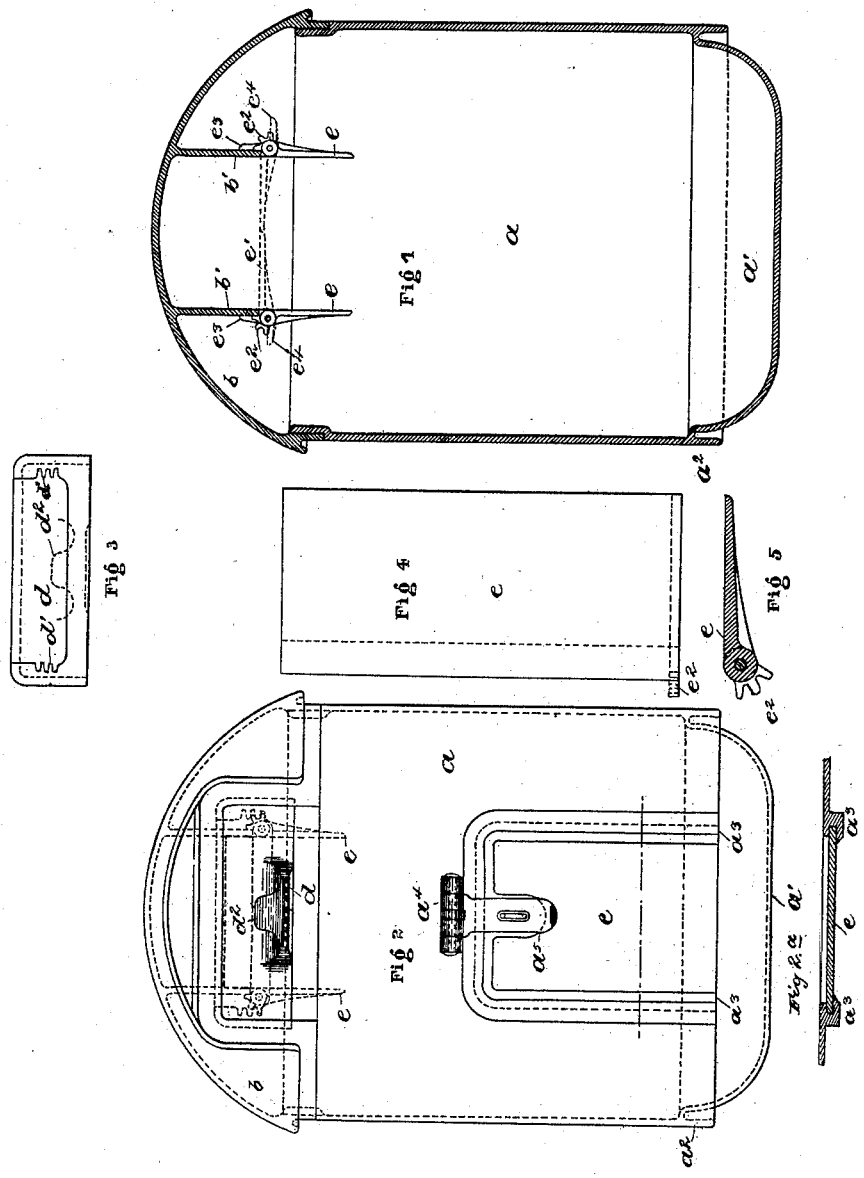
(No Model.)

R. G. WARD.

LETTER BOX.

No. 423,007. Patented Mar. 11, 1890.



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LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 423,007, dated March 11, 1890.

Application filed May 24, 1889. Serial No. 311,943. (No model.)

To all u om it may concern:

Be it known that I, RANDOLPH G. WARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Street Letter-Boxes, of which the following is a clear and sufficient description, reference being had to the accompanying sheet of illustrations, forming part of the same.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and economically-constructed box which shall possess superior advantages over the boxes now in general use in protecting the mails therein deposited from the weather, and shall, primarily, also provide an absolute means of protection against the abstraction of mails once deposited therein, except by authorized agents with keys thereto. I accomplish these ends by the means and in the manner shown in the accompanying illustrations, in all the several figures of which like letters refer to like parts.

Figure 1 is a cross-section of my box, taken on a vertical line through its center, except as to the trap-doors *e e*, which, together with their geared segments or pinions e^2 and stops e^3, are shown in full. Fig. 2 is an elevation of my box on the same line of observation as Fig. 1. Fig. 2^a is a cross-section on the line *x x* of Fig. 2. Fig. 3 is the reversed side of the sliding door which covers the orifice through which the mail is deposited. Fig. 4 is a plan of the trap-doors *e e* enlarged. Fig. 5 is a section of the trap-doors *e e*, showing the geared pinion end enlarged.

In describing my invention, *a* represents the main shell of the box, which is made, preferably, of one piece, as shown, having a depending basin-shaped bottom *a'*, surrounded by an overhanging water drip or shed a^2, and having upon its edge suitable slides a^3 to accommodate the door for discharging the mails, and the pivot-lugs a^4, into which is fixed the hasp a^5. The cap *b* rests suitably, as shown, upon and over the box *a*, being provided upon its inner side with the downwardly-depending flanges or webs *b'*, to whose lower extremities are pivoted the trap-doors, hereinafter more fully described.

c is an ordinary sliding door working in the overhanging slides a^3 of the shell *a*, and held up in position when locked by means of an ordinary staple and the hasp a^5, hinged to the lugs a^4 of the frame or shell *a*.

d is also a sliding door working upwardly in closing the orifice, through which mail is deposited in guides or slides suitably fixed into the cap *b*.

d^2 is an ordinary thumb-pull attached to the outside of the door *d*, by which it is pulled down to deposit mail.

d' d' are partial geared racks on the inside of the door *d*, which, in connection with the geared pinions e^2 of the trap-doors *e*, cause the trap-doors *e* to assume the positions indicated as *e'*, when access to the box from without is attained.

The operation of my box is as follows: The hand is placed upon the pull d^2, depressing the door *d* sufficiently to leave the ordinary horizontal orifice through which a deposit is made open and accessible simultaneously with the depression of the door *d* by the hand upon the thumb-pull d^2. The racks *d'* of the door *d* gear into and operate the pinions e^2 of the trap-doors *e*, causing them to assume a horizontal position at right angles to and covering the whole space between the depending flanges *b'* of the cap *b*, thus making a separate compartment within the cap, into which the deposit is made, the doors *e* debarring all access to the box *a* so long as the door *d* is open. The hand is then removed and the weight of the doors *e* causes them to descend, depositing the mail securely in the main chamber of the box *a*, and simultaneously closing, by a reversed action of the pinions e^2 and the racks *d'*, the door *d*.

What I claim as new is—

1. The combination, in a letter-box having a sliding door held in an upward position by an overhanging hasp, of a basin-shaped bottom depending therefrom surrounded by a drip shed or edge lower than the bottom of the door, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. The combination, in a letter-box having a sliding door held upwardly by an overhanging hasp and a basin-shaped bottom surrounded by a drip shed or edge lower than the bottom of the door, of a cap or cover fitted upon and extending over the box having downwardly-

depending flanges or webs upon the inner side provided with movable traps or doors at their lower extremities, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. The combination, in a mail-box having a cap or cover upon the inside of which is fixed the movable doors or traps *e*, having the geared pinions e^2, of the sliding door *d* and the racks *d'*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. The combination, in a mail-box having a horizontal orifice in the side of the cap or cover, of the vertically-sliding door covering said orifice when closed and gearing into and operating a mechanism cutting off access from without to the inner chamber of the box when said orifice is open, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In witness whereof I have subscribed my name, this 22d day of January, 1889, in presence of two witnesses.

R. G. WARD.

Witnesses:
A. W. DAVIS,
T. L. MCAVOY.