

R. EHMER.
CHICKEN COOP.

No. 459,105.

Patented Sept. 8, 1891.

Fig. 1.

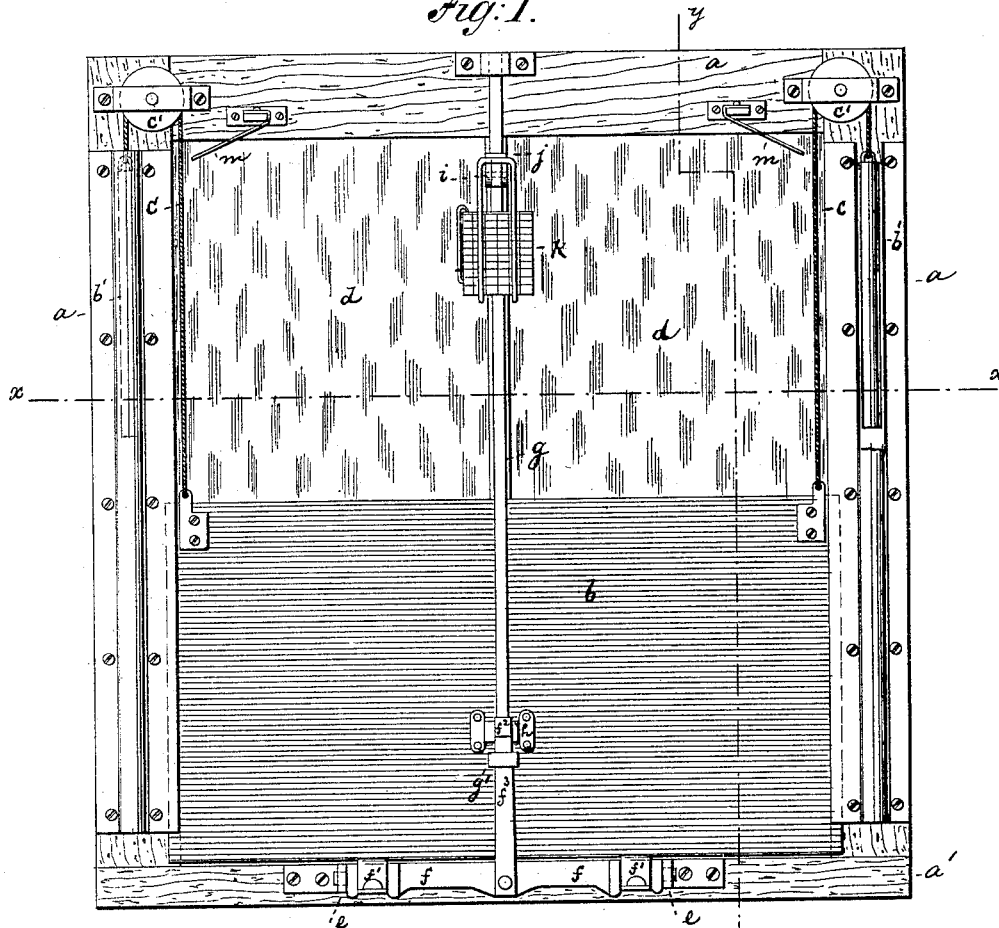
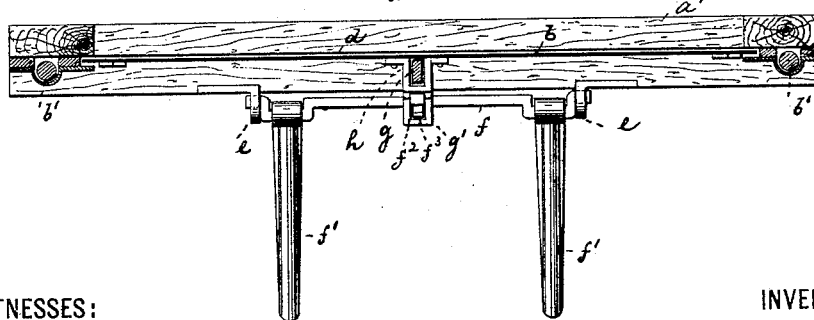


Fig. 2.



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Fig: 3.

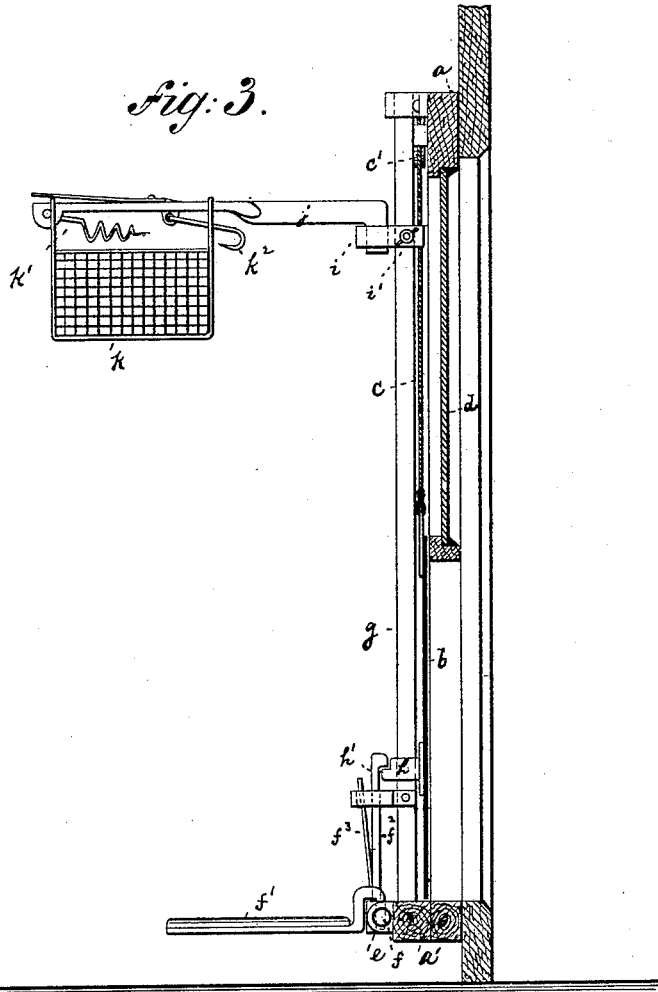
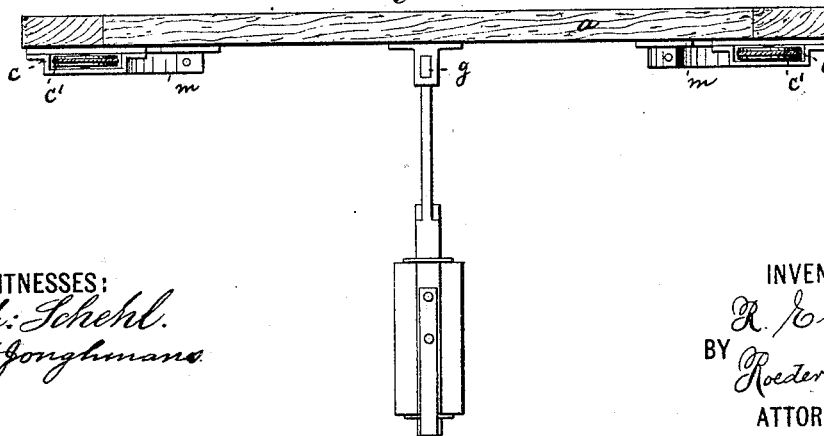


Fig: 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUDOLPH EHMER, OF MONSEY, NEW YORK.

CHICKEN-COOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 459,105, dated September 8, 1891.

Application filed April 13, 1891. Serial No. 388,696. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUDOLPH EHMER, of Monsey, Rockland county, New York, have invented an Improved Chicken-Coop, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved chicken-coop so constructed that at the dawn of day the chickens will automatically open the coop. Thus while the chickens are securely confined and protected during the night they are enabled to run out and feed at dawn without any trouble to the farmer.

The invention consists in the various features of improvement more fully pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation, partly in section, of a frame forming part of a chicken-coop and provided with my improvement. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on line *x x*, Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a vertical section on line *y y*, Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 a top view of the frame with the trip-bars removed.

The letter *a* represents a frame adapted to be secured within a corresponding opening in one of the sides of a chicken-coop. This frame is provided with longitudinal grooves, in which slides a door *b*, overbalanced by weights *b'*, that are connected to the door by the ropes *c*, running over pulleys *c'*.

The upper part of frame *a* is closed by a glass panel or window *d*, free to admit the light, while the door *b* when held down closes the lower part of the frame.

To the lower horizontal rail *a'* of frame *a*, and therefore below the door *b*, there is secured a pair of eyes *e*, in which there is free to turn a rod or rock-shaft *f*, provided with two (more or less) inwardly-projecting trip bars or boards *f'*. These bars have hook-shaped ends, as shown, that engage eyes of the rod *f*, and are thus readily removable. To the rod *f* is furthermore secured an upwardly-projecting hook *f²* and a spring *f³*, both passing near their upper ends through an eye *g'*. This eye is attached to an upright bar *g*, extending across the inner face of frame *a*. The hook *f²* is by the spring *f³* thrown into engagement with a stop *h*, attached to the door *b*. I prefer to make this stop **U**-shaped, as shown, so as to embrace bar *g*, and to provide it with an offset *h'*, that receives the hook.

To the upper prt of bar *g* there is secured by thumb-screw *i'* a slide *i*, that holds one end of a bracket or arm *j*. The free end of this arm is provided with suitable attachments for holding chicken food. The drawings show it provided with a basket *k*, screw *k'*, and hook *k²*, though other devices may be substituted.

m m are a pair of spring stops or buffers that check the upward motion of door *b*.

The operation of the device is as follows: The basket *k* is filled with corn, or a head of cabbage, &c., is suspended from the screw *k'* or hook *k²*. During the day-time the trip-bars *f'* are removed; but in the evening, after the chickens have gone to roost, the trip-bars are put in place. At the dawn of morning the suspended food will become visible as the light streams in at the window *d*. The chickens on awaking will see the food and jump upon the trip-bars in order to gain access to it; but the weight of the chickens will cause the trip-bars to tilt against the action of spring *f³* and the hook *f²* will become disengaged from stop *h*. In this way the door *b* will be released and will be drawn up by weights *b'*, thus allowing the early bird to escape and catch the worm.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, in a chicken-coop, of a sliding balanced door, with a trip-bar below such door, a catch operated by the trip-bar and engaging the door, and a food-retaining arm, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, in a chicken-coop, of a sliding overbalanced door with a trip-bar, a catch operated by the trip-bar and engaging the door, a window, and a food-retaining arm opposite the window, substantially as specified.

3. The combination of a door having a stop *h* with a rocking rod *f*, trip-bars *f'*, removably secured to such rod, and a hook *f²*, also secured to rod *f* and engaging the stop, substantially as specified.

RUDOLPH EHMER.

Witnesses:

ESLER SHERWOOD,
H. E. ELSWORTH.