(No Model.)

W. A. CONNELLY.

INDICATING PLATE.

No. 322,259. Patented July 14, 1885.

Fig. 1.

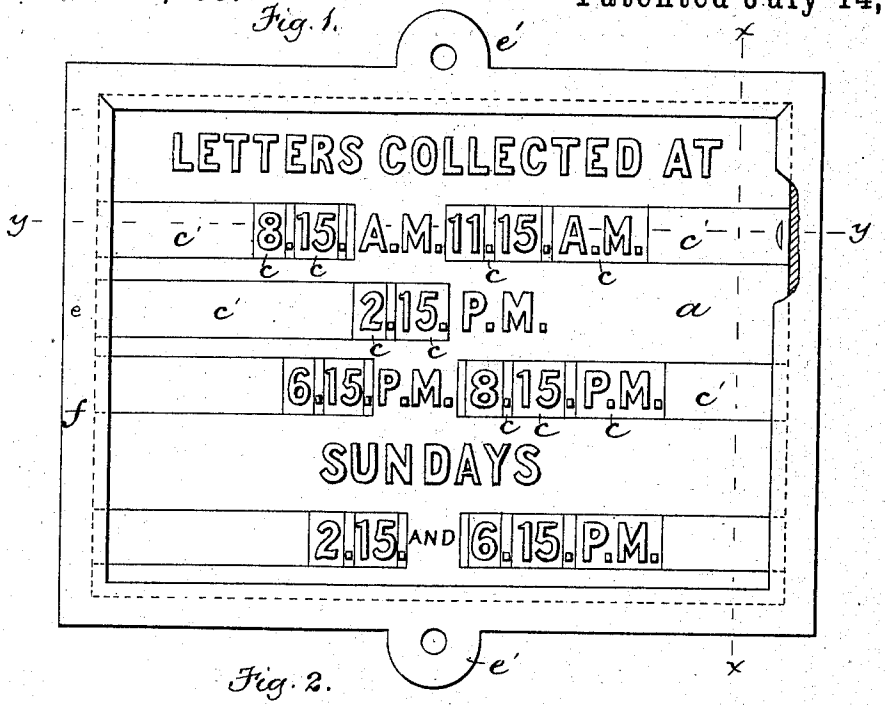


Fig. 2.

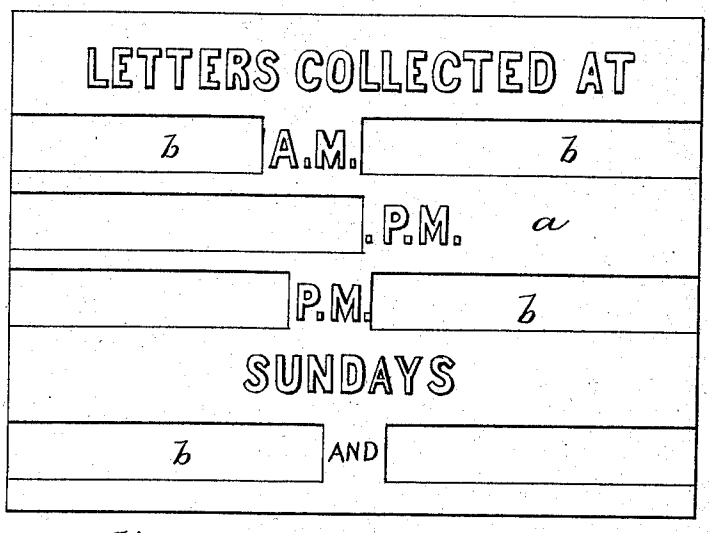


Fig. 5.

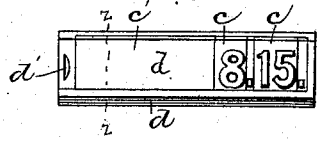


Fig. 6.



Fig. 3.

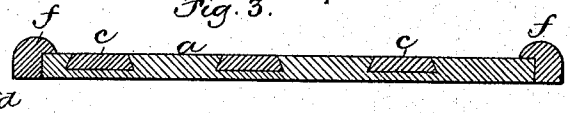
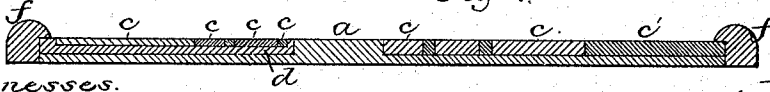


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.
H. Brouse.
W. Keith Armistead.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. CONNELLY, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

INDICATING-PLATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 322,259, dated July 14, 1885.

Application filed September 23, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. CONNELLY, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Indicating-Plates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object to provide an improved changeable sign or indicating-plate, and is intended particularly for public mail-receiving boxes, to give information as to the times when the mail matter is to be taken from the box.

The invention consists as a whole in a plate having words or characters permanently applied to or formed on it to give a part of the desired information, and provided with grooves extending from the ends of the plate along its front face, movable plates or blocks having letters or figures adapted to be inserted in said grooves to complete the plate, and a marginal frame formed to cover the edges of the plate and secure the same to the letter-box, the movable blocks being held in place in the grooves of the plate by said frame.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a front view of the plate with its movable blocks and inclosing-frame. Fig. 2 represents a front view of the plate alone, the blocks and frame being removed. Fig. 3 represents a section on line *x x*, Fig. 1. Fig. 4 represents a section on line *y y*, Fig. 1. Fig. 5 represents a slide provided with movable lettered blocks and formed to enter one of the grooves in the plate. Fig. 6 is a cross-section on line *z z*, Fig. 5.

The same letters of reference represent the same parts in all the figures.

In the drawings, *a* represents a metallic plate having in its front surface a series of grooves, *b b*, which preferably have dovetail edges, said grooves extending inwardly from the ends of the plate. The surface of the plate is provided with any suitable permanent arrangement of letters or characters, as shown in Fig. 2.

To accompany movable characters which may be inserted in the grooves *b* the permanent characters may be cast on the plate or formed in separate pieces suitably secured to the plate, or they may be painted thereon.

c c represent movable blocks formed to fit the sides of the grooves *b*, said blocks having letters, numerals, punctuation-marks, &c., so that they can be set in the required order to complete the plate, the movable and permanent letters giving collectively the information for which the plate is intended. Longer strips or plates *c'* may be employed to fill the portions of the grooves not occupied by the blocks, said filling-strips extending to the ends of the plate. If desired, the blocks *c* may be placed in recesses in slides *d*, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, each slide being formed to fill an entire groove *b*, so that all the blocks *c* intended for one groove may be moved into and out of the groove by the slide *d*, which should have a notch, *d'*, at its outer end to facilitate its removal.

e represents the inclosing-frame which is formed to cover the margin of the plate, and project slightly over the front thereof, as shown, and is provided with perforated ears *e' e'* to receive attaching-screws, whereby the frame is secured to the letter-box.

It will be seen that the frame covering the edges of the plate holds the movable blocks in place in the grooves.

The device thus constructed constitutes a simple, durable, and convenient indicating-plate, the lettering of which may be readily changed or rearranged, as occasion may require.

I am aware that a plate provided with slots extending entirely through it, and provided with a series of movable blocks having figures or numerals, has been before used on letter-boxes; hence I do not claim, broadly, a slotted plate with removable lettered or figured blocks.

I claim—

1. The improved indicating-plate *a*, having dovetail grooves *b* in its front surface, extending to the edges of the plate, so as to enable suitably-formed blocks to slide into the grooves endwise of the latter from the edges of the plate, and movable dovetail lettered or figured blocks adapted to slide in said grooves, and held in place by the sides thereof.

2. The combination of the plate *a*, having dovetail grooves *b* in its front surface, extending to the edges of the plate, movable dove-

tail lettered or figured blocks adapted to slide in said grooves, and a frame, *c*, formed to cover the edges of the plate and the ends of the grooves, and thereby prevent the removal of the blocks, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 18th day of September, 1884.

WILLIAM A. CONNELLY.

Witnesses:
C. F. BROWN,
H. BROWN.