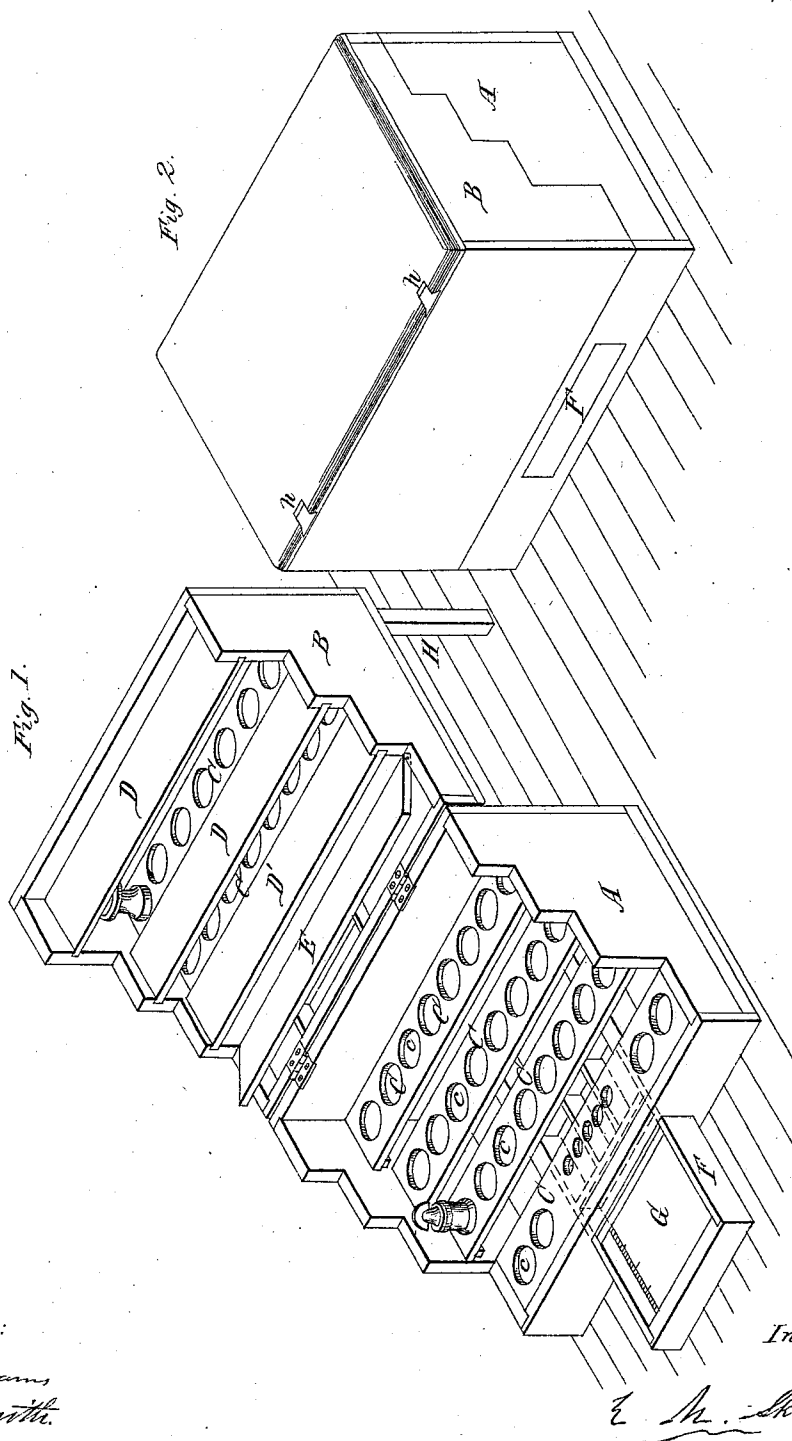


E. M. Skinner,
Medicine Chest,

N^o 59,086.

Patented Oct. 23, 1866.



Witnesses:

J. H. Adams
G. H. Smith

Inventor:

E. M. Skinner

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD M. SKINNER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICINE-CHESTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 59,086, dated October 23, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD M. SKINNER, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Medicine-Chests, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the chest when the same is opened, and Fig. 2 is a view of the chest when closed.

Like letters represent similar parts in the several figures.

The object of my invention is to produce a portable, compact, and convenient receptacle or case for containing medicines, drugs, powders, and supplied with all the requisites of an apothecary's store in a small compass, so as to be readily accessible when required, and safely and compactly arranged for transportation; and the invention consists of a chest or case of any convenient size or material, formed of two parts, which are hinged together, and so constructed as to form when opened a series of shelves or compartments, arranged one above the other in the form of steps, in which may be placed bottles or vials so disposed that each separate bottle or vial can be readily seen and its label or contents at once be known, and also containing receptacles for a mortar, scales, porcelain mixing-plate or pill-tile, or any other of the usual requisites of the apothecary or druggist.

Referring to the drawings, Fig. 2 represents the case or chest when closed, A being the lower and B the upper part, which parts are hinged together at the rear, and when opened, as in Fig. 1, the edges of the under side of the upper part are made to rest upon legs or supports H, which when not in use are placed within the case. The top of the chest, at the edge, may be provided, if necessary, with grooves *h*, in which the upper parts of the legs or supports may be inserted in order to hold the said top securely.

C C, in the upper and lower parts of the case, represent a series of shelves perforated with holes of any required size to suit the sizes of the vials or bottles to be placed therein, the said vials or bottles fitting snugly but

easily in the same, so as to prevent any dangerous jarring while the apparatus or chest is in motion. The stoppers of the bottles or vials are designed to be of such a height that when the case is closed the shelves or slides D, in the upper part of the chest, will just come in contact with the tops of the stoppers in the lower part, and thus retain them safely in position.

D D, in the upper part, B, of the chest, represent slides, which are fitted in grooves in the sides of the case so as to be easily withdrawn. Under the said slides are arranged perforated shelves for containing bottles or vials similar to those in the lower part of the case. The slides are designed to fit snugly over the tops of the stoppers of the bottles or vials, so as to retain them securely in place when the upper part of the chest is closed. D' is also a slide, which may cover bottles or a series of compartments for containing any articles which it may be desired to place within the same, and E is a hinged cover over compartments for holding a mortar, scales, &c.

At the lower part of the front of the case is a drawer, F, containing a porcelain plate or pill-tile for mixing or making pills, ointments, &c., and the rear part of the drawer is divided into small compartments for containing boxes or any necessary articles.

It will thus be seen that when the chest is open it will present a series of shelves, rising one above the other in the form of steps, presenting to view all the bottles or vials arranged in such a manner that the labels of each can readily be seen and the contents known without the necessity of removing or searching for the bottles. The compartments holding the various utensils or implements required in the preparation of the drugs or medicines are also readily accessible without raising up and lifting them out, as is required in the medicine-chests of ordinary construction.

The chest may be of any required size or material, either to suit the physician or traveler, or it may be of such a size as to be adapted to hold a large quantity and variety of medicines, drugs, &c., suitable for a country store, the whole, of whatever size, being compactly arranged for transportation, and when not in

use it may be closed and kept free from dust and dirt, or any intermeddling or derangement. The chest itself, or the drawers and compartments, may be furnished with any suitable locks or fastenings for security. It is equally applicable for land or sea service, for hospitals and army use, as well as for families.

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

1. Constructing the chest or case in such a manner as to form, when the same is open, a series of shelves, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination of a series of perforated

shelves, C, with the slides D, as and for the purpose specified.

3. The combination, with the chest A B, constructed as described, of the perforated shelves, the slides D, the compartments D' E, and drawer F, substantially in the manner and for the purpose described.

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

E. M. SKINNER.

Witnesses:

CHAS. F. SLEEPER,
J. H. ADAMS.