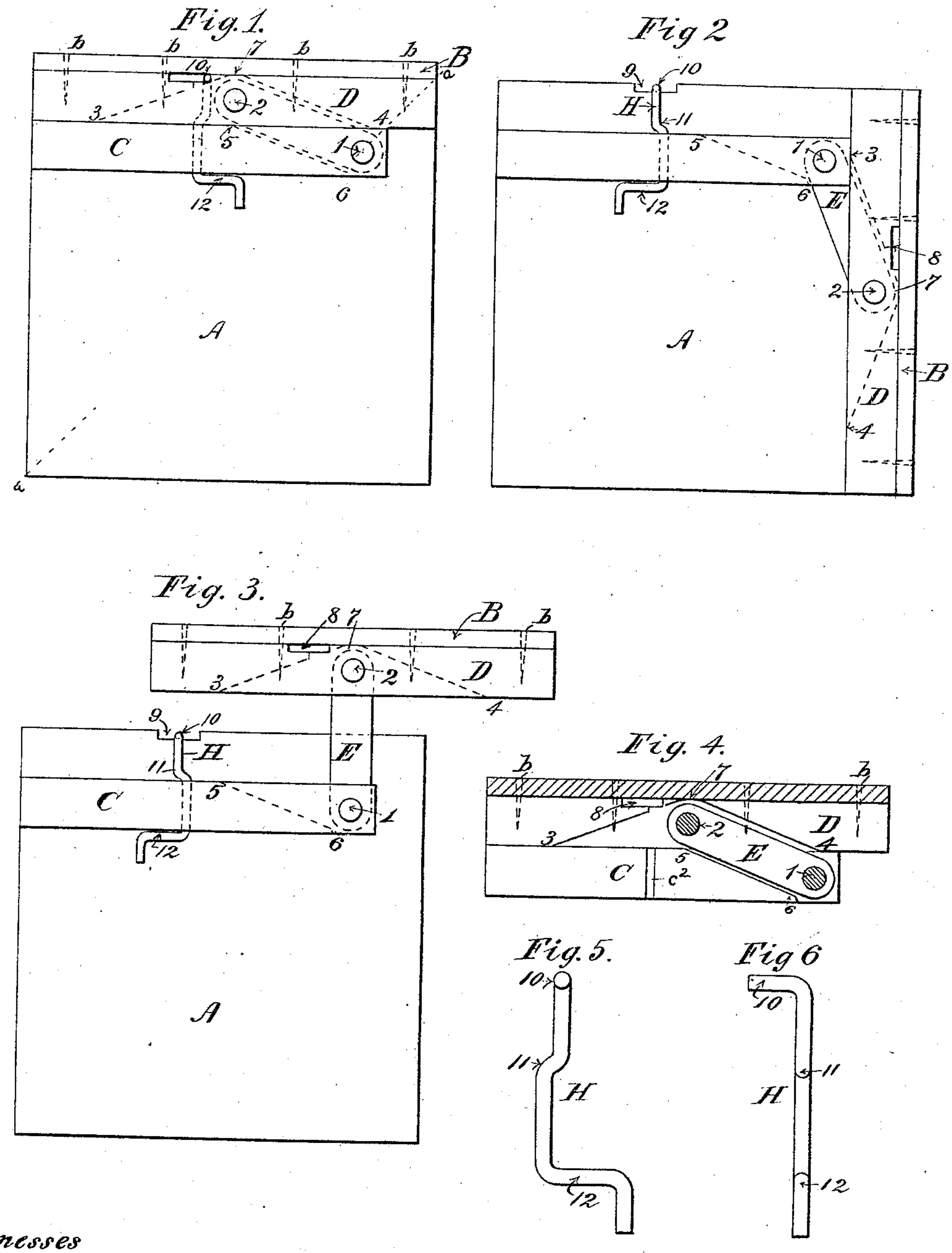
(No Model.)

E. S. COFFIN.

BOX.

No. 305,742. Patented Sept. 30, 1884.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDGAR S. COFFIN, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 305,742, dated September 30, 1884.

Application filed June 26, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDGAR S. COFFIN, a citizen of the United States, residing in Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

My improvements relate especially to boxes which are used as egg-carriers; and the invention consists in certain features of construction hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an end view of a box having my improvements. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same box, the cover being removed from the top of the box. Fig. 3 is an end view of the box, the cover being partially removed. Fig. 4 is an inside view of the cleats, showing, also, the pivoted links. Figs. 5 and 6 are details.

A is an egg-box of any preferred construction. It is provided at each end with a cleat, C, secured to the end near the top of the box. One end of the cleat—the left-hand end in Fig. 1—is flush with the side of the box. The other end of the cleat does not reach to the side of the box, the distance between the end of the cleat and the side of the box being equal to the distance between the top of the cleat C and the top of the box.

B is the cover of the box. It is equal in length to the length of the box and twice the thickness of the cleat C. It is provided at each end with a cleat, D, which is preferably secured to the cover by nails *b b*. When the cover is in position on the box, the cleats D fit snugly over the ends of the box and rest on the cleats C.

E is a strap or link, there being one at each end of the box, pivoted at point 1 to the inner side of cleat C and at point 2 to the inner side of cleat D. From the line 5 6, Fig. 1, to its end the cleat C, is recessed on its inner side, the recess being equal in depth to the thickness of the strap or link E. (See Fig. 4.) The cleat D is also recessed on its inner side between the lines 3 7, 4 7, the recess being of the same depth as the recess in the cleat C.

When my improvements are applied to a box having square ends—that is, to a box whose height is equal to its width—I prefer to pivot each link E to the cleat D at the center of the cleat, and to cleat C at a point on the diagonal line joining the upper right-hand and the lower left-hand corners of the end of the box. (See line *a a*, Fig. 1.) It will follow from this arrangement that when the cover B is swung to the position shown in Fig. 2 it will fit snugly against the side of the box, with its lower edge flush with the bottom of the box, and its upper edge flush with the top of the box. When a box is used whose height is greater than its width, the link is preferably pivoted to the cleat D at the same point and to the cleat C at a point having the same relation to the top and side of the box as in the preceding case. The cover will then, when removed from the top of the box, be brought into position with its upper edge flush with the top of the box. The links may be pivoted to the cleats at other points than those mentioned without departing from my invention.

H is a fastener for holding the cover in position when the box is closed. This fastener consists of a piece of wire supported in a groove, *c*, in the inner side of the cleat C. A bend is formed in the wire at 11, which prevents the wire from slipping downward in the groove in C. The lower end of the fastener is formed substantially as shown at 12, Figs. 1, 2, 5, and 6. The part 12 forms a handle by which the fastener may be grasped and rotated on the axis of the part of the wire held in the groove in C. The upper end of the wire is formed as shown at 10. In the upper edge of the box is formed a notch at 9, and in the upper edge of cleat D is formed a notch at 8. When the fastener is in the position shown in Fig. 2, the end 10 extends into the notch 9, and the cover can be removed or placed on the top of the box. In placing the cover on the top of the box the recess in D passes over the fastener. By turning the fastener from the position shown in Fig. 2 to that shown in Fig. 1 the cover is locked in place.

It will be seen that as the fastener is turned to unlock the box the part above the bend 11 rides outward against the inner side of cleat D. The recess in D being of about the thickness of the wire, before the fastener can be turned to the position shown in Fig. 2 the cleat D must be slightly sprung outward. The bend in the fastener has therefore the important function of preventing any accidental turn-

ing of the fastener while the box is being transported, or at other times when the box is closed. When the cover is in position on the top of the box, the links E are entirely concealed and protected by the cleats C D. The recesses in the cleats permit the links E to turn freely on their pivots, and provide space for the links, so that the cleats C D may fit closely against the ends of the box.

By my invention a box is provided in which the cover can be readily removed from the top of the box and placed upon the side, where it will be out of the way while the box is being packed, and can be readily returned and firmly secured upon the top of the box.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination of the box A, having the cleats C secured to its ends, with the cover B, having the downwardly-projecting cleats D, and with the links pivoted to the inner sides of the cleats C and D, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the box A, having the recessed cleats C secured to its ends, with the cover B, having the downwardly-projecting recessed cleats D, and with the links E, pivoted in the recesses of the cleats, substantially as described.

3. The box A, having the recessed cleats C, and having the notches 9, the cover B, having the cleats D, said cleats D being recessed and having the notches 8, and the links E, pivoted to the recessed cleats, as described, in combination with the fasteners H, having the bends 10, 11, and 12, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

4. The box A, having the notches 9, and provided with the cleats C, having the vertical groove c^2, in combination with the cover B, having the cleats D, provided with notches 8, and the fasteners H in the grooves c^2, said fasteners having the bends 10, 11, and 12, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:

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