

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH CORBETT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THOMAS F. SHAW AND HENRY M. WOOLF, OF SAME PLACE.

LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 424,859, dated April 1, 1890.

Application filed February 23, 1889. Serial No. 300,868. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH CORBETT, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York city, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Locks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to new and useful features in letter or like boxes; and it consists in improvements in the lock and door of the box whereby the following advantages are secured: First, it is impossible for the postman to leave the box before the door thereof is closed; second, it is very difficult to pick the lock of the door; third, a different-shaped key from any now in use for letter-boxes or other purposes, so far as I am informed, is used; fourth, the device for relocking of the box is automatic.

By my invention also I secure by means of an index a registration of the number of times the letter-box has been opened, and I can also give notice on the box of the next time it will be opened.

In the drawings the same reference-letters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 illustrates a side view of the letter-box, a portion of it being in section. Fig. 2 illustrates a front view of the lock, case, and index, a part of the face-plate being broken away to show the lock mechanism behind it, the lock being unlocked. Fig. 3 illustrates a view similar to that shown in Fig. 2, the lock being locked. Figs. 4 and 5 illustrate perspective views showing the engagement of the lock-bolt with the door of the box. Fig. 6 illustrates the bolt and coacting parts separate from the tumbler, &c. Figs. 7 and 8 illustrate the key.

A is the box. It is made of such material and of such form as preferred.

B is the door through which the contents are withdrawn.

C is a lock-case attached to the inside of the box adjacent to the door-opening. The lock mechanism comprises a bolt D, which is provided with a fence E, rigidly fastened to one side thereof.

F is a pin or its equivalent, which works in a slot G in the bolt.

H is a spring which is attached to the case of the lock by means of a stud I, the free end whereof is attached to the bolt at J and normally throws the bolt forward into its locked position. (Seen in Fig. 3.) The bolt D is provided with an enlargement or wing K, which projects from the side of the lock-case. It is in the present case what may be termed the "locking-surface" of the bolt; but it may be otherwise disposed than as hereshown. When the bolt is retracted by the key, this projection K, or some other suitable part of the bolt, engages with a spring-pawl L, which is attached at M to the lock-casing or other equivalent fixed part, thus holding the bolt in its retracted position until the door is again closed. The spring-pawl L, as shown in Fig. 4, is located in the path of the locking-piece N of the door. Thus when the door is closed the locking-piece N strikes the spring-pawl L and presses it inwardly away from its engagement with the bolt, and the bolt then, under the action of the spring H, instantly shoots forwardly, passing behind the locking-piece N of the door, and again locks the door.

O is a spring-pawl. It is pivoted to the lock-bolt D at P and is provided with a spring Q. This pawl engages with the teeth of a ratchet-wheel R, which is attached to the back side of an index-plate S, which carries on its exposed face such figures or other indicia as may be desired, which are observable through an aperture T, (one or more,) made in the front of the box.

V is a plate of glass, which is fastened in a suitable frame-work of the box U, whereby the index may be read, and dust, &c., prevented from getting to the lock or index mechanism.

W is a spring or gravity stop-pawl, (shown herein as spring-actuated,) which takes up the movement of the index and prevents backward turning thereof when the spring-pawl O is retracted by the forward movement of the bolt.

X is a lock-tumbler somewhat similar to

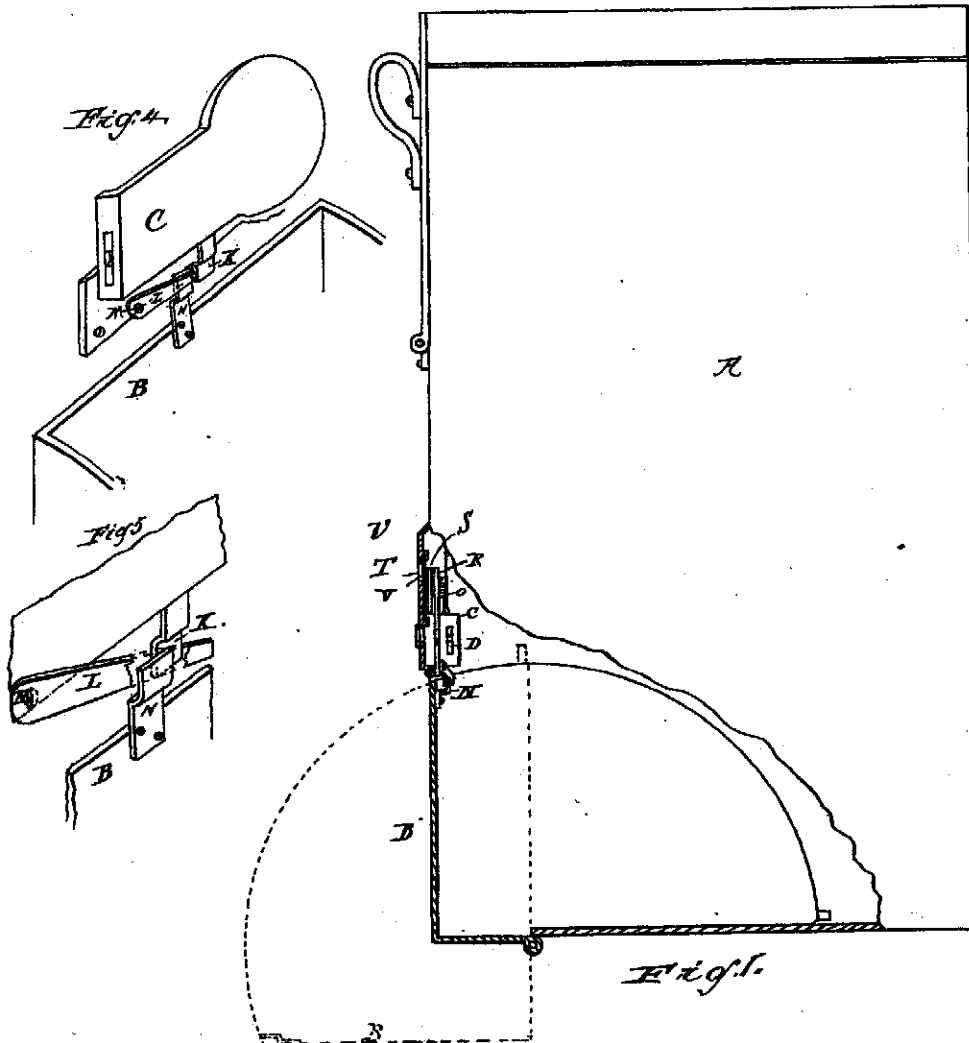
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. CORBETT.
LOCK:

No. 424,859.

Patented Apr. 1, 1890.



WITNESSES:

M Benjamin
Morris Anderson

INVENTOR

Joseph Corbett
BY *Phillips Abbott*
his ATTORNEY