(No Model.)

J. S. HECKER.

KEYHOLE GUARD.

No. 572,988. Patented Dec. 15, 1896.

fig. 1.

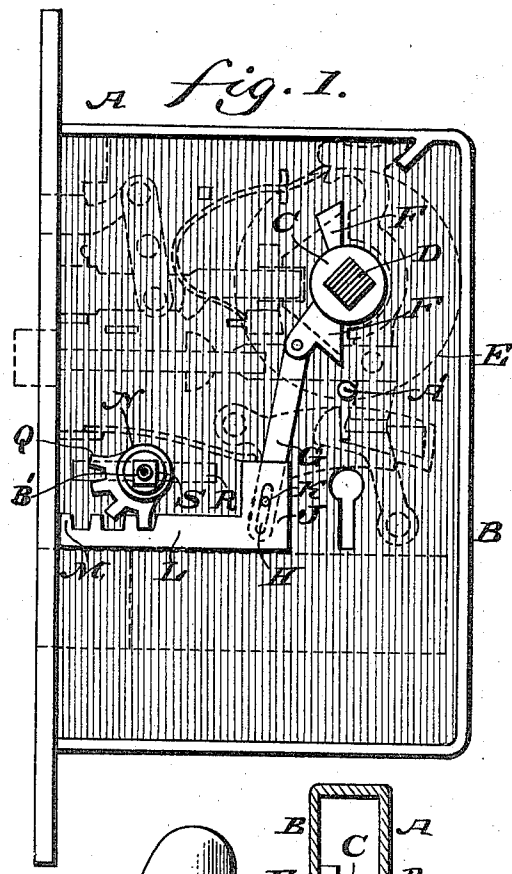
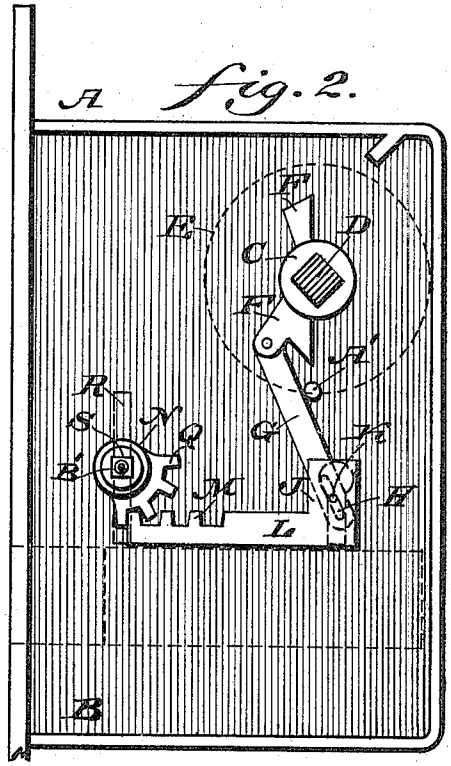


fig. 2.



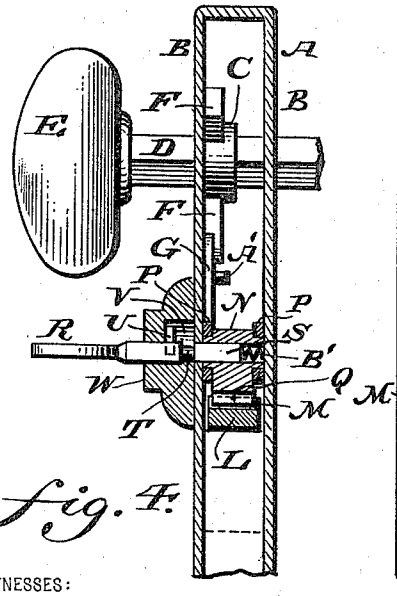


fig. 4.

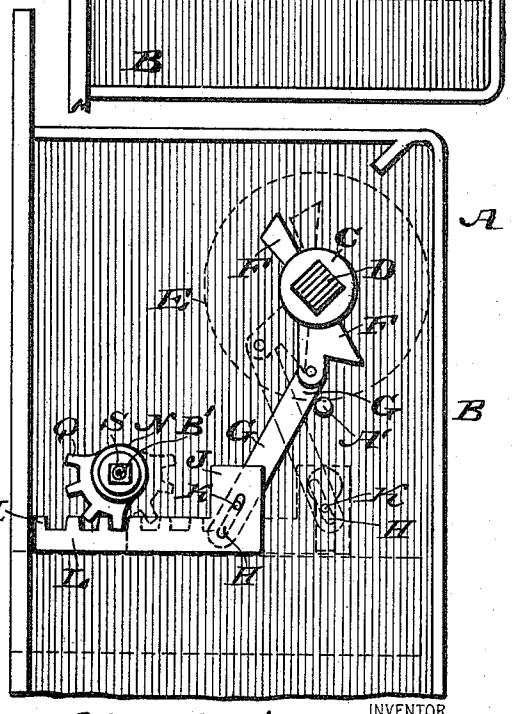


fig. 3.

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KEYHOLE-GUARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 572,988, dated December 15, 1896.

Application filed January 4, 1896. Serial No. 574,348. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JACOB S. HECKER, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city and county of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Keyhole-Guards and Locks, which improvement is fully set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawings.

My invention consists of an improvement in keyhole-guards, as will be pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a lock at one side of the housing and part of mechanism of the lock removed and showing the novel details of my device in full lines. Figs. 2 and 3 represent similar views showing the novel details in a different position. Fig. 4 represents a vertical section of the novel details.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a latch-lock having the housing B, and all the parts being of ordinary construction, excepting as hereinafter designated.

C designates a collar which is mounted on the shaft D of the knob or handle E of the lock, said collar C having the ears F, to one of which is pivotally attached the rod G, near the lower end of which is a slot H.

Suitably supported within the lock A is the plate J, which acts as the keyhole-guard, said plate having on one side a pin K, which enters the slot H in the rod G. Secured to or forming part of the plate J is the extension L, which has the rack M on one of its faces.

N designates a sleeve journaled in the washers P and having the teeth Q, the same meshing with the teeth of the rack M.

R designates a key having the squared end S and the rounded neck T, said squared end being adapted to pass through a square opening in the housing of the lock and enter a square opening in the said sleeve N. A pin U in the side of the key moves in a slot V in an escutcheon W, which is secured to the housing of the lock. A pin A′ is suitably mounted in the path of said rod G, as will be hereinafter set forth.

The operation is as follows: The lock being of the class of latch-locks, the same cannot be operated from the outside excepting by the use of the latch-key or setting the dead-latch so that the outer knob may throw the latch, all of which is accomplished by devices now in common use. When the parts are in the position as seen in Fig. 1 and it is desired to close the keyhole, the key R is turned, which is permitted by the neck T, so that the sleeve N is operated and with it the teeth Q, which meshing with the rack M moves the extension L and the plate J, which closes the keyhole. By turning the key R in the opposite direction the keyhole is opened.

If the keyhole is left closed, as seen in Fig. 2, and any one leaves the room or house, &c., in the door of which the lock is situated, said door could not be opened without removing the lock. In order to overcome this, the rod G and parts are employed, so that when the inner knob is turned to open the door to allow passage the collar C is turned, and with it the ears F, to one of which the said rod G is attached, which moves over until it reaches the pin A′, which acts as a stop and prevents the further movement in that direction, and thus forms a bearing and causes the rod to push the plate away from the keyhole, which will thus always be opened by the turning of the inner knob and will remain so until closed again by operating the key R. It will be noticed that when the keyhole is opened, as seen in Fig. 1, the inner knob may be turned without operating the guard, owing to the slot H in the rod G.

If desired, the key R may be provided at its end with a spring B′, which is adapted to bear against the side of the housing opposite to that through which the key enters and hold the same in such position that it will always be necessary to push in the said key in order that the circular neck T may coincide with the wall of the housing and thus allow the key to be turned, for when the key is in a position as shown in Fig. 4 it will act as a lock for both the keyhole-guard and the latch, for neither of the knobs can be turned. It will thus be seen that before any one can open the door the said key must be pushed in, which will act as a reminder to open the keyhole.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a lock, a casing with a keyhole therein, a knob-shaft with a collar thereon, a plate or guard adapted to cover said keyhole, a rod connected with said collar, a rack pivotally connected with said rod and having a connection with said plate, and a pin on said casing in the path of said rod, said parts being combined substantially as described.

2. In a lock, a casing with a keyhole therein, a plate adapted to cover said keyhole and provided with a rack, a rotatable sleeve within said casing having teeth engaging said rack, suitable connections between said plate and the knob-shaft of the lock and a key adapted to engage in said sleeve, and having a neck for rotation in the wall of the casing, said parts being combined substantially as described.

3. In a lock, a sliding guard, within the casing for a keyhole in said casing, a rotatable sleeve for actuating said guard, a key engaging said sleeve having a neck for rotating in the wall of the casing, and a spring between the inner end of said key and the casing, said parts being combined substantially as described.

4. In a lock, a guard for a keyhole in the casing thereof, a rotatable sleeve mounted in said casing and engaging and operating said guard, an escutcheon with a slot therein, and a key engaging said sleeve and provided with a pin in said slot in said escutcheon, said parts being combined substantially as described.

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