J. P. WILLIAMS.

ELECTRICALLY PROTECTED HOLDER FOR POCKET BOOKS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 28, 1915.

1,250,743. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

Fig. 1.

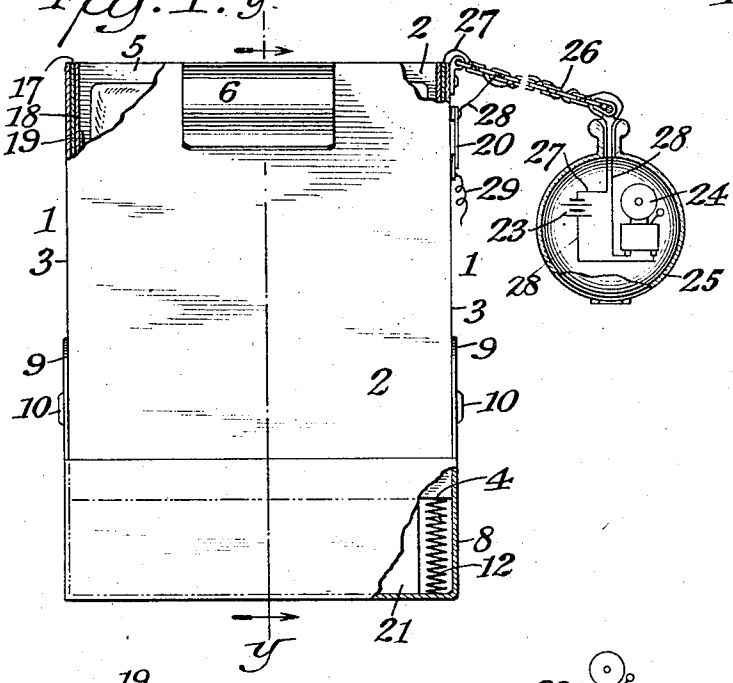


Fig. 2.

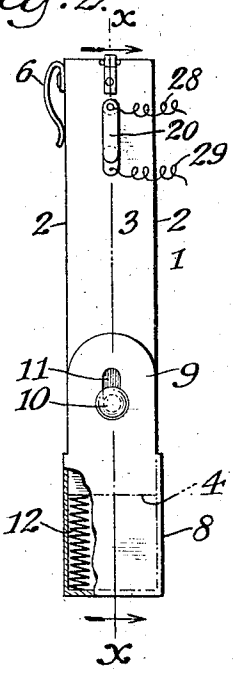


Fig. 3.

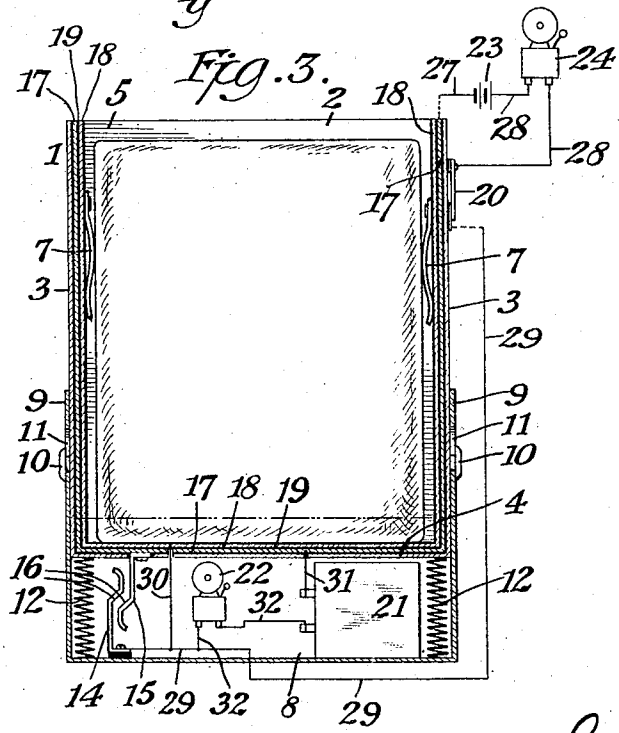
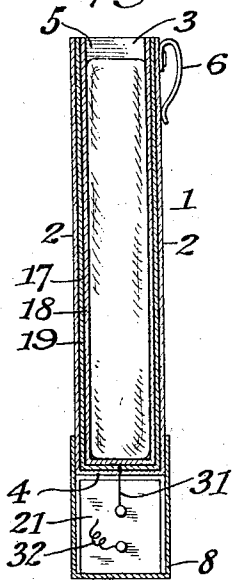


Fig. 4.



Inventor

John P. Williams,

By his Attorney

Wm. Reed Littell

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN PRITCHARD WILLIAMS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

ELECTRICALLY-PROTECTED HOLDER FOR POCKET-BOOKS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES.

1,250,743. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 18, 1917.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. WILLIAMS, a citizen of the United States, and resident of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electrically-Protected Holders for Pocket-Books and Similar Articles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to electrically-protected holders for pocketbooks, wallets, or other valuables, and it has particular relation to an improved holder which is adapted to be carried in the pocket or otherwise conveniently used and which will afford effective protection against the loss of valuables carried in pocketbooks, wallets or the like, or other valuables carried by the holder.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and improved device of the character above set forth, which will be convenient and effective in service and operation, and which affords effective protection against the loss of pocketbooks or similar valuable articles, and against attack by pickpockets, by automatically giving an alarm to the person carrying the device if an attempt is made to remove the contents of the holder. A further object of my invention is to produce a protective device of this character which will effectively guard against an attack upon the holder itself by an attempt to cut into the walls or parts thereof with a metallic instrument.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a front view of the improved holder, partly broken away to show the interior construction, and illustrating also the connection with the main holder of a separate case for carrying the battery and alarm mechanism.

Fig. 2 is an edge view of the holder, partly broken away to show the interior construction.

Fig. 3 is a cross-section, on the line *x*—*x*, Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a cross-section, on the line *y*—*y*, Fig. 1.

In the drawings, the electrical connections with the holder are shown diagrammatically.

Corresponding parts in all the figures are denoted by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates the main body of the holder, which is constituted by a box or casing of suitable dimensions and constructed of light metal, such as will offer resistance to cutting (for instance, aluminum), though it may be constructed of any other suitable or adapted material. The casing 1 is adapted to be carried in the pocket, or otherwise used as desired for the protection of valuable articles, and under its conditions of use its dimensions are such as will conveniently receive and hold a pocketbook, wallet or the like, containing valuables, or other valuable articles. For instance, in practice, the main casing may be approximately 5 inches in height by 4½ inches in width and 1 inch in depth. Said casing may be covered with leather or other material, to form an attractive and finished exterior, as desired, and it comprises front and rear side walls, 2—2, end walls, 3—3, and a bottom 4, forming an inclosure for the pocketbook or wallet which is deposited or placed therein. In the construction as herein shown, the casing 1 has an open top, as at 5, for convenience in the insertion or removal of the pocketbook or other article to be protectively carried thereby, but it will be understood that a suitable top closure, hinged or otherwise mounted, may be employed if desired. The casing is also preferably provided, under conditions in which it is especially intended for service in an inside coat pocket, with a suitable catch, as at 6, projecting exteriorly at the top of one of its side walls and adapted to engage over the edge of the pocket to retain the holder in its normal operative position therein, and it is also preferably provided interiorly with suitable means for holding the pocketbook or wallet in retained position when placed within the casing. Such latter means may consist of bowed plate springs, as at 7, carried by and projecting interiorly from the end walls 3 of the casing and adapted to tensionally bear against the edges of the pocketbook contained therein.

The holder also comprises a bottom compartment or base portion, 8, carried by the main body 1 and slidably mounted with relation thereto. This base portion constitutes a movable false bottom, and it is preferably constructed as an inclosure having a bottom and side walls and adapted to have a relative movement to and from the bottom of the main body of the casing 1, the slidable connection between the body 1 and said

base portion 8 being preferably constituted by extensions or flange plates, 9—9, projecting upwardly from the end walls of the base and slidably operating parallel to the end walls 3 of the body 1, the relative sliding movement being limited by pins, 10, projecting laterally from the sides 3 of the body 1 and operating in slots, 11, in the flange plates 9. The normal relative position between the body 1 and base 8 is maintained by coiled springs, 12, contained within the base compartment and interposed between the bottom thereof and the bottom 4 of the body 1. These springs normally exert their tension to spread the body 1 and base 8 from each other with relation to their relatively slidable mounting, and within the base portion 8 are mounted the main contacts of the electrical circuit by which the holder is electrically protected. In the preferred construction, these contacts comprise an arm, 14, projecting upwardly from the bottom of the base 8, and an arm, 15, projecting downwardly from the bottom 4 of the body 1, these arms having oppositely projecting contact points, as at 16, which will come together, to complete the circuit, when the body 1 and base 8 are at their farthest point of relative extension under action of the springs 12.

From the foregoing description, it will be understood that, when the holder is placed in the pocket or any other desired operative position with the base portion 8 underlying the body portion 1, the arms 14 and 15 will be in operative contact under action of the springs 12 to force the relatively slidable body 1 and base 8 from each other. Then, when the pocketbook or wallet is inserted in the holder it acts by gravity against the tension of the springs 12 and causes the sliding action of the base 8 and body 1 toward each other, thus carrying the contact arms 14 and 15 from contact and holding the circuit open at that point. This open contact will be maintained, under the gravity conditions just described, so long as the wallet or other article remains in the holder, but upon the removal or withdrawal of the wallet from the holder the gravity pressure thereon is released and the springs 12 operate to press the relatively slidable base 8 and body 1 apart and thus bring the contact arms 14 and 15 together and close the circuit at that point.

To protect the holder against an attempt to cut into the walls thereof with a metallic instrument, the casing 1 is in the preferred construction provided with a lining consisting of two metallic plates, 17 and 18, respectively, (or a suitable arrangement of wires or conductors corresponding to such plates) which are separated by an insulation, such as a fiber sheet, 19, and are respectively in connection with the electrical protective circuit of the holder at opposite polarities thereof. Thus, an attempt to penetrate or cut the casing of the holder with a metallic instrument at any point protected by the lining construction just described, will close the circuit across the insulated lining plates and through the metallic instrument and cause the actuation of the alarm.

Included also in the protective circuit is a controlling switch, as at 20, which, in the preferred construction herein shown, is located at a convenient point upon the casing 1 and manually operative exteriorly thereof. This switch may be of any suitable or adapted construction, and may be of a type adapted to be key locked if desired. The controlling switch is normally closed, and thus under normal conditions does not affect the completion of the protective circuit in its operation under the general conditions of use, when the pocketbook is removed from the casing and the contacts 14 and 15 operate to close the circuit or when the circuit is closed by an attempt to penetrate or cut into the casing. The switch, however, provides a means whereby the conditions of the device may be conveniently controlled by the user, to hold the circuit open when desired by opening the switch from its normally-closed position, when the pocketbook or other articles are not within the holder and the circuit is therefore closed at the contacts 14 and 15 by action of the springs 12. It will be understood that this normally-closed controlling switch for governing the action of the circuit may be located at any convenient or desired point of the device or mechanism.

The battery source of electrical energy for the protective circuit, and the alarm mechanism, may be conveniently located as desired with relation to the holder. In the embodiment of my invention under conditions in which a compact construction is desired, involving a single holder device adapted to be carried in its entirety in one pocket or otherwise conveniently used, the battery, as at 21, and the alarm device, as at 22 (which in the present instance is shown as an electro-magnetic bell or buzzer), are preferably located in the bottom compartment or base portion 8, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. I have also shown in Fig. 1 another embodiment of the arrangement of the battery and alarm device, under different conditions of desired use, in which the battery, as at 23, and alarm device, as at 24, are located in a separate casing or holder, 25, adapted to be carried in the vest-pocket or other location separate from the main holder 1 and connected therewith by a suitable chain or cable including conductors in the protective circuit. The separate casing 25 is preferably of small and convenient size, similar to a watch case, and may be of any suit-

able contour, and it may also be protected by a lining arrangement in circuit and similar to that before described with reference to the casing 1, to protect said small separate casing 25 against an attempt to puncture or cut into the same with a metallic instrument. The connection between the separate casing 25 and the main holder may be of any adapted flexible character providing the circuit connections, but in the preferred construction herein shown it consists of a chain or cable, 26, in which are interwoven two conducting wires, 27 and 28, suitably insulated and respectively in connection with opposite polarities of the battery source. Under these conditions of construction the connection between the separate casing 25 and the main holder is protected against an attempt to cut through the same with a metallic instrument, as such an attack would close the circuit between the wire conductors 27 and 28 and the metallic instrument and cause the actuation of the alarm.

It will be understood that the holder is not essentially constructed of metal, but that it may be formed of leather or other flexible material suitably stiffened to provide for its operative functions, or may be made to simulate a pocketbook or wallet, in which conditions in lieu of the lining plates 17 and 18 conducting wires may be run in relation to the leather or flexible body or housed therein to form the circuit connections. It will also be understood that the improved holder constituting my invention is not essentially limited to uses in which it is carried in the pocket, but that it will under other and various conditions of use, such as when placed or retained in operative position at any desired location, serve as an effective electrically-protected device for containing pocketbooks or wallets or other articles of value which by gravity action will retain the main contacts 14 and 15 open while such articles remain in the holder.

I will now proceed to describe the circuit connections as shown in the diagrammatic illustration in the drawings, under which the device is electrically operative to actuate the alarm in case of withdrawal or removal of the contents of the holder or an attack upon the device by puncture or cutting. When the pocketbook or wallet or other valuable article is placed in the casing 1 and pressed down into place, the gravity action against the tension of the springs 12 causes the casing 1 and base portion 8 to move toward each other in their relatively slidable mounting and the main contacts 14 and 15 are correspondingly moved from each other and the protective circuit is retained open at that point. It may be here mentioned, that, in the practical use of the device, the normally-closed switch 20 is adjusted to open position when the device is not in use, or when the main contacts 14 and 15 are closed under conditions at other times than when it is desired to actuate the alarm, thus retaining the circuit open at said switch; but, after the pocketbook or other article is placed in the holder and the contacts 14 and 15 are then opened, the switch 20 is brought to its normally-closed position, to close the circuit at the switch and enable the operation of the circuit under conditions involving the withdrawal of the pocketbook or article from the holder or an attack upon the device by puncturing or cutting.

With the holder in the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, under the conditions in which the battery 23 and alarm device 24 are located within the separate casing 25, and the main contacts 14 and 15 are open under the gravity action of the pocketbook or article within the holder, the circuit connections are as follows: The lining conductor plate 17 is in electrical connection with the main contact 15, and from said plate the wire conductor 27 of the chain or cable 26 extends to one side of the battery 23 within the separate casing 25, and from the other side of said battery the wire conductor 28 of the chain or cable 26 extends to one side of the alarm device 24 within the separate casing 25 and across said alarm device and from the other side thereof to one side of the normally-closed controlling switch 20. From the other side of said switch a conducting wire, 29, extends to the main contact 14, and from said conductor 29 a branch conducting wire, 30, extends to the lining conductor plate 18, the conductor 29 being thus in electrical connection with said lining plate 18.

The operation of the circuit as above described, upon removal of the pocketbook or other article from the casing 1, causing the main contacts 14 and 15 to close under action of the springs 12, will actuate the alarm through the completed circuit as follows: from one side of the battery 23 through the conductor 27 and the lining conductor plate 17 to the main contact 15 and across the closed contacts 15 and 14 and through the conductor 29 to the normally-closed controlling switch 20 and through the conductor 28 to and across the alarm device 24 and to the other side of the battery 23.

The operation of said above described circuit, in case of an attack by an attempt to puncture or cut through the lining plates 17 and 18 with a metallic instrument, with the main contacts 14 and 15 remaining open, will actuate the alarm through the completed circuit as follows: From one side of the battery 23 through the conductor 27 to the lining conductor plate 17 and across through the metallic instrument to the lining conductor plate 18 and through the conductor 30 and conductor 29 to and across the

normally-closed controlling switch 20 and through the conductor 28 to and across the alarm device 24 and to the other side of the battery 23.

In the event of an attempt to cut through the chain or cable 26 and its conducting wires 27 and 28 with a metallic instrument, the circuit above described will actuate the alarm through the completed circuit as follows: From one side of the battery 23 through the conductor 27 and across through the metallic instrument to the conductor 28 and through said conductor 28 to and across the alarm device 24 and to the opposite side of the battery 23. It will be understood that under some conditions of an attempt to cut through the chain or cable 26 the conductors 27 and 28 will be brought together and thus complete the circuit without the intermediate agency of a metallic instrument or if the metallic instrument is removed from contact therewith, and the same conditions would be true with reference to the lining conductor plates 17 and 18 if they were brought together under a puncturing or cutting attack to complete the circuit without the intermediate agency of a metallic instrument.

The circuit connections as shown in the diagrammatic illustration in the drawings, with the holder in the position illustrated in Fig. 3, under the conditions of the compact construction in which the battery 21 and alarm device 22 are located within the bottom compartment 8 of the holder in lieu of the location of the battery and alarm device in a separate casing having a flexible conducting connection with the holder, are as follows: The lining conductor plate 17 is in electrical connection with the main contact 15 and in connection with one side of the battery 21 by a conductor, 31, and from the other side of said battery a conducting wire, 32, extends to and across the alarm device 22 and to conductor 29 which is in connection with the main contact 14, said conductor 29 being in connection through conductor 30 with the lining conductor plate 18.

Under the construction and circuit connections as just described, upon the operation of the device to close the main contacts 14 and 15, the alarm will be actuated by the completed circuit as follows: from one side of the battery 21 through the conductor 31 and lining conductor plate 17 to the contact 15 and across the contacts 15 and 14 and through the conductor 29 and conductor 32 to and across the alarm device 22 and to the other side of the battery 21. In the event of an attack by puncturing or cutting the lining plates 17 and 18 which will bring said plates together or in electrical connection, said circuit to actuate the alarm will be completed as follows: from one side of the battery 21 through the conductor 31 to the lining conductor plate 17 and across the conductor plates 17 and 18 and through the conductor 30 and conductors 29 and 32 to and across the alarm device 22 and to the other side of the battery 21. Suitable electric connection of the circuit including the battery 21 and alarm device 22 may be made with the normally-closed controlling switch 20, to enable operation of said switch to open and close the circuit as desired; which connection may be such that the circuit connection through the conductor 32 will be intercepted by the switch, as will be readily understood.

I do not restrict myself to any special conditions of circuit arrangement or circuit connections, as it is manifest that these may be varied, under the usual well-known application of electrical circuits or circuit connections, to suit the preferred conditions of use of the device.

In the diagrammatic illustration of circuit arrangements as shown in Fig. 3, the main conductors 27 and 29, of the circuit which includes the battery 23 and alarm 24 of the supplementary arrangement in which a separate casing or holder is provided for carrying said battery and alarm and adapted to be itself carried in the vest-pocket or other location separate from the main holder 1, are shown in dotted lines to indicate their connections with the operative circuit conditions of the main holder 1, whereby said supplementary or separate alarm device would be operated by the gravity action of the body of the holder or by the puncturing of the walls thereof, when this separate alarm embodiment of my invention is employed. It will be understood that it is not generally intended that the two embodiments, one of the type in which the alarm mechanism is contained and inclosed within the base portion 8 of the main holder 1 and the other type in which the alarm mechanism is contained in the separate casing or holder 25, are to be conjointly employed. For instance, in the type in which the battery 21 and alarm 22 is carried in the base 8 of the main holder 1, the supplementary pocket casing 25 with its battery 23 and alarm 24 would not usually be employed, and inversely when the separate pocket holder type 25 is employed it would not be necessary to have the other type of alarm mechanism inclusive of the battery 21 and alarm 22 in the base of the main holder 1. Thus, in the diagrammatic illustration of circuit arrangements in Fig. 3, as will be readily understood, if the main conductors 27 and 29 of the supplementary type of alarm mechanism 25 are not connected with the circuit conditions of the main holder 1, at the points indicated by the dotted lines continuing these conductors, the main device would be operative upon the circuit includ-

ing the battery 21 and alarm 22 in the base 8 of the main holder 1. But, if the supplementary alarm device 25 were employed the type of alarm mechanism in the base 8 of the holder 1 inclusive of the battery 21 and alarm 22 would not be essential to the protective service and would be cut out, and then the connection of the main conductors 27 and 29 of the circuit of the supplementary alarm device 25 inclusive of the battery 23 and alarm 24 would be connected with the circuit arrangements of the main holder 1 by continuing the conductors at the point indicated by dotted lines, respectively the conductor 27 with the lining plate 17 and the conductor 29 with the contact 14 and lining plate 18, and the device would then be operative upon the circuit of the supplementary pocket type of alarm mechanism 25.

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

1. A safety holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, an alarm means, and means whereby the withdrawal of the article from the casing will permit the slidable movement thereof and thereby cause the actuation of the alarm.

2. A safety holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle an inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, tensional means for forcing said casing and base portion from each other in their relatively slidable movement, an alarm means, and means operative to cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates under the expansion action of said tensional means, said tensional means being subject to contraction under the gravity action of the article within the casing, whereby the withdrawal of the article from the casing and the release of its gravity action will cause the actuation of the alarm.

3. A safety holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, an alarm means, and co-acting means respectively carried by said casing and said base portion and operative under the relatively slidable movement thereof to cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates.

4. A safety holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, tensional means for forcing said casing and base portion from each other in their relatively slidable movement, an alarm means, and co-acting means respectively carried by said casing and said base portion and operative under the relatively slidable movement thereof to cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates, said tensional means being subject to contraction under the gravity action of the article within the casing and said co-acting means being operative to cause the actuation of the alarm upon the withdrawal of the article from the casing and the release of its gravity action against the expansion of said tensional means.

5. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, an alarm means, an electric circuit including said alarm means, and means in said circuit operatable under the relatively slidable movement of the casing and base portion to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates.

6. An electrically-protected holder for pocket-books and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, tensional means for forcing said casing and base portion from each other in their relatively slidable movement, an alarm means, an electric circuit including said alarm means, and means in said circuit and operative under the expansion action of said tensional means to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates, said tensional means being subject to the gravity action of the article within the casing, whereby the withdrawal of the article from the casing and the release of its gravity action will cause the actuation of the alarm.

7. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move

one upon the other, an alarm means, an electric circuit including said alarm means, and contact means in said circuit and respectively carried by said casing and said base portion and operative under the relatively slidable movement thereof to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates.

8. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a receptacle and inclosure for the protected article, a supplementary base portion forming an extension of and slidably carrying said casing so that the casing and extension base move one upon the other, tensional means for forcing said casing and base portion from each other in their relatively slidable movement, an alarm means, an electric circuit including said alarm means, and contact means in said circuit and respectively carried by said casing and said base portion and operative under the relatively slidable movement thereof to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm when the casing slidably operates, said tensional means being subject to contraction under the gravity action of the article within the casing and said contact means being operative to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm upon the withdrawal of the article from the casing and the release of its gravity action against the expansion of said tensional means.

9. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a portable receptacle, an alarm means portably carried separately from said receptacle, an electric circuit including said alarm means, means included in said circuit and carried by said receptacle and operatable by the withdrawal of the article from the casing to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm, and a flexible connection extending from said separately-carried alarm means to said receptacle and comprising conductors included in said circuit.

10. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a portable receptacle, an alarm means portably carried separately from said receptacle, an electric circuit including said alarm means, contact means carried by said receptacle and included in said electric circuit and operatable under the gravity action of the article within the receptacle to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm upon the withdrawal of the article from the receptacle and the release of its gravity action, and a flexible connection extending from said separately-carried alarm means to said receptacle and comprising conductors included in said circuit.

11. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a portable receptacle, a supplementary casing portably separate from said main casing, an alarm means carried by said supplementary casing, an electric circuit including said alarm means, means included in said circuit and carried by said main casing and operatable by the withdrawal of the article from the casing to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm, and a flexible connection extending from said supplementary casing to said main casing and comprising conductors included in said circuit.

12. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a casing constituting a portable receptacle, a supplementary casing portably separate from said main casing, an alarm means carried by said supplementary casing, an electric circuit including said alarm means, contact means carried by said main casing and included in said electric circuit and operatable under the gravity action of the article contained therein to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm upon the withdrawal of the article from said receptacle and the release of its gravity action, and a flexible connection extending from said supplementary casing to said main casing and comprising conductors included in said circuit.

13. An electrically-protected holder for pocketbooks and other articles, comprising a portable casing having two relatively movable portions one of which constitutes a receptacle or container for inclosing and retaining the pocketbook or other article, a supplementary casing portably separate from said main casing, an electric circuit including a flexible connection extending between said supplementary casing and main casing and comprising circuit conductors, an alarm means inclosed within said supplementary casing and included in said circuit, and contact means included in said circuit and respectively carried by the relatively movable portions of said main casing and operatable under the movable action thereof to operate the circuit and cause the actuation of the alarm.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing specifications.

JOHN PRITCHARD WILLIAMS.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."