

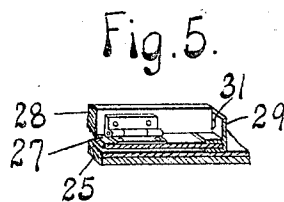
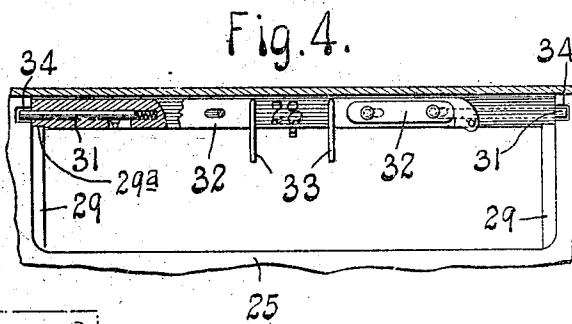
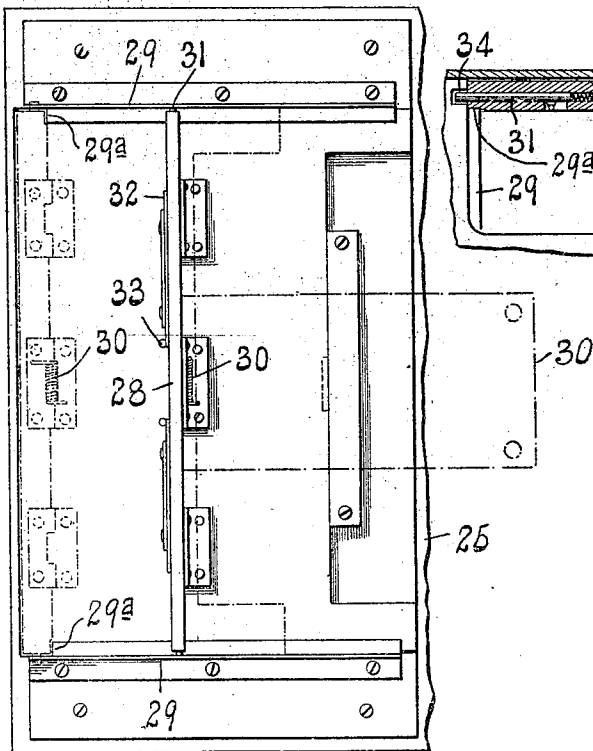
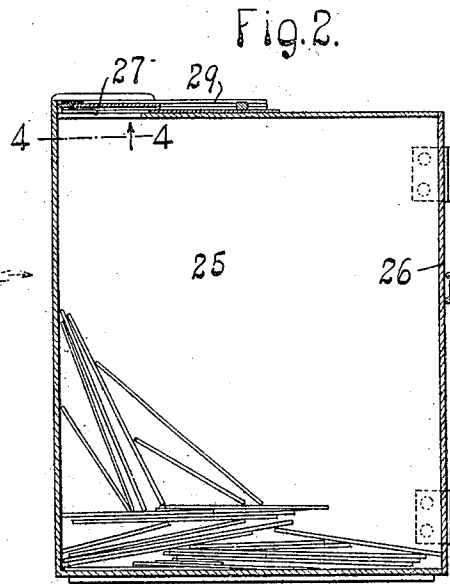
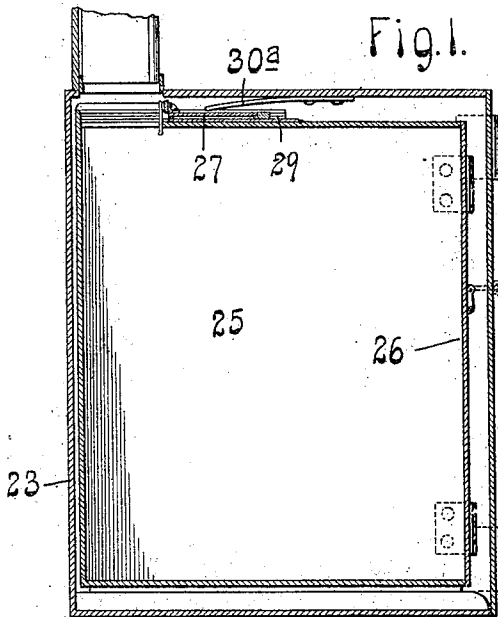
L. EHRLICH.

LETTER BOX.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 2, 1909.

948,815.

Patented Feb. 8, 1910.



Witnesses
a. j. m. Cauley
Lenore Clark

Inventor
Leo Ehrlich
by *F. R. Cornwall*
ATTY.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEO EHRLICH, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR TO U. S. MAIL CHUTE EQUIPMENT COMPANY, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, A CORPORATION.

LETTER-BOX.

948,815.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 8, 1910.

Original application filed October 15, 1906, Serial No. 339,131. Divided and this application filed February 2, 1909. Serial No. 475,685.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEO EHRLICH, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view through my improved letter box arranged at the bottom of a mail chute; Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the box removed; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary plan view of said box; Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line 4—4, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the closure for the inner receptacle.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in letter boxes, the object being to construct a box of the character described which can be placed in a mail-receiving box at the lower end of a mail chute, the said letter box receiving the mail from chute and being capable of being removed, the act of removal closing the mail-receiving aperture.

Where mail chutes are installed in public buildings and are accessible to employees of the Post Office Department at all mail-collecting hours, it is only necessary to provide a receptacle 23 at the bottom of the chute, access to which receptacle may be gained through a door 24, and the key to the lock of which is held by the post office employee. In private buildings, however, such as department stores or other places where the proprietors desire to provide public conveniences, mail chutes cannot be used unless the building is kept open so as to permit employees of the post office to obtain access to the receptacle at all collecting hours. This, of course, is not feasible and I have therefore provided a means whereby mail deposited in the chute may be transmitted to the post office in a receptacle, the carrier not having access to the mail.

Referring now to Fig. 2, a receptacle 25 is shown, which receptacle is provided with a door 26, said door being locked and the key being in the possession of an employee of the post office. This receptacle 25 is of

such size as to be introduced into the receptacle 23, and is provided with a mail-receiving opening in line with the chute and through which opening mail deposited in the chute will pass into said receptacle 25. A closure is provided for this opening and means are arranged to operate this closure and close the said opening when the receptacle 25 is removed for transportation to the post office. This closure is in the form of a plate 27 slidably mounted in guides 29 arranged on the top of the receptacle 25.

28 is a section hinged to the plate 27, a torsion spring 30 exerting its energy to hold the plate in an upright position. The ends of hinged section 28 ride upon the guides 29 and prevent the hinged section from locking the plate 27 in its closed position until such time as said hinged section shall have passed the ends of said guides, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3.

30^a is a flat yielding plate mounted on the under side of the top wall of the receptacle 23 in line with the hinged section 28 as shown in Fig. 1. When the receptacle 25 is removed the free end of this plate 30^a engages the hinge section 28, forcing the plate 27 to move to its closed position, and when the plate 27 is home the hinge section 28 will have been moved past the flanges on the guide pieces 29 so that the hinge section 28 may be folded down as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 3. The hinge section 28 is provided with two spring-pressed latch bolts 31 which are connected to sliding pieces 32, which sliding pieces have pinch handles 33 arranged thereon. When the hinge section 28 is moved by the plate 30 to a horizontal position, the latch bolts 31 register with recesses 34 in the side walls of the receptacle 25. The springs pressing the latch bolts outwardly cause them to engage said recesses as shown in Fig. 4. These latch bolts together with the ends 29^a of the flanges on the guiding plates prevent the plate 27 from being opened from the exterior. Consequently, when this inner receptacle is removed from the receptacle 23 the opening in said inner receptacle is coincidentally closed and locked in its closed position so that it cannot be opened from the outside, and thus the said inner receptacle may be carried to the post office where a key to the door 26 thereof is kept, and when

said door is opened access may be had to the interior thereof. When the door 26 is open a person may grasp the pinch heads 23 and retract the bolts 31 so that the hinge plate 5 27 may be slid back to open the mail-receiving aperture of the receptacle. When the receptacle is introduced in the box 23 the plate 30 will yield sufficiently to permit the hinge section to ride thereunder and be in 10 readiness to again close the plate 27 by co-operating with said hinge section in the manner hereinbefore described, when the inner receptacle is removed.

Instead of having the walls of the inner 15 receptacle made up of sheet metal they can be made up of canvas or other flexible material.

I am aware that minor changes in the construction, arrangement and combination 20 of the several parts of my device can be made and substituted for those herein shown and described without in the least departing from the nature and principle of my invention.

25 This application is a division of an application filed by me October 15th, 1906, Serial No. 339,131.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

30 1. In combination with a mail chute, a removable receptacle having a mail-receiving aperture, a closure for said aperture, said closure comprising a sliding plate, a hinge section on said sliding plate, and 35 spring-pressed bolts arranged in said hinge section and adapted to lock said closure in its closed position; substantially as described.

2. In combination with a mail chute, a 40 removable receptacle having a mail-receiving aperture, a closure for said aperture comprising a sliding plate, a hinge section at one edge of said sliding plate, locking bolts carried by said hinge section for locking the 45 same in its closed position, and means arranged inside of the removable receptacle for operating said locking bolts; substantially as described.

3. A portable letter box, having a mail 50 receiving aperture, a sliding plate for closing said aperture, a member hinged to said plate, a means on said hinged member for locking the plate in closed position, and which plate and locking means are actuated 55 when the letter box is removed from its holder.

4. A portable letter box for mail chute receptacles, provided with a mail receiving

aperture, a sliding closure for said aperture which is closed when the box is removed 60 from the receptacle, a hinged member on the closure which occupies a vertical position when the closure is in an open position, and which hinged member is engaged by a part of the receptacle when the box is re- 65 moved therefrom, and means carried by said hinged member for locking the closure.

5. A portable letter box, having a mail receiving aperture, a sliding member for closing said aperture, a hinged section on 70 said sliding member, yielding means for normally holding said hinged section in an upright position, and locking members carried by said hinged member and adapted to en- 75 gage with the body of the box when the hinged member occupies a horizontal position.

6. A portable letter box having a mail receiving aperture, a sliding plate for closing said aperture, a hinged section on said slid- 80 ing plate, and a pair of oppositely disposed spring-pressed bolts carried by the hinged section for locking the sliding plate in its closed position.

7. A portable letter box having a mail 85 receiving aperture, a sliding plate for closing said aperture, a hinged section on said sliding plate, a pair of oppositely disposed spring-pressed bolts carried by the hinged section for locking the sliding plate in its 90 closed position, and means whereby said bolts may be withdrawn to unlock the sliding plate.

8. A portable letter box having a mail receiving aperture, a sliding plate for closing said aperture, a hinged section on said sliding plate, a pair of oppositely disposed spring-pressed bolts carried by the hinged section for locking the sliding plate in its 100 closed position, and means arranged inside the box for operating said locking bolts.

9. The combination with a portable letter box, having a mail receiving aperture of a closure for said aperture, comprising a slid- 105 ing plate and a hinged plate, which plates are automatically closed when the letter box is removed from its support, and means carried by the hinged plate for locking both plates when closed.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my 110 signature in the presence of two witnesses, this 30th day of January, 1909.

LEO EHRLICH.

Witnesses:

F. R. CORNWALL,
LENORE CLARK.