

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK BURNS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

DOOR-STEP CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 726,138, dated April 21, 1903.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK BURNS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Door-Step Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a door-step cabinet for receiving jars of milk, loaves of bread, or other household necessities, which cabinet will be firmly retained in its place on the step when the door is closed and the contents of the cabinet protected from theft, destruction, or injury. This object I attain in the manner hereinafter set forth, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved door-step cabinet, showing the door of the same open. Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical section of the cabinet with its door closed. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view on a still larger scale; and Fig. 4 is a vertical section on the line *a a*, Fig. 3.

1 represents part of the door-sill, 2 part of one of the side frames of the doorway, and 3 part of the door, all of these parts being as usual, with the exception that the door and door-frame are provided with certain fittings, hereinafter referred to, for use in locking in position in the doorway the cabinet forming the subject of my invention. This cabinet consists of a box-like structure 4, with top, bottom, back, and sides, and with hinged door 5 for closing it in front, the cabinet being also, if desired, provided with one or more shelves 6, as shown, whereby it is adapted for receiving a number of receptacles one above another. The back of the cabinet may, however, be omitted and the inner side of the same also, if desired, and in some cases the cabinet may be made without either shelves or bottom, the door 3 constituting the back of the cabinet, the door-frame 2 the inner side of the same, and the sill 1 the bottom, the purpose of the cabinet being to protect its contents from access thereto, for which purpose only the top, outer side, and front door are absolutely necessary. Where the inner side of the cabinet is dispensed with, however, some form of framework should be employed to carry the fastening devices, whereby the cabinet is secured to the frame 2 of the doorway.

These fastening devices consist of a bolt 7, secured to the inner side of the cabinet and engaging with a keeper 8, which projects from the door-frame 2 and enters a recess 9 in the lower portion of the inner side of the cabinet, as shown in Fig. 4, engagement of the bolt with the keeper effected being by simply placing the inner side of the cabinet against the door-frame 2 while said cabinet is held in the elevated position and then lowering the cabinet into position on the step, which action effects engagement of the bolt 7 with the keeper 8 and effectually prevents any movement of the cabinet away from the door-frame 2 without first lifting the same, so as to free the bolt from engagement with the keeper. In order to prevent such raising of the cabinet when the door 3 is closed, said door has secured to it a plate 10 with projecting tongue 11, which tongue enters a recess 12 in the back of the cabinet, and thus locks the latter vertically until the door has first been opened, so as to withdraw the tongue 11 from engagement with said recess.

One of the shelves 6 of the cabinet is hinged at the back of the same, as shown at 13, and is supported by a spring 14 or other equivalent means, so that when said shelf is not loaded or has an empty receptacle thereon it will be elevated, so that a retainer 15 on the under side of the front portion of the shelf will be free from engagement with the latch 16 on the door 5 when the latter is closed. When, however, a filled receptacle is placed on the shelf, the latter is depressed, so that when the door is closed the retainer 15 will engage with the latch 16, and will thus prevent the opening of the door. When the cabinet is removed, however, access to the shelf may be permitted through an opening in the rear or other portion of the same, so as to permit said shelf to be lifted in order to release the latch 16 and permit of the opening of the door 5.

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

1. The combination with a door, a door-frame and a retainer thereon, of a door-step cabinet having a portion for removable engagement therewith, said members being constructed to prevent motion of the cabinet in

a horizontal direction, and means carried by the door and constructed to engage said cabinet so as to prevent its motion in a vertical direction, substantially as described.

5 2. The combination with a door-frame and a door, of a door-step cabinet, one of the members comprised by the cabinet and the frame having a vertical bolt and the other having a keeper for the same, and one of the members
10 comprised by the cabinet and the door having a horizontally-projecting piece and the other being provided with a recess for the reception of said piece, substantially as described.

3. The combination with a door, a door-

frame and a retainer thereon, of a door-step 15 cabinet having a portion in removable engagement with said retainer, with a device on the door engaging the cabinet and constructed to prevent vertical motion thereof, substantially as described. 20

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK BURNS.

Witnesses:

F. E. BECHTOLD,
JOS. H. KLEIN.