J. SOKAČ AND A. SEMKO.

COMBINATION RECEPTACLE.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 27, 1920.

1,346,431.

Patented July 13, 1920.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

FIG. 1.

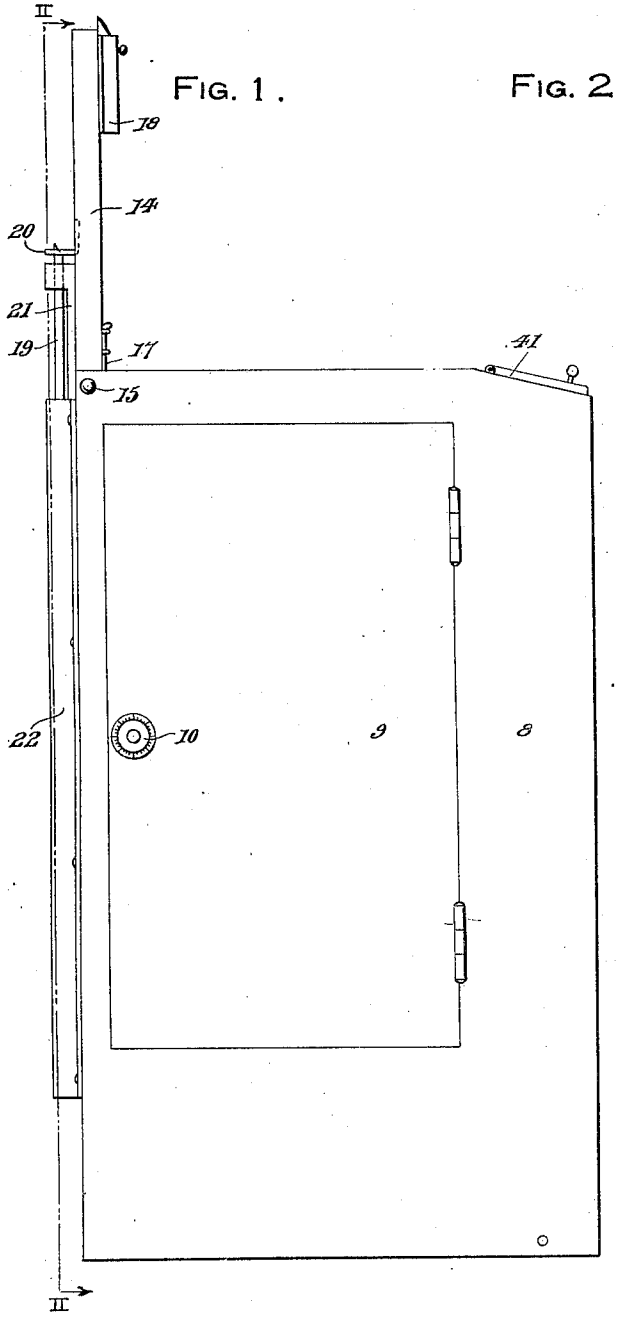
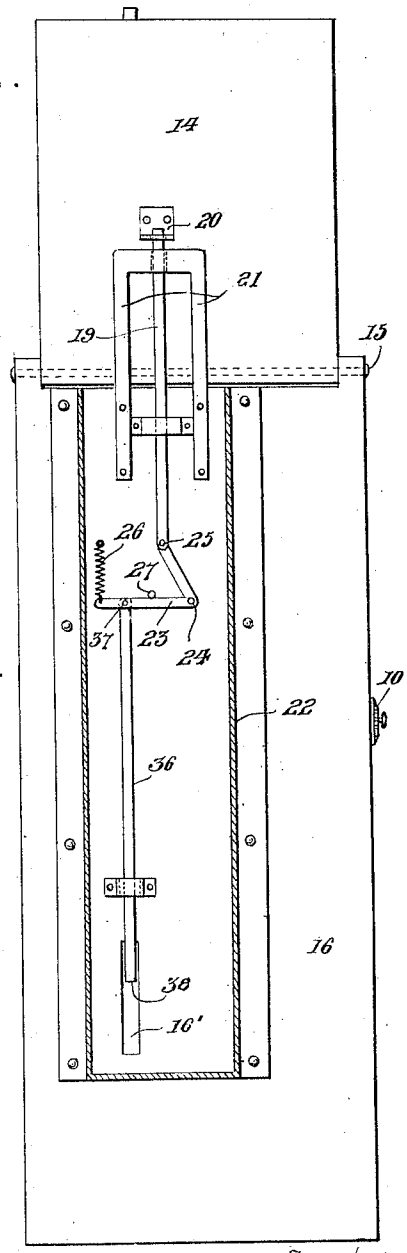


FIG. 2.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

FIG. 3.

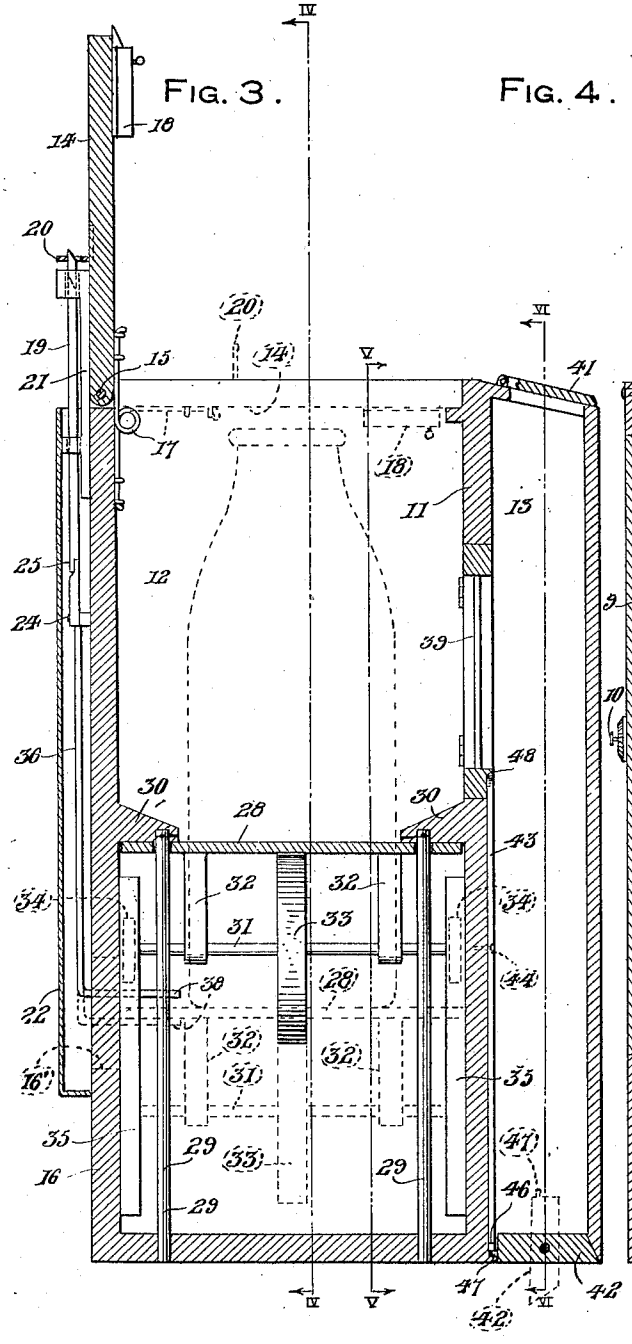
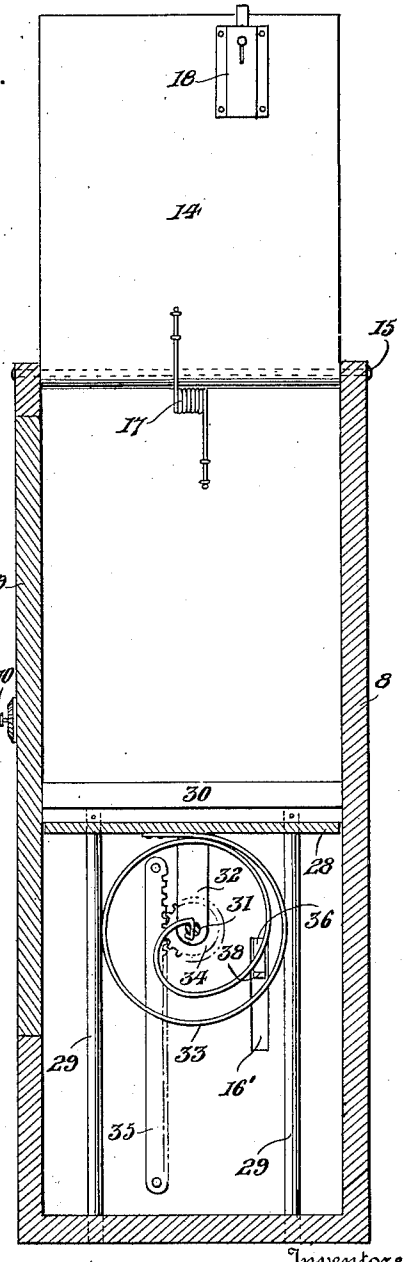


FIG. 4.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

FIG. 5.

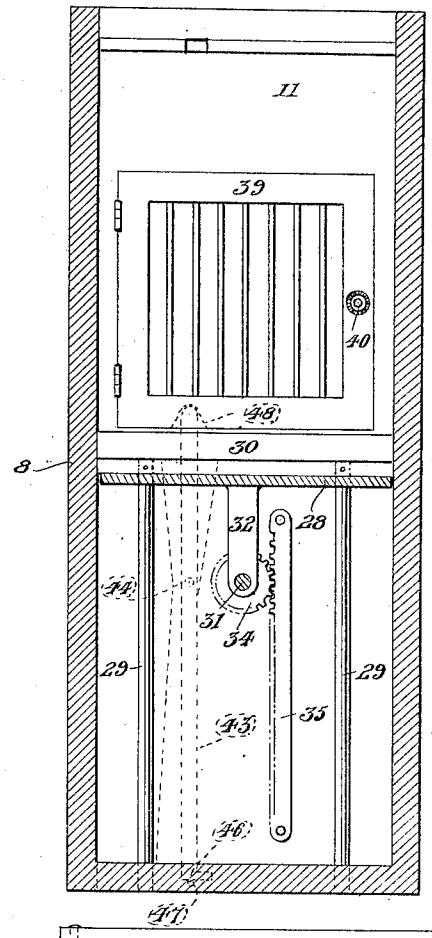
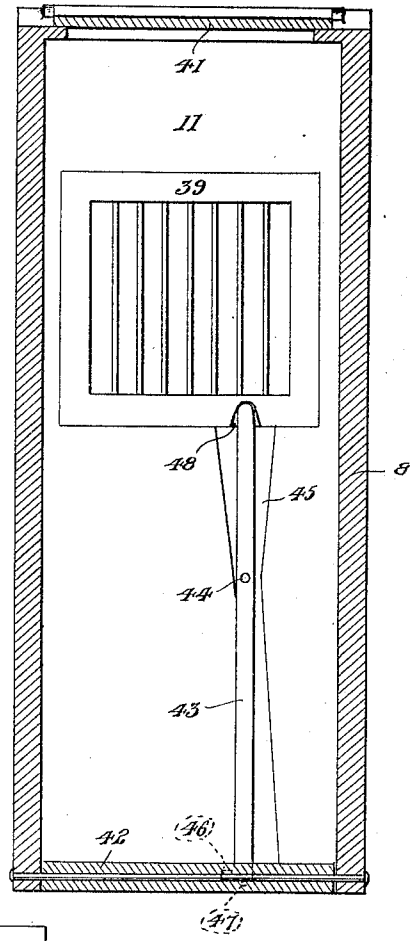


FIG. 6.



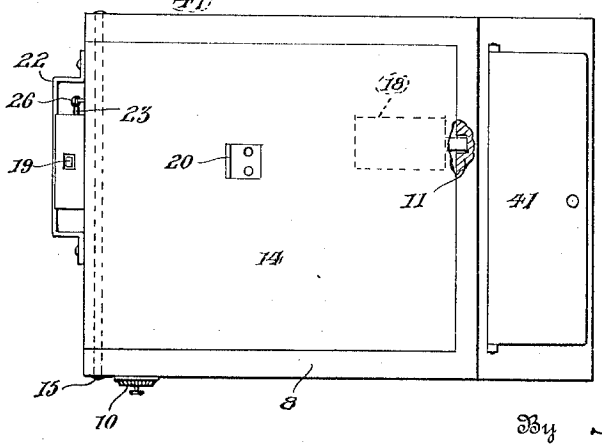


FIG. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN SOKAČ AND ANDREW SEMKO, OF KINGSTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

COMBINATION-RECEPTACLE.

1,346,431. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 13, 1920.

Application filed February 27, 1920. Serial No. 361,822.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN SOKAČ and ANDREW SEMKO, citizens of Czecho-Slovakia, residing at Kingston, in the county of Luzerne and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combination-Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in combination receptacles and the primary object thereof is to provide in a single device a receptacle for containing milk bottles or other packages and a separate receptacle for containing letters and mail.

A further object of the invention is to provide a combined receptacle for milk bottles and mail wherein access to the receptacle for the milk bottle is necessary to release certain mechanism to permit the mail to be withdrawn from the mail receptacle.

A further object of the invention resides in the provision of a device of the character above described that is automatic in operation, the placing of articles within the receptacle releasing certain latch devices to permit the automatic closing and locking of the receptacle.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel form, combination and arrangement of parts herein fully described and shown in the accompanying drawings wherein like reference characters indicate similar parts throughout the several views.

In the drawings,

Figure 1 is a front elevational view of a combined milk and mail receptacle constructed in accordance with the present invention, with the cover of the milk receptacle in its open position.

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross sectional view on line II—II of Fig. 1, showing the latch mechanism for holding the cover in open position.

Fig. 3 is a vertical cross sectional view showing the tensioned platform lowered by the weight of a bottle placed thereon.

Fig. 4 is a vertical cross sectional view taken on line IV—IV of Fig. 3 showing the band spring for maintaining the receptacle supporting platform in its elevated position.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken on line V—V of Fig. 3,

Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view taken on line VI—VI of Fig. 3 showing the mail receiving portion of the receptacle, and

Fig. 7 is a top plan view of the receptacle.

Describing the invention more in detail, and with particular reference to Figs. 1 to 4, there is provided a combined milk and mail receptacle embodying a front wall 8 having a hinged front door 9 controlled by a permutation lock 10 through which milk bottles or other articles placed within the receptacle may be withdrawn. A vertical partition 11 divides the case into a milk bottle-receiving compartment 12 and a mail-receiving compartment 13. A cover 14 for the milk compartment 12 is hinged as at 15 to the upper edge of the rear wall 16 of the casing and the hinge joint is provided with a coil spring 17 for maintaining the cover 14 lowered upon the receptacle as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3 with the manually releasable latch mechanism 18 engaging the upper edge of the partition wall 11 for holding the cover locked thereon.

When the receptacle is arranged for the reception of the milk bottle or other article, the cover 14 is held in the open position shown in Figs. 1 to 4 by the vertically movable latch bolt 19 engaging the keeper 20 upon the upper face of the cover 14. The latch bolt 19 is guided in its movement by the frame bracket 21 secured to the rear wall 16 of the casing, the lower end of the frame bracket 21 being closed by the housing 22 secured to the casing rear wall. The latch bolt 19 is maintained in its uppermost position in locked engagement with the keeper 20 by the bell crank 23 pivoted as at 24 to the rear wall of the casing with one end thereof connected as at 25 to the lower end of the latch rod 19 while the other end of the bell crank 23 is connected to the contractile coil spring 26, thus holding the latch bolt in its elevated position, the elevating movement of the bell crank being limited by engagement with the stop pin 27.

As shown more clearly in Figs. 3, 4, and 5, a movable platform 28 is provided within the mail compartment 12 and is guided in its vertical movements by the guide rods 29, the

platform 28 being limited in its upward movement by engagement with the overhanging ledges 30 formed on the partition 11 and the casing wall 16. In order to maintain the platform 28 normally elevated in the absence of an article placed thereon, there is provided the shaft 31 journaled in depending hangers 32 carried by the platform 28 with a band spring 33 secured at one of its ends to the shaft 31 and at its other end to the platform 28. Each end of the shaft 31 carries a gear wheel 34 meshing with adjacently positioned rack bars 35 so that during the lowering movement of the platform, the shaft 31 is rotated to wind the spring 23 and place the same under additional tension, so that when an article such as the milk bottle shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3 is removed from the platform 28, the spring 23 will elevate the platform 28 to its uppermost position for engagement with the casing ledges 30.

To effect an automatic closing of the lid 14 when the milk bottle is placed upon the platform 28, there is provided a rod 36 connected at its upper end as at 37 to the bell crank 23 with the lower angularly bent end 38 thereof freely projecting through the slot 16′ in the rear wall 16 of the casing as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4, and in the lowering path of movement of the platform 28 as shown in Fig. 3. When an article of sufficient weight such as a bottle of milk is placed upon the platform 28, the platform is lowered against the tension of the spring 33, placing the spring under additional tension and with the platform engaging the inwardly directed bent end 38 of the rod 36 to shift the bell crank 23 with a subsequent lowering movement of the latch rod 21 to release such latch rod from the keeper 20 whereupon the spring 17 will automatically close the cover 14 so that the latch mechanism 18 will engage the upper edge of the partition wall 11 to lock the cover to the casing and prevent the unauthorized extraction of articles placed therein.

The mail-receiving compartment 13 is separated from the article-receiving compartment 12 by the partition 11, a hinged door 39 having a permutation lock 40, being positioned in the partition 11 above the adjacent ledge 30. A hinged cover 41 extends over the upper end of the compartment 13 and is adapted to be elevated to permit the introduction of mail into the compartment 13. A hinged trap door 42 closes the lower end of the compartment 13 and through which the mail is delivered, and in order to hold the trap door 14 against unauthorized movement, there is provided a lever 43 pivoted as at 44 in the cut away portion 45 provided in the inner face of the partition 11, the lower end of the lever 43 having an angular end 46 adapted to be positioned over the pin 47 carried by the rear edge of the trap door 42 while the upper end of the lever 43 is received in the cut-out portion 48 of the lower edge of the door 39 so that it is impossible to shift the lever 43 with the door 39 in a closed locked condition.

When it is desired to withdraw the mail from the compartment 13, the permutation lock 10 upon the casing door 9 is operated to open said door after which the permutation lock 40 upon the door 39 is operated to open the door 39, at which time the upper end of the lever 43 is free to be grasped and shifted to transfer the lower angle end 46 thereof from engagement with the trap door pin 47, thereby permitting a pivotal movement of the trap door 42 with the downward passage of mail therethrough.

From the above detail description of the invention, it is believed that the construction and operation will at once be apparent, it being noted that the cover 14 is automatically closed and locked by the weight of an article placed upon the platform 28 to lower the platform against the tension of the spring 33 for engagement with the angle end 38 of the rod 36 to release the latch bolt 21 from the cover keeper 20. In the manner above described, access to the compartment 12 is necessary to permit the door 39 being opened to release the lever 43 from the trap door 42 so that mail may be removed from the compartment 13.

What is claimed as new is:

1. A receptacle of the type described comprising a casing, a hinged cover therefor, means for holding the cover in its open position extending into said casing, guide rods of said casing, a platform movable over said guide rods, a shaft journaled beneath said platform, a spring connected at one of its ends to said shaft and at its other end to said platform and means for increasing the tension on the spring when the platform is lowered due to a weight placed thereon, said platform in its lowering movement attempting to engage the cover holding means to release the same from the cover and a lock controlled door for the casing.

2. A receptacle of the type described comprising a casing, a partition dividing the same into two compartments, a hinged trap door closing the lower end of one of said compartments, a lever pivoted to said partition adapted for engagement with the trap door for holding the same in its closed position and means carried by the partition for holding the lever immovable in its locked position.

3. A receptacle of the type described comprising a casing, a partition dividing

the same into two compartments, a hinged trap door closing the lower end of one of said compartments, a lever pivoted to said partition adapted for engagement with the trap door for holding the same in its closed position and a hinged door carried by said partition adapted to engage the lever when the door is in its closed position to hold the lever immovable and to lock the trap door in its closed position.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

JOHN SOKAČ.
ANDREW SEMKO.