

G. E. ROGERS & A. D. GOODELL.

POSTAL CARD FILES.

No. 177,010.

Patented May 2, 1876.

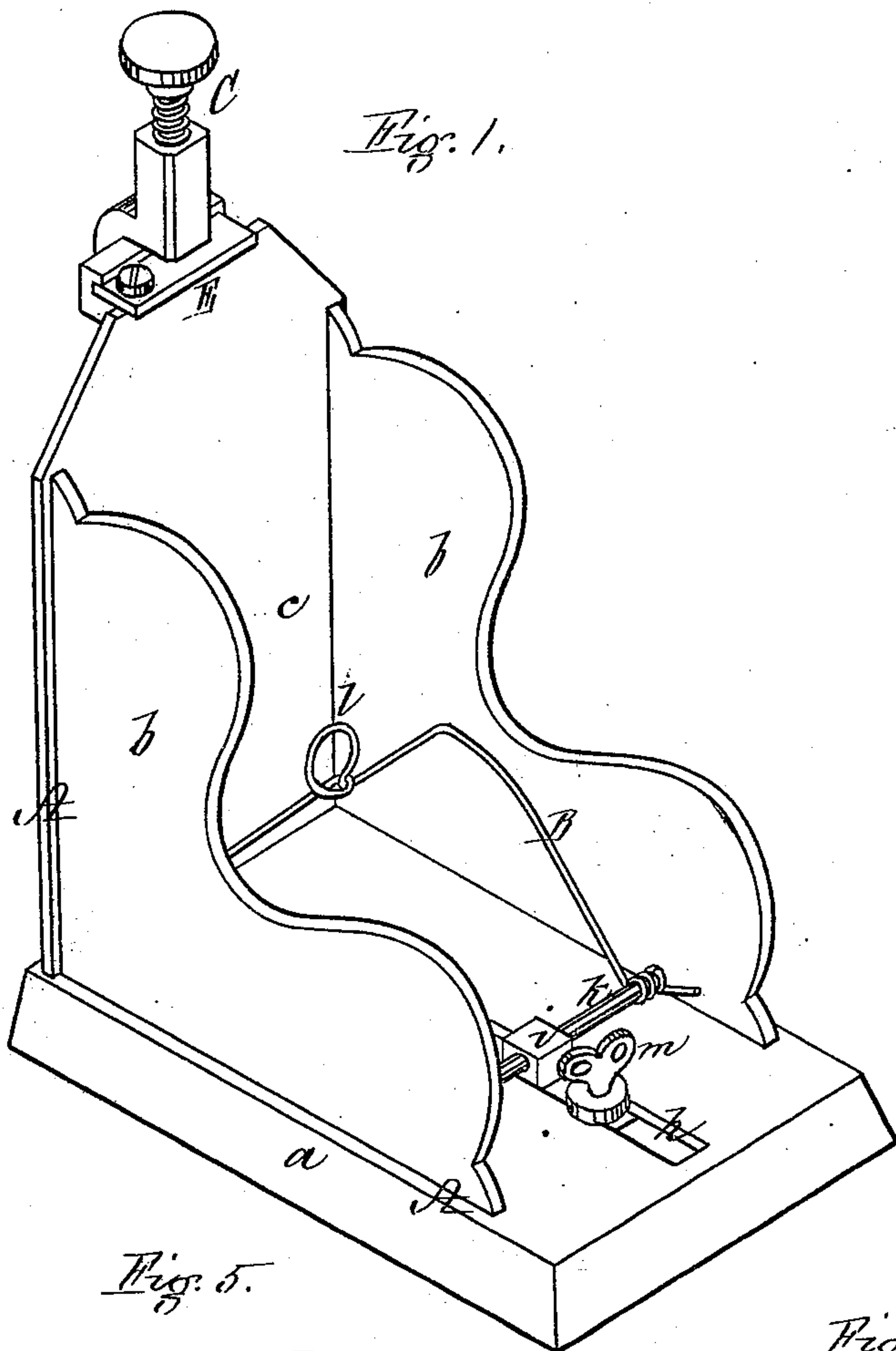


Fig. 5.

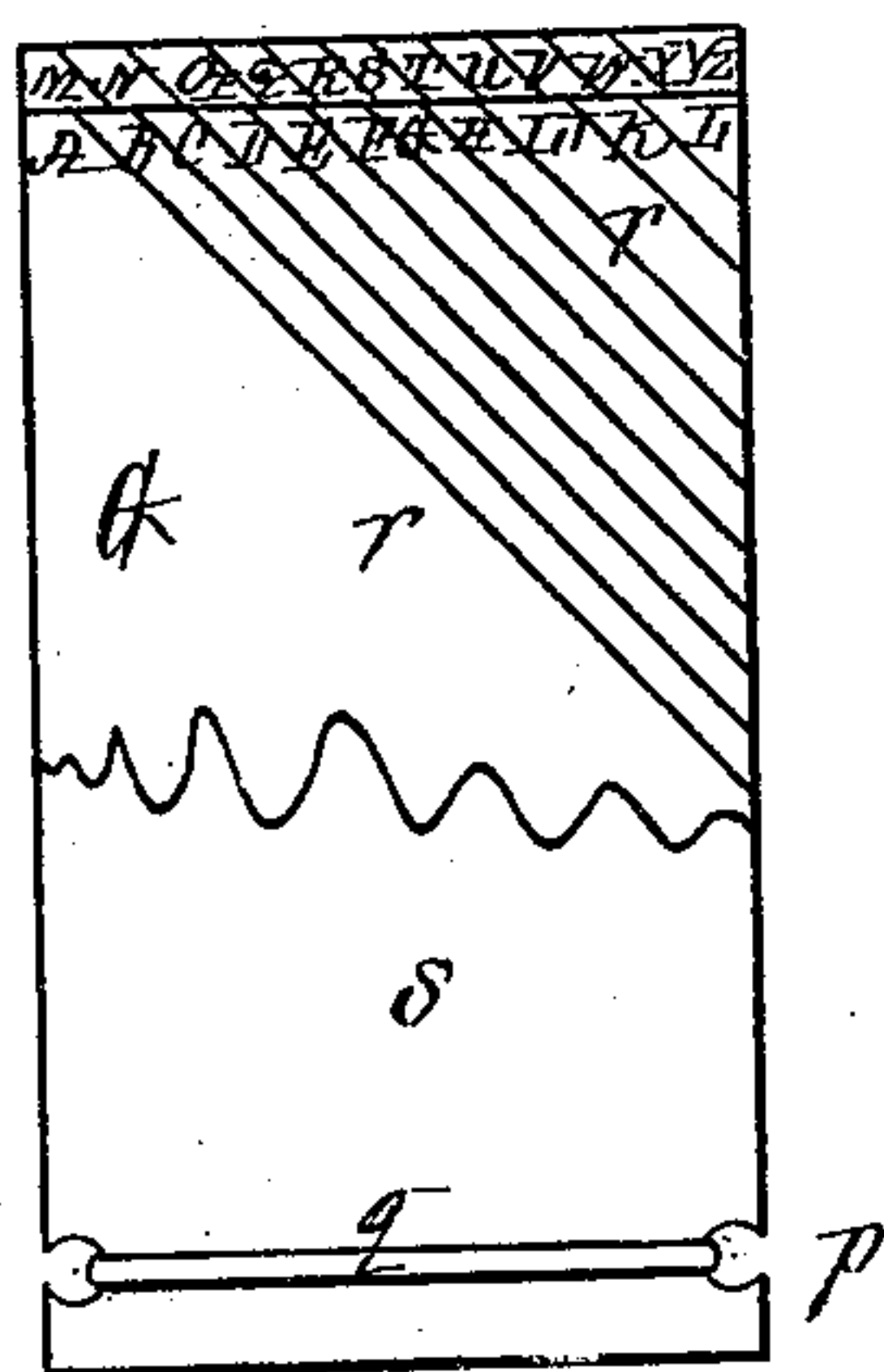
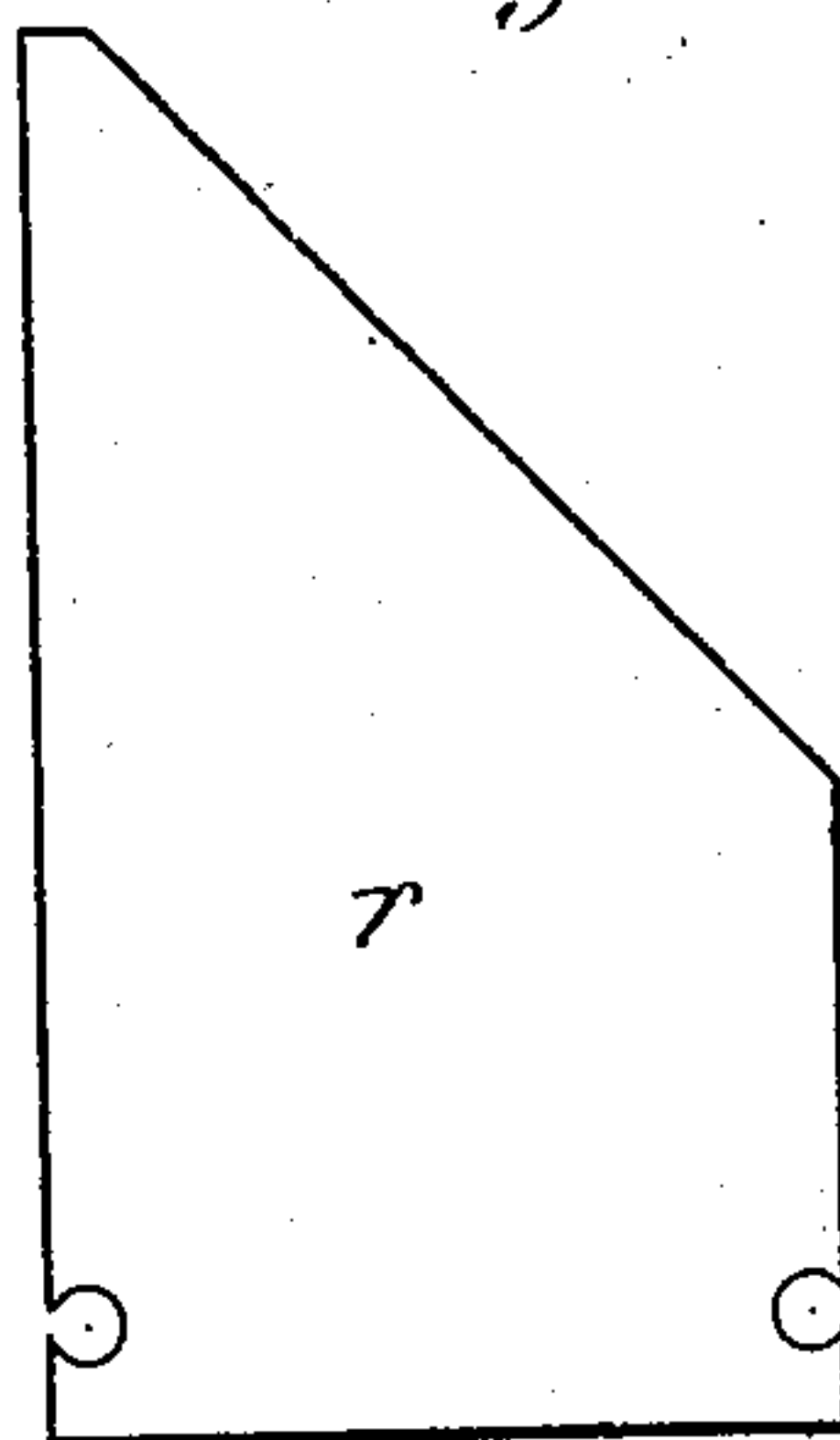


Fig. 6.



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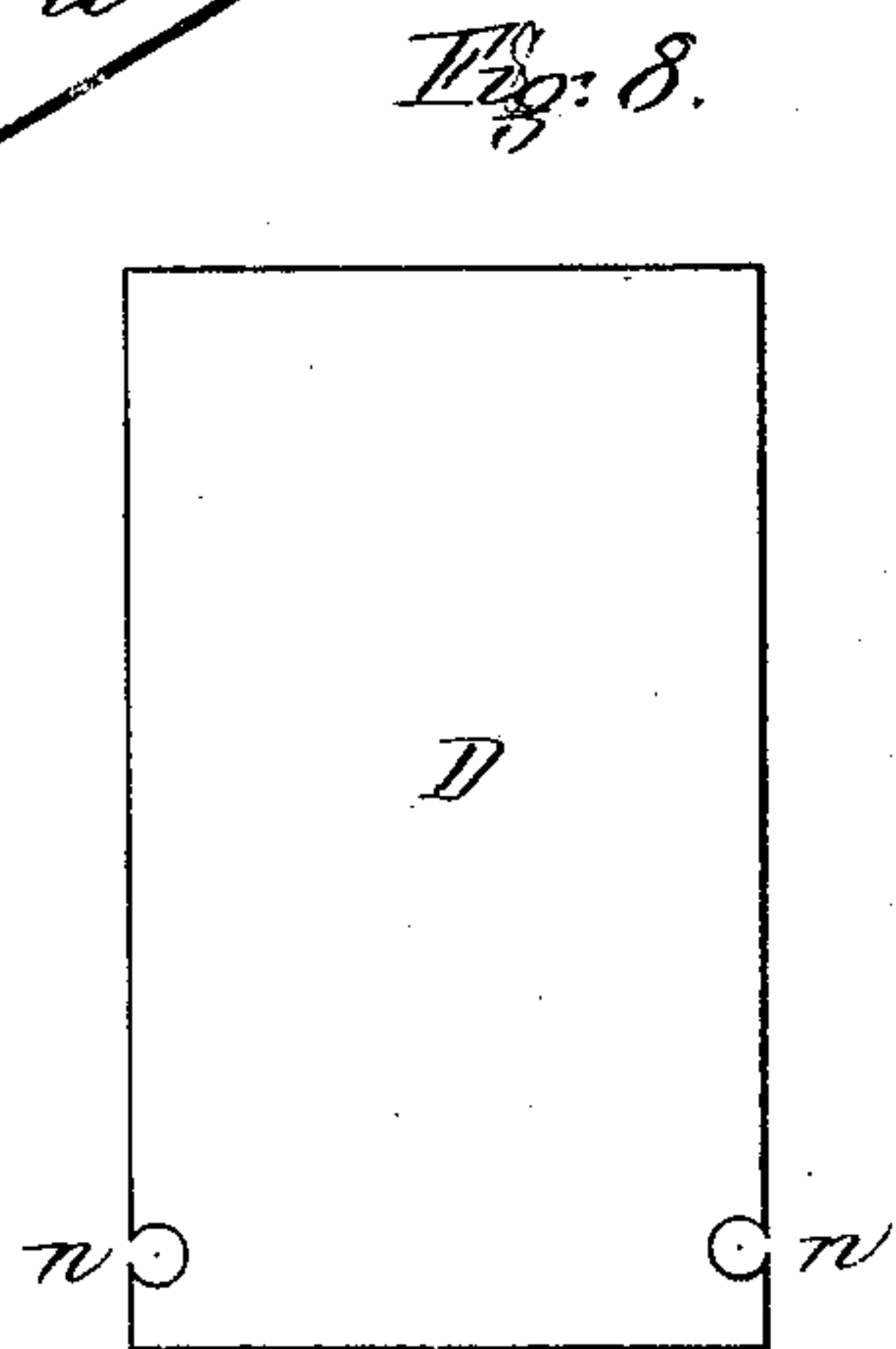
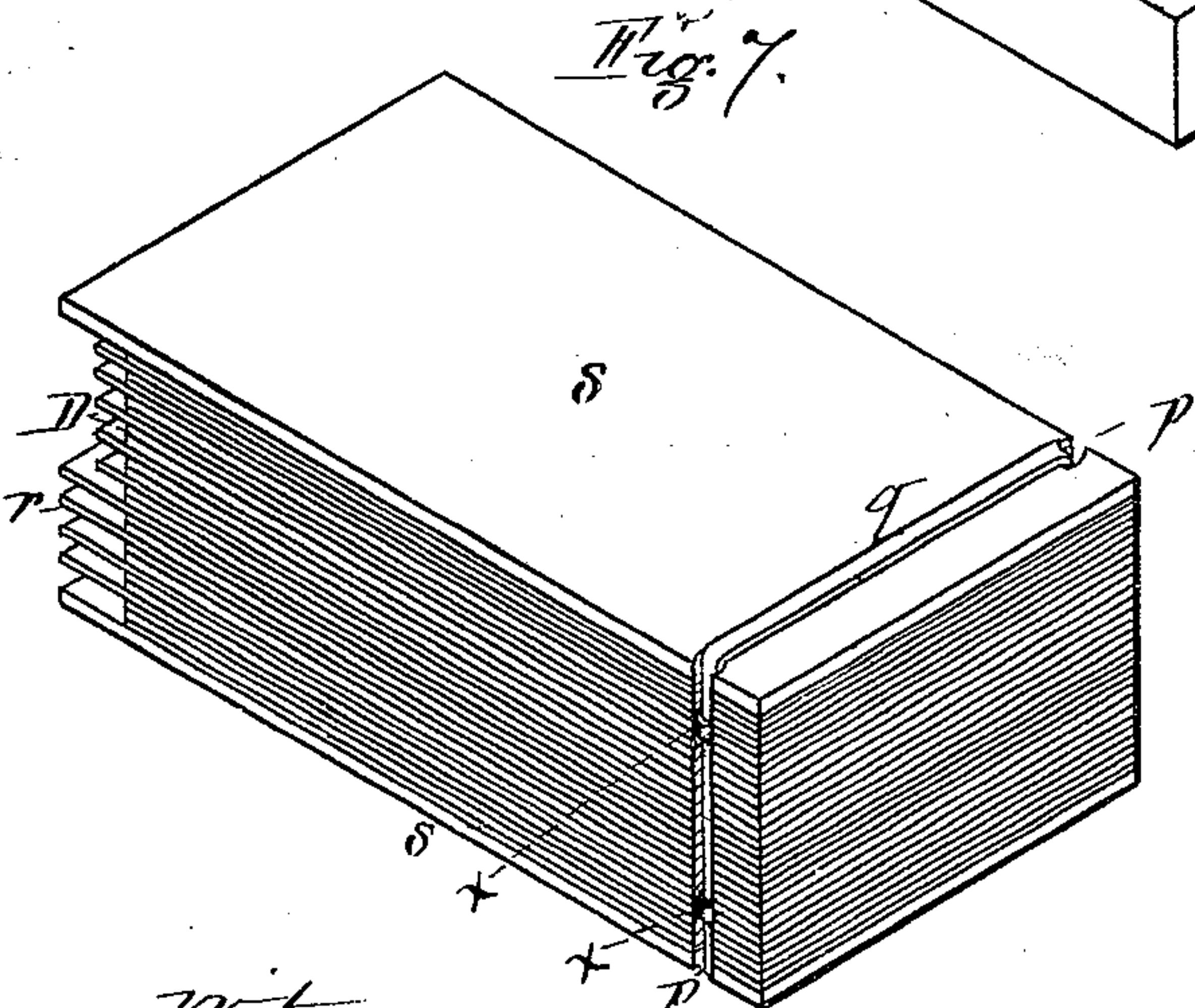
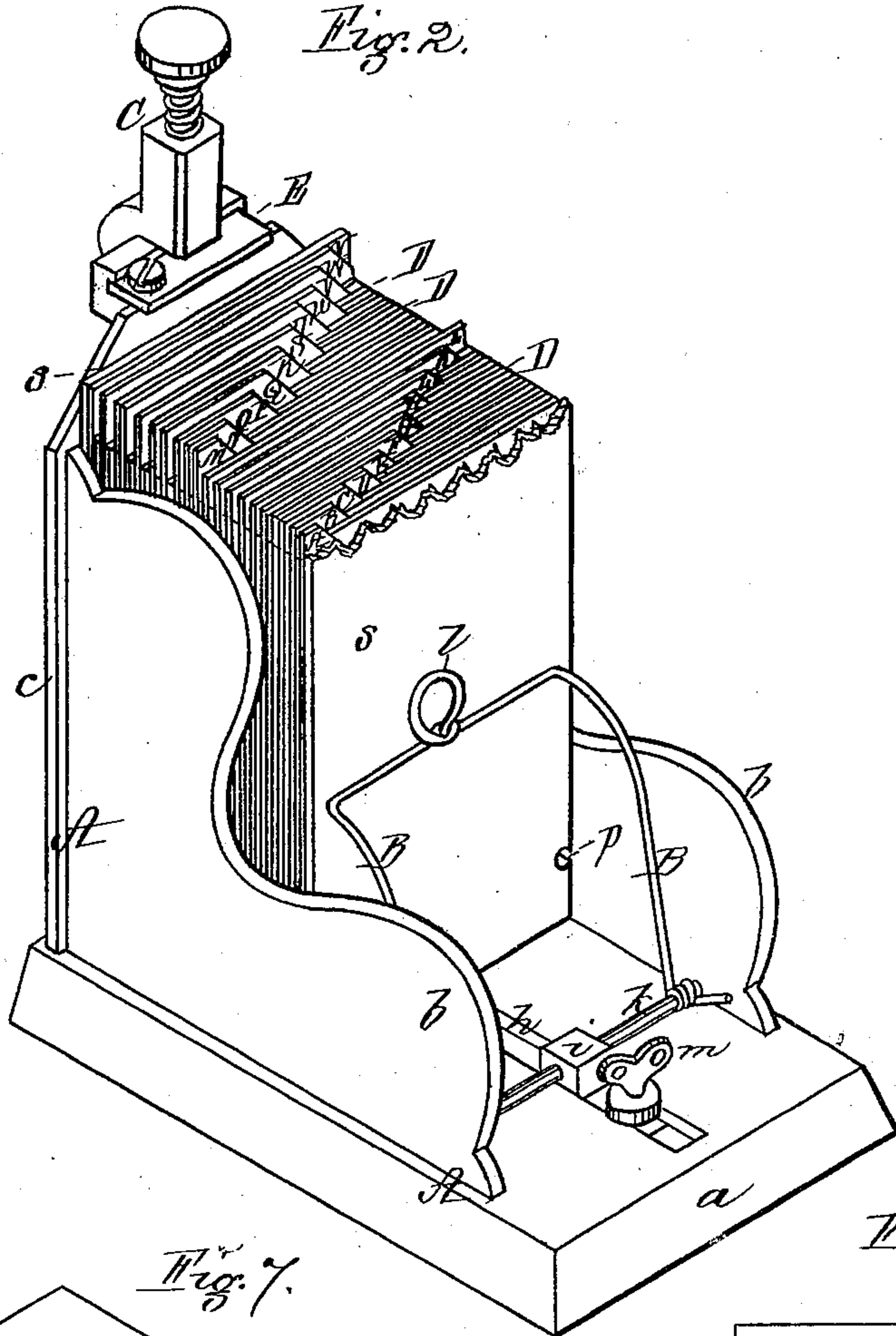
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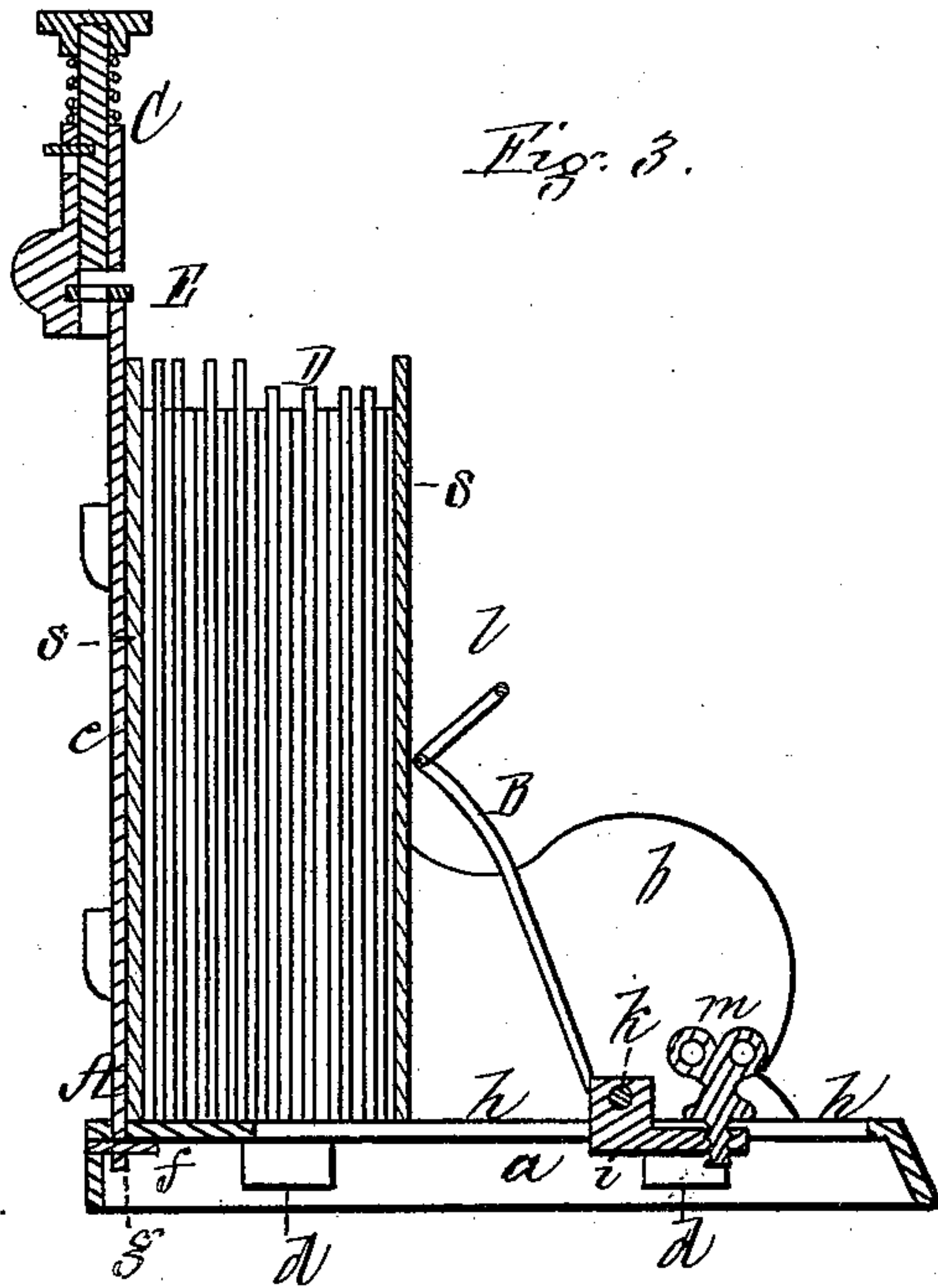


Fig. 3.

Fig. 9.

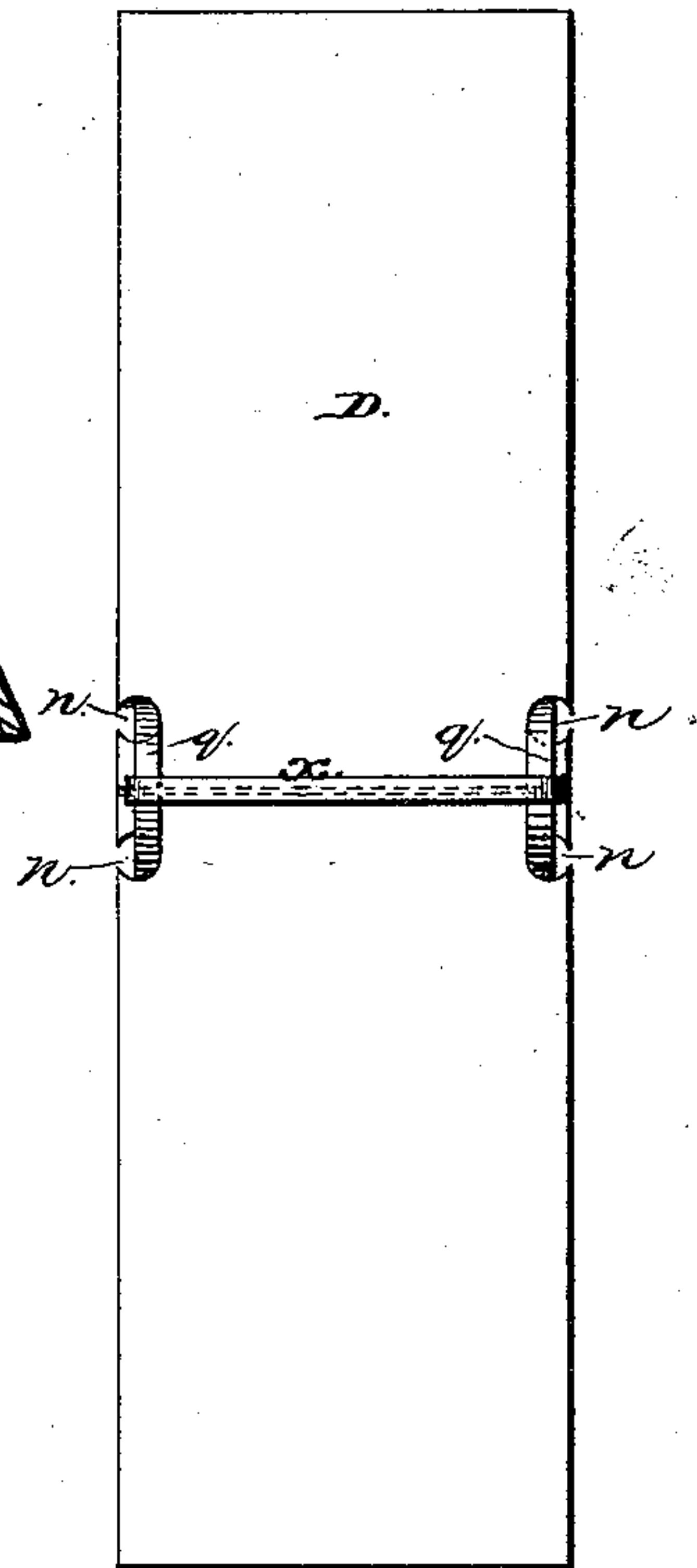
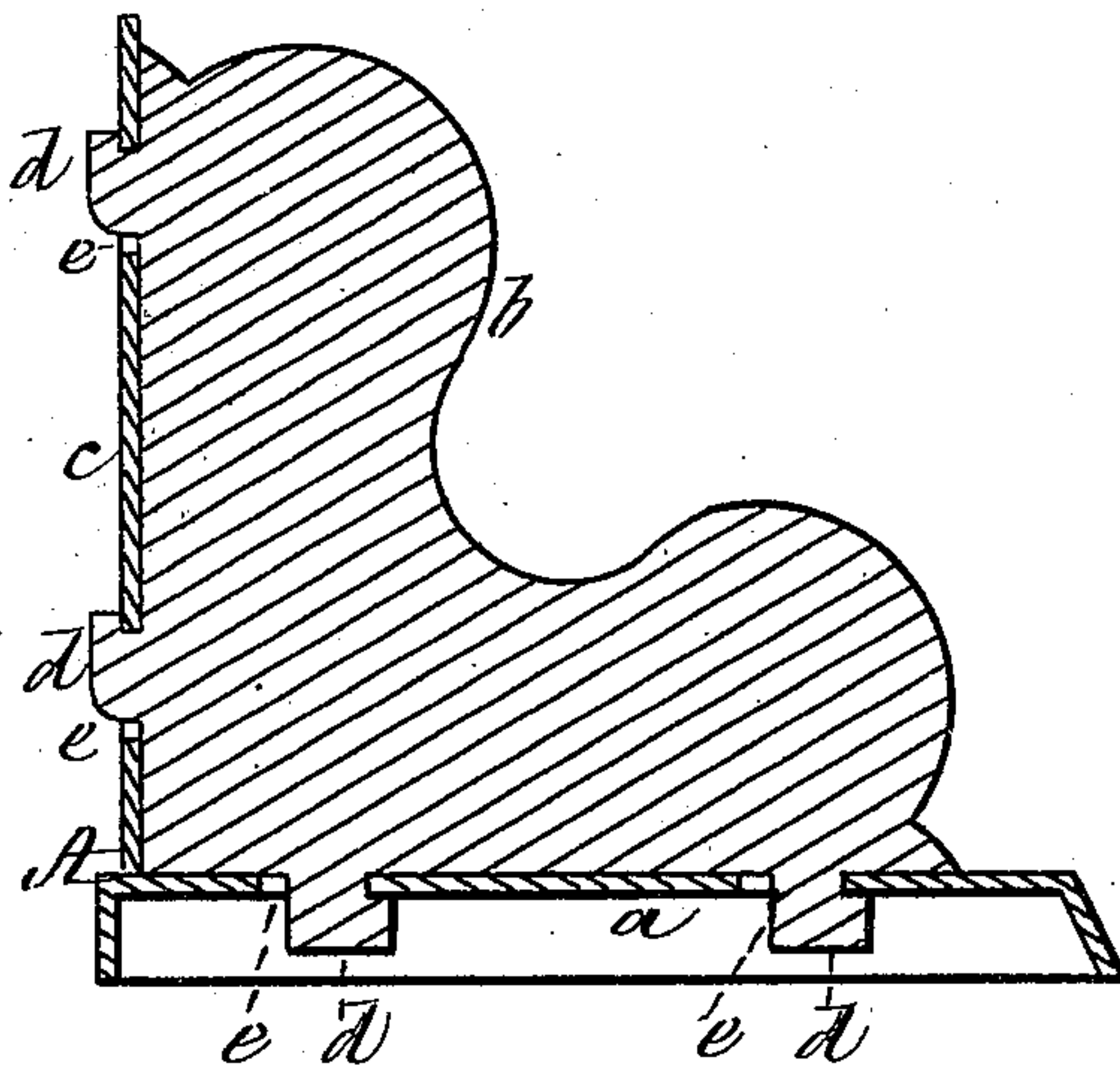


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE E. ROGERS, OF GREENFIELD, AND ALBERT D. GOODELL, OF MILLER'S FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNORS TO GEORGE E. ROGERS.

IMPROVEMENT IN POSTAL-CARD FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 177,010, dated May 2, 1876; application filed March 4, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, GEORGE E. ROGERS, of Greenfield, and ALBERT D. GOODELL, of Miller's Falls, both in Franklin county, in the State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Postal-Card Files for alphabetically arranging the same, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our postal-card holder. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same, with a file containing postal cards in place therein. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical section through the center of the same. Fig. 4 is a vertical section, representing the manner of securing the different portions of the holder together. Fig. 5 is a plan of the indexed file, in which the cards are to be held and assorted, a portion of one of the outer covers being broken away. Fig. 6 is a plan of one of the index-cards of the file detached. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of our improved file, filled with postal cards, removed from the holder, ready to be put away for future reference. Fig. 8 is a plan of a postal card punched at its edges, and ready to be inserted within the file in the holder. Fig. 9 is a view of the file open, showing the retaining-bands.

Our invention has for its object to provide a ready and convenient means of alphabetically arranging postal cards, and filing them for future reference; and consists, first, in a holder adapted to receive the cards, or a file for holding the same, and provided with an adjustable spring for confining them in a convenient position, (preferably upright,) where they remain until a sufficient number accumulate to form a package, which may then be removed from the holder and put away.

Our invention also consists in providing the holder with a punch and gage, by which the opposite edges of the cards are cut away or perforated in such manner as to form, when a series of cards are placed together, a continuous groove or channel for the reception of the cord or band by which they are held together.

Our invention also consists in securing the various portions of the holder together by

means of hooked projections and slots and a locking device, which facilitate the operation of putting them together or taking them apart.

Our invention also consists in a file for holding postal cards, the file being composed of a series of cards or leaves, each of which, with the exception of the last one of a series, is so cut away at one of its upper corners as to expose a portion of the card behind it, every card being provided at the top of its cut-off corner with a letter of the alphabet, the postal cards being respectively placed in front of the leaves bearing the letters corresponding to the initials of the surnames of the writers, in combination with the elastic bands for holding them together.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use our invention, we will proceed to describe the manner in which we have carried it out.

In the said drawings, A represents the postal-card holder, composed of a base, *a*, two side pieces, *b b*, and an end piece, *c*, the side pieces and end being at right angles to the base, and the distance between the side pieces being a little greater than the width of the postal cards to be placed between them. Each side piece *b* is provided with four hook-shaped projections, *d*, which pass through and catch over the edges of slots *e* in the base *a* and end piece *c*, which construction facilitates the securing together of the parts, which are locked by a pin, *f*, passing through a hole in a projection, *g*, extending down from the under side of the end piece *c* through a slot in the base *a*. The base *a* is provided with a longitudinal slot, *h*, in which slides a block, *i*, through the upper portion of which passes a transverse rod, *k*, around the opposite extremities of which are coiled the ends of a spring, B, of the form seen, provided at the center of its top with a loop, *l*, by which it may be drawn back when desired, for a purpose presently to be explained.

The position of the spring may be varied by sliding the block *i* within its slot *h*, a clamping-screw, *m*, being provided for holding the parts when adjusted. At the top of the end piece *c* is a punch, C, for perforating the postal cards D, Fig. 8, a suitable gage, E, being provided for locating the position of

the holes *n*, formed at the opposite edges of the cards, so that when a number of cards are placed in a bunch, Fig. 7, a continuous groove or channel, *p*, will be produced, for the reception of a cord or elastic band, *q*, by which they are conveniently held together for future reference. If desired, however, each card may be provided with one or more holes, located away from its edges, so that when placed together the holes will come into line and form an aperture for the passage of a binding-cord, wire, or other fastening.

G, Fig. 5, is a file, composed of a series of cards or leaves, *r*, placed between two stiff covers, *s*. Each one of these cards *r*, with the exception of the last one of a series, is cut away at its upper right-hand corner, on a bevel, and is provided at the top of this corner with a letter of the alphabet, the several cards serving as an indexed file. The portion of each card cut away is gradually reduced from front to rear, so as to expose to view a portion of each card with its index-letter, the beveled edges of the cards being parallel to each other, as seen in Fig. 5. As the width of the file will not allow of the placing of all the letters of the alphabet of the desired size in a single line, the index-cards are arranged in two series, as shown, the cards of the rear series being longer than those of the front series, in order that their respective letters may be visible.

The file above described is placed within the holder A, in an upright position, where it is held by the spring B, which is first drawn back by applying the finger to the loop *l*, to allow the file to be entered.

The postal cards, as fast as received, are punched at their edges, (see Fig. 8,) and arranged in the file in front of the leaves *r*, bearing the letters corresponding to the initials of the writers' surnames; and as the thickness of the file is increased by the accumulation of postal cards, the spring is adjusted to correspond therewith by moving the sliding block *i*.

The method of cutting the index-cards of the file above described is simple and inexpensive, no dies being required, as is the case in forming an index of the ordinary description, while great facility for readily examining the contents of the file is afforded.

When the file contains as many postal cards as desired, it is removed from the holder A, and the elastic band *q* is sprung over the lower end of the file and into the grooves or channels *p*, Fig. 7, by which means the cards are securely confined in a form convenient for future reference, the holes being open at the sides, readily admitting of the withdrawal of one or more cards without disarranging the others.

To prevent the liability of the cards at or near the center of the bunch becoming disengaged from the band *q*, one or more auxiliary bands, *x*, may be used for drawing the opposite sides of the outer band *q* toward each other and keeping them within the grooves *p*. A non-elastic cord or fastening may be used instead of the band *q*, and the covers *s* of the file may be dispensed with, if desired. The holder may be so constructed as to allow the cards to be placed on its bottom in a horizontal or in an inclined position; but when so placed, and the corners of the cards are turned up for examination, some of them are liable to be pried or drawn out of their proper position; we, therefore, prefer the construction first described.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The postal-card holder A, provided with the adjustable sliding block *i*, carrying the spring B, substantially as described.

2. The postal-card holder consisting of the slotted base *a*, sides *b c*, adjustable sliding block *i*, carrying the spring B, and the punch C, substantially as described.

3. The base *a*, end and side pieces *c b*, with their slots *e*, and hooked projections *d*, locked together by the pin *f* passing through the projection *g*, substantially as described.

4. The combination of the index cards or leaves *r*, cut away or perforated at their opposite edges, so as to form grooves or channels, with the binding-cord *q* and the auxiliary cord *x*, substantially as described.

Witness our hands this 29th day of February, A. D. 1876.

GEORGE E. ROGERS.
ALBERT D. GOODELL.

In presence of—

D. P. ABERCROMBIE,
D. C. ROGERS.