E. LEMONS.

FIRE ESCAPE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 25, 1913.

1,134,468.

Patented Apr. 6, 1915.

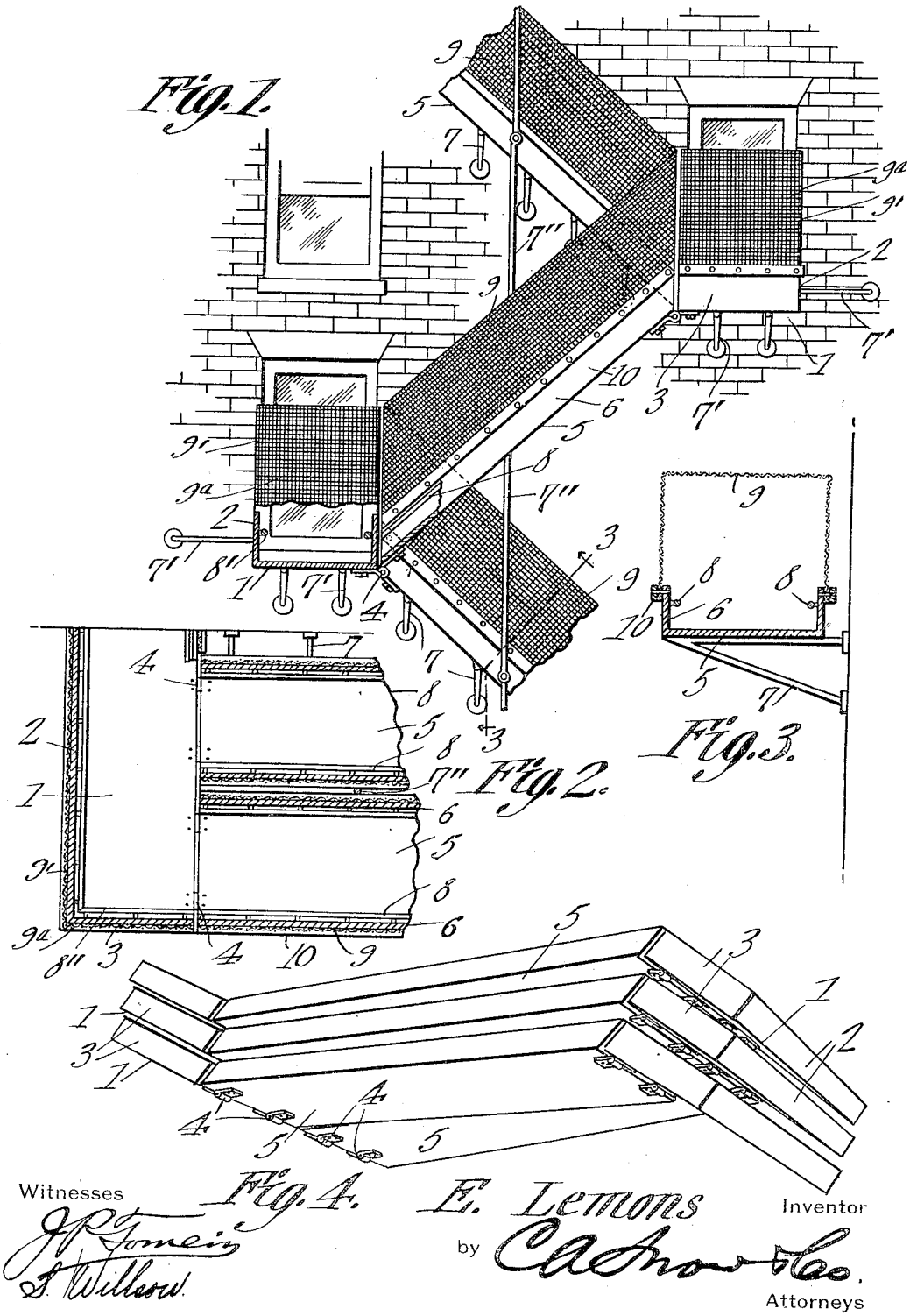


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

Witnesses

J. P. Tomein

S. Willson

E. Lemons

Inventor

by C. A. Snow & Co.

Attorneys

THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIAS LEMONS, OF SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

1,134,468. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 6, 1915.

Application filed April 25, 1913. Serial No. 763,686.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELIAS LEMONS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Scranton, in the county of Lackawanna and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Fire-Escape, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention appertains to fire escapes, and aims to provide a novel and improved structure of that character.

It is the object of the present invention to provide a novel fire escape embodying zig-zag chutes or slideways which may be attached to a building, or which may be disposed or laid upon an ordinary zig-zag stair fire escape, so as to communicate with the respective windows, and to permit the occupants of the building to enter the fire escape at the various windows and to then slide to the ground in a sitting posture.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a fire escape of the nature indicated embodying coverings or protectors for the several chutes and platforms, the coverings or protectors coöperating with each other to provide a continuous passage throughout the length of the fire escape, and having openings registering with the respective windows, doors or openings in the building through which the occupants may pass into the fire escape.

With the foregoing general objects outlined and with other objects in view, which will be apparent as the description proceeds, the present invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that changes in the precise embodiment of the invention can be made within the scope of what is claimed without departing from the spirit of the invention.

The invention has been illustrated in its preferred embodiment in the accompanying drawing, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a fragmental elevation of the fire escape as applied to a building. Fig. 2 is a fragmental plan view of the fire escape, the coverings or protectors being partially broken away. Fig. 3 is a transverse section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an elevation disclosing how the fire escape may be folded or collapsed prior to erection.

In carrying out the invention, reference being had in detail to the drawing, there is provided a plurality of platforms or landings 1 for the several floors of the building, the platforms being arranged in a vertically staggered manner and being disposed adjoining the respective windows, it being understood, of course, that the fire escape may be extended to any suitable height. The platforms 1 are provided with the upturned sides 2 along and coextensive with their remote edges, and with the upturned ends 3 at their outer ends.

The chutes or slideways 5 are connected at their ends to the adjoining edges of the platforms 1, the chutes being arranged in a zig-zag manner, and the alternate ones being attached adjoining the respective ends of the platforms. The chutes or slideways 5 embody the upturned sides 6, so that the chutes are channel shaped in cross section, the ends of the sides or flanges 6 being cut vertically or obliquely relative to the chutes, so as to properly coöperate with the platforms. The chutes 5 are hinged to the adjoining edges of the respective platforms 1 by means of hinges 4, it being noted that the ends of the chutes are open so as to communicate with the platforms, thereby providing or establishing a continuous zig-zagged chute or slideway throughout the length of the fire escape.

Those chutes 5 disposed adjoining the wall of the building or the inner chutes may be conveniently supported by means of brackets 7, and the platforms may be braced, as at 7′, while the respective chutes 5 may be connected by braces 7″, so as to provide a substantial or rigid structure. It is to be understood, of course, that the chutes or platforms may be supported or braced in any suitable manner, according to the circumstances.

Hand rails 8 are attached to the inner faces of the sides 6 of the chutes, and similar hand rails 8′ and 8″ are attached to the outer sides and ends of the platforms, in order that the persons passing down the fire escape, may grasp the rails so as to control their movement.

Arched coverings or protectors 9 have the lower edges of their sides secured to the upper edges of the sides 6 of the chutes, this being preferably accomplished by riveting or otherwise securing strips 10 to the edges of the sides 6 of the chutes and clamping the edges of the coverings 9 under the strips 10. The coverings or protectors 9 are preferably constructed of wire mesh

of suitable gage, which will permit of vision therethrough, but which prevent persons from being crowded or pushed off of the fire escape, it being noted that the entire fire escape is closed or covered, as will hereinafter appear, to prevent such accidents. Similar coverings or protectors 9′ are attached to the platforms, and also embody outer ends 9ª, the inner ends of the coverings being open so as to communicate with the windows or openings in the wall of the building. The ends of the coverings 9 are cut vertically so as to properly abut against the coverings 9′ of the platform, the inner sides of the coverings 9′ being cut away so as to communicate with the ends of the coverings 9. Thus, a continuous covering is provided for the entire fire escape, the same having openings registering with the windows.

The rear or inner ends of the platform are preferably extended, so as to project to the windows, and in order to permit the respective chutes to be spaced from the wall of the building.

The advantages incident in the present construction will be apparent from the foregoing, it being observed that the present fire escape may be set or disposed upon the ordinary zig-zagged fire escape now prevalent, the platforms 1 being adapted to seat on the landings of ordinary fire escapes and the chutes 5 being adapted to seat on the stairs or inclined ladders connecting the landings. The construction of the present fire escape is such that the same may be compactly folded prior to erection, for purpose of compact storage or shipment, this feature being illustrated in Fig. 4. It will be observed that the several coverings may also be nested together in a convenient manner when detached, so as to permit the chutes to be folded as illustrated in Fig. 4, and in order that the entire fire escape may be stored within a small compass.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:—

A fire escape structure comprising a plurality of platforms arranged in staggered relation, chutes arranged in zig-zag order and having their ends hinged to the adjoining edges of the adjoining platforms, the inner ends of the platforms being extended to communicate with openings in a building, with the chutes spaced from the building.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

ELIAS LEMONS.

Witnesses:
WM. HEARNE,
JAMES H. KEARNEY.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."