

*J. S. Brown.*  
*Book Support.*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 41,420. Patented Feb. 2, 1864.*

Fig. 1.

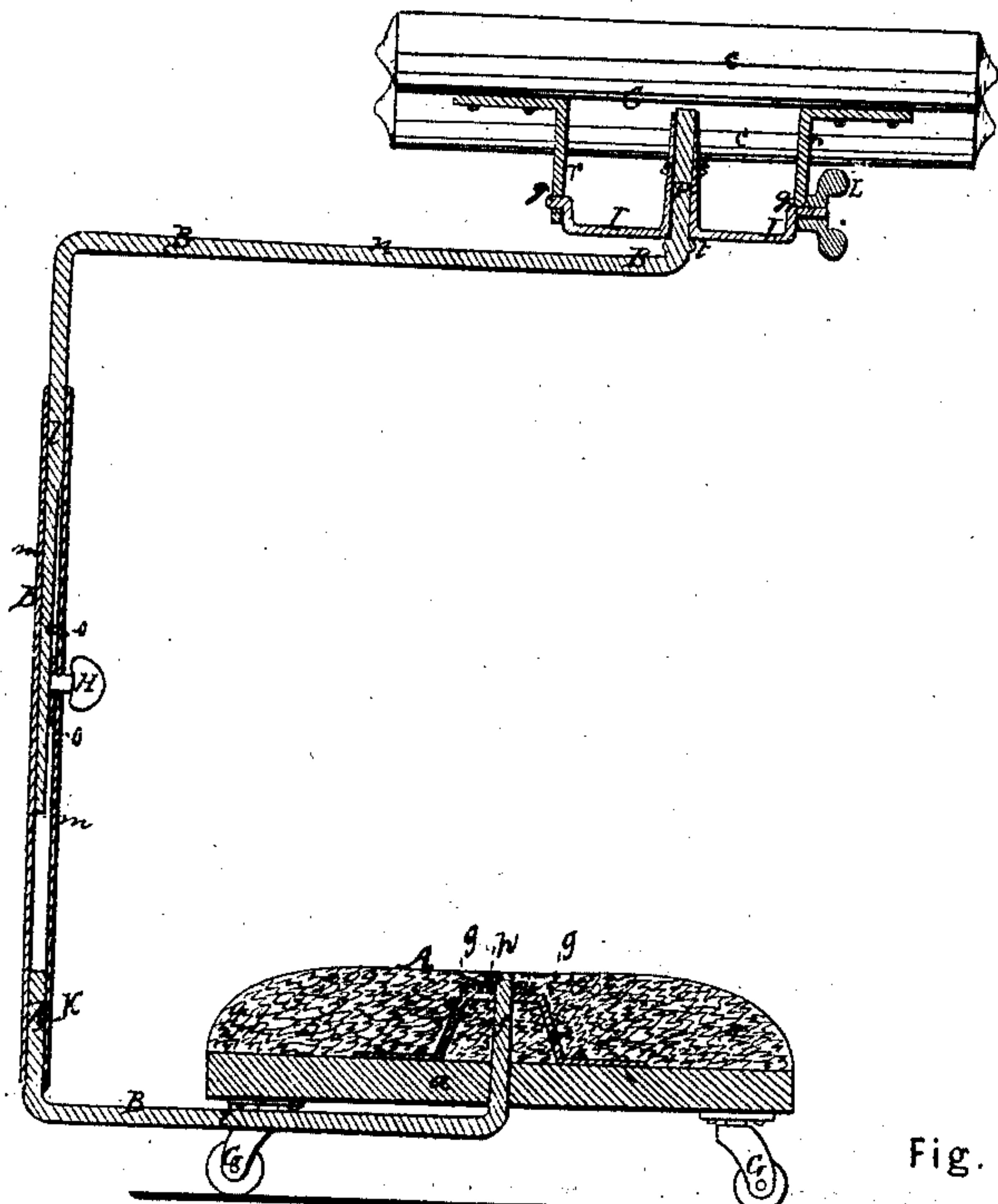


Fig. 3.



Fig. 2.

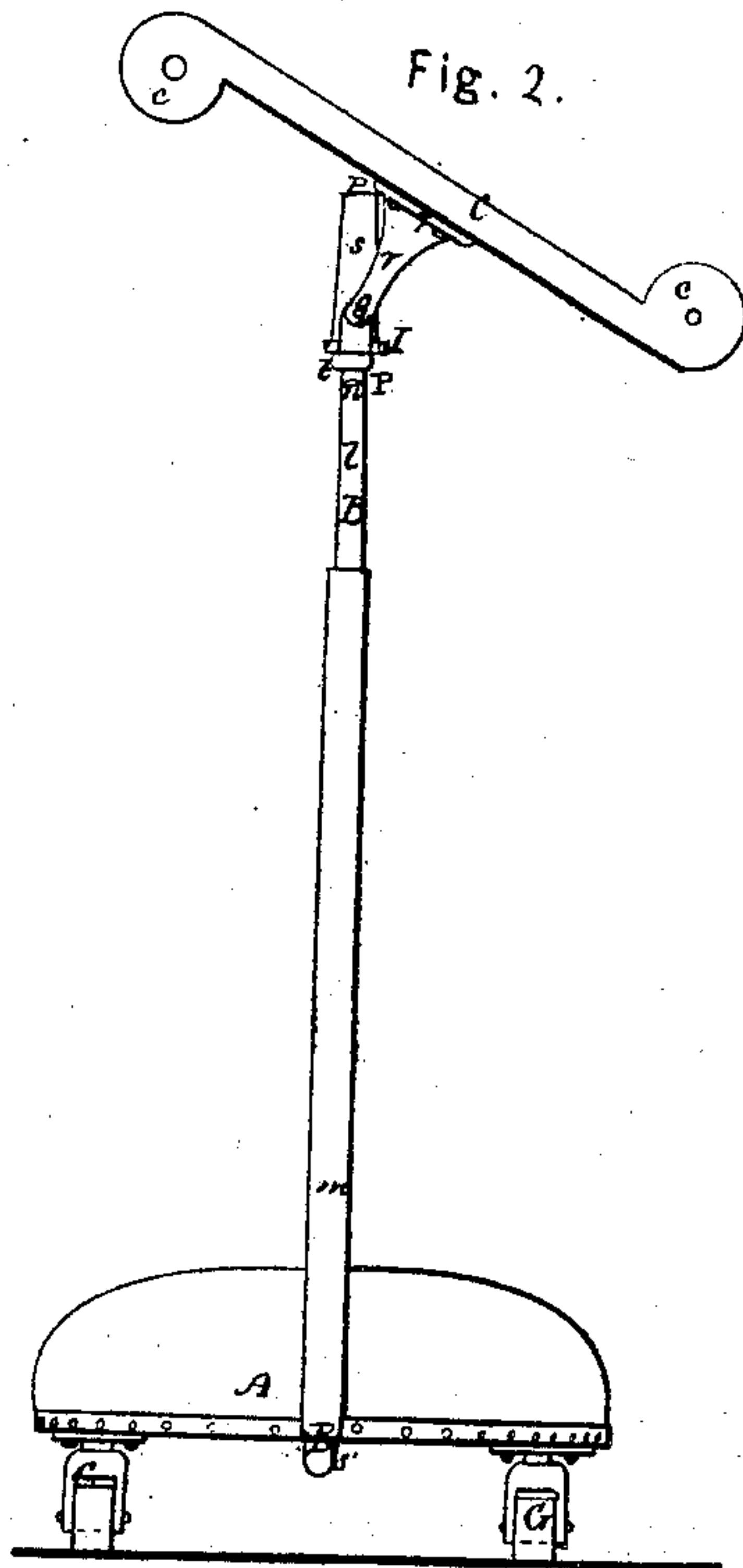


Fig. 4.



Witnesses  
*A. P. Knapp*  
*Wm. Frank Brown*

Inventor

*J. S. Brown.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

J. S. BROWN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVED BOOK-HOLDING STAND.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 41,420, dated February 2, 1864.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, J. S. BROWN, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and Improved Reading and Writing Stand; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a central vertical section of the stand through the standard or support thereof, but showing the table or desk part in elevation; Fig. 2, an elevation thereof, the view being at right angles to the view in Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a side elevation showing some modifications in the construction of certain parts; Fig. 4, a transverse section of the standard or support, exhibiting the mode of its vertical adjustment.

Like letters designate corresponding parts in all of the figures.

The object of my invention is to produce a stand for holding books while reading or paper for writing, so that a person can read or write either while sitting in a chair, reclining on a sofa, or lying in bed, and this with the utmost convenience, relieving the reader or writer of the labor of supporting the books or paper. The stand is also intended for other useful purposes—such as holding music for guitar players, or for other hand musical instruments, for a work stand or table, and for holding food or any other articles for the sick in bed.

The main feature of my invention consists in the employment of an indirect or side support or standard between the base and the table or desk of the stand, thereby allowing free room for the table or desk to be brought directly over the chair, sofa, or bed on which the person is sitting, reclining, or lying, the base of the stand going under the said chair, sofa, or bed as far as required.

Other features of my invention consist in certain convenient movements and adjustments of the stand and of attachments thereto, substantially as hereinafter specified.

The three principal parts of the stand are the base A, standard or support B, and desk or table C. By the standard or support I designate the entire connection between the base A and the desk or table C.

The base A may be of any desired construc-

tion, of sufficient breadth to furnish a firm support for the table or desk above. It will generally be found most useful to use a footstool for this purpose, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, so that the person seated may rest his feet under the table or desk. The standard may, in fact, be applied to an ordinary footstool, which, however, should not be too high to go under ordinary chairs, sofas, lounges, and beds. It is of course preferable to have castors G G under the footstool, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The standard B extends first outward to one side of the base, the said portion being designated by *i* in the drawings. Then it has a vertical or upright portion designated by *l* or by *k l m*, and thence a horizontal or side portion extending inward from the top of the upright portion over the base A, so as to support the table or desk C centrally over said base; or, more properly, so that the center of gravity of the standard and desk or table shall be nearly over the center of the base.

In the drawings the standard is represented as being pivoted in the center of the base A, a vertical portion, *f*, turning in suitable bushes or a socket of the base. In Fig. 1 a bush or box, *g*, is represented as attached to the base-board *a* of the footstool, a nut or knob, *h*, sustaining the pivot *f* in place. This arrangement allows the standard B to be swung around independent of the base. But when the base has castors this movement is not necessary; and in that case a simple rigid attachment for the standard may be made to the base. When the base is a footstool and has castors, the attachment of the standard is best made to the bottom of the base.

To adapt the stand to the various uses specified, it is necessary, or at least desirable, to adjust the vertical height of the table or desk, and it is most convenient to effect this adjustment in the vertical or upright part of the standard B. A simple method of accomplishing this is most simply represented in Fig. 1. The upright part of the standard has a socket, *m*, which may be a tube secured on a vertical projection, *k*, of the outward extension, *i*, of the standard, into which a portion, *l*, projecting downward from the inward extension of the standard, fits, and is held in any position or at any height by a thumb-screw, *H*, or its equivalent. This projection *l* should either be



angular or of other shape, so that it will not turn in the socket; or, if round, one side, *o*, should be flattened or otherwise shaped so as to fit in an aperture of the socket corresponding in shape, and thus prevent side turning. Fig. 4 represents this arrangement. Any other mode of adjustment may be employed; or the vertical adjustment may be made at the base *A*, as indicated in Fig. 3. Here the pivot *f* screws or is otherwise adjustable in the base as a socket, the outward extension of the standard proceeding from the top of the base. The vertical extension may also be applied under the desk or table on the inward extension, *u*; but this is inconvenient. The inward extension, *n*, of the standard may also be adjustable in length to a limited extent, so as not to endanger the firm support of the table or desk; but this adjustment will not generally be found necessary. The outward extension, *i*, of the standard might also be adjustable; but it is not desirable.

From the inward extension, *n*, of the standard a pivot, *p*, extends upward, on which the table or desk *C* has a revolving movement. This pivot is of course vertical, and the desk or table is generally centrally pivoted thereon. Any suitable arrangement may be employed for this purpose.

From the pivot-socket *s* there extend suitable bearings, *I I*, on which the table or desk has an inclined adjustment, as indicated in Fig. 2. This adjustment may be accomplished in any desirable manner, that represented in the drawings showing projecting ears *r r* on the underside of the table or desk, which turn on journals *q q* of the bearings *I I*. This adjustment requires the desk to be firmly secured in any inclined position required. This may be effected by a thumb screw, *L*, or its

equivalent. The table or desk does not require to be inclined except in one direction, and it may be kept from turning in the opposite direction in a horizontal position by a stop, *u*, (see Fig. 3,) or its equivalent. The turning movement on the pivot *p* of the standard may be restrained, if desired, by a tightening-screw, or its equivalent.

On the standard *I* I apply a suitable holder or socket, *M*, Fig. 3, to sustain a candle, lamp, gas-burner, inkstand, or other article required. This may be removable or permanently attached, and there may be more than one of these.

On one edge of the table or desk there is a ledge, *c*, projecting upward from the surface of the table or desk to prevent the books or other article from sliding off when the said table or desk is inclined. This ledge may form a permanent part of the table or desk, or be removable therefrom. The form shown in the drawings with a double-scroll ledge on each edge is a suitable one. The table or desk may have any other form or arrangement desired.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Supporting the table or desk by an indirect or side standard or support extending from the base in order that the space between the base and the table or desk may be clear, and at the same time the table or desk be centrally or properly sustained by the base, substantially as and for the purposes herein specified.

J. S. BROWN.

Witnesses:

A. P. KNAPP,

WM. FRANK BROWNE.