

No. 719,581.

PATENTED FEB. 3, 1903.

E. G. GORDON.
MAIL OR LETTER DROP.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 14, 1902.

NO MODEL.

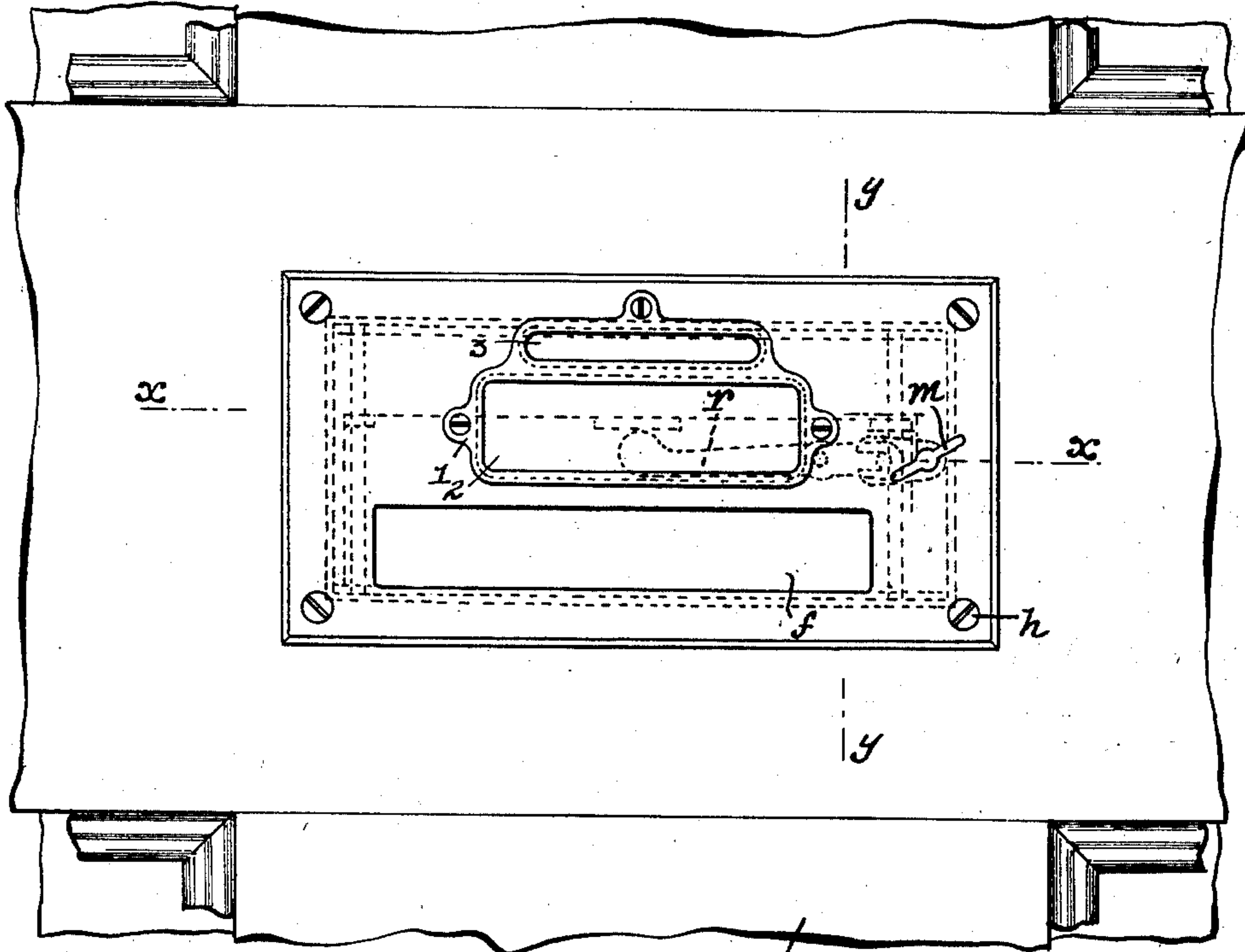


Fig. 1.

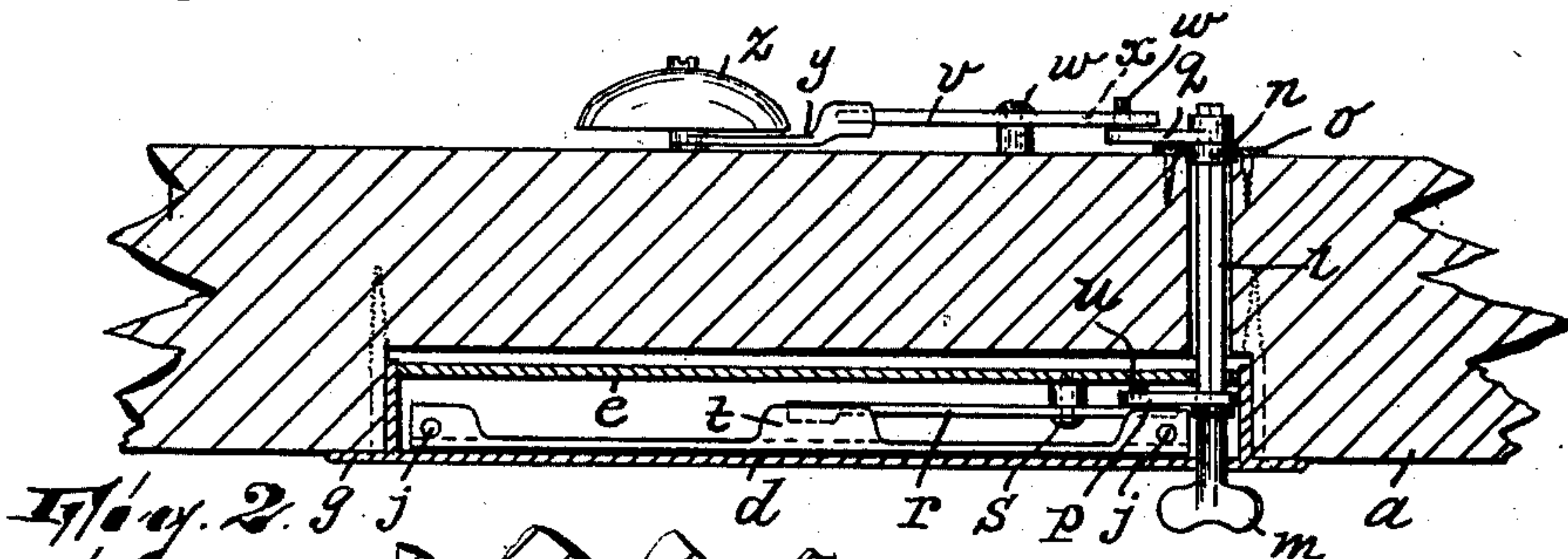


Fig. 2.

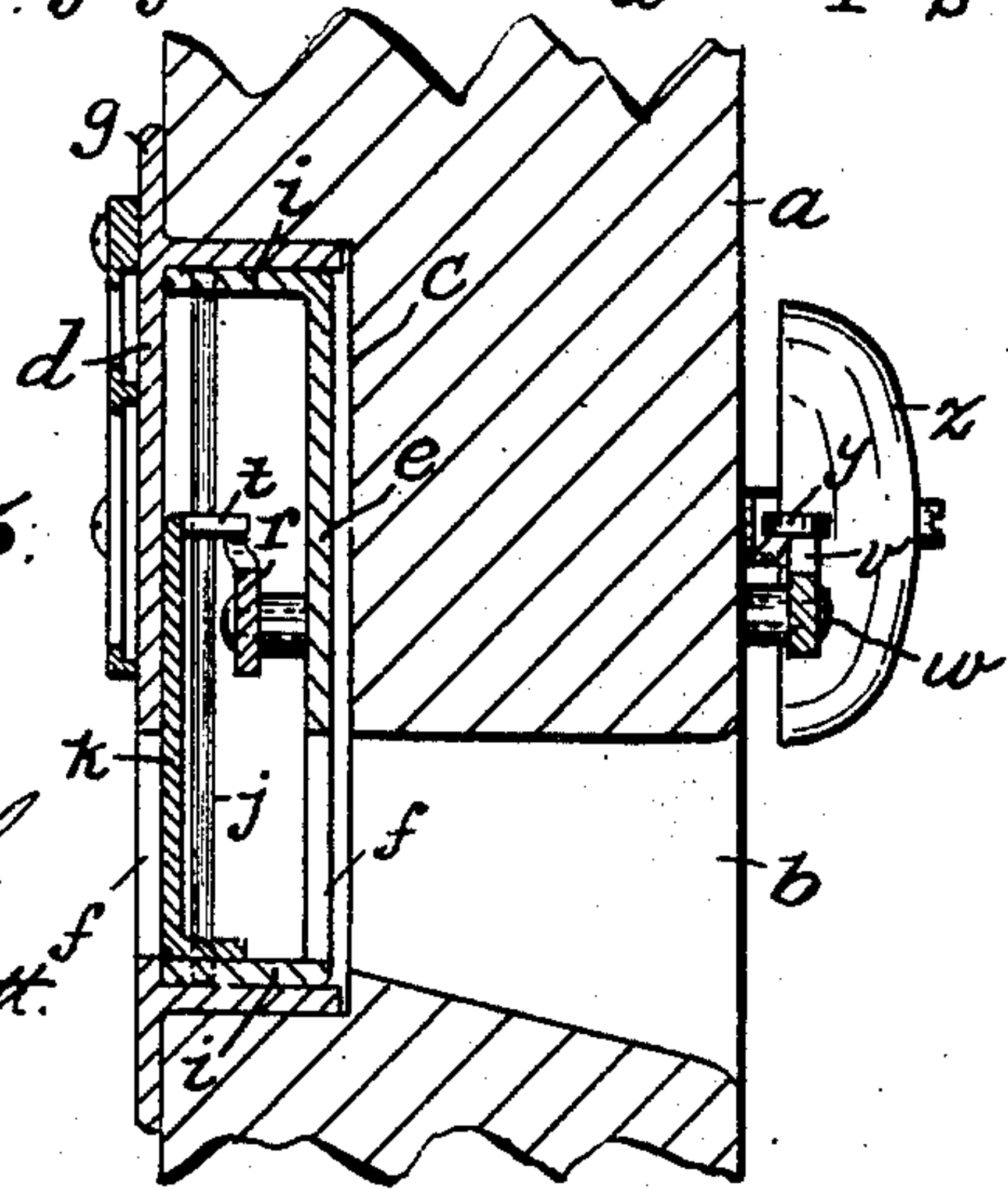


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWIN G. GORDON, OF PATERSON, NEW JERSEY.

MAIL OR LETTER DROP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 719,581, dated February 3, 1903.

Application filed August 14, 1902. Serial No. 119,652. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWIN G. GORDON, a citizen of the United States, residing in Paterson, in the county of Passaic and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mail or Letter Drops; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to characters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved apparatus of the kind in which the movable flap or closure of a mail-slit or mail-drop is combined with an indicator, preferably in the form of an audible alarm, in such manner that when the flap or closure is moved in order to introduce mail through the opening which it controls the indicator will be operated, so as to call attention to the fact that mail has been deposited through the mail-drop.

According to the preferred form of the invention a common element is employed to actuate the flap or closure and the indicator, as will appear in the accompanying drawings and the following description.

The invention will be found fully illustrated in said drawings, wherein corresponding characters of reference indicate like parts, and wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a portion of a door, showing in position therein the said preferred form of my invention. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line *x x* in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line *y y* in Fig. 1.

The door *a* is provided, as usual, with the slit or opening *b*, through which the letters, &c., are adapted to be introduced. The outer face of the door is also provided with a recess *c*, with which the slit *b* communicates.

In the recess *c* is arranged a case comprising sections *d* and *e*, having opposed openings *f*, alined with the slit *b*. The case-section *d*, which is the body portion of the case, is in the form of a rectangular box having its main wall extended laterally on all sides, as at *g*, to form a flange for receiving screws *h*, where-

by the case is secured in place to the door. Within the case-section *d* snugly fits the case-section *e*, which consists of a plate having the opposed edge portions *i* thereof bent off toward the front wall of the case-section *d*. In the portions *i* of the case-section *e* are mounted the ends of a pair of parallel guide-rods *j*. These guide-rods being vertically disposed act to impart a true vertical rectilineal movement to a flap or closure *k*, which, as seen in Fig. 3, is adapted in its lowest position to close the passage through the slit *b*. By mounting the rods *j* in the manner described the walls of the case-section *d*, which are opposed to the ends of said rods, act as means for confining the latter against vertical movement.

l is a squared spindle which extends clear through the case as well as the door, the bearings for this spindle being formed by the shank portion of a key *m*, which its outer end carries and which is journaled in the front wall of the case-section *d*, and by a washer *n*, having a squared opening to fit the spindle and journaled in a plate *o*, which is secured against the inner face of the door. On the squared portion of the spindle are secured cranks *p* and *q*, the former being within the case and the latter on the inner end of the spindle.

r is a lever which is fulcrumed within the case on a stud *s*, projecting from the case-section *e*, one end of this lever projecting beneath a lug *t* on the top middle portion of the closure *k* and the other end being provided with a pin *u*, engaging a notch at the end of the crank *p*.

v is another lever which is fulcrumed on a pin *w*, projecting from the inner face of the door and having one end provided with a notch *x*, receiving the pin *w* on the crank *q*, and the other end adapted to engage the operating member *y* of an audible alarm *z*, secured to the door.

It is thought that the operation will be readily understood. When it is desired to deposit mail through the door, the key *m* is turned to the left, thus actuating levers *r* and *v*, the former of which raises the closure *k*, so that the passage through the slit is opened, and the latter effecting the setting off of the alarm, so that attention is called to

the fact that mail has been deposited. When the key is released, the closure is allowed to resume its initial position, covering the slit *b*, by the action of gravity. If the operating member *y* of the alarm is spring-controlled, it will coact with the closure to return the key to its initial position.

1 is a frame which may be secured on the outer face of the case-section *d* and which may receive an inscription bearing the number of the dwelling and the name of its occupant on the door of which the device is secured, 2 and 3 being suitable openings through which the said inscription may be seen.

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

1. The combination, with the part having the letter-slit, of a movable closure controlling said slit, an indicator, a rotary spindle, cranks on said spindle, and levers operatively connecting the one one of the cranks with the indicating device and the other the other of the cranks with the closure, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the part having

the letter-slit, of a vertically-sliding closure controlling said slit, an indicator, a spindle, cranks arranged on said spindle, and parallel levers operatively connecting the one one of the cranks with the indicating device and the other the other of the cranks with the closure, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the part having the letter-slit, of a casing having openings coinciding with said slit and set into said part, a vertically-sliding closure controlling the way through said slit and openings and arranged in said casing, a spindle penetrating said part and the casing, an indicator, cranks on said spindle, and parallel levers operatively connecting the one one of the cranks with the indicating device and the other the other of the cranks with the closure, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of August, 1902.

EDWIN G. GORDON.

Witnesses:

JOHN W. STEWARD,
ROBERT J. POLLITT.