(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. W. CUTLER.

LETTER BOX.

No. 430,626. Patented June 24, 1890.

Fig. 1

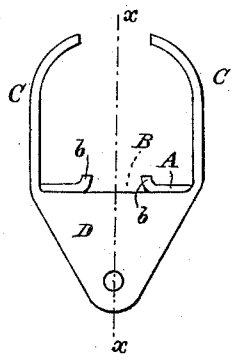
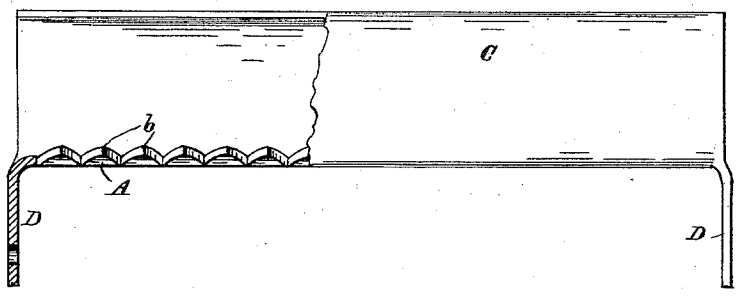


Fig. 2.



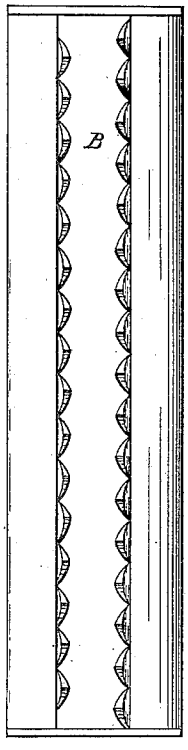


Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

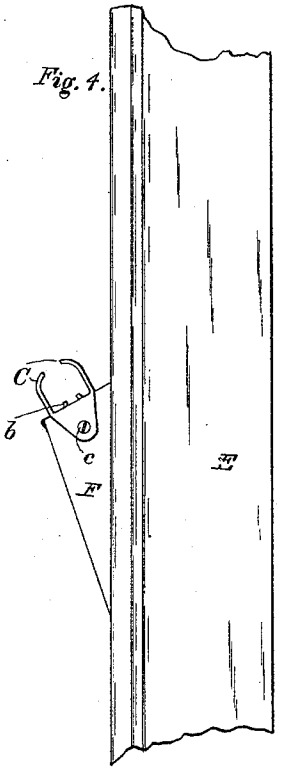
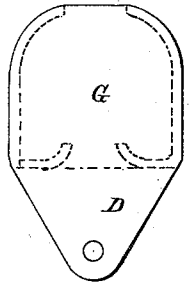


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

Fred F. Church

E. D. Smith

INVENTOR

Joseph Warren Cutler

By his Attorneys.

Church & Church

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

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 6.

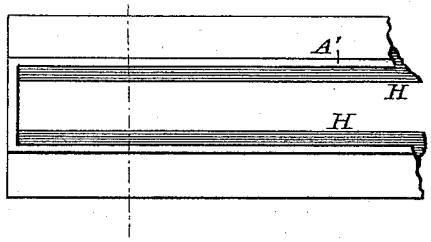


Fig. 7.

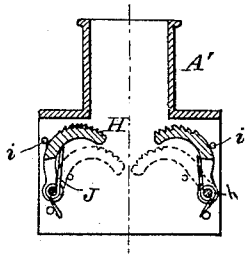


Fig. 8.

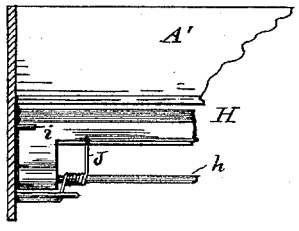


Fig. 9.

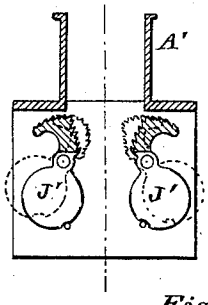


Fig. 10.

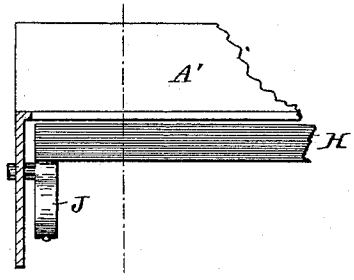


Fig. 12.

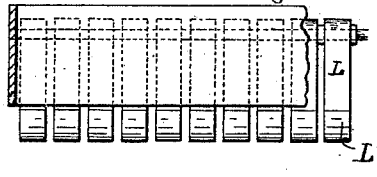
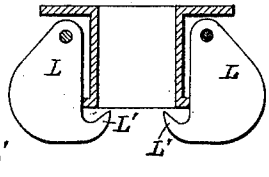


Fig. 11



WITNESSES

Fred G. Church

E. B. Smith

INVENTOR

Joseph Warren Cutler

By his Attorneys

Church & Church

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

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 430,626, dated June 24, 1890.

Application filed January 20, 1890. Serial No. 337,471. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER, of the city of Rochester, county of Monroe, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and to letters of reference marked thereon.

My present invention relates to improvements in letter-boxes and connections particularly applicable to the mailing chutes or connections described in Patents Nos. 336,038 and 390,347, and has for its object to provide means for preventing the introduction of newspapers loosely folded or packages so large as to be liable to clog the chute or letter-box; and to this end it consists in certain improvements in construction and combinations of parts, the novel features of which will be pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an end elevation of my improved guard; Fig. 2, a side view, partly in section, which latter is taken on the line *x x* of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a top plan view; Fig. 4, a view showing its application to a mailing-chute; Fig. 5, an end view of a slight modification; and Figs. 6 to 12 are views of further modifications.

Similar letters of reference in the several figures denote similar parts.

Heretofore the objection has been raised to the use of mailing-chutes that loosely-folded newspapers or bulky packages might be compressed slightly and forced into the mailing-apertures, and which after expanding would clog the chute and prevent subsequently-deposited matter from reaching the receiving-box below, or that boxes intended to be filled with letters and first-class mail-matter might be filled with newspapers or other matter of less importance. In order to obviate these objections, which, perhaps, are not without some force, I propose to employ a guard for preventing access to the true mailing-aperture, regulating the size of the mail-matter, so that the newspaper or other article cannot be compressed sufficiently close to said aperture as to permit its introduction.

In Figs. 1 to 4 I have shown, perhaps, the simplest form of my invention, consisting of a plate or guard A, having a slot B therein, the edges of which are preferably turned up slightly and serrated or provided with a series of projections *b*, as shown, said aperture being of a size capable of receiving the largest article it is desired to have enter the letter-box or chute. Extending over this aperture are flanges or guards C, preferably slightly wider apart than the edges of slot B and preventing access to the latter, so that while a folded newspaper might be compressed at the end and forced into the opening in the guard its subsequent expansion would cause it to abut against the sides of slot B and prevent its further movement, and even if one corner should be passed into the latter slot the corrugations or projections *b* would arrest its lateral movement and prevent its being crowded down into the box or chute, as might be done if the edges were smooth. As a convenient manner of constructing this guard cheaply, and also facilitating its application to chutes or mailing-receptacles now in use, I prefer to form it from a single blank of sheet material, the aperture B being formed by punching out a piece while the guard-flanges A are turned up, as shown, over it and the ends D, constituting lugs or ears, are turned down and perforated, serving as the means for attachment by a screw or screws *c*, substantially as shown in Fig. 4, E representing the chute, and F the forward projection containing the usual mailing-aperture. Instead of leaving the ends of the guard open, it might be desirable in some instances to cover them by means of a plate G, as in Fig. 5, which would also prevent the guard-flanges from being turned down by maliciously-disposed persons or by accident.

Instead of making the guard of sheet material, as shown, it could as well be cast or formed in any other desired manner or applied to a chute or box by other means than that described.

In Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are shown top plan, cross-sectional, and longitudinal sectional views of a modification of the device shown in the first five figures, the mailing-aperture being formed by jaws or plates H H, pivoted on

pins *h* and held against suitable stops *i* by springs J, though capable of movement toward each other, as in dotted lines, Fig. 7, to narrow the opening between them. The upper sides of these jaws are roughened or provided with serrations or teeth, as shown, and the flanges A′ of the casing to which they are attached or in which they are mounted are arranged a slightly greater distance apart than said jaws are normally, so that while a small letter or paper might be introduced readily, a larger one, though it might pass between guard-flanges A′, would strike the jaws and cause the latter to turn in, contracting the opening, as shown in Fig. 7 in dotted lines, or if the friction between any portion of the article and the edges of the jaws should be too great the jaws would turn toward each other and grip it, preventing its entering the box or chute, as will be understood. In Figs. 9 and 10 substantially the same arrangement of pivoted jaws is shown, except that they are retracted to normal position by counterweights J′.

In Figs. 11 and 12 are shown cross and longitudinal sections of another form, in which, as before, there is a guard over the true depositing-aperture; but in this instance, instead of corrugations being formed upon the jaws, they are composed of separate weighted plates or pieces L, hung upon suspending-rods M, and having the hooked or projecting ends L′, between which ordinary letters can pass, but upon which newspapers will catch. The object in making these plates separate is to prevent the whole of the aperture being enlarged by inserting the corner of a paper or package and then by sliding it laterally crowd the whole in, as even if some of the plates are forced back the others would form laterally immovable abutments, preventing this objection.

The aperture B is the true mailing-aperture—that is, the opening through which the letter or other piece of mail-matter passes ultimately before reaching the receptacle—and it is therefore immaterial whether it is above the usual aperture of the chute, as in Fig. 4, or below it.

It is obvious that this invention can be employed in connection with ordinary letter-boxes or in other places where it may be desirable.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, with a mail-receptacle provided with an unobstructed receiving-aperture with substantially straight projecting flanges or projections on one or both sides thereof, of a guard for preventing direct access to the receiving-aperture, having an unobstructed opening corresponding to the latter, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a mail-receptacle provided with an unobstructed receiving-aperture with substantially straight projecting flanges or projections on one or both sides, of a guard for preventing direct access to the receiving-aperture, having an unobstructed opening slightly smaller than the latter, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with a mail-receptacle provided with a receiving-aperture having a series of substantially straight projections on one or both sides, of a guard for preventing direct access to the receiving-aperture, having an opening corresponding to the latter, substantially as described.

4. A guard for mail-receptacles, having an aperture therein with substantially straight projecting flanges or projections at the sides, and the flanges turned over and projecting above the aperture, substantially as described.

5. A guard for mail-receptacles, having an aperture therein with substantially straight shoulders at the sides, the two flanges turned over and projecting above said aperture, and the securing flanges or plates thereon, substantially as described.

JOSEPH WARREN CUTLER.

Witnesses:
FRED F. CHURCH,
FRED W. SMITH.