

JAMES H. BLESSING.

2 Sheets--Sheet 1.

Improvement in Steam-Traps.

No. 114,257.

Fig. 1

Patented May 2, 1871.

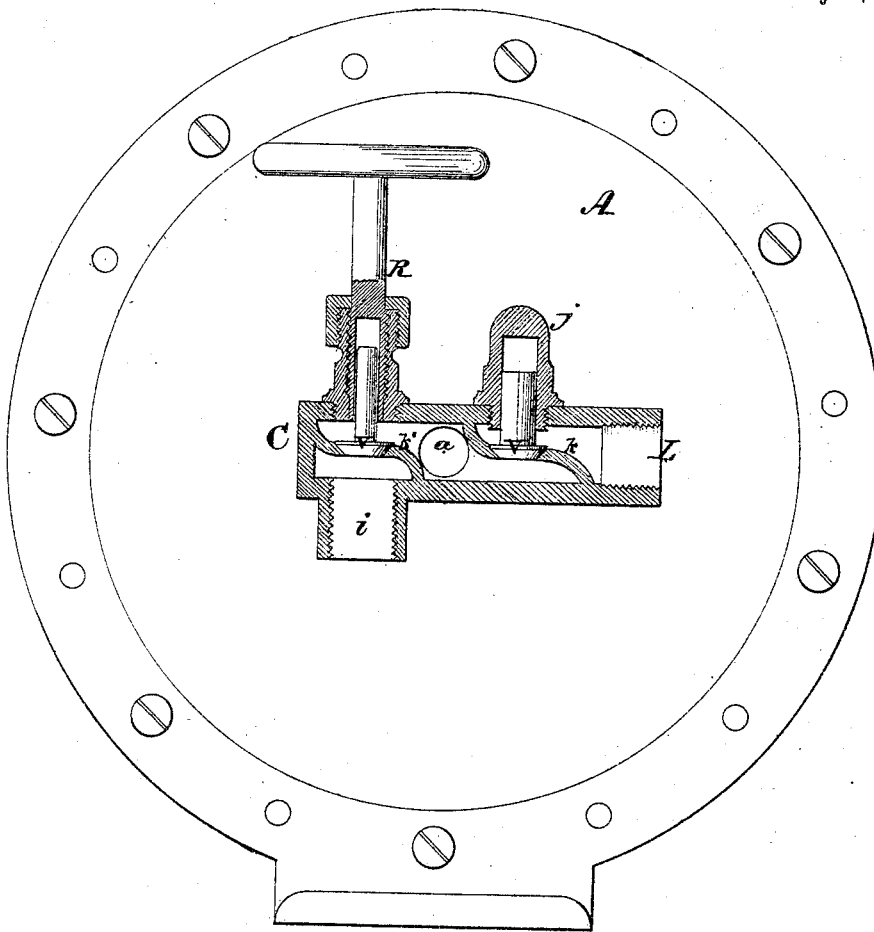
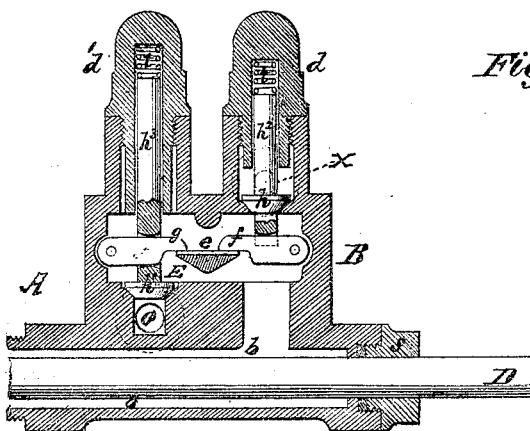
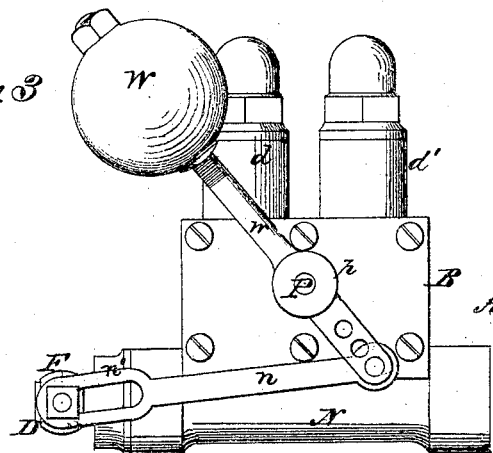


Fig. 2



Witnesses
R. J. Campbell
J. A. Campbell

Fig. 3



Inventor
James H. Blessing
by
Merrill Lawrence

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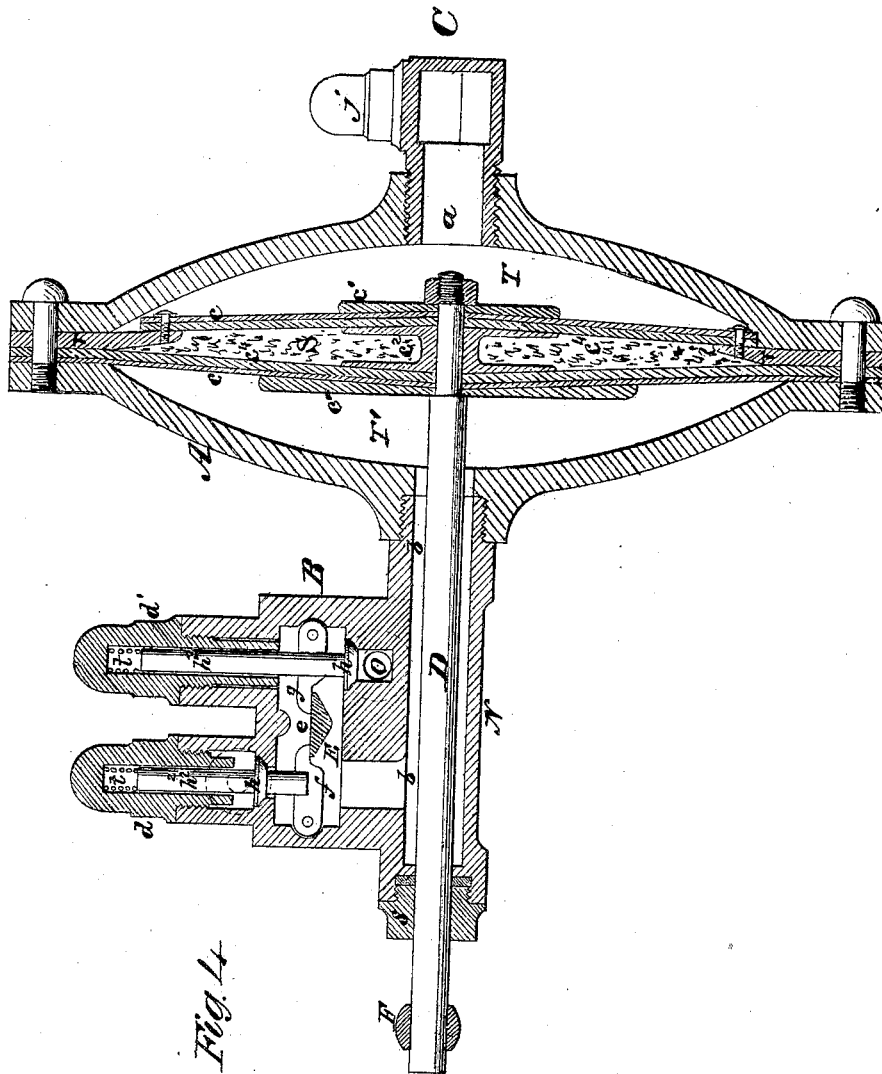


Fig. 1.

Witnesses
R. T. Campbell.
J. N. Campbell.

Inventor
James H. Blessing
by
Marion, Hewitt & Lawrence.

United States Patent Office.

JAMES H. BLESSING, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
AND FREDERICK TOWNSEND, OF SAME PLACE.

Letters Patent No. 114,257, dated May 2, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN STEAM-TRAPS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. BLESSING, of Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented a new and improved Steam-Trap; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, plate 1, is an elevation of one side of the case of the trap, showing the receiving and discharging hot-water valve-box.

Figure 2, plate 1, is a vertical section through a valve-box for receiving and discharging the actuating agent.

Figure 3, plate 1, is a view of one side of the valve-box of fig. 2, showing the mechanism for tripping the valves in this box.

Figure 4, plate 2, is a vertical section taken centrally through the trap-case, and its two valve-boxes and flexible diaphragm.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of my invention is to so construct a trap, to be used in combination with apparatus for heating buildings by steam, that the water of condensation will be automatically forced back again into the boiler, thus keeping the latter constantly supplied with pure hot water, as will be hereinafter explained.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand my invention, I will explain its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawing—

A represents a case, which is preferably made of two concavo-convex plates, bolted together by their flanges, as shown in fig. 4.

This case A contains within it a flexible diaphragm, S, which divides it into two apartments, T T', between which there is no communication whatever.

The diaphragm S is constructed of water-proof canvas *c c*, rubber *c' c'*, and an interposed filling of felt, or other suitable non-conducting substance in lieu of the felt. The object of this non-conducting flexible diaphragm will be hereinafter explained.

The end of the water-pipe containing the hot water which was condensed in the heat-radiating coils or conduits of the warming apparatus is connected at *i* to one end of the valve-box C, which is fastened to case A so as to communicate by way of passage *a* with the apartment T on one side of diaphragm S.

Directly above inlet-pipe *i* is a partition, *k*, having a seat for receiving an inlet-valve, V, the stem of which is received into the bore of an adjusting hand-wheel stem, R, as shown in fig. 1, plate 1.

Between the partition *k*, which is perforated and provided with an outlet, L, of the valve-box C, is an-

other partition, *h*, which is perforated and provided with an outlet, V', beneath which the hot water escapes on its way back to the boiler as this water is forced out of the apartment T through passage *a*.

The valve V prevents the hot water from passing back to the boiler from the valve-box, and the valve V' prevents the hot water in pipe L from passing back into the valve-box.

By means of a flanged hub, *c*², the diaphragm is centrally secured to a rod, D, which rod passes through a cylindrical chamber, *b*, inclosed in a tube, N, which tube has a stuffing-box, *s*, of suitable description applied to its outer end, through which the rod D passes, as shown in fig. 4.

The tube N communicates with the apartment T' of case A, and also with a chamber, E, which is contained within a valve-box, B, constructed on top of the tube N.

In the center of the chamber E is an oscillating rocking valve-trip, *e*, which is applied fast on a horizontal transverse stem, P, carrying on its outer end a slotted collar, *p*, shown in fig. 3.

On the extremities of the trip *e* the free ends of pivoted valve-lifters *f g* rest.

The valve-lifter *f* receives upon it the bifurcated end of the valve-stem *h*² of a receiving-valve, *h*, which when lifted allows either water, air, or steam, under pressure, to enter the chamber E through a receiving passage, *x*.

The valve-lifter *g* passes through the stem *h*³ of a valve, *h*¹, which latter is intended for closing an outlet or waste-passage, O.

The springs *t t* in caps *d d* operate respectively upon the valve-stems *h*² *h*³ to keep the valves down upon their seat when they are not acted on by the lifting devices.

To the outer end of the rod D an arm, F, is rigidly secured, the outer end of which is reduced, screw-threaded, and provided with a nut.

On this reduced end of arm F the slotted end *n'* of a connecting-rod, *n*, is applied so as to slide freely, limited only by the length of the slot.

The opposite end of the rod *n* is pivoted to the lower shortest arm of a vertically-vibrating loaded arm, *w*, which has a weight, W, applied on its upper end, as shown in fig. 3.

I have thus described the several parts constituting my improved steam-trap. The operation is as follows:

The trap is adjusted in communication with a system of steam-heating pipes or coils so that the water of condensation can pass into the apartment T of case A, through valve-box C, and out again through the pipe L leading to the boiler.

On the opposite side of the case A a pipe leading

from a hydrant, *a*, reservoir, or other suitable source from which a head of water can be conveniently obtained, is put in communication with the inlet-passage *X*, above valve *h*, so that when this valve *h* is raised (the opposite or outlet-valve *h'* being shut) the water under pressure will rush through chamber *E*, through passage *b*, and into the apartment *T'* of case *A*. The outlet-pipe *O* may be carried off wherever it may be convenient to discharge the waste water.

The steam from the boiler is admitted to the system of heat-radiating pipes or coils above referred to, and as it passes through them and is constantly condensing, the hot water resulting from the condensation is forced from the waste-pipe by the pressure of steam through the opening closed by valve *V* into the valve-box *C*, and thence into the apartment *T* of case *A*, thus pushing the diaphragm *S* inward and filling the case. Now if, on the other side of the case *A*, the actuating agent above named be admitted by lifting valve *h*, it will pass through chambers *E* and *b* into the case *A* on the opposite or empty side of the diaphragm, and if the pressure be sufficient it will push the diaphragm back again, and thus force the hot water, previously received into the case, out through passage *a* into valve-box *C*, and thence beneath valve *V*, and into the boiler again.

The loaded lever *w* has its fulcrum loosely on the stem *P* of the valve-trip *e*, and passes through an enlarged slot made vertically through the collar *p*, which is fast on the said stem. Now, as the diaphragm is pressed toward valve-box *B* by the accumulation of water and force of steam in apartment *T*, the arm *F* on the rod *D* moving outward will carry with it the loaded lever *w*, until the weight *W* passes a vertical plane, intersecting the axis of stem *P*, when the weight *W* will fall to one side and lift the valve *h*, (the valve *h'* being shut,) and thus establish a communication between the apartment *T'* and the actuating agent.

The force thus brought to act on that side of the diaphragm next the apartment *T'* will force the diaphragm toward the valve-box *C*, shut valve *V*, and open valve *V'*, thus compelling the hot water in apartment *T* to flow back into the boiler.

When the apartment *T* is thus emptied and the diaphragm and its rod *D* have moved the loaded lever *w* past a vertical plane, the weight *W* will fall to one side and lift the valve *h'*, close valve *h*, and thus allow the water in the apartment *T* to pass off freely through outlet *O*, while the apartment *T* is being again filled with hot water.

In this way and by these means the operation goes on automatically and constantly to repeat itself.

The diaphragm *S* receives on one side hot water and on the other side cold water, consequently, by making this diaphragm a non-conductor of heat, the temperature of the hot water while in the case *A* will not be materially reduced.

Instead of a flattened case and a flexible diaphragm, as hereinabove described, a cylinder having a piston working in it may be employed, and is considered by me the equivalent of the case and diaphragm.

Having described my invention,

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The non-conducting diaphragm *S*, or its equivalent, working in a case, *A*, in combination with inlet and outlet-valves applied to said case on opposite sides of said diaphragm, and operating substantially as described and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with the case *A*, or its equivalent, of the hot-water valve-box *C*, containing inlet-valve *V* and outlet-valve *V'*, and communicating by way of passage *a*, with the hot-water apartment *T*, substantially as described.

3. In combination with the diaphragm-case *A*, the receiving and discharging-valve box *B*, the diaphragm-rod *D*, and suitable valve-lifting devices, operating automatically on the valves in said box, substantially as described.

4. The non-conducting diaphragm *S*, made flexible, substantially as described.

JAMES H. BLESSING.

Witnesses:

JOHN BRENNAN,
JNO. W. McNAMARA.