The object of the invention is to provide, in a device of the above-mentioned character, a structure of compartmental form adapted for the reception of bottled goods, such as soft drinks, so that they may be dispensed directly to the customers by providing ready access to the various compartments bearing indicia corresponding to the contents thereof; to provide means for cooling the contents through the medium of iced water in which the bottles are continually submerged; to provide means for maintaining a uniform level in all the various compartments; and to provide an ice container at a higher level than the compartments, so that the ice may be periodically crushed to drop into the water contained in the compartments, together with the water resulting from the melting of the ice.

With these objects in view, the invention consists in a construction and combination of parts of which a preferred embodiment is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the invention.
Figure 2 is a top plan view.
Figure 3 is a sectional view on the line 3–3 of Figure 2.
Figure 4 is a sectional view on the line 4–4 of Figure 2.

The casing 1, which contains a tray 2 for the reception of the contents, is preferably of wood construction supported on the legs 3 to place the casing at a convenient level for access to the interior through the closures 4 mounted by means of spring hinges 5 and arranged in series on opposite sides of an ice container casing 6 surrounding the casing 1.

The tray 2 has its side and bottom walls preferably spaced from the corresponding walls of the casing 1, being supported in the latter by means of longitudinal spacing elements 7 which are preferably of wood, the tray 2 being preferably of metal. The tray 2 is divided transversely and longitudinally by partition members 8 which divide the tray into compartments 9 corresponding in dimensions to the dimensions of the conventional 24-bottle crate so that as the goods are removed from the crate and placed in the device, each compartment 9 will hold the amount of one crate, or two crates if it is desired to make the tray of such dimensions that each compartment 9 will accommodate two crates.

The closures 4 are disposed directly above each compartment 9 and are provided with grab handles 10, and on opposite sides of the grab handles bear the indicia 11 corresponding to the contents of the compartments, so that on raising the closure, the goods corresponding to the indicated name on the closure may be found on the corresponding side of the compartment.

The tray 2, being of metal, is adapted for the reception of water, the temperature of which has been reduced by a suitable tempering agent which, in the present embodiment of the invention, is ice contained in the ice compartment 6 which is also metal lined, said lining constituting the walls of a container 12 which is accessible for the purpose of charging the compartment 7 through a door 14 at one end.

The bottom of the metal container consists of the longitudinally extending strips 15 which constitute the supports for the ice and as the latter melts, the water therefrom may drop into the tray 2 and when charging the ice compartment, the small pieces of ice that may be left from a previous charging may be crushed with an ice pick and dropped between the strips or slats 14 into the water in the tray, thus reducing the temperature of the latter, thereby providing for the emptying of the ice compartment of all of the old contents when recharging, so that there may be no obstruction in the placing of new blocks or cakes of ice.

In order to maintain the level of the water in the tray 2, an overflow pipe 16 communicates with the interior of the tray at an intermediate point, as indicated at 17, and discharges into a waste pipe 18 with which is also connected a drain pipe 19 communicating with the tray 2 at the bottom and normally closed interior to the latter by a removable cap 20. When it is desired to clean the tray, the cap 20 is removed and all the water contained therein will readily flow off through the drain and the waste pipe 18, the compartments 9 inter-communicating below the partitions 8 since the latter are slightly raised above the bottom of the tray to provide for the ready flow of the water from one compartment to another in reaching the level defined by the overflow 17.

Since the ice or refrigerating or temper...
ing agent is contained in the compartment 6, which is above the level of the compartments containing the goods to be dispensed, and since the latter are confined to separate compartments accessible to an individual closure, the removal of a particular kind of goods necessitates the opening only of one of the closures 4 and thus the ingress of the warm air outside is limited in amount, thus reducing to a minimum the melting effect of the contents of the compartment 6.

Since each closure 4 bears indicia corresponding to the contents of its particular compartment, the customer may readily locate the compartment in which the desired drink is contained, open the closure and remove the bottle or number of bottles desired and the closures being mounted on spring-actuated hinges, they are immediately returned to closed position, thus precluding their being inadvertently left open.

In replenishing any compartment, it is only necessary to place the crate of bottled goods on top of the casing 1 beside the compartment being replenished, open the closure of the latter and place in the compartment from the crate the number of bottles corresponding to those which have been removed.

The invention having been described, what is claimed as new and useful is:

A dispensing refrigerator for bottled goods, comprising a horizontal case and a horizontal contained tray having its bottom and side walls spaced from the corresponding walls of the case, an ice compartment extending the width of the case and positioned immediately transversely of the case above the tray and having its walls spaced from corresponding walls of the case, the spaces surrounding the tray and the ice compartment being in communication, the tray being longitudinally and transversely divided by partition members defining compartments and the case having spring mounted closure members arranged in series on opposite sides of the ice compartment to provide access to the compartments from either side of the ice compartment which is in communication with the tray, strips extending transversely of the case above the level of the top of the tray and defining the bottom of the ice compartment, an overflow pipe connected to one wall of the tray, a drain pipe connected to the bottom of the tray and having a lateral connection with the overflow pipe.

In testimony whereof he affixes his signature.

CHARLES A. WILSON.