

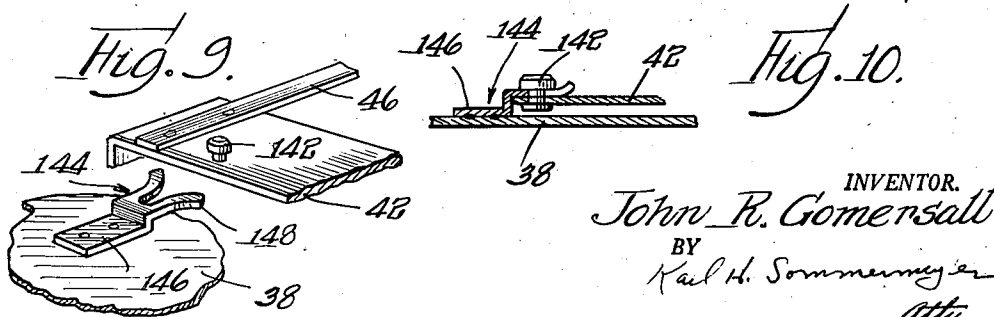
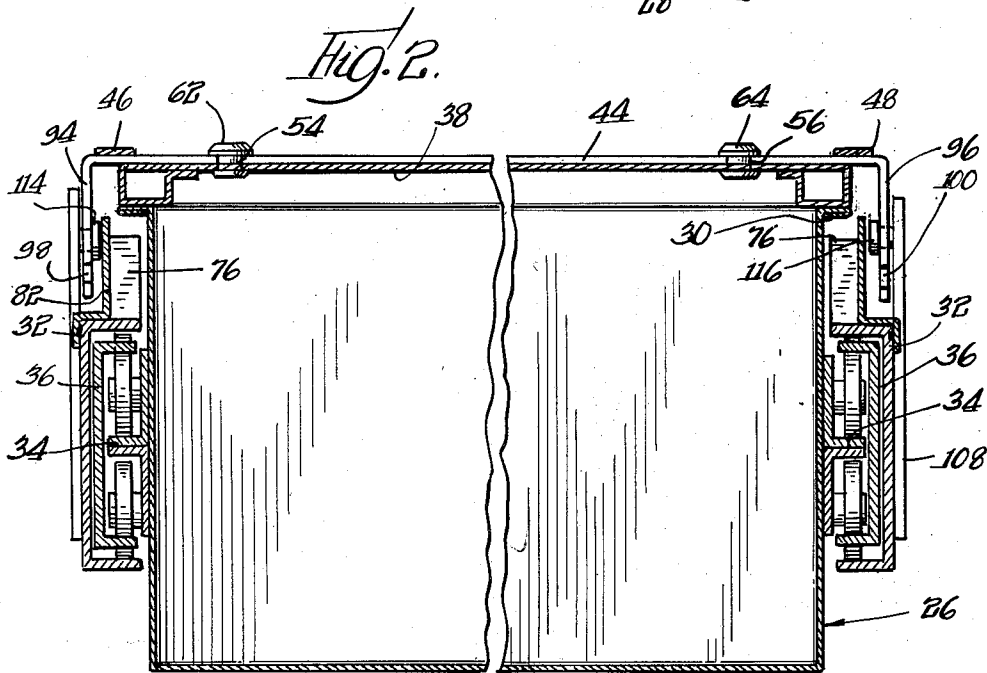
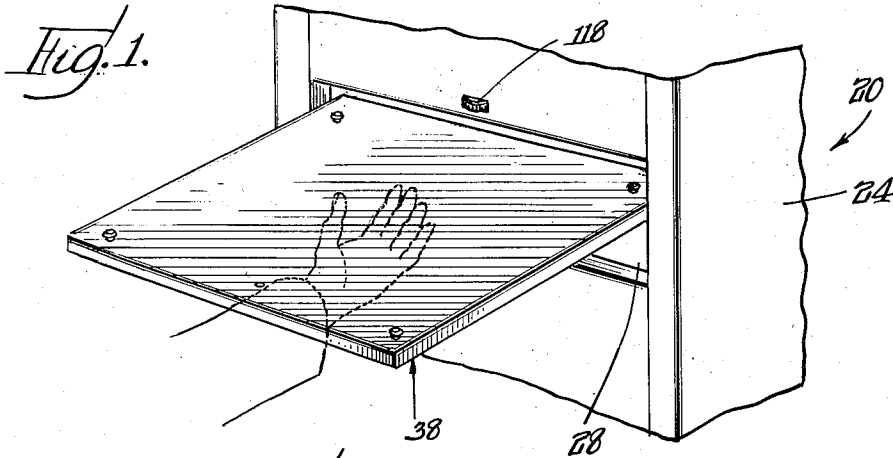
Aug. 5, 1958

J. R. GOMERSALL
REMOVABLE DRAWER COVER

2,846,286

Filed March 29, 1954

4 Sheets-Sheet 1



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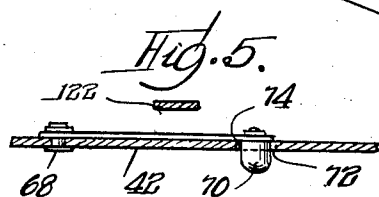
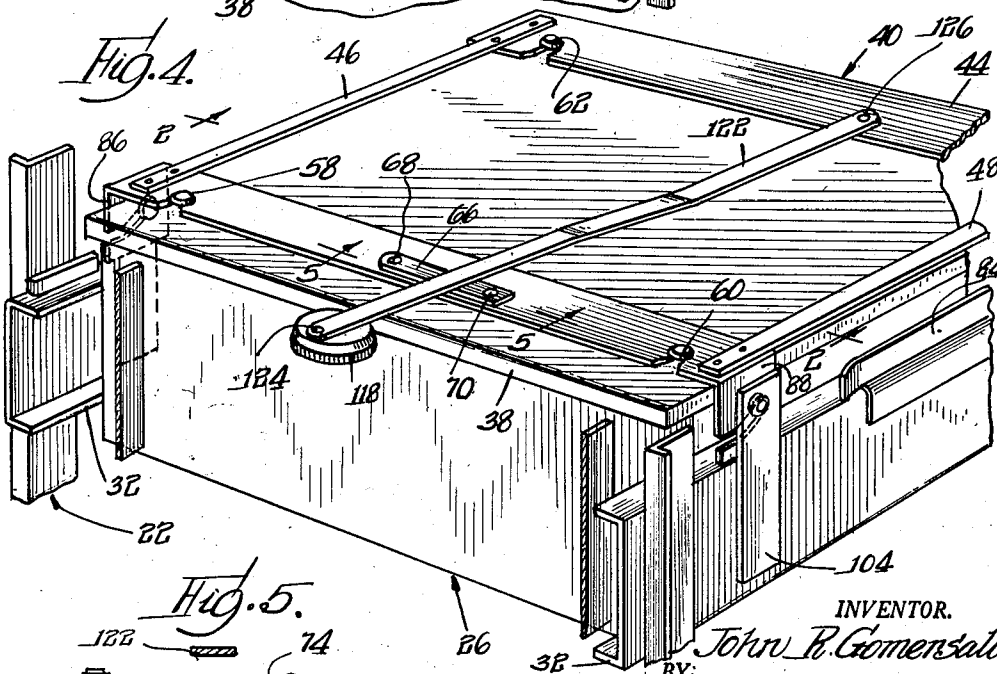
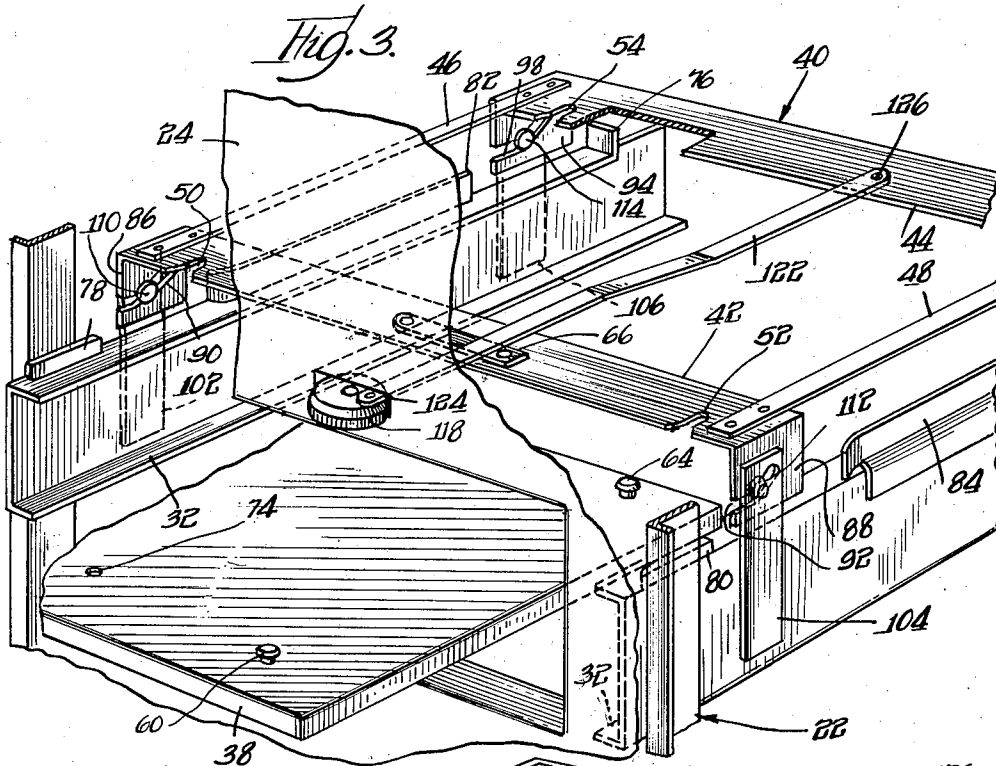
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4 Sheets-Sheet 2



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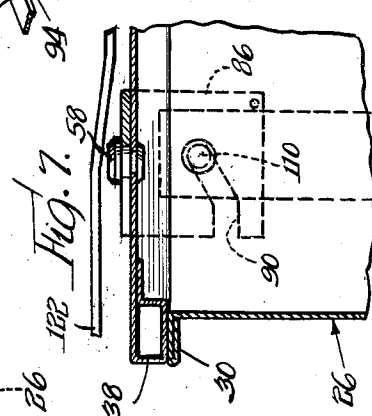
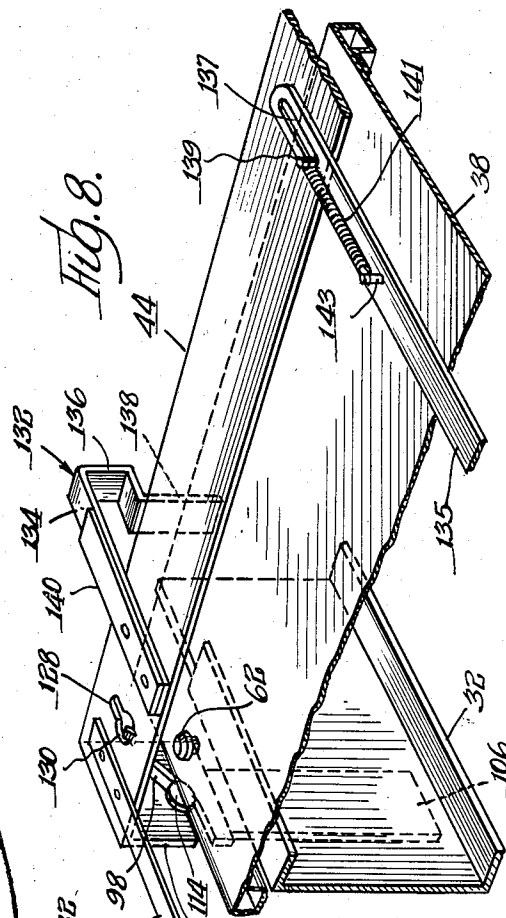
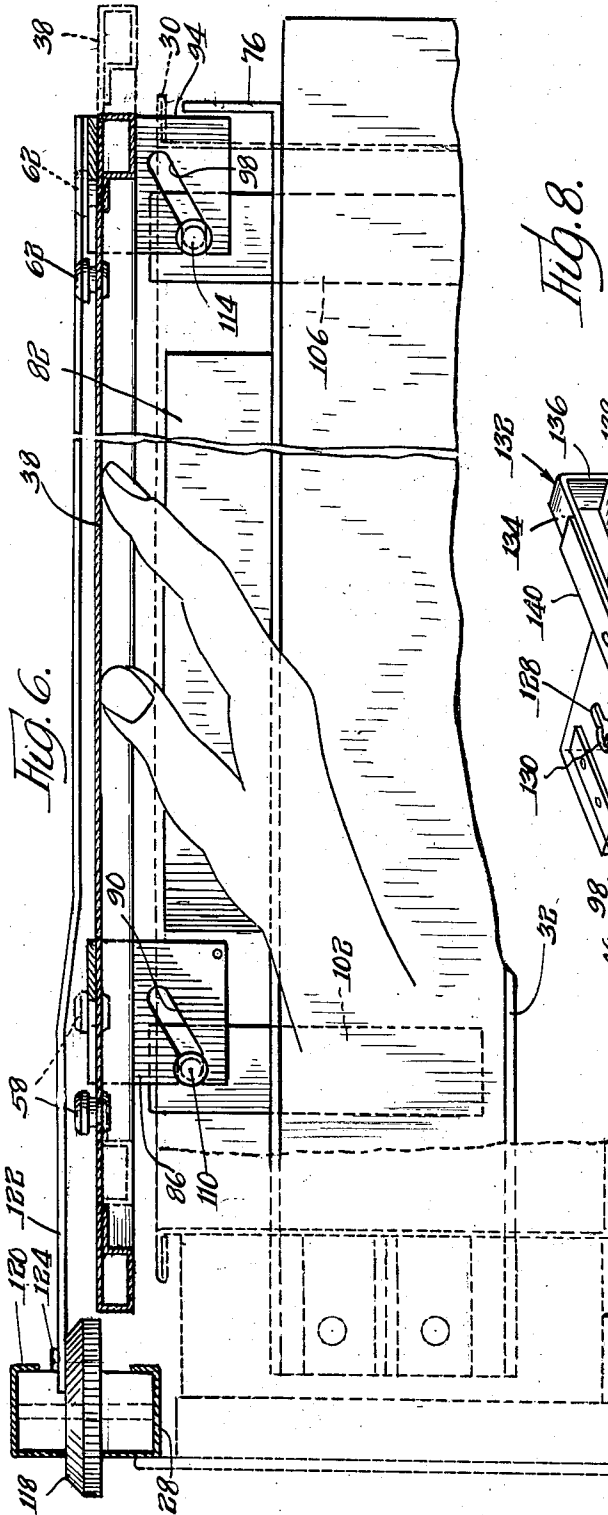
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REMOVABLE DRAWER COVER

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4 Sheets-Sheet 3



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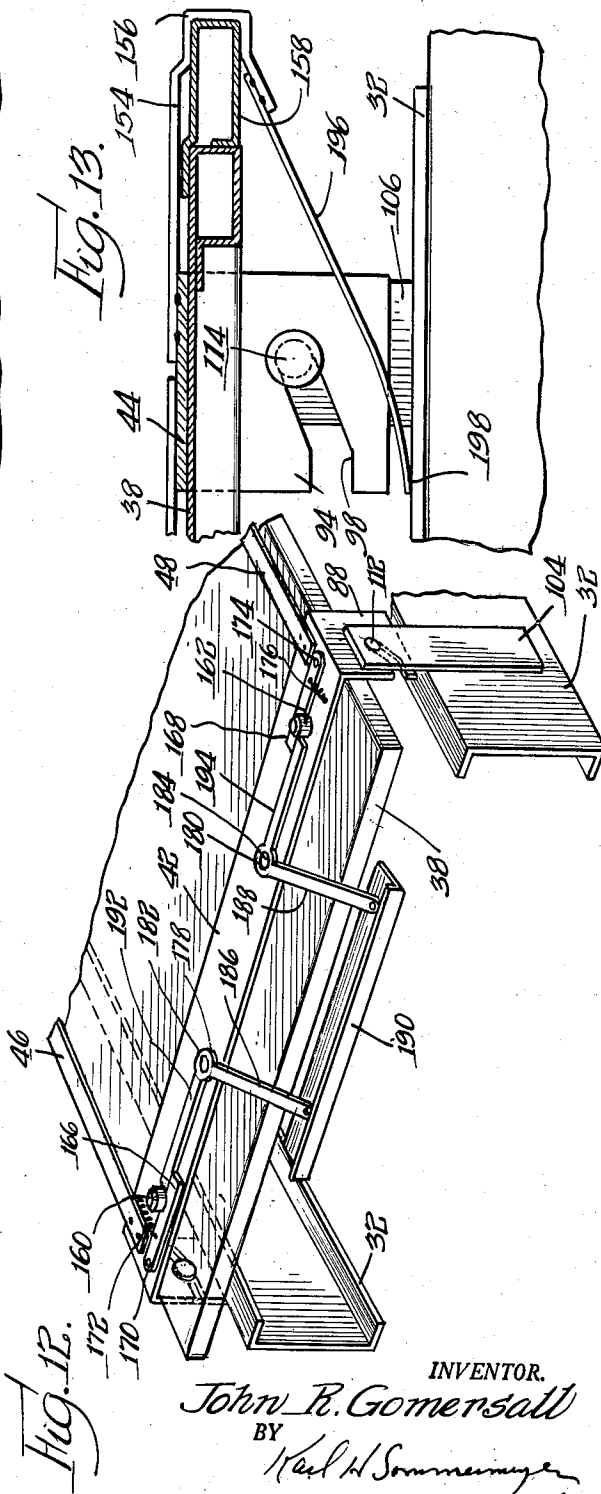
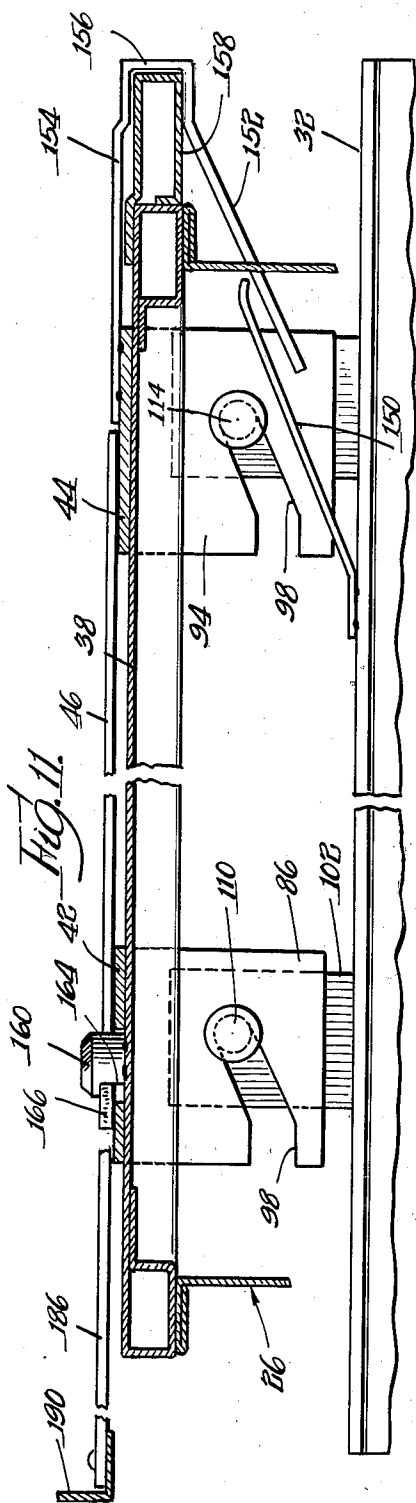
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REMOVABLE DRAWER COVER

Filed March 29, 1954

4 Sheets-Sheet 4



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2,846,286

REMOVABLE DRAWER COVER

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Application March 29, 1954, Serial No. 419,159

14 Claims. (Cl. 312—270)

The present invention relates to a novel cabinet structure having a cover or closure for a drawer and the like and while the present invention will be described with particular reference to food preserving cabinets it will become obvious that certain features of this invention may be applied to cabinets of various types.

An object of the present invention is to provide a novel cabinet structure having a removable cover or closure for drawers and the like and more specifically to provide novel means for supporting a closure within the cabinet in a manner so that the closure may be readily removed therefrom.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel cabinet structure having a removable drawer cover or closure, which closure may be readily removed from the cabinet through the drawer opening without increasing the size of the drawer opening.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a novel cabinet structure having quick release means for supporting a drawer cover or closure therein whereby the closure may be quickly and easily inserted into or removed from the cabinet.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a novel cabinet structure as set forth in the preceding paragraph wherein the cover or closure is guided into registration with its support means upon insertion into the cabinet.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel cabinet structure having a drawer cover or closure which may readily be removed and which may also be adjusted relative to the drawer.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating how a drawer cover of a cabinet constructed in accordance with the principles of this invention may be inserted into a cabinet;

Fig. 2 is a vertical cross section of the novel cabinet structure of this invention and constitutes a section taken along line 2—2 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the novel cabinet structure of Fig. 2 broken away to illustrate the cover supporting mechanism and the manner of inserting and removing the cover;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view somewhat similar to Fig. 3 but showing the drawer and drawer cover or closure assembled within the cabinet;

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary cross sectional view taken along line 5—5 in Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a vertical cross sectional view taken longitudinally of the cabinet showing in solid lines how the drawer cover is positioned relative to its supporting mechanism for assembly therewith and showing in broken lines the cover connected to its supporting mechanism and the drawer assembled within the cabinet;

Fig. 7 is a fragmentary cross sectional view similar to

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Fig. 6 and shows how the cover may be adjusted relative to the drawer;

Fig. 8 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating a modified form of the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a fragmentary perspective view of one form of the structure used to connect the cover or closure with the supporting mechanism;

Fig. 10 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the device illustrated in Fig. 9 and showing the cover and the supporting mechanism in assembled relationship;

Fig. 11 is a vertical longitudinal cross sectional view of still another modified form of the present invention;

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary perspective view of the structure illustrated in Fig. 11 and shows in greater detail the manner in which the closure or cover is releasably connected to the supporting mechanism; and

Fig. 13 is a fragmentary cross sectional view similar to Fig. 11 and showing a further slightly modified form of the present invention.

Various cabinet structures have heretofore been provided with drawer covers or closures permanently assembled therein. Access to such permanently mounted drawer covers may be desirable for many reasons. For example, it is necessary to clean thoroughly the interior parts of heated food preserving cabinets at regular intervals. Such cleaning of drawer covers in heated food preserving cabinets has heretofore been a tedious operation and moreover it is difficult to clean the cover thoroughly because of the space limitations within the interior of the cabinet. Therefore in accordance with the present invention a cabinet structure has been provided with a drawer cover which may be quickly and easily removed for cleaning or for any other desired purpose and then easily replaced. It is desirable that the drawer openings in the front of the cabinet be no larger than needed for receiving the drawer, both for obtaining adequate strength and ruggedness in a compact cabinet at the lowest cost, and also for minimizing the loss of heat from the cabinet when the drawer is opened. Thus, the drawer cover is inserted through the drawer opening and in accordance with the present invention novel support means is provided to which the cover may be lifted and easily detachably connected.

Referring now more specifically to the drawings, wherein like parts are designated by the same numerals throughout the various figures, one form of a cabinet structure embodying the principles of this invention is illustrated in Figs. 1 through 7. The cabinet includes a frame 22 of known construction covered by a shell 24 for enclosing the drawer chamber. A drawer 26 is insertable into the chamber through an opening 28. The drawer may be removably supported within the cabinet by any suitable means of known construction and in the particular embodiment illustrated this support means includes a channel track member 32 fixed to the cabinet frame at opposite sides of the drawer chamber, a track member 34 fixed to each side of the drawer and a roller carrying slide member 36 disposed to operate between each pair of track members 32 and 34. This drawer support mechanism operates to lift the drawer at the end of its inward travel as disclosed and claimed in my copending application Serial No. 294,131, filed June 18, 1952, now Patent No. 2,687,924, but its details form no part of the present invention and therefore need not be described. A removable drawer cover or closure 38 is arranged to either rest on the drawer flanges 30, or alternatively to be held slightly spaced from those flanges to permit a controlled amount of venting for the drawer. As shown in Fig. 2, this cover 38 is approximately the same width as the drawer including flanges 30. In accordance with the present invention, cover 38 is detach-

ably connected to a support mechanism generally designated by the numeral 40.

The cover supporting mechanism 40 includes a pair of transverse spaced frame members 42 and 44 which are joined together by longitudinal frame members 46 and 48. In order to connect the cover to the support mechanism 40 the transverse frame member 42 is provided with slots 50 and 52 adjacent opposite ends thereof and the transverse frame member 44 is provided with slots 54 and 56. Headed pins 58, 60, 62 and 64 are fixed on the cover and positioned to enter the slots 50, 52, 54 and 56 as shown best in Figs. 2 and 4 for connecting the cover to the frame members. In order to prevent the cover from becoming inadvertently detached from the frame members means is provided for locking the cover against forward movement relative to the frame members. This means may take various forms and includes, in the embodiment shown in Figs. 3, 4 and 5, a spring finger 66 secured to the frame member 42 by a rivet 63. A locking pin 70 is fixed to the free end of the spring finger 66 and projects through an aperture 72 in the frame member 42 for entry into an aperture 74 in the cover 38.

When assembling the cover 38 it may be held on the hand of an operator in the manner illustrated in Fig. 1 and inserted through the drawer opening 28 above the upper flanges of the drawer support tracks 32. It is understood of course that the drawer is out of the cabinet while the cover is being assembled. The cover 38 while balanced on the hand may be readily passed through the drawer opening, lifted until it stops against the transverse frame pieces 42 and 44, and then pushed back until pins 58, etc., engage slots 52, etc., and locking pin 70 drops into place. Alternatively, the cover 38 may be advanced along the upper flanges of the support channel 32 until it engages a stop member. In this embodiment a stop for the cover is provided by tabs 76 bent from the upper flanges of the drawer support channels 32. These tabs are positioned so that the inward movement of the cover is arrested while the headed pins on the cover are still located forward of their respective cooperating slots in the transverse frame members 42 and 44. The cover is then raised by the hand of the operator until the upward movement is stopped by engagement with the frame members 42 and 44 so that the cover is in the position shown in solid lines in Fig. 6. Then the cover is again moved inward or rearward of the cabinet so that the pins enter horizontally their respective slots and the locking pin 70 drops into the hole 74.

In order to facilitate assembly of the cover with the supporting mechanism 40, means is provided for centering the cover within the cabinet chamber and for maintaining the headed pins on the cover in alignment with their cooperating slots. This means includes a pair of preliminary guide members 78 and 80 fixed on the drawer support channels 32 at opposite sides of the cabinet and of pair of primary guide members 82 and 84 similarly disposed within the cabinet. These guide members are located below the position occupied by the drawer flanges 30 and, preferably, as shown in Figs. 2 to 6, terminate short of the drawer flanges to preclude interference therewith. However, the guide members and particularly the members 82 and 84 may extend higher to guide the cover to its topmost position.

In Fig. 6 the drawer 26 and the cover are shown in broken lines in their respective assembled positions within the cabinet. It is seen that the drawer substantially fills the drawer opening 28 in the cabinet and the cover is positioned above the drawer opening. In order to remove the cover for cleaning or any other desired purpose, the drawer is, of course, first removed from the cabinet and then the locking pin 70 is pushed up and the cover is pulled forward to disengage the pins 58 through 64 from their respective slots whereupon the cover drops onto channels 32 and may be pulled out through the drawer opening.

It is often desirable to support the cover 38 so that it may be moved into and out of sealing engagement with the drawer. For example, in heated food preserving cabinets of the type illustrated to exemplify the present invention, escape of moisture from food stored in the drawer may be controlled by raising and lowering the cover relative to the drawer. In order to support the drawer cover for adjustment as to height, the supporting mechanism 40 is in accordance with the present invention adjustably mounted within the cabinet. This is accomplished by providing the ends of the transverse frame member 42 with depending cam plates 86 and 88 respectively having inclined slots 90 and 92 therein. The transverse frame member 44 is provided with similar cam plates 94 and 96 having inclined slots 98 and 100 therein. Upstanding arms 102, 104, 106 and 108 are secured to the channel members 32 and headed pins 110, 112, 114 and 116 are fixed to these arms and extend through the slots 90, 94, 98 and 100, respectively. With this structure it is seen that by adjusting the cover supporting mechanism 40 back and forth the pins 110 through 116 slide along their respective slots and the cover may be moved to and from the raised position shown in Fig. 6 and the drawer engaging and sealing position illustrated in Fig. 7. In order to adjust the drawer supporting mechanism in the manner just described, a dial 118 is rotatably mounted on a cross member 120 of the cabinet frame above the door opening, which dial projects forwardly of the cabinet for easy manipulation. An actuating member 122 is pivotally and eccentrically connected to the dial as at 124 and is also connected to the cover supporting frame so that upon manipulation of the dial the supporting frame is moved back and forth. Preferably the arm or actuating member 122 is connected to the rear transverse frame member 44 as at 126 to prevent undue flexing of the actuating member as the cover supporting frame is moved up and down.

In Fig. 8 there is illustrated a form of the present invention which is slightly modified from the embodiment described above as shown by the application of identical reference numerals to identical parts. In this embodiment the above described slots 50, 52, 54 and 56 in the transverse frame members 42 and 44 have been replaced by keyhole slots having narrow portions 128 merging with enlarged portions 130. Only one of these keyhole slots is shown in the fragmentary disclosure of Fig. 8, but it is understood that the remaining keyhole slots will be similarly constructed and arranged in their respective transverse frame members. In order to connect the cover with the support mechanism of Fig. 8 it is necessary to raise the cover vertically till the pins 58, 60, 62 and 64 extend through their respective keyhole slots whereupon the cover is moved horizontally relative to the support mechanism so that pins enter the narrow portions of the slots. Thus, it is necessary to locate the cover with the pins in substantial vertical alignment with the enlarged portions 130 of the keyhole slots and to accomplish this, stop and guide means 132 is mounted directly on the support mechanism 40 and the above described stops 76 are eliminated.

The stop and guide means 132 includes a resilient strap 134 fixed to and extending rearwardly of the transverse frame member 44. The resiliency of the strap enables the stop and guide means to withstand without injury, shocks applied thereto when the cover is pushed into the cabinet. The strap is formed to provide a pocket portion 136 adapted to receive the rear edge of the cover and a substantially vertical stop and guide free end portion 138. If desired a reinforcing strap member 140 may be secured to the rearwardly extending portion of the strap 134 in the manner illustrated. With this structure it is seen that as the cover is assembled with the support mechanism by first inserting the cover into the cabinet until it engages the stop portion 138 of the strap. In this position the cover is located so that the pins are in sub-

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stantially vertical alignment with the keyhole slots so that by lifting the cover vertically, as by maintaining engagement with the guide portion 138, the pins are automatically directed through the enlarged portions of the keyhole slots, the tapered tops of the pins facilitating their entrance. The cover is then moved rearward so that the pins enter the narrow portions of the keyhole slots and the rear edge of the cover enters the pocket portion 136 of the strap 134. While only one strap 134 is illustrated in Fig. 8 it is understood that an identical strap is preferably located adjacent the opposite end of the transverse frame member 44 to maintain proper alignment of the cover.

In Fig. 8 a slightly modified form of the actuating member 122 is also shown. In this embodiment the actuating member is designated by the numeral 135 and is identical to the member 122 except for the manner of attachment to the frame member 44. Thus, the actuating member 135 is provided with an elongated slot 137 for slidably receiving a pin 139 fixed on the frame member 44. A spring 141 is connected between the pin 139 and a pin 143 fixed on the member 135 whereby a resilient connection between the members 44 and 135 is provided. This resilient connection reduces any possibility of injury to the frame or the actuating means resulting from shocks imparted to the frame during assembly of the cover.

In Figs. 9 and 10 there is illustrated another modification of the structure for connecting the cover to the support mechanism. In this modification the above described pins on the cover and the slots in the transverse frame members have been eliminated and replaced by similar headed pins 142 secured to the transverse frame members and slotted fingers 144 secured to the cover. As shown best in Fig. 10, each finger 144 has an attachment portion 146 welded or otherwise secured to the cover and a slotted free end portion 148 spaced above and parallel to the cover and adapted to slide over the transverse frame member. A cover having the connecting means of Figs. 9 and 10 may be assembled within and removed from the cabinet in substantially the same manner as the cover shown in Figs. 1 through 7 and described above.

Figs. 11 and 12 illustrate still another modified form of the structure for guiding and connecting the cover to the supporting mechanism. In this embodiment an inclined guide member 150 is secured to the drawer support channel 32 adjacent the inner or rear end thereof for guiding the inner end of the cover upwardly toward the transverse frame member 44 as the cover is advanced into the cabinet chamber. In order to permit adjustment of the drawer supporting mechanism in the manner described above, the inclined guide member 150 extends only part of the way to the support frame and is complemented by another inclined guide member 152 secured to the cover support frame. The guide member 152 is provided by the free end of a strap 154 which is secured to the transverse frame member 44 and extends rearwardly therefrom. The strap 154 is also formed to provide a pocket portion 156 adapted to receive an extension 158 on the cover. Preferably, the guide members 150 and 152 are inclined relative to the horizontal at substantially the same angle as the slot 98 in the cam plate 94 so that the two guide members 150 and 152 will lie close to each other at all adjusted positions of the cover supporting mechanism 40. While the inclined guide members are shown at only one side of the cabinet in Fig. 11 it is understood that similar inclined guide members are arranged at the opposite side of the cabinet so that the inner edge or extension of the cover will be guided and supported at opposite margins thereof and maintained in proper alignment.

In this embodiment it is contemplated that the cover will be assembled with the supporting mechanism by advancing the cover into the cabinet so that the cover extension 158 rides up on the guide members 150 and 152 and is finally supported in the pockets 156. Quick release latch means is provided for supporting the forward

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margin of the cover by which latch means the cover is connected during upward movement thereof to the support frame. This latch means includes a pair of pins 160 and 162 fixed on the cover 38 and positioned so as to register with suitable apertures formed in the transverse frame member 42 when the cover extension 158 becomes fully seated in the pockets 156. The pins 160 and 162 are notched or recessed as at 164 so that when the forward margin of the cover is raised against the transverse frame member 42 the pins extend through the apertures in the frame member and latch members 166 and 168 enter the notches to lock the cover in position. As shown best in Fig. 12 the latch member 166 is pivotally mounted on the frame member 42 as at 170 and a spring 172 is connected between the latch member and the frame member for yieldably urging the latch member into engagement with the pin 160. The latch member 168 is similarly pivotally mounted as at 174 to the frame member and is yieldably biased into latching engagement with the pin 162 by a spring 176. In order to disengage the latch members from the pins to permit removal of the cover, a pair of levers 178 and 180 are pivotally mounted on the transverse frame member 42 as at 182 and 184 respectively. These levers have arms 186 and 188 which extend forwardly out of the cabinet and are connected by an actuating bar 190. The lever 178 also has an angularly disposed arm 192 engaging the free end of the latching member 166 and the lever 180 has a corresponding angularly disposed arm 194 engaging the latch member 168. It should be noted that the latch members are arranged to engage opposite sides of the pins 160 and 162 so that upon movement of the actuating bar 190 toward the right as viewed in Fig. 12 the levers 178 and 180 are pivoted to disengage the latch members from the pins.

In Fig. 13 there is illustrated a modification similar to that shown in Figs. 11 and 12 except that the separate inclined guide members 150 and 152 have been replaced by a single guide member. Thus, in the embodiment in Fig. 13 an inclined flexible guide member 196 is welded or otherwise fixed to the pocket portion 156 of the strap 154 and the free end 198 of the guide member bears against and slidably engages the top of channel 32. This arrangement somewhat simplifies the structure of Fig. 11 while at the same time permitting adjustment of the cover supporting frame.

While certain embodiments of attachment or latch means for connecting the cover to the frame have been illustrated and described, other attachment means may also be utilized by the present invention. Thus, attachment means might be provided which can be connected or disconnected merely by moving the cover vertically. Examples of this type of attachment means includes magnets, not shown, mounted on the cover or frame and spring clips, not shown, on the frame for resiliently gripping pins on the cover. Furthermore, the latch means may be modified so that the cover can be disconnected merely by moving it horizontally relative to the frame. For example, the locking pin 70 might be formed so that it will be cammed out of the hole 74 when a predetermined horizontally directed force is applied to the cover, or the pin 70 could be eliminated and replaced by spring fingers, not shown, resiliently engaging the headed pins on the cover. Additional known forms of latching or attachment means may also be adaptable for use in the structure of this invention.

From the above description it is seen that the present invention has provided a novel cabinet structure with a drawer cover or closure that may be quickly and easily assembled within or removed from the cabinet. More specifically, it is seen that in accordance with the present invention there has been provided novel means for not only removably supporting the drawer cover but also for adjustably supporting the drawer cover. Furthermore, it is seen that the present invention has provided

a novel cabinet structure having a removable drawer cover with means for guiding the cover during assembly thereof in a manner to facilitate such assembly.

While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described herein it is obvious that many structural details may be changed without departing from the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. In a cabinet structure having a drawer opening, track means mounted within the cabinet structure proximate said drawer opening, and a drawer extending through said opening removably mounted on the track means, the combination of a frame mounted within said cabinet structure above the drawer, a drawer cover removably mounted on said frame and cooperative with the drawer for regulating the flow of air in and out of said drawer, a retaining means cooperating with said frame and the drawer cover for supporting the cover on the frame, and a latching means cooperating with the retaining means for releasably locking the cover to the frame, whereby the cover may be detached from the frame and manually removed from within the cabinet structure through the drawer opening with the track means in place after the drawer is removed from the cabinet structure and the latching means is released.

2. In a cabinet structure having a drawer opening, and a drawer extending through said opening removably mounted within the cabinet structure, the combination comprising a drawer cover substantially no wider than the drawer, said cover insertable through said opening for assembly within the cabinet structure, and removable from the cabinet structure through said opening, releasable means for detachably supporting said cover above the drawer and beneath said releasable means, said releasable means being located so that the cover must be raised to its assembled position after insertion through the opening and also must be lowered from the assembled position for removal through the opening.

3. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 2, wherein said retaining means includes attachment means carried by said cover, and attachment means supported within said cabinet structure, said attachment means being adapted to being releasably connected together, a stop means for aligning the attachment means on the cover with the attachment means supported within the cabinet structure upon insertion of the cover into the cabinet.

4. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 2 which includes fixed track means within said cabinet for supporting the drawer, and guide means positioned within said cabinet for guiding the cover during the assembly thereof to facilitate the assembly thereof, a portion of said guide means being provided by said track means.

5. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 2 which includes guide means within said cabinet for guiding the cover during the assembly thereof to facilitate the assembly thereof, portions of said guide means being located for engaging the inner margin of the cover to limit inward movement of the cover during the assembly thereof.

6. In a cabinet structure as defined in claim 2 which includes guide means within said cabinet for guiding the cover during the assembly thereof and to facilitate the assembly thereof, said guide means including portions for guiding the cover while the cover is being raised to its assembled position, said portions of the guide means being inclined and disposed for engaging the inner margin of the cover whereby the inner margin of the cover is directed upwardly during the assembly thereof.

7. A cabinet structure comprising means providing a drawer chamber and having a drawer opening therein, a drawer cover insertable and removable through said drawer opening, means including another member for supporting said cover above said opening so that the cover means must be raised to the support means after insertion through the drawer opening, and retaining means for con-

necting said cover and said support means after the cover has been raised within said chamber, said retaining means including pin means projecting from the cover and opening means in the support means, said pin means being adapted to extend into the opening means in the support means.

8. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 7 which includes releasable latching means cooperating with the retaining means for locking the cover to the support means, said latching means including a finger member extending from said support means and extending over a portion of the support means, a pin means fixed to the finger member and releasably positioned in an opening within said cover.

9. A cabinet structure comprising means providing a drawer chamber and having a drawer opening therein, a drawer cover insertable and removable through said drawer opening, cover support means disposed within said drawer chamber and above said opening, a releasable means for detachably connecting said cover to and beneath said support means, means for adjusting said support means to move said cover up and down relative to a drawer, and guide means inclined from a vertical position within said cabinet structure for engaging an inner margin of the cover for guiding the cover into registration with the support means.

10. In a cabinet structure having a drawer opening, track means disposed within the cabinet structure proximate the drawer opening, and a drawer having a width slightly less than the width of the drawer opening extending through said opening and removably supported on the track means, the combination of a frame mounted within said cabinet structure above the track means, a drawer cover removably mounted on said frame and cooperative with the drawer for covering said drawer, a retaining means cooperating with said frame and the drawer cover for releasably supporting the cover on the frame, said retaining means including a plurality of holes means in said frame and a plurality of pins fixed to said cover, said pins being registerable with said holes and releasably supporting said cover on the frame, said track means being cooperative with said drawer cover for providing guide means for the drawer cover thereby limiting the movement of the cover to insure registration of the pins with the holes during assembly of the drawer cover to the frame, and latching means cooperating with the retaining means for releasably locking the cover to the frame, said latching means including a spring finger mounted on the frame, a pin fixed to said spring finger, and hole means in said drawer cover for receiving the pin mounted on the spring finger, whereby the cover may be detached from the frame and manually removed from within the cabinet structure through the drawer opening with the track means in place after the drawer is removed from the cabinet structure, the pin mounted on the spring finger is removed from the cooperating opening, and the pins on the cover are removed from the registering hole means in the frame.

11. A cabinet structure comprising means providing a drawer chamber and having a drawer opening therein, a drawer cover insertable and removable through said opening, means for supporting said cover above said opening so that the cover must be raised to the support means after insertion through the drawer opening, and releasable latch means for connecting said cover and said support means after the cover has been raised within said chamber, said latch means including cooperable elements on said support means and cover, one of said elements being a marginal opening slot and another of said elements being headed pin means insertable into said slot.

12. A cabinet structure comprising means providing a drawer chamber and having a drawer opening therein, a drawer cover insertable and removable through said opening, means for supporting said cover above said opening

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so that the cover must be raised to the support means after insertion through the drawer opening, and releasable latch means for connecting said cover and said support means after the cover has been raised within said chamber, said latch means being connectible upon horizontal movement relative to the support means after the cover has been raised, and said latch means including a releasable member for preventing inadvertent relative horizontal movement between the support means and the cover.

13. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 9 which includes a drawer track fixed within said drawer chamber for supporting a drawer, said drawer track also providing a generally horizontal guide over which the cover may be moved during assembly within the drawer chamber,

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and said inclined guide having a free end resiliently and slidably engaging the horizontal guide provided by said drawer track.

14. A cabinet structure as defined in claim 9 wherein said support means includes a horizontally opening pocket for receiving and supporting an inner margin of said cover.

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