Aug. 7, 1945. J. F. BOWMAN 2,381,569

RODENT GUARD

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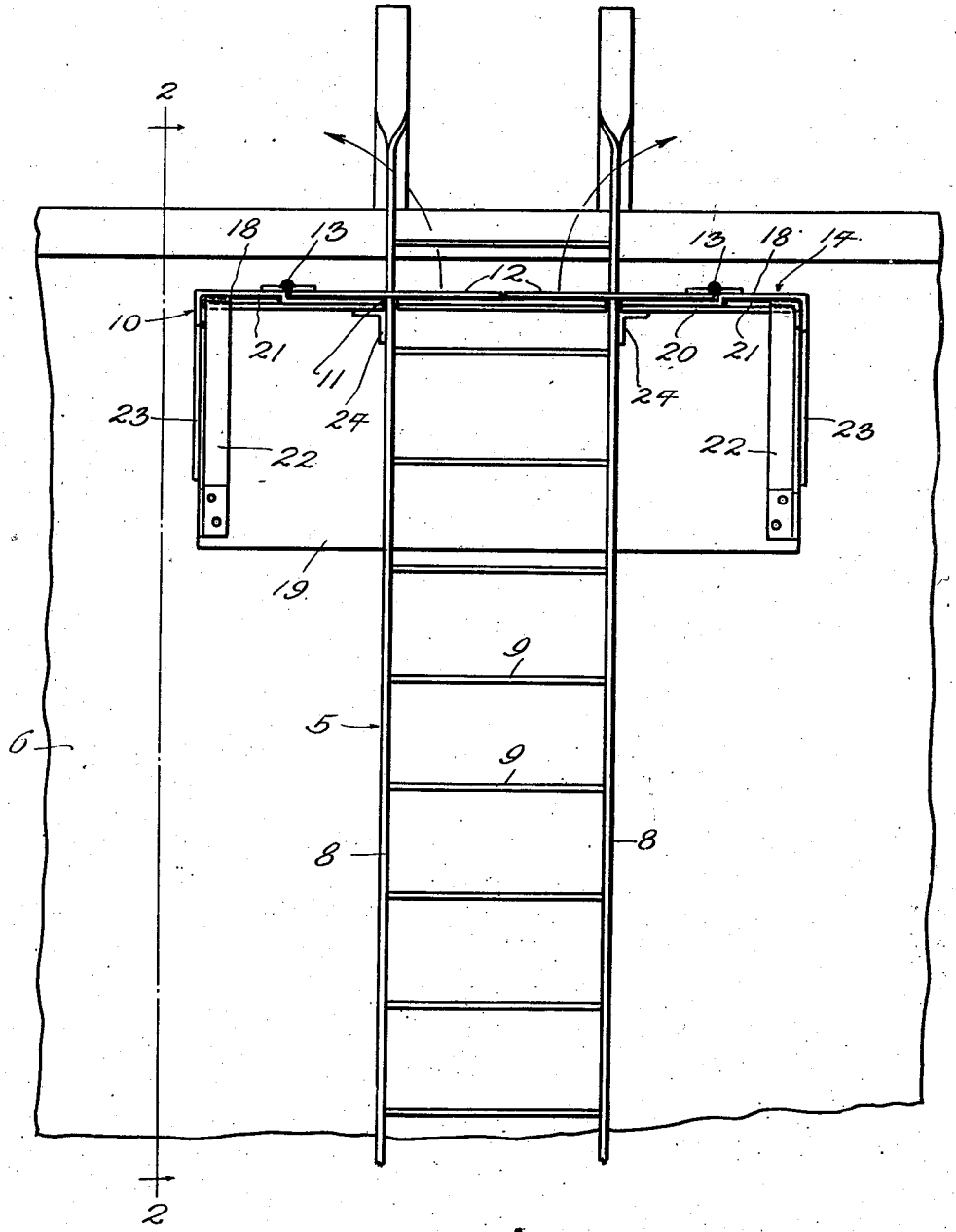


Fig. 1.

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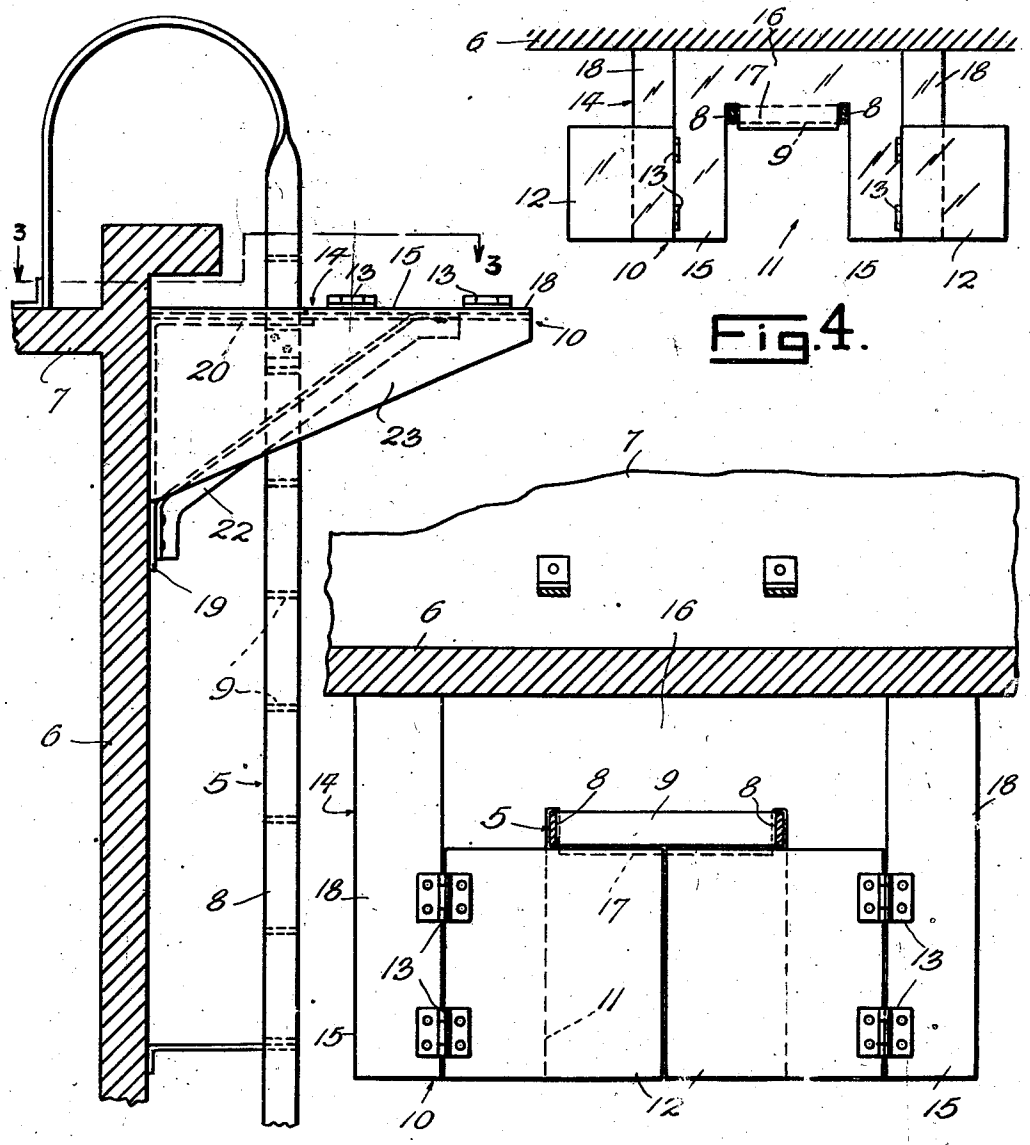


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 3.

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2,381,569

RODENT GUARD

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Application September 27, 1944, Serial No. 556,012

9 Claims. (Cl. 228—1)

The invention aims to provide a simple, inexpensive and effective guard to prevent rodents, primarily rats, from ascending fire escape ladders and thus entering buildings.

A further object is to provide a novel construction which will not interfere with use of the ladder by firemen and others.

Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings is a front elevation of a ladder equipped with the invention, a portion of the wall adjacent which the ladder is mounted, being also shown.

Figure 2 is a vertical sectional view on line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a horizontal sectional view on line 3—3 of Fig. 2.

Figure 4 is a small view similar to Fig. 3 showing the two sections of the door in completely open positions to better illustrate the shape of the guard plate upon which they are mounted.

The general construction disclosed in the drawings may be considered as preferred and while that construction will be specifically described, it is to be understood that variations may be made within the scope of the invention as claimed.

The numeral 5 on the drawings denotes a fire escape ladder adjacent a wall of a building 6 and extending to the roof 7, said ladder having the usual stiles 8, and rungs or steps 9.

A guard 10 horizontally surrounds the ladder 5 and projects forwardly, rearwardly, and laterally from said ladder to prevent rodents from ascending onto the roof 7. The guard 10 includes a passage 11 through which a person may pass to permit him to use the ladder 5, and said guard also includes a door normally closing said passage 11. This door preferably comprises two sections 12 hingedly mounted at 13 for upward and outward swinging to open positions, spring hinges being preferably employed to prevent gusts of wind from possibly opening the door sections and also to prevent them from being left open accidentally.

The guard 10, in the present disclosure, includes a U-shaped plate 14 which horizontally straddles the ladder 5, the two arms 15 of said plate being disposed at the outer sides of the stiles 8 and projecting forwardly from said stiles, while the arm-connecting portion 16 of said plate is disposed behind and abuts said stiles. This arm-connecting portion 16 is shown as provided with a forwardly projecting flange 17 which extends from one of the stiles 8 to the other and also extends to the door sections 12 to provide a closure between said stiles 8. If the guard is so installed, however, that the plate 14 is in about the same plane with one of the steps or rungs 9, it will not be necessary to provide the flange 17.

In the construction illustrated, one of the door sections 12 is hinged upon one of the arm portions 15 of the plate 14 and the other of said door sections is hinged upon the other arm 15. The outer edge portions of these arms may be upwardly offset as shown at 18, if desired.

In the present disclosure, a vertical bracket plate 19 is provided to be secured to the wall 6, said bracket plate having a flange 20 at its upper edge upon which the plate 14 is suitably secured. The flange 20 may well be longer than the plate 19 and may have its ends 21 folded upon themselves to underlie the offset plate portions 18. Braces 22 are preferably secured to the bracket plate 19 and to the arm portions 15 of the plate 14, and these arm portions may have downwardly projecting flanges 23 at their outer edges, if desired, said flanges being suitably secured to the plate 19. The portion 20 may be secured by angle brackets 24 to the sides of the ladder as shown in Fig. 1. It will be understood that the device may be secured in any suitable manner to the ladder or the building or both.

It will be seen from the foregoing that a simple and inexpensive construction has been provided, yet one which will effectively prevent rats and the like from ascending fire escape ladders and reaching the roofs of buildings. However, as the door of the passage 11 may be readily opened, the guard will not interfere with the use of the ladder by firemen or others. It is preferable that the door sections 12 swing upwardly to permit a fireman to easily open them when ascending the ladder, either by hand, or by simply pushing against them with his head.

While the general structure shown and described may be considered as preferred, attention is again invited to the possibility of making variations within the scope of the invention as claimed.

I claim:

1. In combination with a ladder; a guard on said ladder projecting forwardly, rearwardly and laterally therefrom to prevent rodents from ascending said ladder, said guard including a passage in front of said ladder through which a person may pass, and a door normally closing said passage.

2. In combination with a ladder; a U-shaped plate horizontally straddling said ladder and secured in fixed relation therewith, said U-shaped plate having its two arm portions disposed at the

outer sides of and projecting forwardly from the ladder stiles and having its arm-connecting portion disposed behind the ladder, the space between said arm portions constituting a passage through which a person may pass, and a door mounted on said plate and normally closing said passage to prevent passage of rodents therethrough.

3. A structure as specified in claim 2; said door comprising two upwardly swingable sections, one hinged to one of said arm portions and the other hinged to the other of said arm portions.

4. A structure as specified in claim 2; said arm-connecting portion of said plate being provided with a flange extending from one of said stiles to the other and projecting forwardly to said door.

5. A guard shaped to horizontally surround a ladder and to project forwardly, rearwardly, and laterally therefrom to prevent rodents from ascending, said guard including a passage through which a person may pass, and a door normally closing said passage.

6. A guard comprising a U-shaped plate to horizontally straddle a ladder, the two arm portions of said plate being adapted for location at the outer side of the ladder stiles and to project forwardly therefrom, the arm-connecting portion of said plate being adapted for location behind the ladder, the space between said arm portions constituting a passage through which a person may pass, and a door mounted on said plate and normally closing said passage to prevent ascent of rodents therethrough.

7. A structure as specified in claim 6; said door comprising two upwardly swingable sections, one hinged to one of said arm portions and the other hinged to the other of said arm portions.

8. A structure as specified in claim 6; said arm-connecting portion of said plate being provided with a flange projecting forwardly to said door and terminating in spaced relation with the inner edges of said arm portions for reception between the ladder stiles.

9. A structure as specified in claim 5; together with a bracket structure secured to said plate for mounting it on a building wall.

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