M. CORBETT.

DOOR FASTENER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 5, 1918.

1,294,406. Patented Feb. 18, 1919.

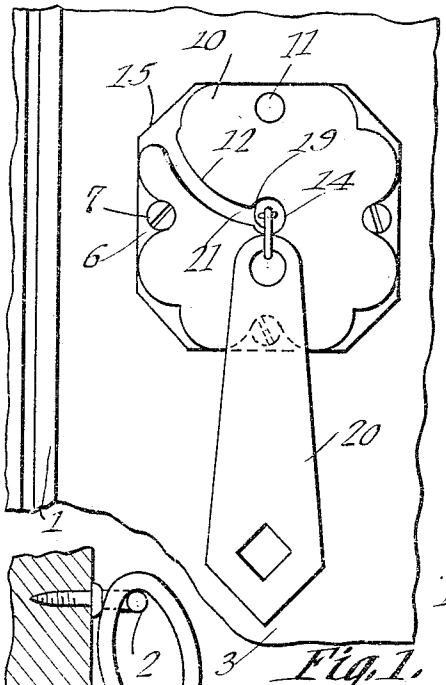


Fig. 1.

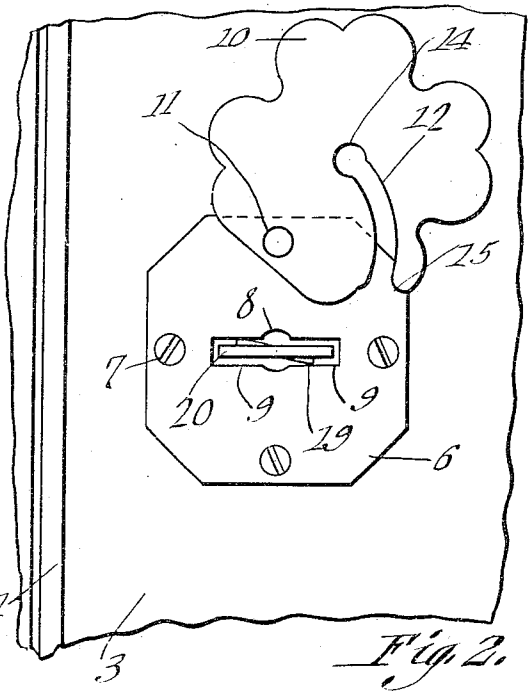


Fig. 2.

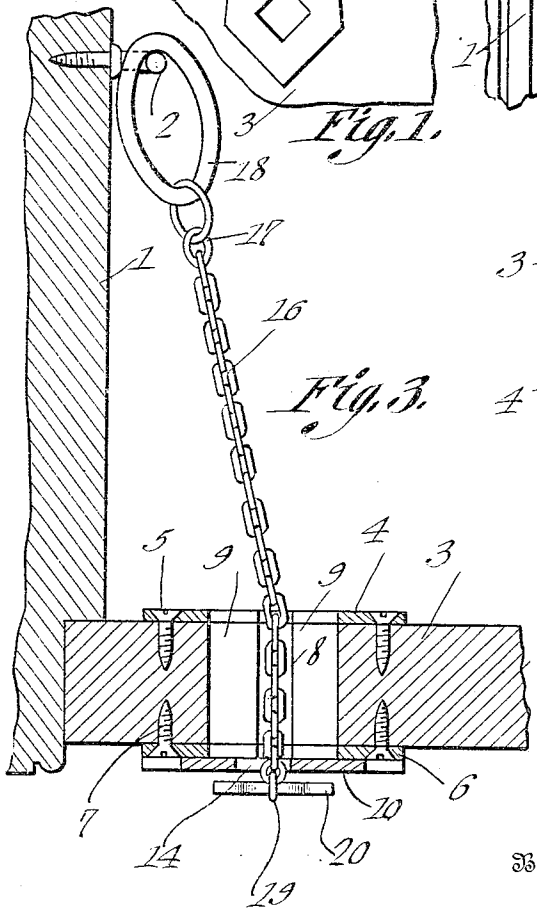


Fig. 3.

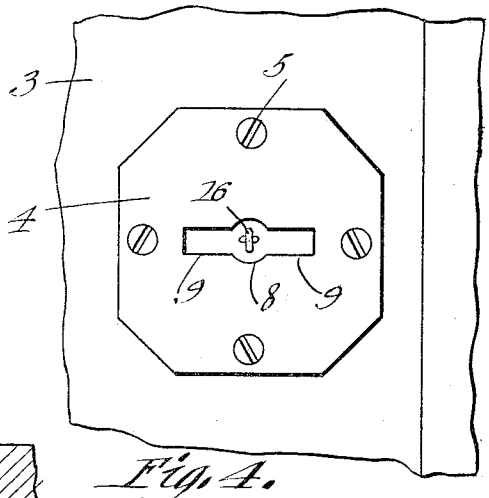


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DOOR-FASTENER.

1,294,406. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented Feb. 18, 1919.**

Application filed October 5, 1918. Serial No. 257,007.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MEDORA CORBETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Watkins, in the county of Schuyler and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Door-Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

By way of explanation it may be stated that the sick and aged frequently enter a toilet apartment or a bath room, lock themselves therein, fall into a comatose condition and suffer from lack of immediate assistance, those capable of rendering aid being prevented from doing so by reason of the locking of the door. An occupant of a toilet or bath usually desires to lock the door thereof, not with a view to frustrating such efforts as a house-breaker might make, but rather with a view to checking the entrance of a hasty or thoughtless person, intent upon his own needs and plans and void of any desire to encroach upon the privacy of the occupant.

The premises being assumed, it may be stated that it is the object of this invention to provide a simple keyless device whereby a door may be locked from the inside, and unlocked from the outside without aid from the person who effected the inside locking, a means being provided whereby information may be conveyed to the outsider that the bath, toilet or other apartment is occupied.

It is within the province of the disclosure to improve generally and to enhance the utility of devices of that type to which the present invention appertains.

With the above and other objects in view, which will appear as the description proceeds, the invention resides in the combination and arrangement of parts and in the details of construction hereinafter described and claimed, it being understood that, within the scope of what is claimed, changes in the precise embodiment of the invention shown can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention.

In the drawings:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation wherein the latch is in a closed position;

Fig. 2 is a front elevation wherein the latch is in open position;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section;

Fig. 4 is a rear elevation.

The numeral 1 marks a jamb carrying a keeper 2 of any desired kind. A closure 3 which may be a hinged door, coöperates with the jamb 1. An inner plate 4 is secured at 5 to the door 3, the door carrying an outer plate 6 secured to the door as shown at 7. In the door 3 and in the plates 4 and 6 there is fashioned an opening comprising an enlarged central portion 8 and lateral extensions 9.

A latch 10, in the form of a plate, is pivoted at 11 to the outer plate 6, to swing parallel thereto. The plate or latch 10 is provided with a curved slot 12 one end of which merges into an enlargement 14, the other end of the slot opening through the edge of the latch plate 10, in the form of a widened receiving mouth 15.

Let it be supposed that the latch 10 is disposed in front of the outer plate 6. Then the latch covers a part of the opening 8—9, the slot 12 in the latch extends transversely of the opening 8—9 and the enlargement 14 of the slot 12 is alined with the enlarged central portion 8 of the opening. Consequently, the opening 8—9 is reduced in size to an aperture denoted by the numeral 21.

In the aperture 21 above defined, a flexible element 16 such as a chain, is slidably mounted. The inner end of the chain 16 is connected by means of rings 17 of diminishing diameter, with a relatively large terminal ring 18. On the outer end of the chain 16 an elongated link 19 is mounted, the same being connected with a weight or enlargement 20.

In practical operation, the door is closed, and the person within the apartment draws the chain 16 inwardly and engages the ring 18 with the keeper 2. The link is small enough so that it can enter the aperture 21 above defined but the weight 20 is large enough so that it cannot enter the aperture. Consequently, the door cannot be opened from the outside, without resorting to a procedure hereinafter alluded to.

Let it be supposed that, for reasons hereinbefore stated it is desired to unlock the door from the outside. Then the latch plate 10 is swung laterally on the pivot 11 until the opening 8—9 is completely uncovered. The weight 20 is of sufficient size so that it can pass through the opening 8—9 along with the link 19, and, consequently, the door can be unlocked from the outside, when the latch 10 is swung laterally to uncover the opening 8—9 as aforesaid.

The weight 20 is considerably heavier than the ring 18. Therefore, when the ring 18 is not engaged with the keeper 2, the weight 20 draws the chain 16 downwardly, the latter sliding through the reduced aperture 21 hereinbefore alluded to. The terminal ring 18 is too large to pass through the opening 8—9 or through the reduced aperture 21, and consequently, the weight 20 hangs in a lowered position with practically all of the chain 16 on the outside of the door, thus giving a signal to a person outside of the door, that the apartment is unoccupied.

The enlarged part 8 of the opening in the plates 4 and 6 and the door 3, and the enlargement 14 of the slot 12 facilitate the longitudinal sliding movement of the flexible element or chain 16, when the parts are arranged as shown in Fig. 1.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a jamb having a keeper; a closure having an opening; a latch pivotally supported on the closure, the latch covering a part of the opening and the latch having a slot extended transversely of the opening thereby to transform the opening into a reduced aperture; and a flexible element slidable in the aperture; keeper-engaging means on one end of the flexible element; and an enlargement on the other end of the flexible element, the keeper-engaging means being too large to pass through the opening, and the enlargement being too large to pass through the aperture, and small enough to pass through the opening when the latch is swung to one side, to uncover the opening.

2. In a device of the class described, a plate having an opening; a latch pivotally supported on the plate, the latch covering a part of the opening and the latch having a slot extended transversely of the opening thereby to transform the opening into a reduced aperture; a flexible element slidable in the aperture; keeper-engaging means on one end of the flexible element; and an enlargement on the other end of the flexible element, the keeper-engaging means being too large to pass through the opening, and the enlargement being too large to pass through the aperture, and small enough to pass through the opening when the latch is swung to one side to uncover the opening.

3. In a device of the class described, a plate having an opening; a latch pivoted to the plate and having a slot, a portion of the slot coöperating with the opening to form a reduced aperture; a flexible element slidable in the aperture; and enlargements on the ends of the flexible elements, one enlargement being too large to pass through the opening, and the other enlargement being too large to pass through the aperture, and small enough to pass through the opening.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

MEDORA CORBETT.

Witnesses:
MAURICE L. GRIFFIN,
BARTON L. PIPER.

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