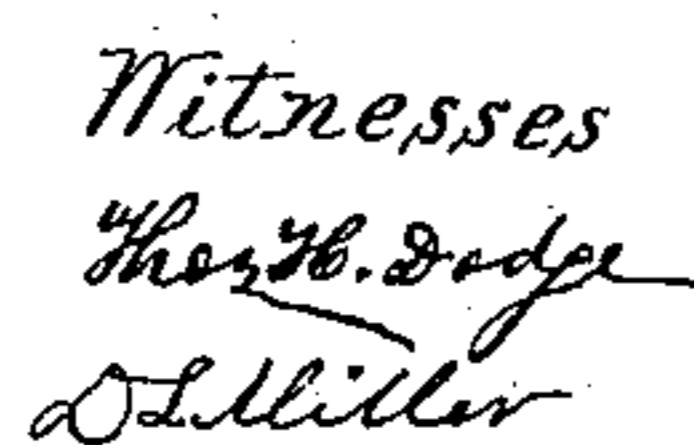


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# United States Patent Office.

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Letters Patent No. 85,232, dated December 22, 1868.

## IMPROVED FOLDING BUREAU-BEDSTEAD.

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

*Know all men by these presents:*

That I, D. B. MAYNARD, of the city and county of Worcester, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Bureau-Bedsteads; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my bureau-bedstead, as it appears when folded in the form of a bureau;

Figure 2 represents a perspective view of my bureau-bedstead, as it appears when opened to be used as a bed;

Figure 3 represents a front view of my invention, when finished in secretary-form;

Figure 4 represents a central section of my bureau-bedstead, when folded;

Figure 5 represents a longitudinal central section of my bureau-bedstead, when opened; and

Figure 6 represents a perspective view of one of the coil springs used for supporting the mattress.

To enable those skilled in the art to which my invention belongs, to make and use the same, I will proceed to describe it more in detail.

The nature of my invention consists—

First, in the combination and relative arrangement of the parts of a bedstead, whereby the same may be folded into the form of a bureau or secretary, when not in use, as hereafter explained.

Second, in the combination, with the parts of a folding bed of a movable bottom beneath the centre or folding point of the mattress, as hereafter explained.

Third, in the combination of mechanism with the bed, for lowering and raising the movable bottom when the bed is folded and unfolded, as hereafter set forth.

Fourth, in the combination, with the mattress and bedstead, of the peculiarly-constructed coiled-wire springs for supporting the mattress, as hereafter explained.

Fifth, in a folding bureau-bedstead, the parts of which are constructed and arranged to be operated in relation to each other, substantially as shown and hereafter described.

In the drawings, the part marked A is the base of the frame, made in the form of an oblong box, open at the top.

There are secured to its upper edges, at front and rear, by the hinges *a*, folding cases B B', so arranged that when brought together they form a complete cabinet or bureau.

The rear folding case B' has upon its top a small frame, C, in the bottom part of which, near its front edge, is a pin, *b*, that projects downward, and when the cases B B' are closed, retains them in that position by passing through an opening in the metallic plate *c*, upon the top of the front case B.

The frame C is arranged, by means of hinges *d*, so

that its front side may be raised to draw the pin *b* from the opening *c*, when the cases B B' are to be opened.

It is prevented from rising too far, by the screw or pin *e*, that passes through a hole in the top of case B', and is secured in the bottom of the frame C, the hole in the top of the case being large enough to allow the screw or pin to work freely, but not large enough to admit of the passage of its head.

A coiled-wire spring, *f*, is placed around the pin or screw *e*, for the purpose of keeping the front part of the frame C pressed firmly on to the top of the front case B, and to prevent the pin *b* from being accidentally thrown out of the opening, and allowing the cases to separate.

Drawers D are arranged in the frame C, and the front folding case B and base A are panelled and furnished with knobs, to represent the front of drawers, while the other parts are finished in an appropriate manner, so that, when folded together, the article resembles in appearance an ordinary bureau.

Beneath the top boards of the folding cases B B' are strips of wood E, secured by means of a pivot at their ends, and arranged in such a manner that they can be swung outward to form legs, E, for supporting the cases B B' when opened, as shown in the drawings, figs. 2 and 5.

Apertures *m* are formed through the bottom, A', of the base, A, and through the cases B B', for the purpose of ventilation; and the base, A, may be mounted upon casters or stands *g*, to admit of its being easily moved, and to allow a free passage for the air beneath it.

In the interior of the base, A, is arranged a movable bottom, F, furnished with side-pieces F'. It is connected to the folding cases B B' by means of strips of metal, G, bolted or screwed to the outside of the side-pieces F', and to the inside of the folding cases B B', in such a manner that when the cases are folded, the bottom, F, is lowered into the base, A, as indicated in fig. 4, but when the cases are opened it is brought up to a level with the top of base, A, as shown in fig. 5 of the drawings.

Small blocks *i* are fixed to the edges of the base, A, which fit into openings, *h*, in the lower edges of the folding cases, for the purpose of preventing the latter from being sprung out of place when closed.

Strips of board, H, are placed around the inside of the folding cases B B' and end-pieces F' of the movable bottom, and to the edge of said strips is fastened the cloth I, upon which the mattress K rests.

Knobs *s* are fixed to the strips H, at the ends of the mattress, to which the latter is secured by means of loops, to prevent the possibility of its sliding down when the cases are folded together.

The loops are fastened to the edge of the mattress K, and placed over the knobs *s*, as shown in the drawings.

Upon the inside of the folding cases B B', and also

upon the movable bottom F, are secured peculiarly-constructed coiled-wire springs M, for supporting the mattress K and bedding, those upon the movable bottom F being longer and heavier than the others, as they are subject to greater pressure, being at the central portion of the bed, and having to support nearly the full weight of the mattress K and bedding, when the bed is folded.

The springs M are formed as shown in fig. 6, having at the bottom a straight projection, N, which is fitted into the wood to hold the spring in place, and the coils increase in circumference as they extend upward, the last coil being finished by forming a loop, t, at the end of the wire, around the previous coil, as shown in the drawings.

In lieu of finishing the front to resemble a bureau, if desirable, it may be finished in the form of a secretary, as shown in fig. 3 of the drawings.

A folding shelf, L, is hinged to the top, which may be turned back and supported upon the legs E, they being drawn out for the purpose, and the panels in the front made to represent doors instead of drawers.

A book-case may be fastened to the wall of the room, at the proper height, and the bed, when folded up, moved to stand beneath it, thereby making a very beautiful piece of furniture. In this form, it is very convenient and well adapted for office-use, where persons wish to sleep in their offices.

The bottom, A', of the base, A, may be dispensed with, if desired, and the base left open for the free passage of the air.

The movable bottom or drop F may be made of slats, and, instead of being supported as shown in the drawings, it may be thrown up by springs, or cam-mechanism; and the bed may be made without the springs M, spring-slats being substituted therefor, or the mattress may be allowed to rest directly upon the backs of the cases.

The centre of the mattress may also be supported by means of sacking, ropes, straps, or even by pieces of wire, the ends being fastened to the folding cases B B', so that when the cases are open, the centre of the mattress will be raised or elevated into the proper position for a bed, and when the cases are folded together, the centre or folding point of the mattress will be allowed to drop or descend into the base or receptacle A.

It will be observed that one great peculiarity of my folding bedstead consists in obtaining the required length by two folds from a central base, as fully indicated in the drawings.

By the foregoing description, it will be seen that I have invented a bedstead that is well calculated to meet the wants of persons living in small tenements, as it may be folded into small space when not used as a bed, making an ornamental piece of furniture for a sitting-room, and, unfolded, it forms a luxurious bed, thereby economizing a large amount of space.

It may also be advantageously used for a sick-bed, as the ends can be raised, furnishing any desired elevation or inclination of the head or feet of the patient that may be required.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that some of the parts of my bureau-bedstead may be combined together in a somewhat different manner, without departing from the principle of my invention. The base and cases may be made of different forms, and yet be hinged, relatively to each other, substantially in the same manner.

Having described my improved folding bureau-bedstead,

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

1. The combination, with the base, A, and folding cases B B', of the movable drop or bottom F, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The combination, with the folding cases B B', mattress K, and drop, of the springs M, substantially as set forth and described.

3. The combination, with the cases B B' and movable bottom or drop F, of hinged arms or connections G, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with the folding bedstead, of a mattress, together with the devices for raising and supporting the centre of the same, substantially as described, whereby, when the bedstead is folded up, the centre of the mattress will be depressed, and when the bedstead is unfolded will be elevated or raised and supported, for the purposes stated.

5. The combination, with a folding bedstead, of a central base or receptacle, to receive the centre of the mattress, and the supporting-devices thereof, when the bedstead is folded up, substantially in the manner shown and described.

6. The combination, with the cases B B', of the hinged top C, and its holding-pin and spring, together with the locking-devices, arranged substantially as and for the purposes stated.

D. B. MAYNARD.

Witnesses:

THOS. H. DODGE,  
D. L. MILLER.