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AUTOMATIC HEN'S NEST.

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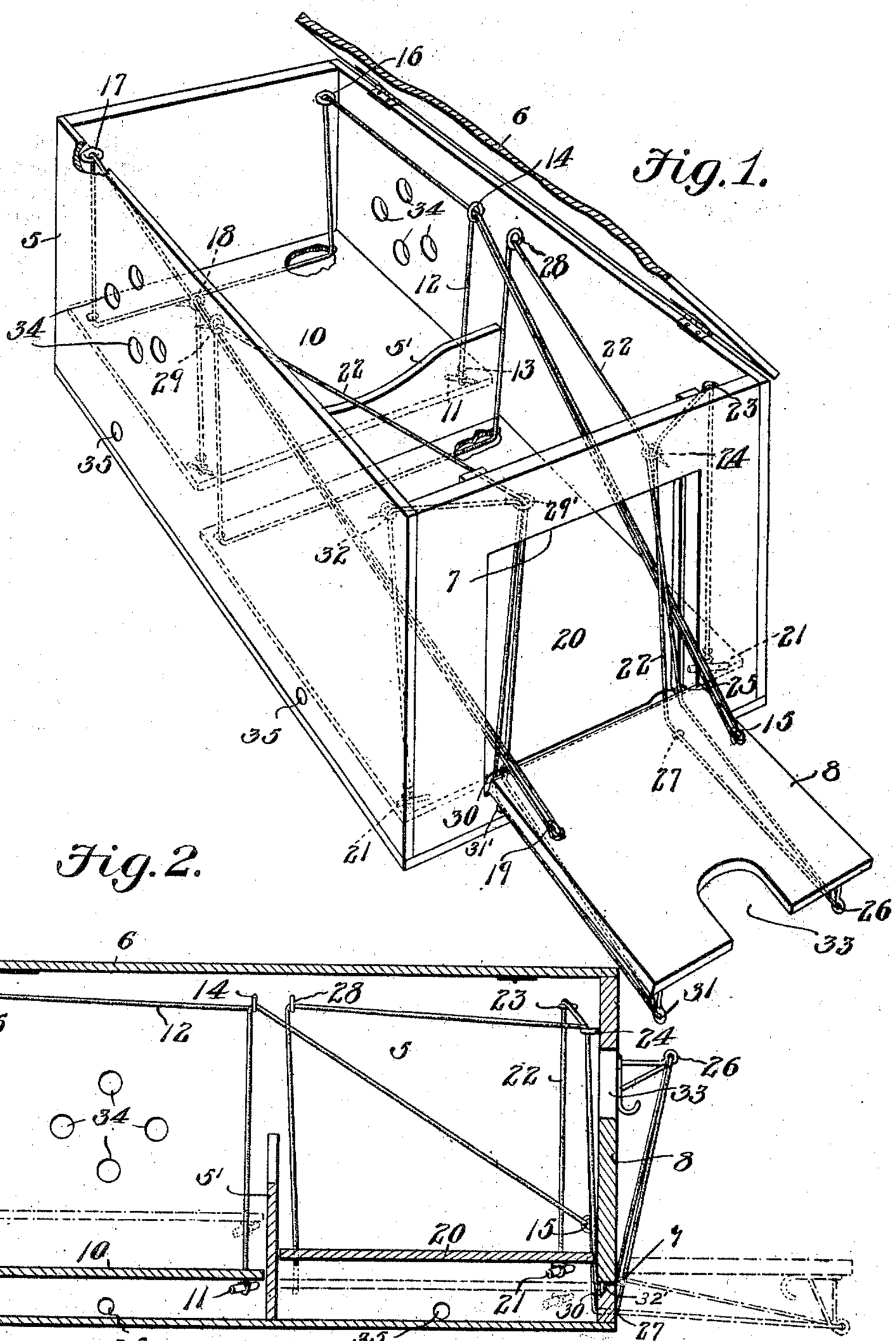

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses

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AUTOMATIC HEN'S NEST.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED J. ABSHIER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Diehlstadt, in the county of Scott and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Automatic Hen's Nest, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to nests for hens and other domestic fowls, and has for its object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient device of this character in which the weight of the hen automatically closes the door of the hen-house, so as to prevent the entrance of other fowls while the hen is sitting.

A further object of the invention is to provide means for automatically moving the door to open position when the hen leaves the nest and means for permitting free vertical movement of the nest and actuating-platform.

A still further object is to generally improve this class of devices so as to add to their utility and durability as well as to reduce the cost of the manufacture.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hen's nest constructed in accordance with my invention, the pivoted lid or top of the hen-house being broken away to more clearly show the interior construction. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view showing in full lines the door closed and in dotted lines the door open.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures of the drawings.

The improved device consists of a box or casing 5, which may be constructed of wood or other suitable material and which constitutes the hen-house, said casing being provided with a hinged top or cover 6 and having an opening 7, formed in one end thereof, which is closed by a swinging door 8, pivoted at 9 to the casing, as shown. The casing 5 is preferably divided by a transverse partition 5′ into a plurality of communicating compartments, and mounted for vertical movement in the rear compartment of the hen-house or casing is a nest-supporting platform 10, designed to receive the straw or other material of which the nest is formed.

Secured to the bottom of the platform, at one corner thereof, as by a pin 11, is a cord or other flexible medium 12, which passes upwardly through an opening 13 in the platform and through an eye 14, disposed in alinement with but spaced from the opening 13, and thence to an eye 15, secured to the inner face of the door 8 at a point adjacent the pivot 9. The cord 12 is fastened in any suitable manner to the eye 15 and the free end thereof extended rearwardly through the eye 14 and through a similar eye 16, secured to the rear wall of the hen-house, being then passed downwardly beneath and across the platform 10 and thence upwardly and forwardly through the eyes 17 and 18 to an eye 19, secured to the pivoted door and preferably disposed in alinement with the eye 15. It will thus be seen that when the hen enters the nest the weight of the fowl on the platform 10 will depress the latter, and thereby cause the flexible cords to move the pivoted door to closed position and hold the door in that position so long as the hen is on the nest.

As a means for automatically opening the door there is provided a vertically-movable actuating-platform 20, to which is secured by a pin 21 a cord 22, which passes upwardly through an eye 23, secured to the side wall of the hen-house, and thence downwardly through an eye 24 and a similar eye 25, secured to the pivoted edge of the door 8, and thence beneath the pivoted edge of said door to a bracket 26, secured to the outer face of the door at a point adjacent the free end thereof. The cord then passes through an opening 27 in the front wall of the hen-house and thence upwardly through the eye 24 and rearwardly to a similar eye 28, thence downwardly beneath and across the platform 20 and upwardly through an eye 29, secured to the side wall of the hen-house opposite the eye 28. After engaging the eye 29 the cord 22 passes forwardly through an eye 29 and

downwardly through an eye 30 on the pivoted edge of the door to a corresponding bracket 31 and thence rearwardly through an opening 31′ in the front wall of the casing and upwardly to the eye 29′, the end of the cord being threaded through an eye 32 and fastened to the bottom of the platform 20 by the pin 21. The lower wall of the opening 7 is formed with spaced recesses or depressions 32′ for the reception of the eyes 25 and 30 when the door 8 is closed. It will thus be seen that when the hen leaves the nest and steps upon the platform 20 the latter will be depressed, thereby causing the cord 22 to exact a downward pull on the brackets and move the door to open position and at the same time by reason of flexible connection between the door and the platform 10 move the latter platform to elevated position or in position to again close the door as soon as the hen enters the nest.

As a means for assisting the hen in opening the door should the latter for any cause have a tendency to stick the door is provided at its free edge with an opening 33, through which the fowl may project its head and bear upon the door in the act of leaving the hen-house.

The side walls of the hen-house are provided with a series of ventilating-openings 34, and formed in said side walls below the platforms 10 and 20 are openings 35 to permit the escape of air when said platforms are depressed or lowered.

The brackets 26 and 31 also serve as a means for supporting the free end of the pivoted door when the latter is in open position, as best shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

From the foregoing description it is thought that the construction and operation of the device will be readily understood by those skilled in the art, and further description thereof is deemed unnecessary.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. In a device of the class described, a casing provided with a pivoted door having an opening formed in its free end, a nest-supporting platform arranged within the casing and adapted to close the door when the platform is depressed, and an actuating-platform operatively connected with the door for opening the latter and simultaneously elevating the nest-supporting platform.

2. In a device of the class described, a casing provided with a movable door, a vertically-movable nest-supporting platform, arranged within the casing and adapted to close the door when the platform is depressed, and an actuating-platform operatively connected with the door for opening the latter and simultaneously elevating the nest supporting the platform, there being an opening formed in the walls of the casing below said platforms to permit the escape of air.

3. In a device of the class described, a casing having a pivoted door the free end of which is provided with an opening, a partition extending transversely of the casing and dividing the latter into a plurality of communicating compartments, a nest-supporting platform mounted for vertical movement in one of the compartments and adapted to close the door when said platform is depressed, and an actuating-platform mounted for vertical movement in the opposite compartment and operatively connected to the door for opening the latter and simultaneously elevating the nest-supporting platform.

4. In a device of the class described, a casing provided with a pivoted door, a nest-supporting platform mounted for vertical movement within the casing, a flexible connection between the platform and the inner face of the door for closing the latter when the platform is depressed, an actuating-platform coacting with the nest-supporting platform and movable simultaneously in the opposite direction, and a flexible connection between the actuating-platform and the outer face of the door for opening the latter.

5. In a device of the class described, a casing provided with a pivoted door having an opening in its free edge, brackets secured to the door on each side of the opening and adapted to support the door when in lowered position, a nest-supporting platform arranged within the casing and adapted to close the door when the platform is depressed, an actuating-platform mounted for vertical movement within the casing, and a flexible connection between the actuating-platform and the brackets for opening the door.

6. In a device of the class described, a casing having a pivoted door, a partition extending transversely of the casing and dividing the latter into a plurality of communicating compartments, guiding devices secured to the side walls of the casing, a nest-supporting platform mounted for vertical movement in one of the compartments, a flexible medium extending across the bottom of the platform and passing through the guiding devices for connection with the inner face of the door for closing the latter, an actuating-platform disposed within the opposite compartment, and a flexible connection between the actuating-platform and the outer face of the door for opening said door.

7. In a device of the class described, a casing provided with a downwardly-swinging pivoted door having an opening formed in its free end, brackets secured to the door, a partition extending transversely of the casing and dividing the latter into a plurality of com-

municating compartments, a nest-supporting platform mounted for vertical movement in one of the compartments, a flexible connection between the platform and the inner face of the door for closing the latter, an actuating-platform mounted within the opposite compartment, and a flexible medium secured to the actuating-platform and extending beneath the pivoted edge of the door for engagement with the brackets whereby the downward movement of the actuating-platform will automatically open the door.

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