

W. SHEMPP.
LETTER BOX.

Patented June 16, 1891.

The drawing shows a mechanical assembly with a central horizontal shaft. The shaft is supported by a base and has several components labeled with letters: 'A' at the left end, 'B' and 'C' at the right end, and 'D' and 'E' in the middle. A large circular component, possibly a flywheel or a pulley, is attached to the right end of the shaft. The entire assembly is mounted on a base with a large circular component on the right side. The drawing is a technical illustration, likely from a patent document, showing the internal components and structure of the device.

[illegible]

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WILLIAM SHEMP, OF WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA.

LETTER-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 454,298, dated June 16, 1891.

Application filed August 9, 1890. Serial No. 361,590. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM SHEMP, of Williamsport, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in a Combined Letter Receiver and Door-Plate, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in combined door-plates and letter-receivers; and the invention consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of a part of a door provided with my improvements. Figs. 2 and 3 are respectively rear and sectional views thereof, and Figs. 4 and 5 represent parts in detail.

In the door A is formed an opening B, in which is fitted a frame-like box C, having internally at its outer end a bead-like flange D at its upper and lower sides to form a stop for the name-plate holder E, which normally closes the outer end of the opening B. This name-plate holder E is preferably an open frame adapted to receive the name-plate F, which may be of metal, wood, or other suitable material suitably inscribed. The name-plate F fits in this frame and is held by the securing-plate G, which slides in guides g in the frame E and holds the plate F to its place when the holder is in use, but which can be readily withdrawn when the holder is removed to permit the plate F to be changed, as may be desired. At its opposite ends the frame E is provided near one edge with trunnions H I, the former H fitting in a bearing h in frame C, and the latter I in the bearing at the base of a groove i in said frame C, so that the holder E may be conveniently removed from and replaced in the frame C.

To hold the frame E in position in the outer end of the opening B, I provide a spring-holder, which serves the double purpose of retaining the frame E and its trunnions properly in their bearings, and also of actuating the said frame or holder E in such manner as to give the holder an outward tension at its lower free edge.

In Fig. 2 the spring-holder is a spring-rod J, secured between its ends at j, and having one arm J' extended and bearing at j' against

the rear side of the holder E at the free edge of the latter, and its other arm J² arranged to bear at j² in a seat formed in the plate-holder near the trunnion I in such manner as to hold the said trunnion to its seat.

At j the spring-rod J is secured by a staple K, one arm k of which is shorter than the other, so that by partially withdrawing such staple the rod J may be conveniently withdrawn when it is desired to remove the name-plate holder. This rod J, it will be seen, serves to give tension to the name-plate holder, and also as a means for securing the holder E in its bearings.

Now, instead of arranging the spring-holder J as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 and as before described it might be arranged as shown in Fig. 5, in which the wire is coiled at 1 around the trunnion I, and has one arm 2 arranged to actuate the holder E to hold it normally closed and its other arm 3 arranged to engage a pin 4, so it may hold the frame E in its bearings.

Manifestly, instead of the name-plate being in a single piece inscribed as shown, it might be formed of several independent letters properly arranged to form the desired name and number.

It will be understood from the foregoing that the name-plate holder may be conveniently removed and changed, as may be desired.

The bag L is arranged with its mouth over the inner end of the opening B, one side of the mouth of such bag being secured below the opening D and the other or upper side arranged above such opening. The said upper side or wall is made extensible or capable of being expanded or opened by means of a spring l, of rubber or other suitable material, which serves to hold the mouth of the bag normally closed, but may be expanded to permit the insertion of the hand to remove the mail deposited in the bag. It will be noticed that the spring l is secured at its ends at the ends of the opening B in such manner as to lie taut across above the inner end of the opening B, but may be expanded to open the mouth of the bag, as will be understood from the foregoing description.

The spring l, being made of rubber, can be easily stretched to permit its middle por-

tion to be drawn out from the door, thus opening the mouth of the bag for the insertion of the hand. The bag is preferably a net-work bag, as shown.

5 It is obvious that the box or frame C, instead of being a separate part from the door, as shown, may be formed of or by the door, as will be understood.

Having thus described my invention, what
10 I claim as new is—

1. The combination, substantially as described, of the box or frame C, the name-plate holder pivoted in bearings in said box or frame C, and the spring-holder having portions arranged to actuate said name-plate
15 holder and to secure the said name-plate holder in its bearings, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, substantially as described, of the box or frame C, having a notch or seat *h* and a groove *i*, the name-plate holder having trunnion H, fitted in seat *h*, and trunnion I, fitted in groove *i*, and the spring-holder J, formed of a rod secured between its ends
20 at *j* to the frame C and having one arm or portion arranged to actuate the name-plate holder and its other arm or portion arranged to secure the trunnion I in its seat in the base of groove *i*, all substantially as and for the
25 purposes set forth.

3. In a combined letter-receiver and door-plate, the name-plate herein described, consisting of the open frame E, having at its ends trunnions and provided with guides *g*, the

name-plate proper fitted in said frame E, and
35 the securing-plate G, fitted in guides *g* in rear of the name-plate proper, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. The combination, substantially as herein described, of the door having a letter-opening
40 and the letter-receiving bag having one side of its mouth secured below said letter-opening and the other or upper side of its mouth above and secured at the ends of such opening, the said upper side of the mouth being
45 provided with a spring whereby it is held normally closed and may be expanded for the insertion of the hand, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. In an apparatus substantially as described, the combination of the box-frame C, having bearing *h* and groove *i* and provided with a flange D, the holder-frame E, having guides *g* and trunnions H I, fitted to bearing
50 *h* and groove *i*, the name-plate fitted in frame E, the securing-plate G, fitted in guides *g*, and the spring-holder having portions arranged to actuate the name-plate holder and to secure the same in its bearings, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.
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The above specification of my invention signed by me in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM SHEMPP.

Witnesses:

P. B. TURPIN,
SOLON C. KEMON.