

M. SCHOU.
KEY-HOLE GUARD.

No. 178,334.

Patented June 6, 1876.

Fig. 1.

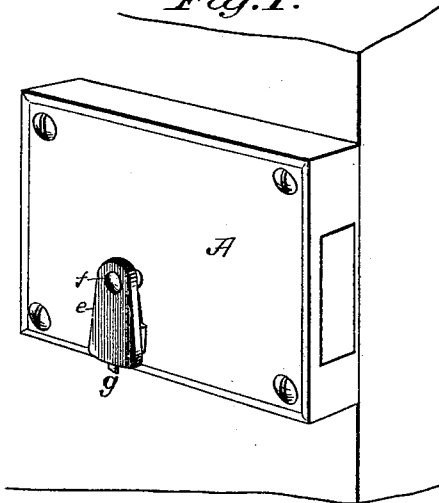


Fig. 2.

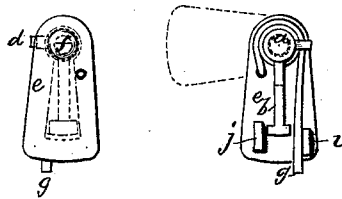


Fig. 3.

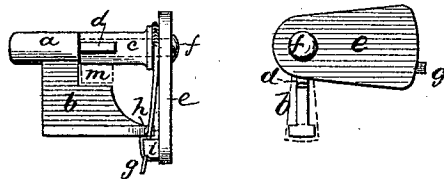


Fig. 4.

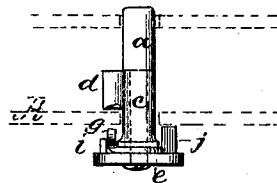
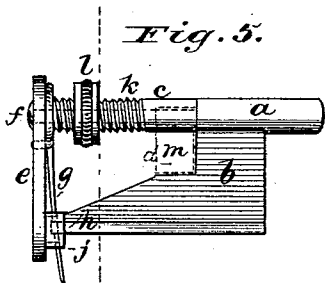


Fig. 5.



Attest:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MATHIAS SCHOU, OF ENGLISHTOWN, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO THOMAS WEST, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN KEY-HOLE GUARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **178,334**, dated June 6, 1876; application filed May 4, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MATHIAS SCHOU, of Englishtown, in the county of Monmouth in the State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Key-Hole Guards, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a lock, with my device attached. Fig. 2, left view, is a front, and right view a rear, elevation of said device. Fig. 3, left view, a side elevation, and right view a front elevation, of the guard in position for insertion in the lock. Fig. 4, a top view, with the lock-casing indicated by the dotted lines; Fig. 5, a side view of a guard provided with means for adjusting it relatively to the thickness or width of the lock and door.

My invention relates to a device for insertion in the key-hole of locks for the purpose of preventing the unlocking of such locks by means of false or other keys, and also for the purpose of covering said key-hole, so that it cannot be looked through.

The invention consists in a swinging guard or plate, carrying a retaining-lug operating in combination with a fixed bit, so that when said lug and bit are inserted in a key-hole of a lock, and the guard locked by a spring which it carries, with said bit, the device fills up the key-hole and prevents the insertion of false or other keys, or means for unlocking the lock, and also closes the key-hole, so as to prevent seeing through it.

In the drawings above referred to, A designates a lock, with my key-hole guard applied. This guard is composed of a stem, *a*, of a size sufficient to enter ordinary key-holes of doors. Formed with it is a bit, *b*, straight on one edge, and having a projecting portion, *h*, and a recess, *m*, on the opposite edge. *e* is a guard or plate, having a hub, *c*, that rotates on a reduced portion of stem *a*. *d* is a lug on hub *c*, which stands at right angles to the plate *e*, when the device is in position in the lock or key-hole, and which lug enters the recess *m* of bit *b*, when the device is being inserted in the key-hole. The stem *a* and guard *e* are secured together by flattening the end *f* of said stem. *g* is a spring-catch affixed to the

plate *e*, and engaging with the projection *h* of the bit to lock the two. *i* is a stop for the spring *g*, and *j* a stop for the bit, said bit being confined between the spring and stop. In order to adapt this guard to fit key-holes of different depths, and in such manner as to have it fit so snugly as to prevent rattling or its being worked about in the key-hole, I thread the hub, as at *k*, and fit on it a nut, *l*, so that when the device is in the key-hole the nut *l* is screwed up to the lock-casing until the lug *d* and the nut shall be in close contact with opposite faces of the same side of the casing, whereby the device is held firmly in the key-hole.

In order to apply this guard, the plate *e* is turned up, as in Fig. 3, right view, when the lug *d* and bit are in line, and can be inserted in the key-hole. The plate *e* is then swung back, so as to lock the projection *h* between the spring *g* and stop *j*. The end of stem *a* extends out of the key-hole, so as to prevent the insertion of a key, and the bit so nearly fills up the key-hole as to make it practically impossible to manipulate the lock with false keys, skeletons, and the like. The guard-plate *e* so covers the key-hole as to prevent looking through it, thus providing a safeguard against inquisitive eyes.

When the guard or device is to be removed, the spring *g* is pressed back so as to allow the plate *e* to be swung around, and bring the lug *d* into the recess *m*, when the device is free to be pulled out.

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

1. In a key-hole guard, the combination of a swinging plate, carrying a retaining-lug, with a fixed bit, and a locking-spring, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the recessed bit *b* *m*, stem *a*, plate *e*, hub *c*, lug *d*, spring *g*, and stops *i* *j*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

Signed this 1st day of May, 1876.

MATHIAS SCHOU.

Witnesses:

THOMAS WEST,
JACOB MUCKELWAIN.