To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. CARDWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Houston, in the county of Harris and State of Texas, have invented new and useful improvements in Self-Closing Bundle-Receptacles, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention has reference to a bundle receptacle or basket for the running boards of automobiles.

My object is the production of a reticulated device for this purpose which is of a collapsible nature, which, when not in use will automatically fold and arrange itself upon the under face of the running board.

A further object is the production of a bundle receptacle or basket for the running boards of automobiles including a reticulated side which is hingedly connected to the under face at the outer edge of the running board of an automobile and its said hinge influenced by a spring whereby the same is normally swung under the said running board, the side member having hingedly attached thereto spring influenced ends, the springs whereof normally forcing the same against the side, and the said ends, when the device is in its set up position being engaged by elements on the upper face of the running board, and exerting an inward pressure against the said elements, the said ends are effectively retained in vertical position and hold the side or back member thereof likewise in vertical position. The release of the end members permits of the same being swung against the side or rear member of the receptacle, and as stated, the spring hinge of the said side or rear member swings the device as a whole under the running board, so that the improvement may be thus considered automatic in closing.

I attain the foregoing objects by a construction, combination and operative arrangement of parts, such as is illustrated by the drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my device in set up position to provide a receptacle on the running board of an automobile.

Fig. 2 is a sectional view approximately on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a sectional view approximately on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an underneath plan view of the running board with the improvement in operative position.

Fig. 5 is a front elevation of a slight modification.

Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view thereof, the front of the receptacle being in its raised or operative position.

Fig. 7 is a vertical sectional view of a modified form of the device, showing adjacent parts of the automobile, the dotted lines illustrating the device in inoperative position.

Referring now to the drawings in detail, the numeral 1 designates the running board 2 of an ordinary automobile 2.

Hingedly connected to the under face of the running board, at the lower outer corner thereof, as at 34—35 is the lower longitudinal bar 4 of a substantially rectangular frame 5. The frame has a facing of reticulated material, such as a wire mesh which is indicated by the numeral 6. The hinges 3 are influenced by springs 7 which serve to normally swing the frame against the under face of the running board 1. The hinged connection, however, is such as to permit of the frame assuming a vertical position against the outer edge of the running board when the frame is swung upwardly on the said board. The frame and its mesh facing provides the side or back member of the self closing bundle receptacle that forms the subject matter of this invention.

On the vertical or end members 5 of the frame 5 there is hingedly secured, as at 5, the inner members of substantially rectangular frames 10. These frames 10 are each materially shorter than the frame 5 and slightly less in height, and the springs 9 for the said frame 10 are influenced by springs 11 whereby the said frames 10 are normally swung against one of the faces of the frame 5. The frames 10 have reticulated or mesh facings 12, and these frames and their facings provide the end members of the bundle receptacle. The end members, when the device is in its set up position have their lower bars of their frames, indicated for distinction by the numeral 13 resting directly on the upper face of the running board, and on the said upper face of the running board there is a pair of spaced hooks 14. The hooks have their hooks 15 directly outwardly, or toward the opposite ends of the running 16.
board, and the springs which influence the hinges of the end frame force the lower bars thereof against the hooks and beneath the beaks thereof. The device, it will be noted provides a substantially rectangular receptacle in which bundles may be received on the running board without danger of displacement by the shocks and jars to which the vehicle is subjected. The end members of the frame, when the receptacle is not required for use, are moved outwardly from the hooks and are caused by their spring hinges to fold against the back member of the receptacle. A release of pressure on the back member will permit of its spring influenced hinges swinging both the back and end members beneath the running board. It will be seen that the receptacle is self closing and being wholly concealed under the running board when not in use offers no obstruction to the free use of the said running board.

In Figs. 5 to 7 I have illustrated a slight modification. In the said figures, the front member of the receptacle has its edges in the nature of a wire frame to which the reticulated facing is secured. The frame, indicated by the numeral 16 has its ends and top constructed of comparatively heavy wire, but its bottom 17 is constructed of comparatively thin wire. This thin wire 17 is bent inwardly from the ends thereof under the running board 18 and is secured thereto by eyes. The under member of the frame, outward of the eyes is encircled by springs 20, one end of each of the springs being secured to the under face of the running board. The side members of the frame are connected by spring hinges 21 to end plates 22. The end plates each have an aperture 23 therethrough to receive the beaks or hooks 24 on the upper face of the running board. The springs for the end members influence the same against the front frame, and the spring for the front frame swings the device as a whole beneath the running board. On the under face of the running board there may be buffers 25 with which the device contacts, and also on the under face there is a spring clip 26 to engage the upper longitudinal wire of the front member of the device.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim, is—

1. In combination with a support having hooks on the upper face thereof, a self closing receptacle, including a frame hingedly connected to the under face at the outer and lower corner of the support, and the said hinges being spring influenced, end frames, of a less length and width than the first mentioned frame hingedly connected to the ends of the first mentioned frame, and the said hinges being spring influenced whereby the end frames will be normally swung against the first mentioned frame, and the said end frames designed to engage with the hooks and through the medium of their spring hinges to exert a tension thereagainst, when the said end frames are moved over the top of the running board and the first mentioned frame is brought to a vertical position with respect to the running board.

2. In combination with a support, of a self closing receptacle therefor designed when not in use to automatically move beneath the support, said receptacle including a spring influenced outer member, and spring influenced end members designed to be normally folded against the outer member, and means on the support for engaging with the end members, when the device is brought to operative position for holding the end members and the first mentioned member in upright vertical positions with respect to the support.

3. In a luggage carrier, the combination with the running board of a vehicle, of a wall disposed longitudinally of the running board and hingedly connected thereto at its outer longitudinal edge and normally supported in a vertical position, and spring means normaly urging the wall to a horizontal position beneath the running board.

4. A luggage carrier comprising a side wall and end walls hingedly connected thereto, a support to which the side wall is hingedly connected, and spring means interposed between said side wall and support to normally swing said side wall below said support.

5. In a luggage carrier, the combination with the running board of a vehicle, of a side wall disposed longitudinally of the running board and hingedly connected thereto at its outer longitudinal edge and normally supported in a vertical position, spring means normally urging the wall to a horizontal position beneath the running board, end walls hinged to the side wall and adapted to be folded upon the latter when not in use, and a latch element arranged upon the under face of the running board for engagement with the free end of the side wall to retain the latter against movement.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CHARLES E. CARDWELL.