

No. 778,675.

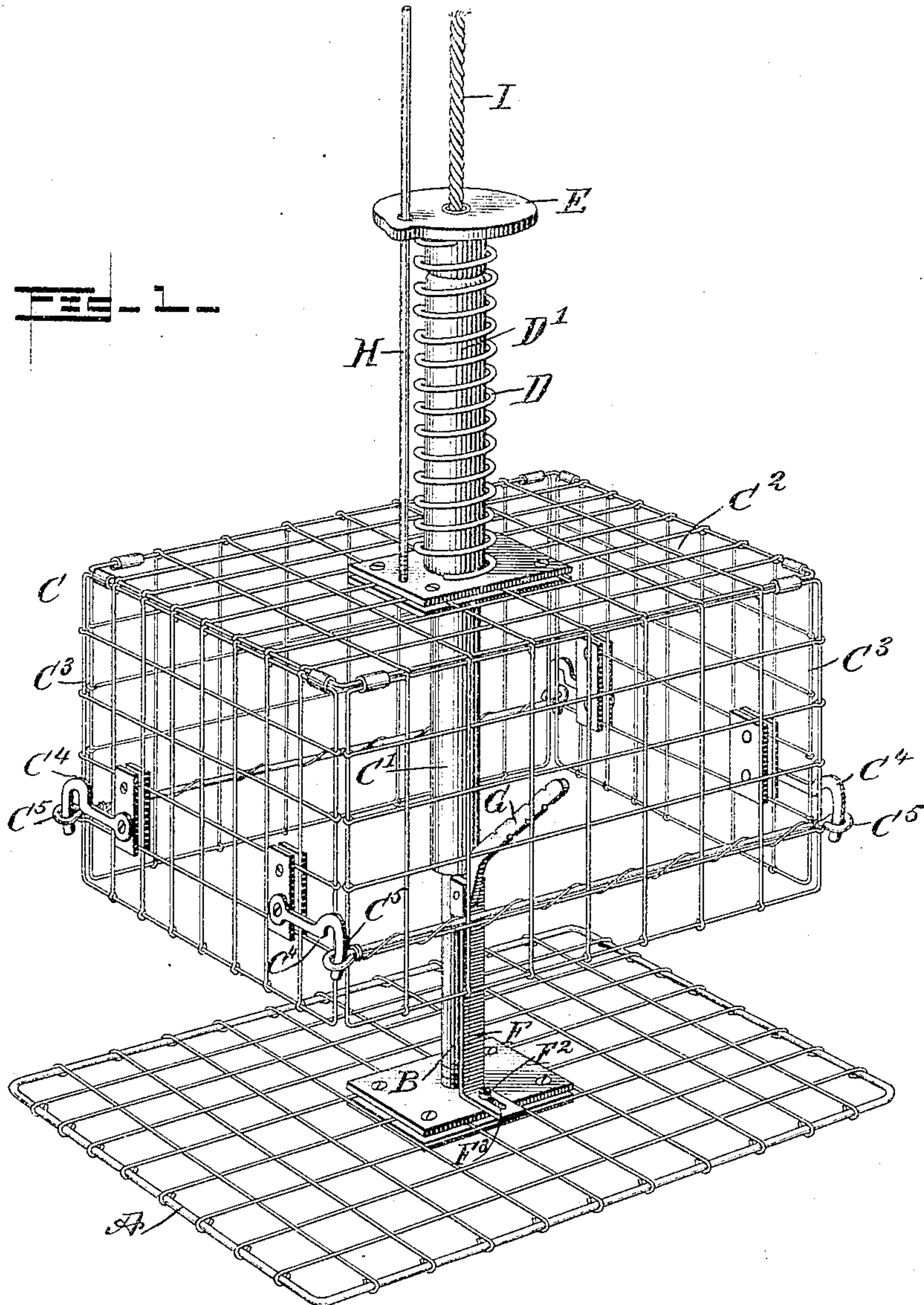
PATENTED DEC. 27, 1904.

J. KERNS.

ANIMAL TRAP.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 7, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

W. C. Abbott
Rev. G. Foster

INVENTOR

John Kerns

BY

M. W. Kerns

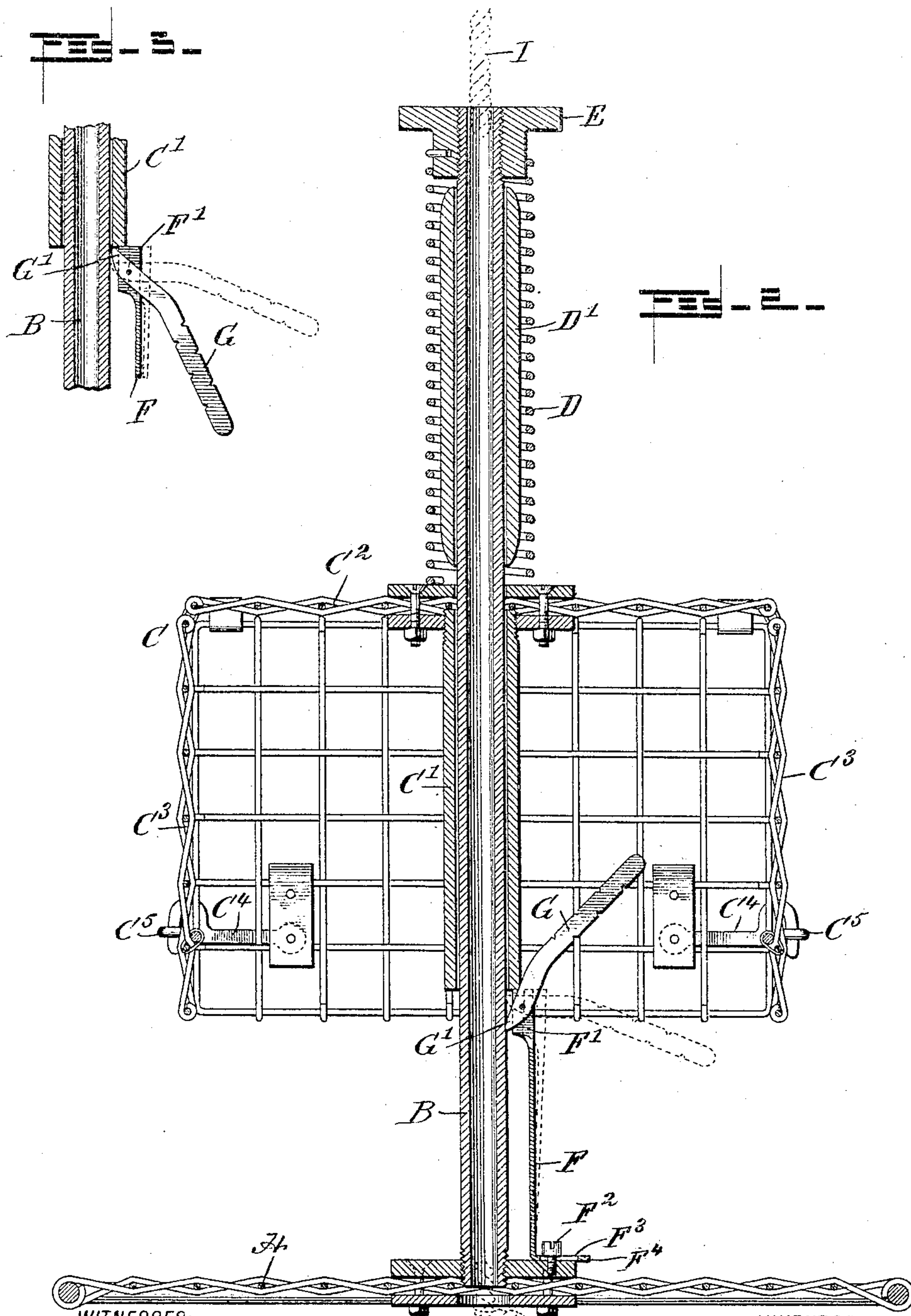
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ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN KERNS, OF WEST NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY.

ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 778,675, dated December 27, 1904.

Application filed September 7, 1904. Serial No. 223,577.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN KERNS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of West New York, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Animal-Trap, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved animal-trap, more especially designed for trapping alive fish, crabs, and other animals, the trap being simple and durable in construction, easily set, and quick in action.

The invention consists of novel features and parts and combinations of the same, as will be more fully described hereinafter and then pointed out in the claims.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement in a set position. Fig. 2 is a sectional side elevation of the improvement, and Fig. 3 is a sectional side elevation of the supporting and tripping mechanism for the basket.

On a base A, preferably made of wire-netting, is erected a central post B, on which is mounted to slide a tubular bearing C', secured to and forming part of a basket C, also made of wire-netting and disposed in inverted form over the base A, so that when the basket C is in a lowermost position its lower open end is closed by the base A. When the basket C is in a raised position, as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, then the animals can pass between the base A and the lower end of the basket to the interior thereof for getting at the bait, as hereinafter more fully explained.

The basket is preferably made collapsible, so as to allow of conveniently folding it up into comparatively little space for conveniently carrying the trap to the place where it is to be used. For the purpose described the basket C comprises a bottom C², to the middle of which a bearing C' is secured, and on the edges of the bottom C² are fulcrumed the sides

C³, adapted to be fastened together by suitable fastening devices, such as hooks C⁴, pivoted to one side and engaging a staple C⁵ on an adjacent side.

The basket C is pressed on at the upper face of the bottom C² by a spring D, coiled around a core D', held loosely on the upper end of the post B, and the upper end of the said spring D abuts against a collar E, attached to the upper end of the post B. In order to hold the basket C in a raised position against the tension of the spring D, a spring-arm F is provided having a head F', adapted to engage the lower end of the bearing C', so as to hold the latter, and consequently the basket C, in an uppermost or raised position, as plainly shown in Figs. 1. and 2.

The spring-arm F is adjustably secured to the foot of the post B by means of a bolt F² screwing in the said foot and passing through an elongated slot F³, formed in the bottom flange F⁴ of the arm F. A trigger G is fulcrumed on the head F' and is adapted to rest with one end, G', against the side of the post B, the other end of the trigger being arranged to receive the bait, so that when the animal exerts a downward pull on the bait, and thereby imparts a swinging motion to the trigger G, then the end G' thereof bearing against the post B causes the spring-arm F to swing outwardly to disengage the head F' from the lower end of the bearing C', thus releasing the basket, which now slides quickly downward by its own weight and the aid of the spring D to entrap the animal alive within the basket C now closed by the base A. If desired, the trigger G instead of being inclined upwardly, as shown in Fig. 2, may be held in a downwardly-inclined position, as shown in Fig. 3, it being necessary in this case for the animal to exert an upward pull on the trigger G in order to release the basket.

The basket C and the base A are preferably rectangular in shape, as indicated in Fig. 1, and in order to hold the sides of the basket C in alinement with the sides of the base a rod H is provided, secured to the upper end of the basket and extending loosely through an aperture in the collar E. The post B may be

engaged by a flexible support, such as a rope or chain, to allow of conveniently lowering the trap down into the water or other place after the trap is set.

5 From the foregoing it will be seen that the trap is very simple and durable in construction, can be cheaply manufactured and easily set up, and the trap can be readily lowered into the water for the fish, crabs, &c., to get
10 to the bait and to become entrapped alive within the basket C, as previously explained.

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

15 1. An animal-trap comprising a post, an inverted basket having a central bearing slidably mounted on the post, an arm for engaging the bearing to support the basket in a raised position, and a trigger connected with the said arm for disengaging it from the said
20 bearing.

2. An animal-trap comprising a post, an inverted spring-pressed basket having a central bearing slidably mounted on the said post, a spring-arm for engaging the lower
25 end of the bearing, to support the basket in a raised position, and a trigger fulcrumed on the spring-arm and bearing against the said post.

3. An animal-trap comprising a base, a post
30 erected centrally thereon and provided with an apertured collar at its upper end, an inverted basket having a central bearing sliding on the post, the open lower end of the basket being adapted to rest on the said base for the
35 latter to close the basket, a rod secured to the upper end of the basket and extending loosely through the aperture of the collar of the post, and a supporting and releasing device for the said basket.

40 4. An animal-trap comprising a base, a post erected centrally thereon, an inverted basket having a central bearing sliding on the post, the open lower end of the basket being adapted to rest on the said base, for the latter to
45 close the basket, an arm for engaging the bearing to support the basket in a raised position, a trigger connected with the arm for disengaging it from the bearing, and a spring

coiled on the upper end of the post and bearing on the top of the basket. 50

5. An animal-trap comprising a base, a post erected centrally thereon, an inverted basket having a central bearing sliding on the post, the open lower end of the basket being adapted to rest on the said base, for the latter to
55 close the basket, and a supporting and releasing device for the said basket, consisting of a spring-arm adapted to engage the lower end of the said bearing, and a trigger fulcrumed on the said spring-arm and bearing against
60 the said post.

6. An animal-trap comprising a base, a post erected centrally on the base and provided with an apertured collar at its upper end, an inverted basket having a central bearing sliding
65 on the post, a spring between the collar of the post and the basket, a rod secured to the basket and working freely in the aperture of the collar of the post, an arm for engaging the bearing to hold the basket in a raised position, and a trigger connected with the arm for
70 disengaging it from the bearing.

7. An animal-trap comprising a base, a post erected centrally thereon, an inverted collapsible basket formed of a bottom having a central bearing sliding on the post, and sides
75 hinged to the bottom and detachably connected with each other, the open lower end of the basket being adapted to rest on the said base, for the latter to close the basket, and a supporting and releasing device for the said
80 basket.

8. An animal-trap provided with a collapsible basket comprising a bottom having a central tubular bearing projecting from the inner
85 face thereof, sides hinged to the bottom, and locking devices for locking adjacent sides one to the other.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 90

JOHN KERNS.

Witnesses:

THEO. G. HOSTER,
EVERARD BOLTON MARSHALL.