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CENTRAL LOCK SYSTEMS
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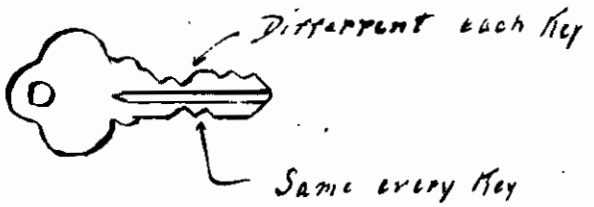

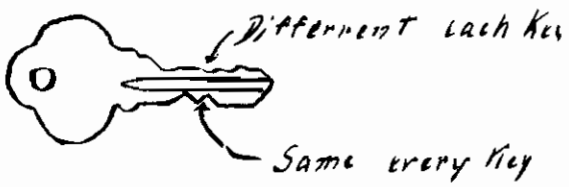

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ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

CENTRAL LOCK SYSTEMS

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In the known central lock systems the central lock co-operates with the same key bits as the various different locks, and in order to match them all its tumblers are divided into several disks which are caught by the keys according to the shape of the latter. If the system comprises a great number of locks it also happens that several different cross sectional profiles of the keyholes have to be used, and if so the keyhole of the central lock is made correspondingly larger.

These central lock systems have substantial disadvantages. In order to operate satisfactorily they require a very careful precision work, and in spite of this it cannot be avoided that the central lock becomes less safe with an increasing number of keys which are to match it. Further, the fact that the fine disks and possibly also a large keyhole are provided may result in breaking of the central lock by wear in relatively short time. Besides, since the individual locks and therefore also the individual keys may vary only slightly from each other in order that the keys shall match the same central lock, it is not possible for a new tenant to procure a new lock which the key of the previous tenant does not match and which at the same time fits the central lock system so that the key matches the central lock, and it is not possible either to arrange a central lock system in a building which previously had no such system, without changing all the locks.

All these disadvantages may be avoided by means of the present invention. According to the invention all the keys in the whole set are provided with a bit for the central lock on the opposite side to that of the different bits for the individual locks. Thus, if cylinder locks are used it is sufficient to file out in the back of the key a bit which matches the central lock. Since, as it is known, the common cross sectional profile of cylinder locks is made diametrically asymmetric in order that the key can be inserted in one way only the keyhole of the central lock in that case is made with the inverse cross sectional profile to that of the other locks viewed with respect to the tumblers.

Thus, by the present invention the above mentioned mechanical infirmities are avoided and the safety is the same as when no central lock system is used since it becomes possible to use keys with quite normal divergence of the bits for the various individual locks from each other as well as from the bit used for the central lock. A common normal cross sectional profile may be used so that if it is desired to procure a new lock which does not match the old key it is sufficient to buy a quite normal lock and file out the back of the key so that it matches the central lock. If it is desired to arrange a central lock system in existing buildings which usually have a common cross sectional profile of the cylinder locks it is sufficient to replace the cylinder in the lock of the main entrance door by a new cylinder with the inverse cross sectional profile of the keyhole and file out the back of the keys so as to match this cylinder lock.

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