which not only insures their proper engagement with each other, but also prevents a disarrangement of said balls. The grooves serve the further purpose of holding the springs in place.

Though the balls do not prevent the passage of a coin through the slot into the money-box, they will close against each other after the coin is deposited into the box and will thereby prevent said coin from being abstracted. In this particular the springs form an important feature of the invention, as they will overcome the weight of the coins and more securely close the slot. A number of small balls are employed and arranged closely, so that it will be impossible to abstract a coin, and additional security is afforded by providing the ribs *c²* at opposite sides of the slot *c*.

The block or casting C is provided with shoulders *c³*, upon which rests a covering-plate *e*, adapted to hold the balls and springs in place, so that the device will form a complete article for attachment to money boxes or banks. When the device is attached beneath the slot of money-boxes, as shown in the drawings, the screw-eyes *f*, to which the handle *f'* is attached, pass through holes *c⁴* in the wings *c⁵* of the block or casting, and the parts are held by nuts, as shown.

The device hereinbefore described provides simple and effective means for protecting the coin-slot of a money-box or toy bank, so that coins which are deposited in the box or bank cannot be shaken out or otherwise abstracted through the slot. By making the device as a separate article of manufacture it can be applied to money boxes or banks without changing the construction of same.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a slot-guard for money-boxes, comprising a block or casting having a central slot and grooves arranged transversely of said slot, balls located in the grooves at opposite sides of the slot, springs bearing against the balls to bring them together over the slot, a covering-plate having a slot on a line with the aforesaid slot, and perforated extensions or wings on the block to provide for securing it to the money-box, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a slot-guard for money-boxes, the com-

hination of the box having a coin-slot and
holes beyond the ends of said slot, a block
provided with a slot and grooves arranged
transversely of said slot, and a series of spring-
5 actuated balls located in the grooves and
adapted to close the coin-slots; together with
screw-eyes passed through the holes in the
box and apertured extensions of the block, a
handle connected to said screw-eyes, and nuts

holding the parts together, substantially as is
shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN W. ESHLEMAN.

Witnesses:

O. M. DONAVEN,
R. J. MYERS.