

No. 714,470.

Patented Nov. 25, 1902.

H. J. GAEDTKE.  
ANIMAL TRAP.

(Application filed June 16, 1902.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

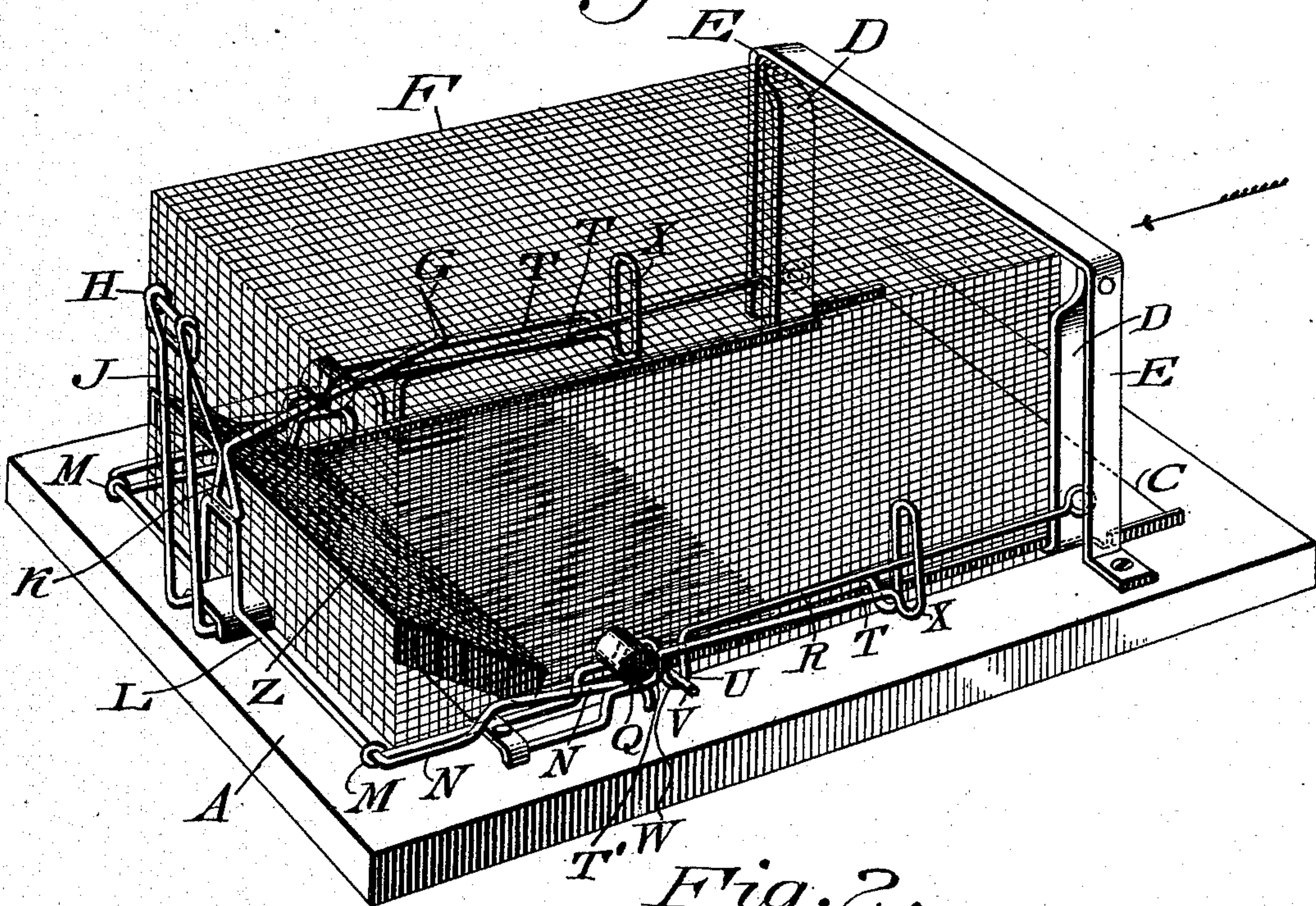


Fig. 2.

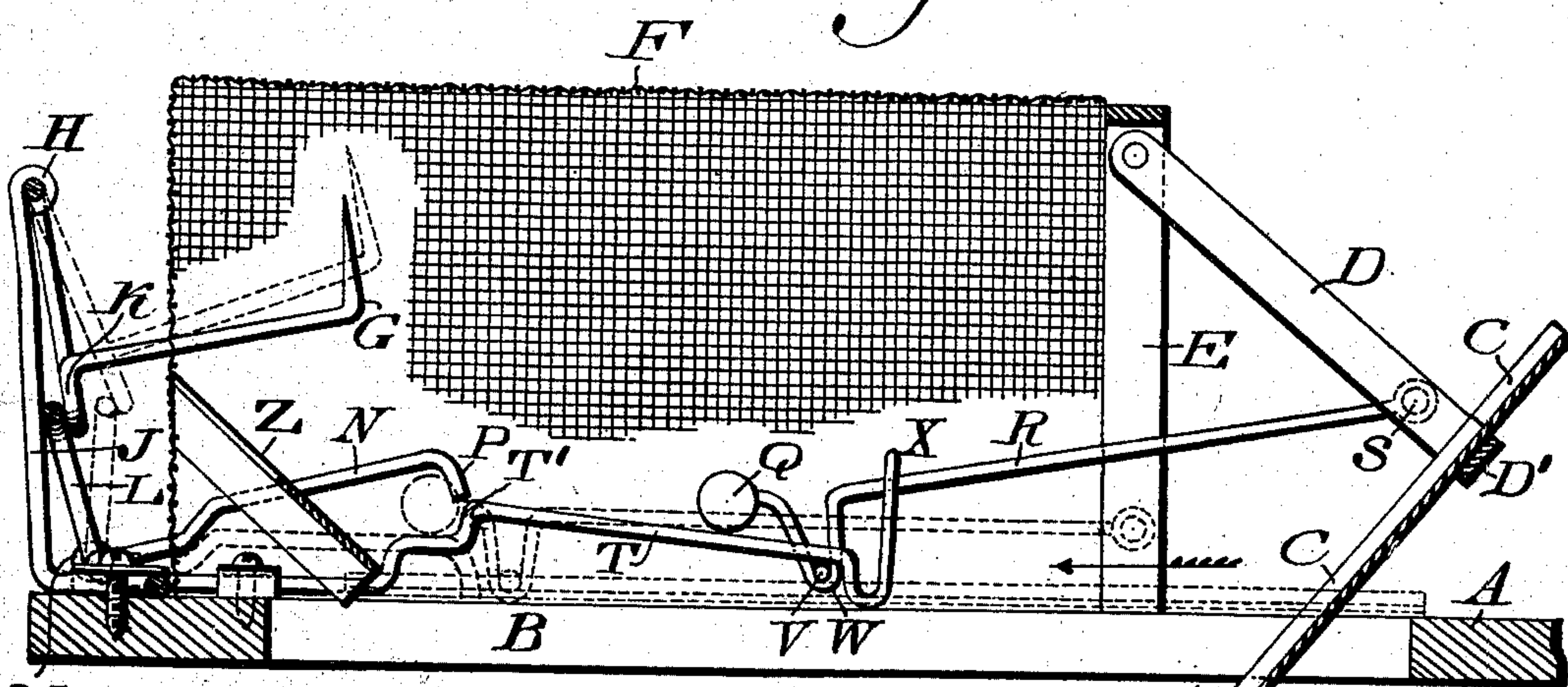
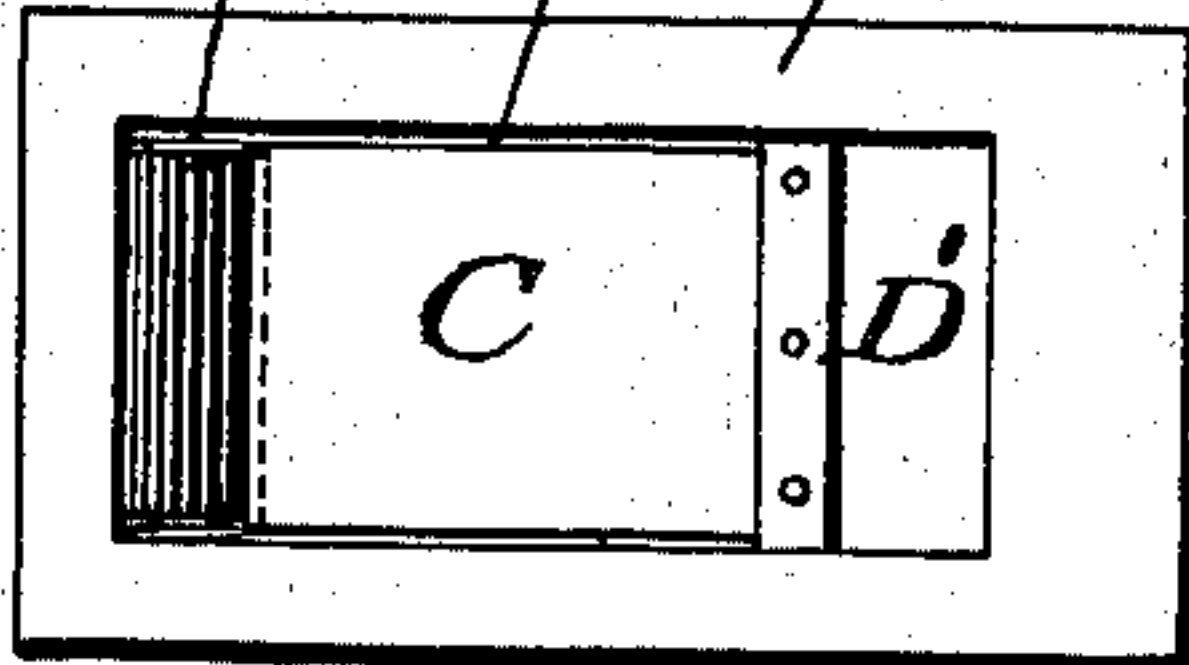


Fig. 3.

Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 714,470, dated November 25, 1902.

Application filed June 16, 1902. Serial No. 111,841. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HERMANN J. GAEDTKE, a subject of the Emperor of Germany, (having resided in the United States over one year last past and having declared my intention of becoming a citizen thereof,) residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Animal-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of an animal-trap which is provided with a tilting or swinging floor and means for controlling and releasing the same, the construction of parts being hereinafter described and the novel features pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a trap embodying my invention, the same being shown in set condition. Fig. 2 represents a central longitudinal section thereof, the trap being shown as sprung and portion of the wirework of the body removed. Fig. 3 represents a bottom plan view of the tray on a reduced scale.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the figures.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the base of the trap, in which is an opening B, occupied when the trap is set by the tilting or swinging door C, the latter being eccentrically suspended by the hangers D, to which it is secured, said hangers being pivoted at their upper ends on the standards E, which rise from the base A, said standards being at the open end of the body F of the trap, the same being formed of wirework or perforated metal or material, as usual in such cases one end—in the present case the right-hand end—being open, so that the animals can enter said body. On the rear end of the trap-door C is an offset portion to enable said end to rest firmly on the wall of the opening B of the base A in the set position of the trap.

G designates a bait-hook, the same being of angular form, one limb of which is within the body F, and the other limb, outside of the same, is pivotally connected, as at H, with the upper end of the standard J, which rises from the base A. At the angle of said hook is a depending limb K, which is adapted to engage with the rock-shaft L, which has its bearings on the base A, as at M, said shaft

L being provided with inwardly-projecting crank arms or levers N, the ends P of which are preferably bent downwardly and are adapted to engage with the weighted cross-heads Q on the adjacent ends of the arms R, the outer ends of the latter being pivotally connected with the hangers D, as at S, it being noticed that said arms R and the cross-heads Q follow said hangers in the motions of the tilting door C of the trap.

Rising from the sides of the base A are guides T, on which the heads Q are adapted to ride. On said guides are shoulders T', it being noticed that the portions of the arms R adjacent to the heads Q are deflected downwardly, forming the legs U, which are provided with a cross-piece V, the same being adapted to limit the upward motion of the arms R and prevent disconnection of the same from the guides T. On the ends of the guides are loops X, through which the arms R are adapted to play and which assist in guiding the swinging arms true in their motions with the door C.

The operation is as follows: The trap is placed over a receptacle of any kind, so that the opening B may communicate with the same when the trap is sprung, so that the animal may drop into said receptacle, which latter may be properly filled with water or other fluid, so as to drown the animal, it being seen that when the trap is set the door C closes the opening B and the heads Q rest on the ends P of the arms N and engage with the shoulders T', thus holding the door C locked and preventing dropping of the same. When the animal reaches the bait and draws on the same, the portion of the hook G within the body is lowered, whereby pressure is exerted on the rock-shaft J, thus turning the same and raising the arms N. This lifts the heads Q clear of the shoulders G, whereby the door C is unlocked, and as the weight of the animal is superimposed on said door the portion of the latter within the body quickly swings downward at such an angle (see Fig. 2) that the animal must necessarily slide down the door and fall into the receptacle below the same, whereby it is securely trapped in the latter and drowned therein. As the weight of the animal is removed from the door the latter may return to its first position, in which



case the heads Q may drop on the ends P of the arms N, the latter having previously returned to their normal positions, and said heads engage with the shoulders T', whereby they are interlocked with the same, and so hold the door C in closed position until the bait is again seized, when the operations hereinbefore described are repeated.

Within the body F at the end beneath the bait-hook is an inclined piece Z, which is secured to the adjacent end of the body and has its lower end overhanging the wall of the opening B in the base. This permits the front feet of the animal resting thereon, so that the animal may conveniently reach the bait, while, however, when the trap is sprung and the door descends the animal must necessarily slip from said guard, and its feet are prevented from taking hold of the portions A' of the base below said guard. It will be noticed that when the door is placed in closed position the bait hook or holder is operative, it requiring no direct setting by hand.

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

1. An animal-trap having an opening in the base thereof, a tilting door adapted to close the same in the set condition of the trap, a standard rising from said base, and a hanger pivoted on said standard and being rigidly connected with said door.

2. A trap having an opening in the base thereof, a swinging door adapted to close the same, a hanger connected with said door, and having its bearings on a stationary member of the trap, means for locking said door and means for releasing the same on the operation of the bait or holder.

3. A trap having a swinging door in the base thereof, an arm connected therewith, a shoulder on the trap with which said arm is adapted to engage, a lever on which said arm is adapted to rest when engaged with said shoulder, and a bait-holder adapted to engage with a limb of said lever and raise said arm.

4. A trap having an opening in the base thereof, a swinging door adapted to close said opening in the set condition of the trap, a bait-holder, a rock-shaft adapted to be engaged by a member of said holder, a crank-arm on said shaft, an arm connected with said door, a head on said arm adapted to rest on the said crank-arm and to be elevated by the same and a shoulder on the trap with which said head engages.

5. A trap having a tilting door, an arm connected therewith, a head on said arm, a guide on which said head is adapted to ride, a shoulder on the trap with which said head is adapted to engage, a lever mounted on the trap on which said head is adapted to rest, a rock-shaft carrying said lever, and a connection for said rock-shaft with the bait-holder.

6. A trap, a bait-holder mounted thereon, a rock-shaft adapted to be engaged by a member of said holder, a lifting-arm on said shaft, a swinging floor at the base of the trap, an arm on said floor, and a shoulder on the trap intermediate of said arms with which the arm on the floor is adapted to engage, the last-named arm being adapted to rest on said lifting-arm.

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Witnesses:

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