

J. H. CASS & C. H. LARRABEE.

EGG-BOX.

No. 182,165.

Patented Sept. 12, 1876.

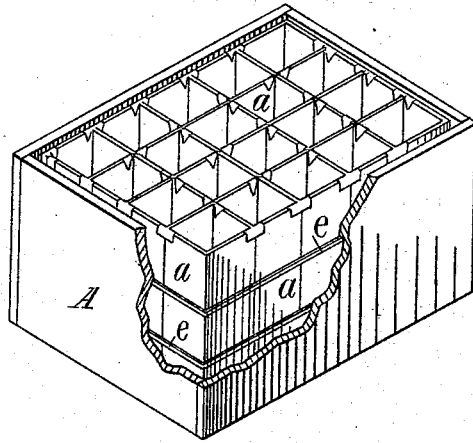


Fig. 1.

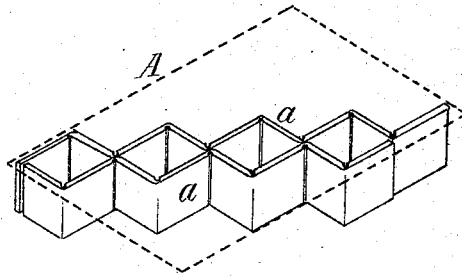


Fig. 2.

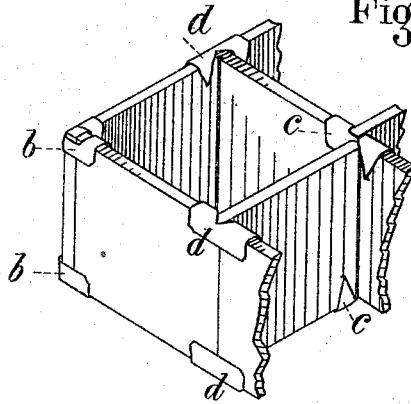


Fig. 3.

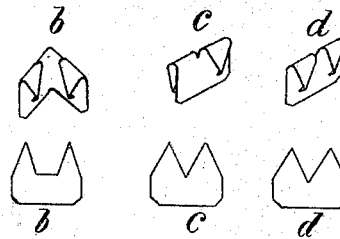


Fig. 4.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## IMPROVEMENT IN EGG-BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 182,165, dated September 12, 1876; application filed July 17, 1876.

### *To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN H. CASS, of Boston, Massachusetts, and CHARLES H. LARRABEE, of Somerville, Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Egg-Carrying Cases, and that the same are fully described and set forth in the following specification and accompanying drawing.

Our invention relates to that class of egg-carriers in which a separate compartment is provided for each egg; and its object is to provide simpler, stronger, and sweeter cells, of an improved construction and material.

Our invention consists in a series of cells or compartments, constructed of thin sheets or strips of wood, and formed, as to their sides, by bending the strips at right angles, as shown, and securing to each other the adjacent bent strips, at their angles, by clasps or lacing. A detached sheet or diaphragm of the same material forms the top of one series of compartments and the bottom of the series next above it.

The material commonly employed heretofore in the construction of egg-carriers is pasteboard, in strips, placed on edge, at right angles to each other, and at their points of junction each cut half across, so as to interlock. The paper naturally absorbs moisture, and is injuriously affected thereby. If exposed to a storm, and saturated, the partitions are ruined, or if an egg is accidentally broken the smeared parts cannot be cleansed by washing without softening and spoiling them. Again, the method of joining the strips to form the cells, by cutting gashes half across each one at frequent intervals, seriously weakens them, and leaves one edge of each strip unfitted to bear any weight.

By our improvements a material naturally sweet and strong, and capable of being repeatedly washed without injury, is employed; and since the strips are not gashed to interlock, but bent so as to abut at their angles, and clasped at each edge, great firmness and durability are attained. Greater economy of space also results from our construction, since there is no waste-room, as in other styles, between the box and the outer row of cells, due to the projecting ends of the strips, and the usual central division-board across the case is dispensed with.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a case embodying our invention, the front broken away to show the construction. Fig. 2 shows, in perspective, the bent strips ready to be joined. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of a compartment, showing the various clasps in position; and Fig. 4 represents the several clasps before and after bending.

In the construction of the partitions which subdivide the cases into compartments, we employ any firm, tough wood which can be readily cut into very thin sheets, and which, when so cut, has sufficient tenacity to adapt it to the purposes we have in view. Whitewood possesses in a marked degree the requisite qualities, is highly elastic, of an agreeable odor, and is, moreover, abundant and cheap. A thickness of the thirty-second part of an inch is sufficient. We take strips *a* of this thin material two and one-fourth inches wide, and of suitable length, and bend them at right angles, alternately to right and left, so as to give to the strips a general direction diagonal to the sides of the box *A*. Previous steaming of the strips facilitates the bending, and, to insure a square fold, we prefer to remove with a sharp tool a portion of the wood where the fold is to be made, so that the shoulders thus formed may abut when folded, and somewhat stiffen the fabric. The strips thus bent are placed on edge, side by side, upon a table or former adapted to hold them in position, their angles meeting, as shown in the drawing; and at each of these points of junction the two adjacent strips are united by a clasp at top and bottom. A sufficient number of these bent strips are attached to each other to form a web of square or other suitable rectangular form, adapted to receive a given number of eggs, and a loose sheet, *e*, of the thin whitewood, covering the web, completes the cells of that tier.

With this construction there is no waste of material, since the shorter strips are adapted for the corners, where the number of cells is less. Nor is there any waste of space in the box, the size of which is just sufficient in length and breadth to receive freely a web containing a given number of the cells, without requiring a margin, and of depth proportioned to the

number of tiers of compartments. Thus a case thirty-two inches long by eighteen inches wide and deep, internal measurement, has capacity for ninety-six dozen eggs, giving to each egg a compartment two inches square, less the thickness of the partition, and two and one-fourth inches deep, or eight webs, each containing in its compartments twelve dozen eggs.

The clasps shown in Figs. 3 and 4 are formed, preferably, of tin, cut by dies to the shapes required, and variously bent, according to the position in which they are to be used. The clasp *b* is for the corner of a web, where the ends of two strips are joined; but four of this kind are needed with one web. The clasp *c* is for the interior of the web, where the angles of the several strips meet. The clasp *d* is for the outer border of the web, where the end of one strip is joined to the angle of another one. Each of the clasps has its extreme points turned inward, so as to penetrate the wooden strip and take firm hold thereof when it is closed thereon by pressure. Thus a large web

may be built up of the successive bent strips, joined at their angles by the clasps, which serve an important purpose in stiffening the fabric at the joints, and preserving the rectangular character of the compartments. In very small cases, where stiffness is not so important, the bent strips may, if preferred, be laced together at the angles with wire or other material.

We claim as of our invention—

1. The case A, subdivided into compartments by the partitions *a*, formed of wood veneers, bent at right angles, as described, and united at the angles only, by clasps, and without lap, substantially as set forth.

2. In combination with the partitions *a* the clasps *b c d*, constructed and operating substantially as set forth.

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