

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in or relating to Extensible Loft Ladders.

I, ERNEST BENSON, a British subject, of Greenleigh, Greensway, Garforth, near Leeds, in the County of York, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a Patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to extensible loft ladders for affording access to the lofts or attics of houses and of the kind in which the ladders are adapted to collapse, telescope or fold up and be stowed in the loft above the usual trap door or closure members.

The object of the present invention is the provision of an improvement or modification of the ladder described and claimed in my prior Patent No. 785231.

According to the present invention, an extensible loft ladder comprising two sections slidably guided one within the other, the lower section being slidably guided within the upper section which is slidably guided upon the upper surface of a hinged trap door, the sections being arranged to be projected sufficiently far into the loft to allow the trap door to be closed solely by or by the aid of the overbalancing weight of the said upwardly projecting portions of the ladder, the ladder having a hand rail or rails associated therewith. If desired means may also be provided for preventing too great an angular movement of the ladder during manipulation thereof when being positioned for use.

In order that the invention may be fully and clearly comprehended the same will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the major portion of a ladder constructed and associated with the trap door or loft opening of a building according to one embodiment of the invention.

Figure 2 is a fragmental side elevation of a ladder according to a modification of the invention. 45

Figure 3 is a similar view to Figure 2 of a still further modification of the invention.

Similar reference numerals refer to similar parts throughout the several views. 50

The extensible ladder comprises an upper section 1 and a lower section 2 the latter section being adapted to slide inside the former section. This effect is achieved in any suitable manner by constructing the sides of the upper section of appropriate shape or contour. 55

Associated with either one or with both sides of the upper section 1 of the said ladder is a hand rail or rails 3 adapted to be supported in spaced parallel relationship either by cranking the rails to form arms 4 or by using intervening brackets or any other suitable or convenient means. 60

The upper section 1 may be slidably attached to the upper surface of a trap door 5, the sections may be maintained in alignment by flanged or other types of guides, and means may be provided for locking the sections in any predetermined relationship when either operative or inoperative. 65 70

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that the upper section of the ladder only is furnished with a hand rail or rails. 75

Should it be desired to safeguard the lower section 2 of the ladder by providing a hand rail or rails in connection therewith an ancillary rail member or members may be associated with the said section. One convenient manner of achieving the desired effect is illustrated in Figure 2 where the rail or rails 3, having a cranked upper end 4, are tubular, the lower end of each rail being supported by a member 4A secured to the upper section 1. The lower end of each rail 80 85

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