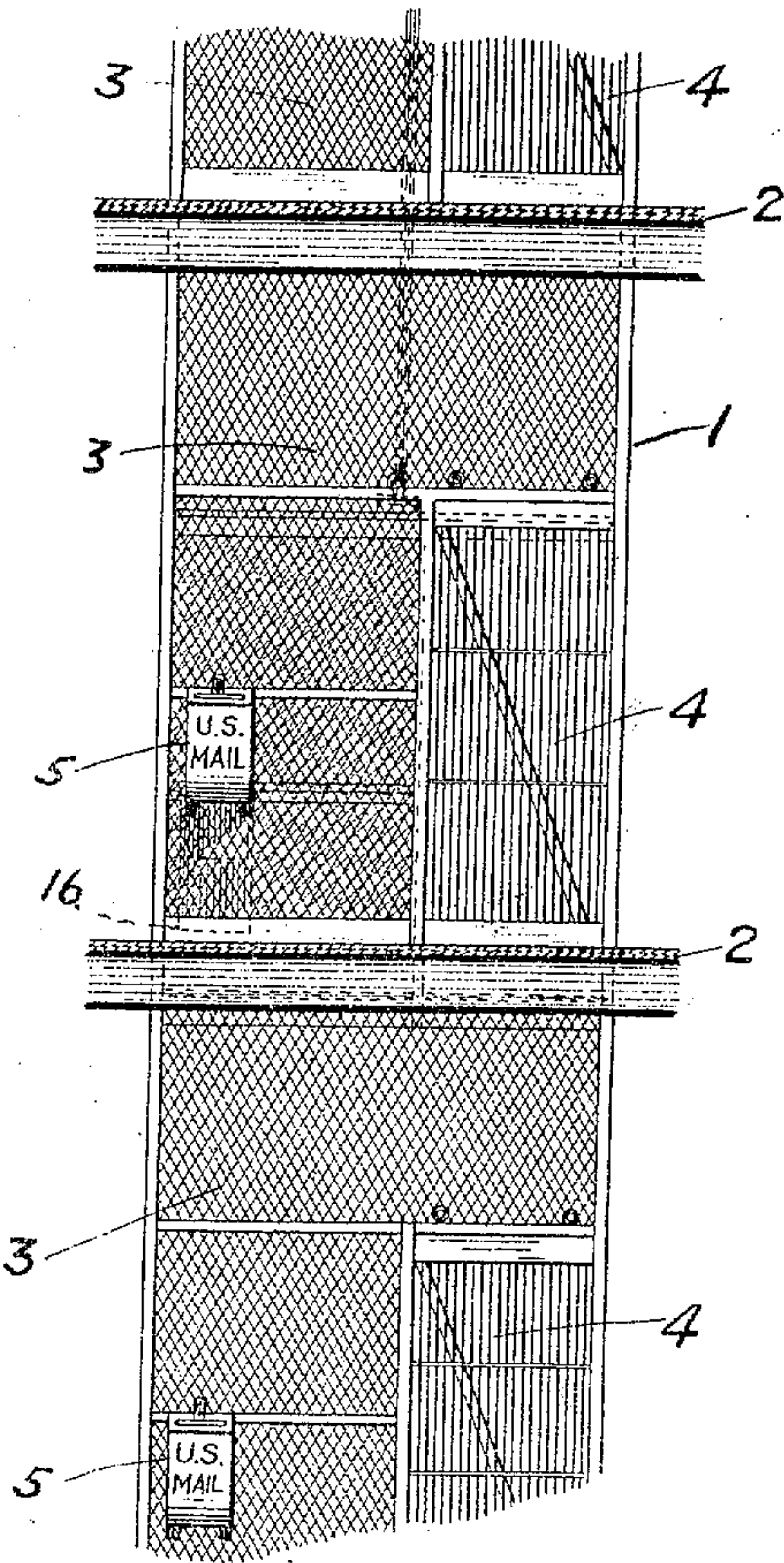
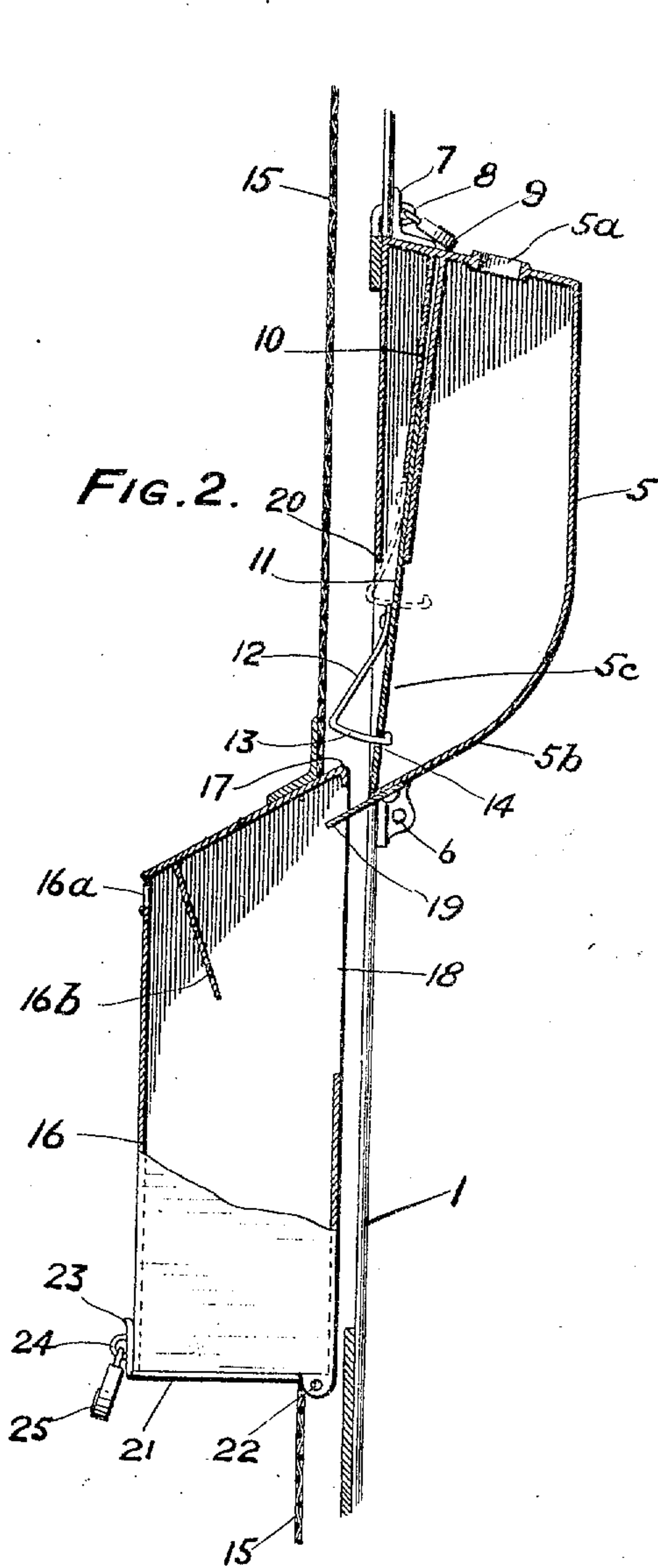


J. A. STEINMETZ.
MAIL COLLECTING APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 16, 1909.

956,743.

Patented May 3, 1910.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

MAIL-COLLECTING APPARATUS.

956,743.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 3, 1910.

Application filed October 16, 1909. Serial No. 522,927.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Mail-Collecting Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improved apparatus providing means for the automatic collection by an elevator or traveling carriage of mail deposited on the several floors of a building or in several positions along the path of the traveling carriage.

In the preferred construction, stationary boxes of peculiar character are placed on the several floors of a building, against or in the grating forming the front of the elevator shaft, and a box, adapted for opening and receiving the contents of the stationary boxes, is set in the front wall or grating of the elevator car.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows my improved apparatus in conjunction with a front elevation of an elevator shaft, and Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional elevation taken through my apparatus.

The construction illustrated comprises an elevator shaft 1 which passes through several floors 2 and is closed by the gratings 3 containing doors 4. The grating on each floor has fixed thereto a letter box 5 having an inlet 5^a and an inclined bottom 5^b. The bottom of the box is connected to the grating by a hinge 6 and the top is connected by a hasp 7 thereon through which passes an eye 8 fixed to the grating, a lock 9 fixing the hasp upon the eye. This box 5 is provided with a stationary way 10, extending downwardly from its top, for guiding a sliding door 11 which is mechanically elevated to open the bottom aperture 5^c of the box and drops by gravity to close it. The door 11 has fixed to the lower part thereof the long arm 12 of an L-shaped spring having a short arm 13 which extends through an aperture 14 in the door, the angle of the spring normally extending outwardly from the door.

The front grating 15 of the elevator car has set therein a letter box 16 having a part 17, disposed between the parts 3 and 15, so that in moving upward it will engage the arm 13 and lift the door 11. The box 16 is also provided with the opening 18 in its top which is adapted to register with the open bottom of the box 5 and to pass the contents

of the latter into the box 16, the box 5 being provided with the flexible chute 19, adapted to project through the opening 18, to facilitate the discharge of matter into the box 16. As the door 11 is carried upward by the box 16, the L-shaped spring is disengaged from the box by the engagement of the part 12 with the lower edge of its stationary back 20. The spring is thus forced inward so as to clear the box 16 after the door 11 has been elevated to open the box 5, and the door again drops after the box 16 has been moved past the spring. In the downward movement of the elevator car, the box 16 strikes the member 12 of the spring and the latter is moved out of the way without moving the closed door. Mail is delivered to the stationary boxes 5 through the apertures 5^a and it can also be deposited in the movable box 16 through an aperture 16^a, an apron 16^b depending from the top of the box 16 directing the mail downward so that it cannot be shot through the aperture 18. A door 21, carried by the hinge 22, closes the bottom of the box 16, the door having the hasp 23 which is engaged by the eye 24 on the box and held thereon by the lock 25.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In apparatus of the character described, a stationary receptacle, and means comprising an elevator car and a receptacle movable therewith whereby said stationary receptacle is opened and discharges its contents into said movable receptacle.

2. In apparatus of the character described, a stationary receptacle having an outlet, a door for controlling said outlet, and means comprising an elevator car and a receptacle movable therewith whereby said door is opened and the contents of said stationary receptacle is discharged into said movable receptacle.

3. In apparatus of the character described, a stationary box having an aperture adapted for delivering mail thereto and an aperture adapted for discharging said mail, mechanism for controlling said last named aperture, and means comprising an elevator car and a receptacle movable therewith whereby said mechanism is operated and the contents of said stationary box delivered to said movable receptacle.

4. In apparatus of the character described, a stationary box having an opening, a sliding door adapted for closing said opening, a device engaging said door and movable

relatively thereto, and means comprising a movable receptacle whereby said device is caused to open said door in one direction of travel of said movable receptacle.

5 5. In apparatus of the character described, the combination with an elevator car of several boxes disposed on different floors of a building along the path of travel of said elevator car and means operated by the
10 movement of said car whereby said boxes are caused to deliver their contents to said car.

15 6. In apparatus of the character described, the combination with an elevator car and a receptacle carried thereby, of several boxes with automatically closed outlets disposed on different floors of a building along the path of travel of said car, and means where-
20 by said car causes said outlets to be opened and the contents of said boxes to be delivered.

7. In apparatus of the character described, the combination with an elevator car, of

several boxes disposed on several floors of a building along the path of travel of said 25 car, sliding doors adapted for automatically closing the respective boxes, a receptacle carried by said car, and means whereby said doors are automatically opened and the contents of said boxes delivered to said recep- 30 tacle.

8. In apparatus of the character described, in combination with an elevator car, several boxes disposed along the path of travel of said car, an automatically closing door for 35 each of said boxes, an angular spring fixed to each of said doors, and means carried by said car whereby said spring is engaged to open said door and is automatically disengaged to permit said door to close. 40

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my name this 15th day of October A. D. 1909.

JOSEPH A. STEINMETZ.

Witnesses:

ROBERT JAMES EARLEY,
JOS. G. DENNY, Jr.