

E. B. Nourse,

Alphabet Frame,

N^o 58,463,

Patented Oct. 2, 1866.

Fig. 2.

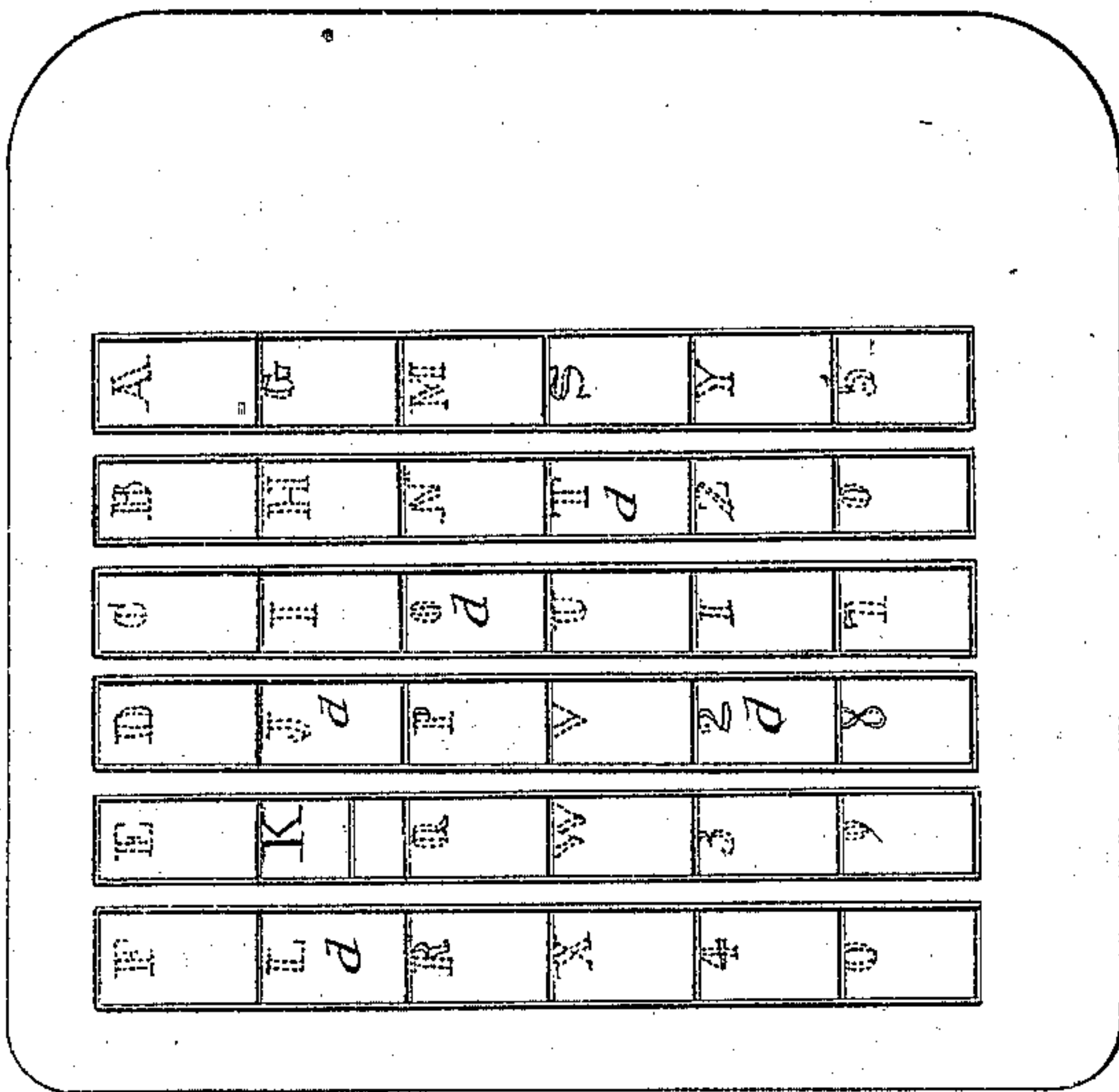


Fig. 3.

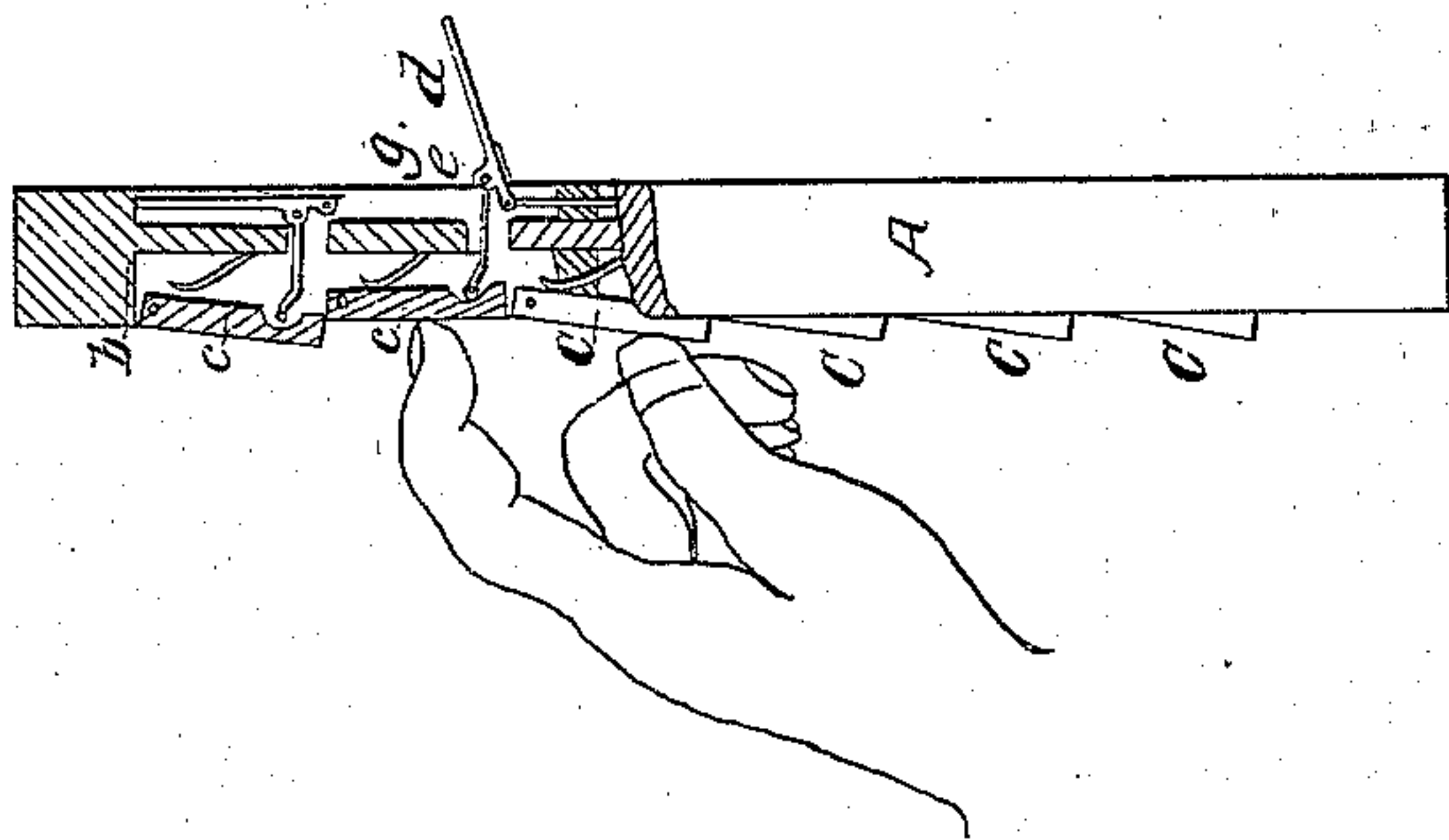
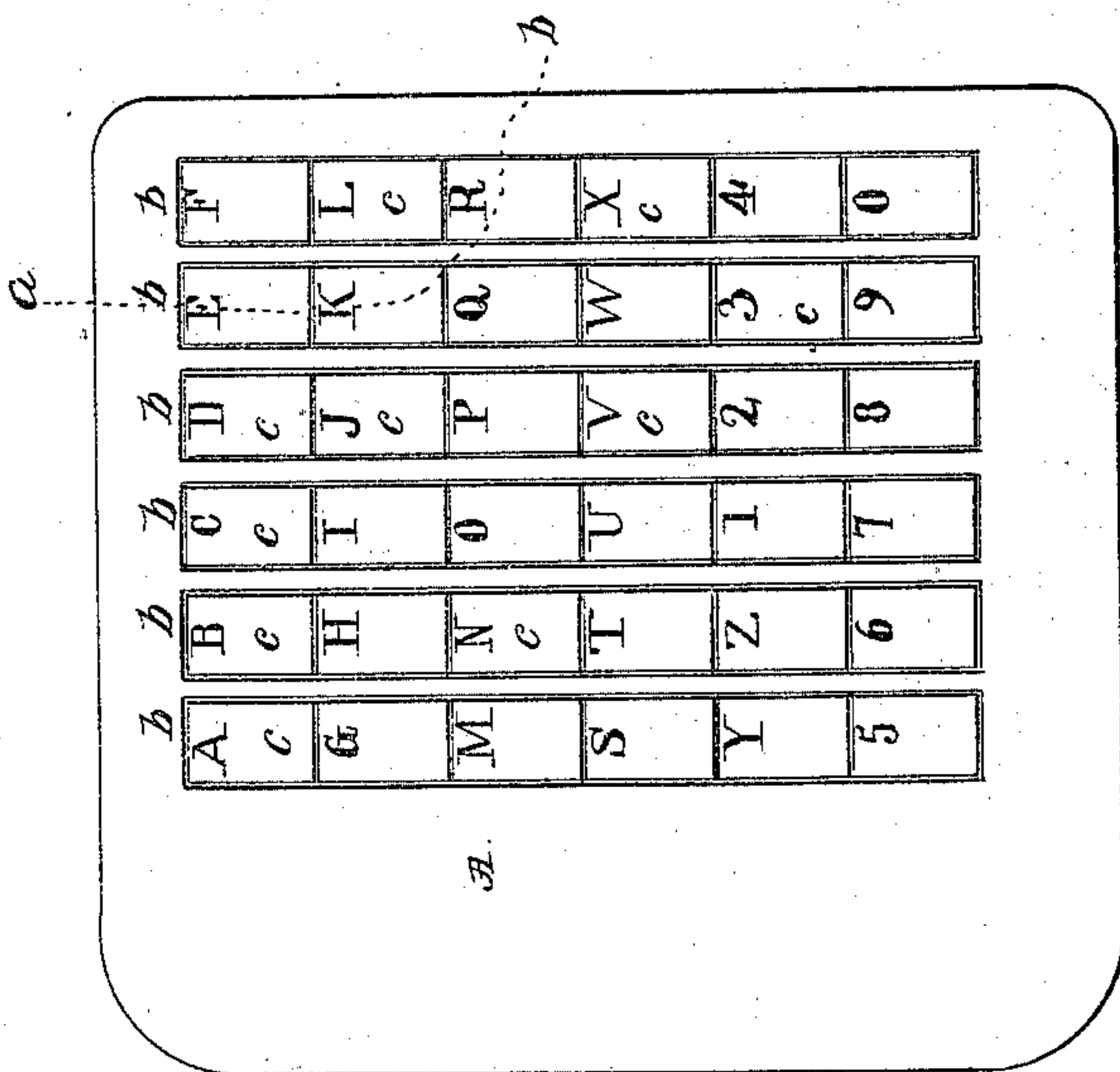


Fig. 1.



Witnesses.

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E. B. NOURSE, OF EATON, OHIO.

ALPHABET-FRAME.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 58,463, dated October 2, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, E. B. NOURSE, of Eaton, in the county of Preble and State of Ohio, have made a new and useful Improved Alphabet-Frame; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the nature, construction, and operation of the same, sufficient to enable one skilled in the art to which it appertains to construct and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the side presented to the operator. Fig. 2 is a view of the reverse or side presented to the spectators. Fig. 3 is a partial section and partial edge view, the sectional portion being on the line *a b*, Fig. 1.

The instrument consists of a frame having two faces, one to be presented to the operator and the other to the reader, and having a series of compartments, one appropriated to each letter and numeral, say thirty-six in number; the letter or character in each compartment, on the side presented to the reader, being covered with a spring-shutter, which is thrown back by the finger of the operator, who touches the pad on the other side of the frame.

This frame is intended to be held in one hand of the operator and manipulated by the other, or be set upon a tripod, or stand, or table, as a means of communicating with deaf mutes, or for the use of schools or families, or to be placed in a partition-wall, as a means of communicating between adjacent apartments, or by longer connections with places more distant.

Other uses may occur and will suggest themselves to the intelligent expert.

The size of the instrument will depend upon its special purpose and application, and the distance at which the characters are intended to be legible.

In the drawings, A represents the frame, whose front and rear faces are correspondingly divided into a number of compartments, *b b'*, each compartment on the face side being appropriated to a particular letter which, except as uncovered by the means to be described, is covered by its hinged shutter *c*.

At the rear side of the frame A are compartments, corresponding to those on the face, and each is occupied by a pad or valve, *d*, which is attached to the shutter *c*, on the opposite face, by means of a link, *e*. A spring, *g*, underneath the pad *d*, tends to press the latter outward.

The operation is as follows:

The frame being in its appropriate position, with the rear toward the operator, and the face side outward, the deaf mutes or children, for instance, the teacher presses upon the valves *d* in such consecutive order as corresponds to the letters of the sentence or word to be communicated. As the teacher's finger presses upon the valve, the link, lever, or hook thrusts the shutter open, and on the removal of the pressure the spring elevates the pad and draws to the shutter.

Each pad is lettered on the outside, and pressure thereon reveals a corresponding letter on the other side.

Having described my invention, what I claim therein as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The frame constructed as described, having spring-pads connected by link, or equivalent, to shutters covering letters, and operating substantially as described and represented.

E. B. NOURSE.

Witnesses:

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