To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, Frederick W. Rolland, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Feeders for Check-Controlled Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention has reference to improvements in feeders for check controlled apparatus, and more especially for such apparatus as is designed for operation only by a special form of check or slug purchasable from a separate vending machine or from a duly authorized person. Devices of this general type are in frequent use at telephone pay stations, but since they are attached directly to the instruments, which latter are usually located in closed booths, the insertion of the coin in the particular manner necessary in the feed slot, when demand is made therefor, is a matter of considerable difficulty, owing to the scarcity of light, and much time is wasted in consequence.

My invention aims to overcome the objectionable feature just referred to by providing a feeder equipped with a guide leading into the opening therein, so as to permit the person about to use the telephone to dispose the check in proper position upon the guide prior to calling the operator, and to eject the check from the guide into the feeder as soon as his number has been obtained.

A structural embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved feeder. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the check used in connection therewith. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of said feeder taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of feeder. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the check used in the modified form.

As shown in said drawing, the feeder comprises essentially merely two parts, namely, the body 7 and the guide 8, this being true for both forms of the invention.

The body 7 is designed for attachment in any suitable manner to the coin-box, (not shown) of the telephone instrument or other apparatus with which it is to be used, and is in the form of a solid metal casting having in its interior a downwardly-inclined chute or runway 9 terminating at its lower end in an outlet or discharge slot 10. In one side of said body, there is formed an inlet opening 11 which is of the proper size to permit the insertion of the check 12 therethrough into the upper end of the chute 9. In order to facilitate such insertion, the guide 8 is provided. This element comprises, in the present construction, a horizontal bar or rail 13, arranged centrally of the opening 11 and projecting a slight distance thereinto at its inner end. It is formed with a flat depending flange 14 arranged longitudinally and terminating short of the rail ends, said rail and flange being supported by a foot 15 formed integral with the latter at the inner end thereof and with a lateral projection or boss 16 formed upon that wall of the body through which the inlet opening 11 is cut.

The check used with the feeder above described is in the form of a circular disk in which are cut a central opening 17, and a radial slot 18 communicating with the same. The opening and slot are of the proper size to permit the check to be introduced onto the guide, the position of the slot with reference to the opening being identical with that of the flange 14 with reference to the rail 13.

In the simplest form of the invention, the peripheral wall of the inlet opening 11 is unbroken, and the side faces of the rail flange are plain. This construction may be modified, if preferred, by providing a plurality of wards located at suitable points, the check being notched at corresponding points, as will be understood. These wards, of which there may be any desired number, are preferably formed both on the flange faces and on the peripheral wall of the inlet opening, although they may be omitted at either place. In the arrangement shown in Fig. 5, two wards are employed, one on one of the flange faces, as indicated by the numeral 19, and the other, indicated by the numeral 20, on the wall of the opening. The check is formed with corresponding notches 21 and 22 cut, respectively, in the wall of its slot 19 and in its peripheral edge, there being, preferably, a counterpart pair of notches formed at each side of the 110
check so as to facilitate its positioning upon the guide, as will be apparent. It is to be understood, however, that the duplex arrangement of notches, while desirable, is not strictly essential, since a single pair only may be employed, nor is it necessary that the notch in the edge of the check be upon the same side as the notch in the slot wall.

The peculiar construction of the guide and its projection into the inlet opening cooperate to preclude the operation of the apparatus with any checks except those sold or issued in the prescribed manner, this result being furthered by the formation of the ward or wards at the place or places above specified.

In operation, the check is placed upon the guide and moved almost to the end thereof before the telephone receiver is removed from the hook; when demand is made for the check, the latter is pushed through the inlet opening, whence it falls off the guide into the chute, and then rolls out through the discharge slot 10 into the cash box, sounding the bell or other signal in the usual manner.

I claim as my invention:

1. The combination with a slug receiving chute structure having an opening in one of its walls through which a slug is adapted to be inserted flatwise, of a check-guide mounted exteriorly of the chute structure, and obstructing the said opening, and a check having a slot for receiving said guide and adapted to ride upon the latter while being digitally moved into said opening.

2. The combination with a slug receiving chute structure having an opening in one of its walls through which a slug is adapted to be inserted flatwise, of a check-guide mounted exteriorly of the chute structure, and extending into the said opening, and a check having a slot for receiving said guide and adapted to ride upon the latter while being digitally inserted through said opening.

3. The combination with a slug receiving chute structure having an opening in one of its walls through which a slug is adapted to be inserted flatwise, of a check-guide mounted exteriorly of the chute structure, and extending into the said opening, and terminating at the inner end of the latter, and a check having a slot for receiving said guide and adapted to ride upon the latter while being digitally inserted through said opening and off said guide.

4. The combination with a chute having substantially parallel front and rear walls and having an opening in the front wall thereof for admitting a slug in a direction transverse to the face of the said guide extending within the said opening transversely of the front wall of the chute; a slug having a perforation adapted to coact with the said guide, enabling the slug to ride upon the said guide while being inserted through the opening; and a supporting member connecting the guide with the chute structure, the slug being slotted to straddle the said supporting member while being digitally inserted through the opening; the said guide terminating rearwardly substantially flush with the forward surface of the bore of the chute, whereby the slug may drop into the bore of the chute through the space back of the rear end of the said guide when digitally brought into registration with the said bore.

5. The combination with a chute having substantially parallel front and rear walls and having an opening in its front wall for admitting a slug with its face parallel to the front wall of the chute, of a slug adapted to slide edgewise within said chute, the said slug having a slot transversely of its faces; and a slug-selecting guide extending within the said opening and extending forwardly of the said front wall from a plane substantially flush with the forward edge of the bore of the chute; the said guide coacting with the said slot in the slug to hold the slug substantially in transverse alinement with the said opening until the slug registers with the bore of the chute.

6. The combination with a chute having substantially parallel front and rear walls and having an opening in its front wall for admitting a slug with its face parallel to the front wall of the chute, of a slug adapted to slide edgewise within said chute, the said slug having a slot transversely of its faces; and a slug-selecting guide extending within the said opening and extending forwardly of the front wall from a plane substantially flush with the forward edge of the bore of the chute; the said guide coacting with the said slot in the slug to hold the slug substantially in transverse alinement with the said opening while the slug is being digitally slid upon the guide until the slug registers with the bore of the chute.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FREDERICK W. ROLLAND.

Witnesses:
CLAUDE P. READ,
ALBERT B. EMMONS.

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