J. Symmott,

Penmanship,

No. 71,084. Patented Nov. 19, 1867.

Witnesses:

Geo H. Strong

L. Wm Smith

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United States Patent Office.

JOHN SYNNOTT, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

Letters Patent No. 71,084, *dated November* 19, 1867.

WRITING APPARATUS FOR THE BLIND.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOHN SYNNOTT, of the city of San Francisco, San Francisco county, State of California, have invented a new and improved Machine to Enable the Blind to Write; and I do hereby declare the following description and accompanying drawings are sufficient to enable any person skilled in the art or science to which it most nearly appertains to make and use my said invention without further invention or experiment.

The nature of my invention is to provide a machine, so as to enable that class of persons who have become prematurely blind or near-sighted to write letters and direct them, as well as to perform all correspondence and manuscript writing.

In order to accomplish this object, I employ an inclined tablet or desk, having an inclined drawer for stationery. On this tablet is placed a hinged frame, upon the sides of which are placed slots about one-half of an inch apart, in which are placed two rods or bars, the upper one of which acts as a guide to obtain the width of the line, and is curved at both ends. Upon the lower bar or rod are placed two blocks, one of which fits closely upon it, and is for the purpose of a measure; the other one acts as a guide, and moves easily along the bar. Pins are placed in one corner of the tablet for the purpose of a guide to the sheet of paper and envelope.

In order to more fully illustrate and describe my invention, reference is had to the accompanying drawings, and the letters marked thereon, of which—

Figure 1 is a perspective with cover open.

Figure 2 is a plan.

A is the bottom of the desk; B is a frame which is hinged, and opens for the purpose of placing the paper on the face of the inclined tablet or top of the desk D, and is closed down on the sheet, and held in place by a hook and eye. E is the upper guide-bar, usually placed in the slots *a a*, with the bend up; this acts as a stop or guide for the upward stroke of the pen. The lower bar F is placed in the slots *a a*, next below the bar E, and the hand or fingers may rest upon it. On this bar is also placed the sliding block G, and adjustable block H. The block H is for the purpose of measuring distance or indicate the place to commence an epistle or paragraph, and has a pin, I, which turns from right to left, resting in a groove on the top of the block, and when the pin is in a right horizontal position, it projects from the block three-eighths of an inch, making the block and pin seven-eighths of an inch in length, but when the pin is turned to the left, it projects one-half inch, which, with the block, gives one inch space, the pin not being placed in the centre. This block fits more closely to the bar, and is not so easily removed as the block G; consequently, if the block G is removed by accident, the block H will usually be in place. The block G has a projection, *c*, upward toward the bar E, and a lug, *d*, placed near the end at right angles. At the end of this lug is placed the pen when the operator commences to write, the block being followed, as the sentence progresses, by the left hand of the writer, and is moved against the pen when the word is completed, when the pen is lowered sufficiently to let the lug *d* slip by, thus giving space between the words, until the line is finished, when the bars are each lowered one notch, and a new line commenced. Pins *b b b* are placed upon the tablet, in one corner, for the upper end of the sheet, as a guide for adjusting it before commencing to write also for directing the outside of the letter or envelope, which is accomplished by the use of the bars and blocks above described, and the upper bar E protects the line already written. The whole machine may be closed and locked by means of the cover C.

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

1. The tablet with pins *b b*, and the hinged frame B with notches or slots *a a*, substantially as described for the purpose set forth.

2. The bars E F, and the measuring-block H with the pin I, together with the following-block G, with its projections *c*; and lug *d*, substantially as and for the purposes described

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

JOHN SYNNOTT. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

C. W. M. SMITH,

JESSE BROWN.