

C. S. WHITMAN.  
BILL-FILES.

No. 182,726.

Patented Sept. 26, 1876.

Fig 1.

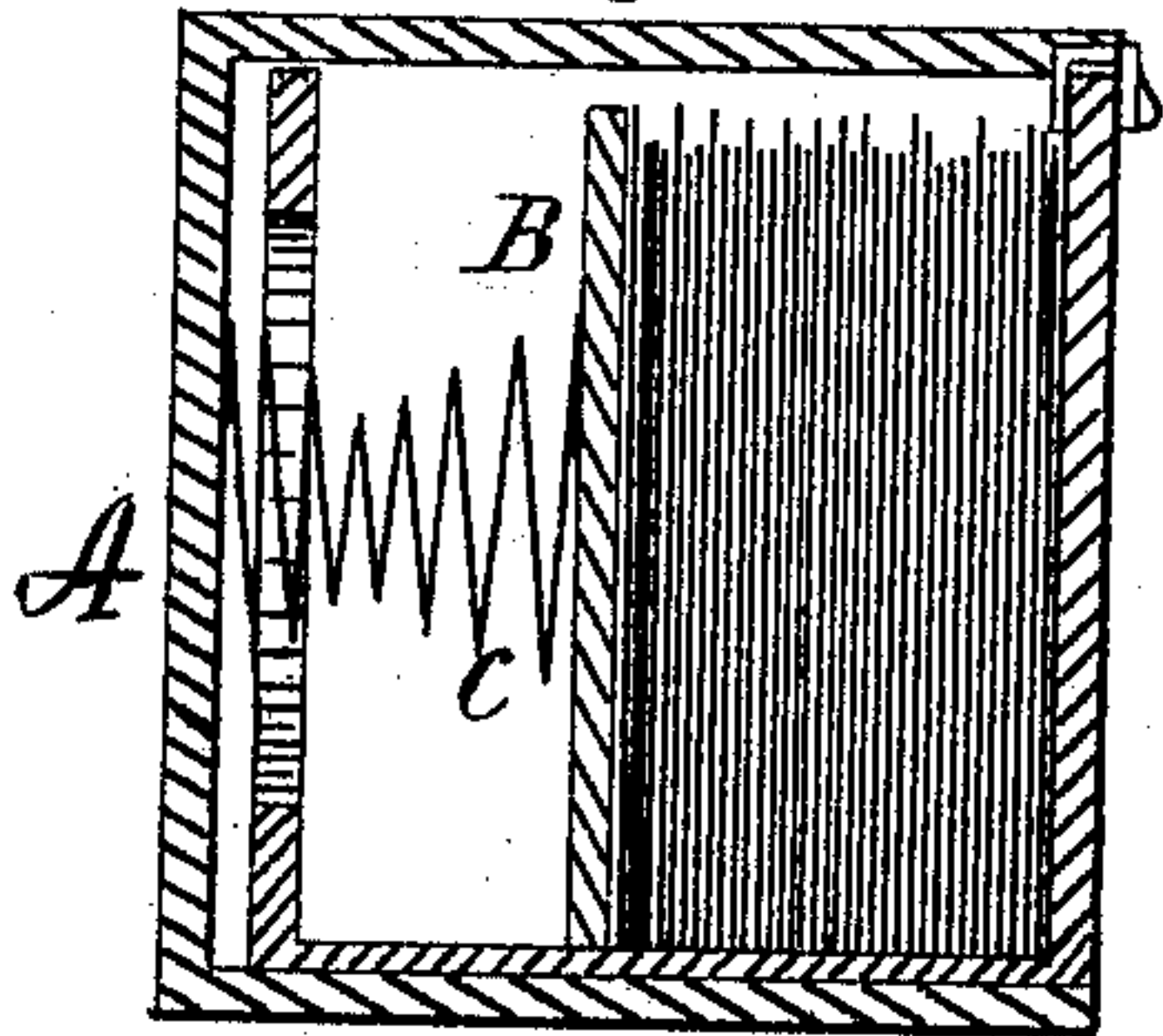


Fig 2. A

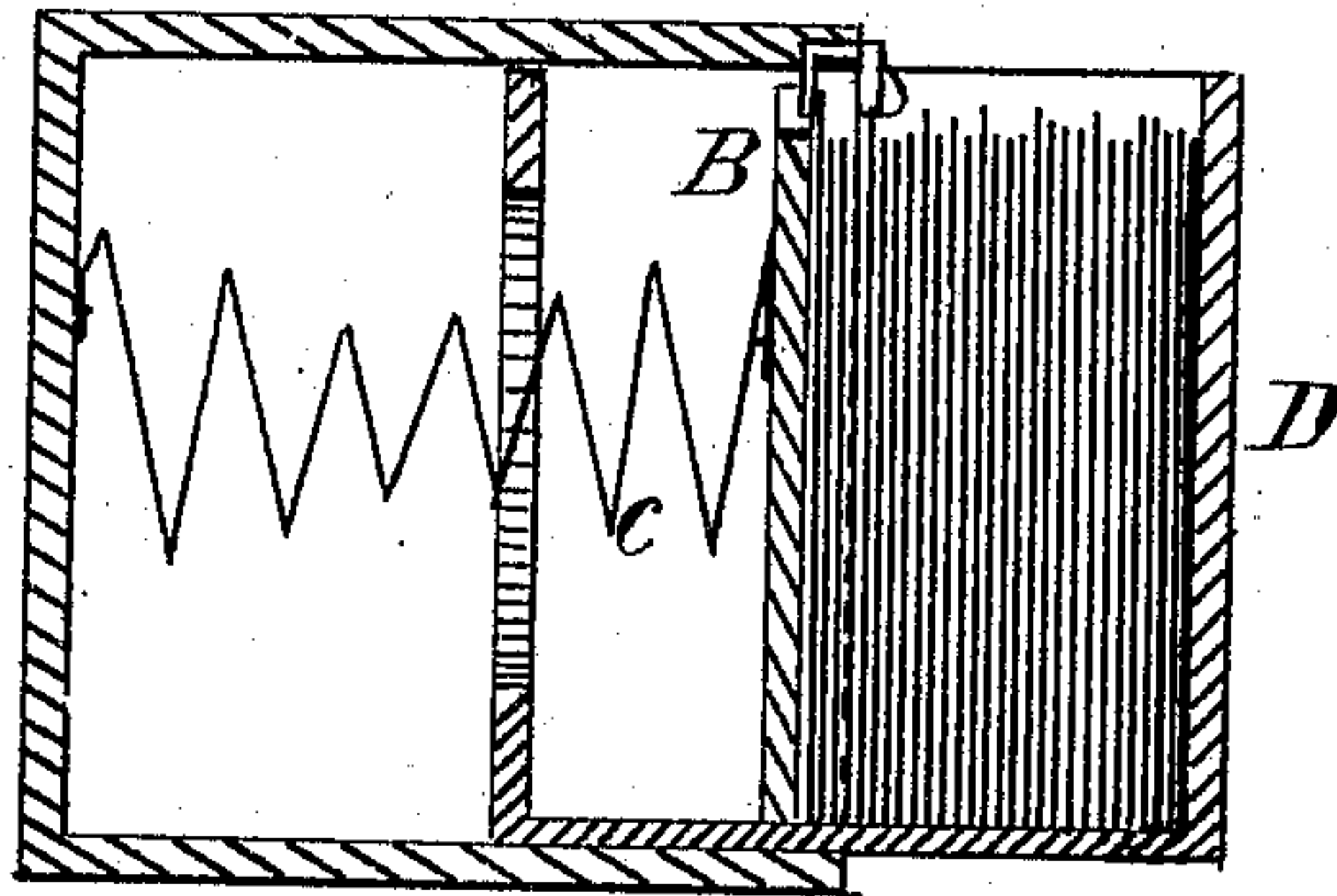


Fig 4.

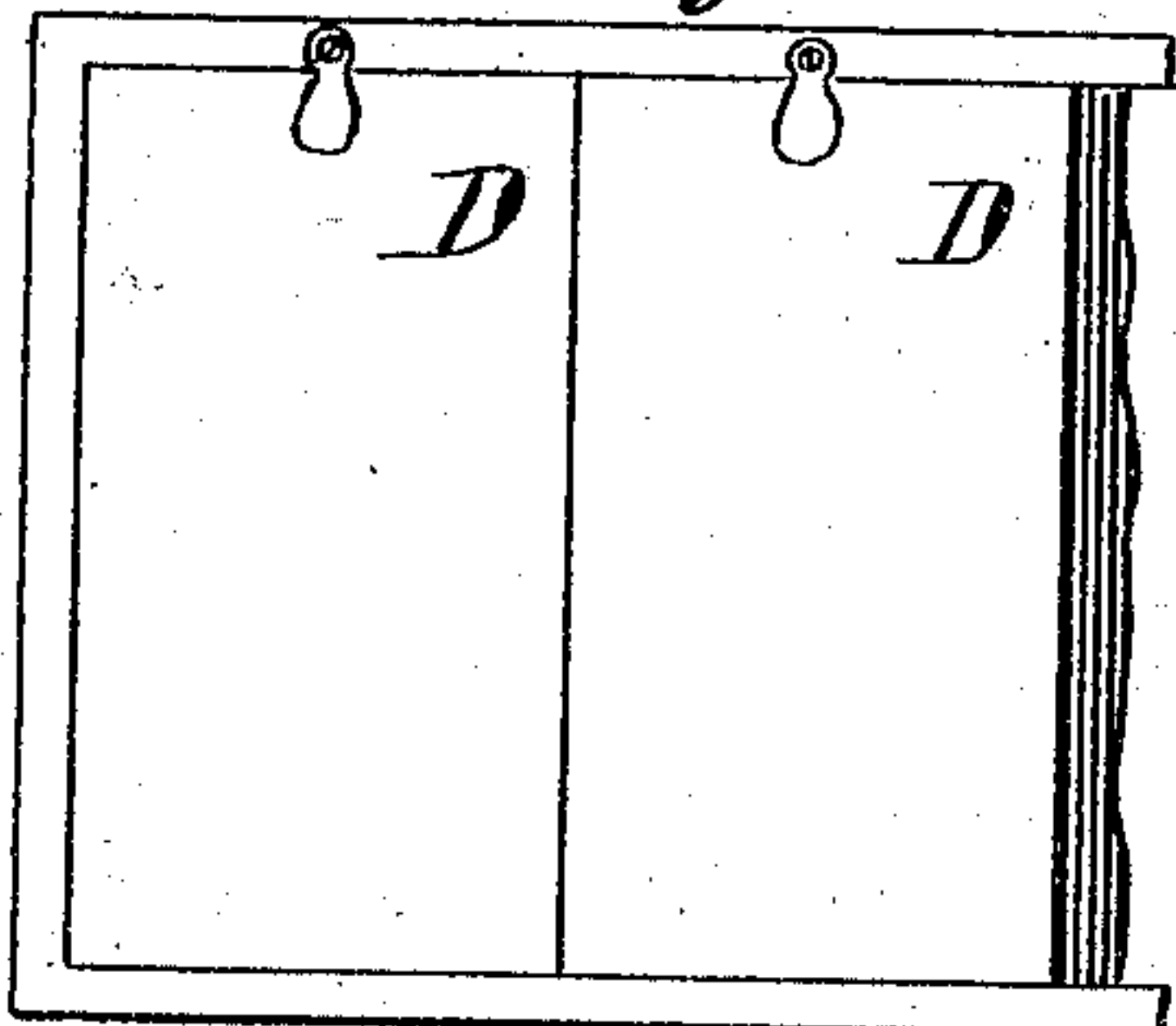


Fig 3.

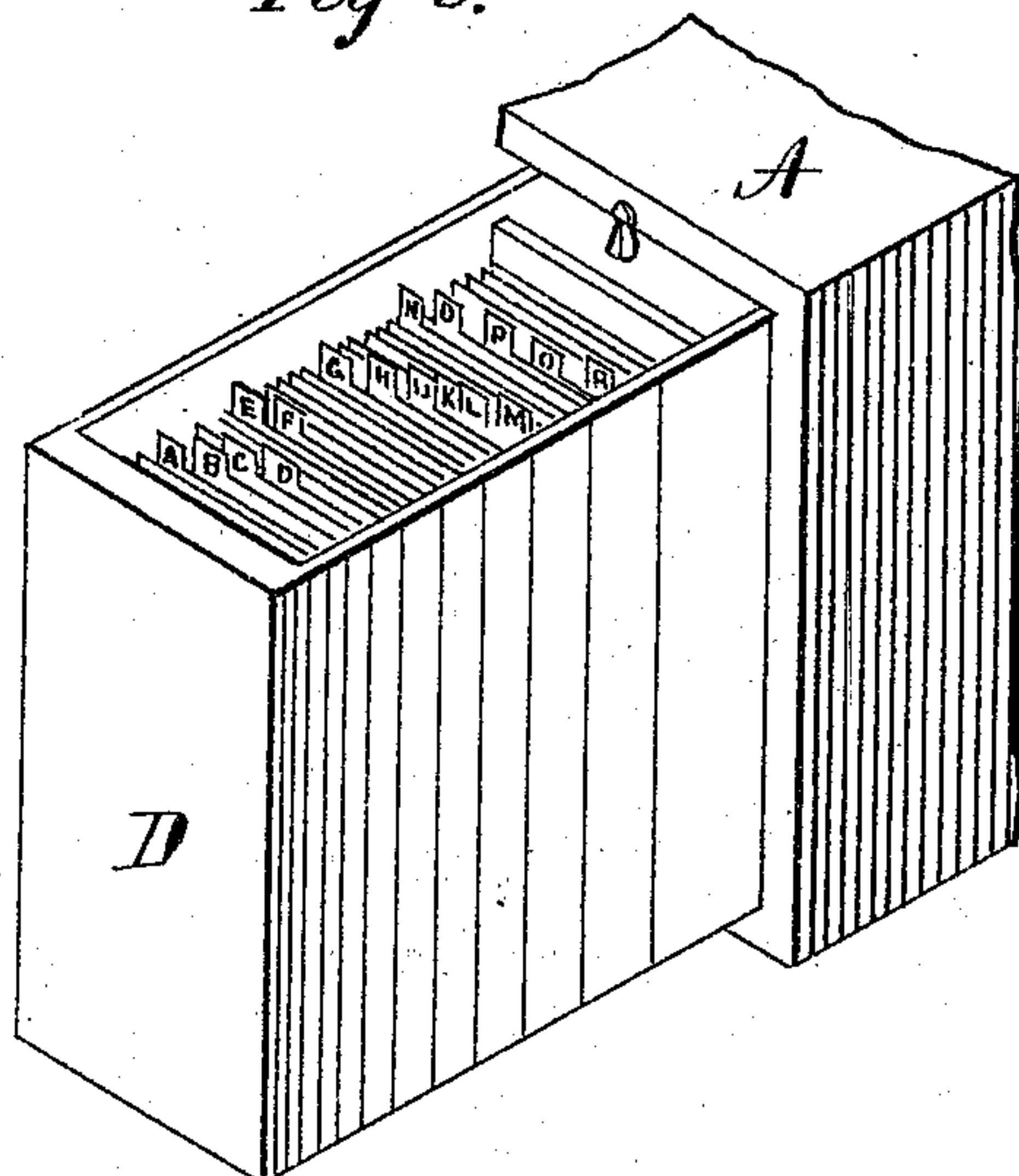


Fig 5.

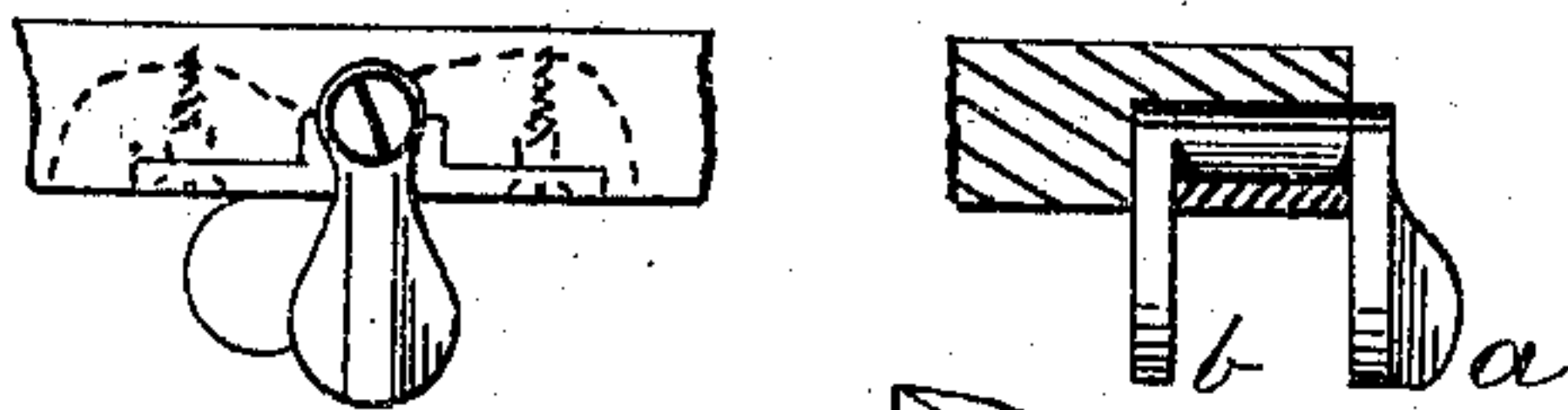
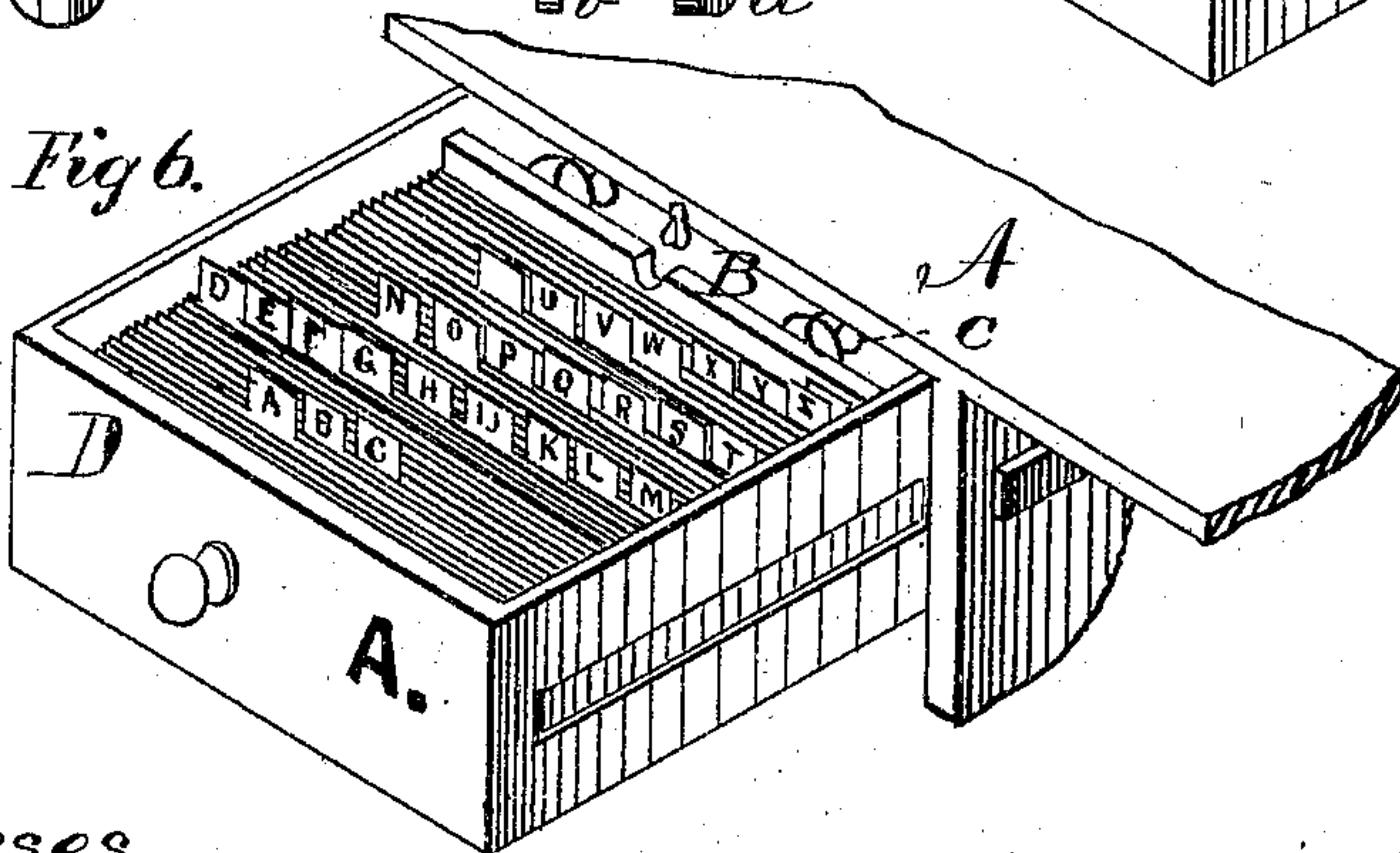


Fig 6.



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Fig 7.

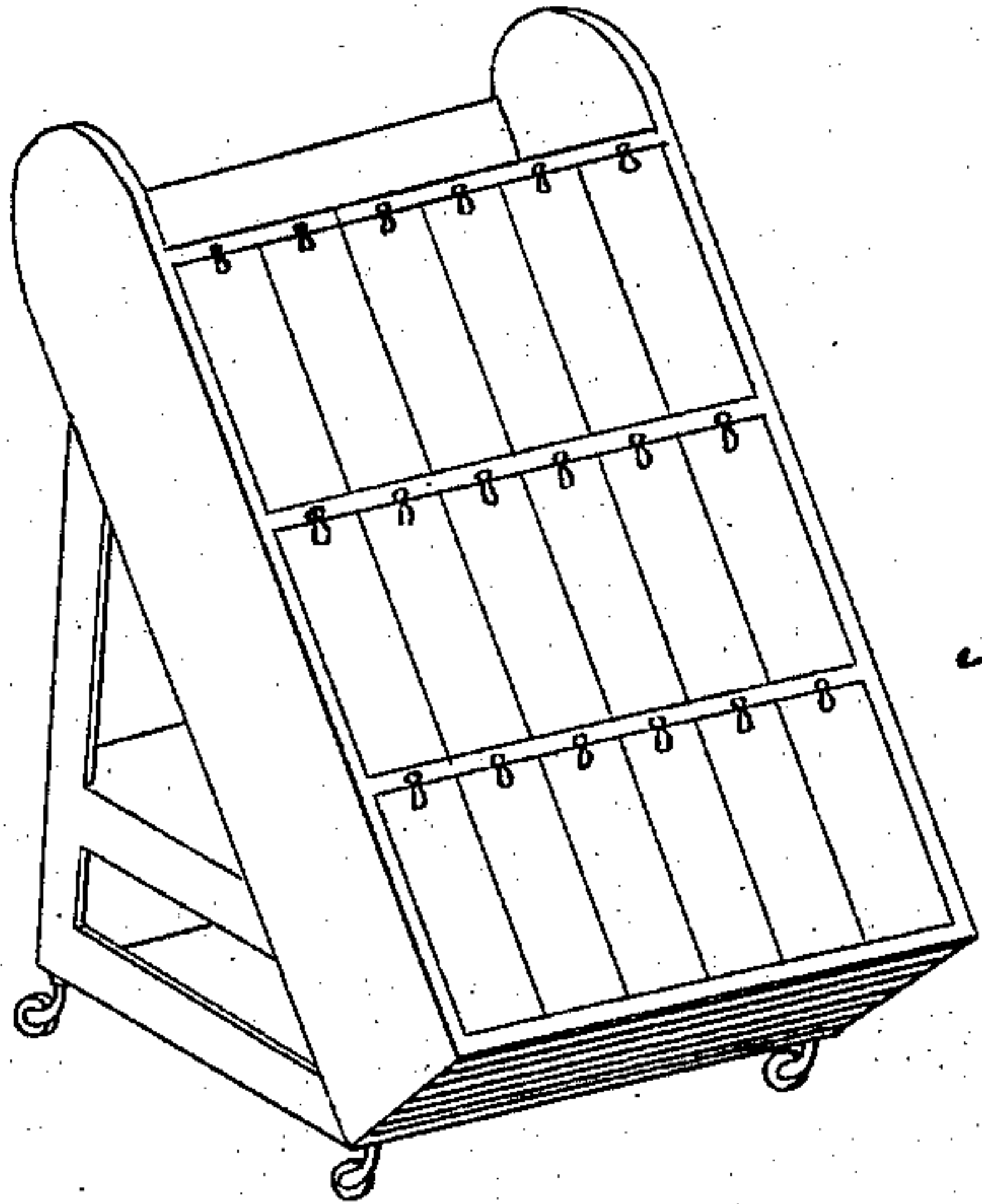


Fig 8.

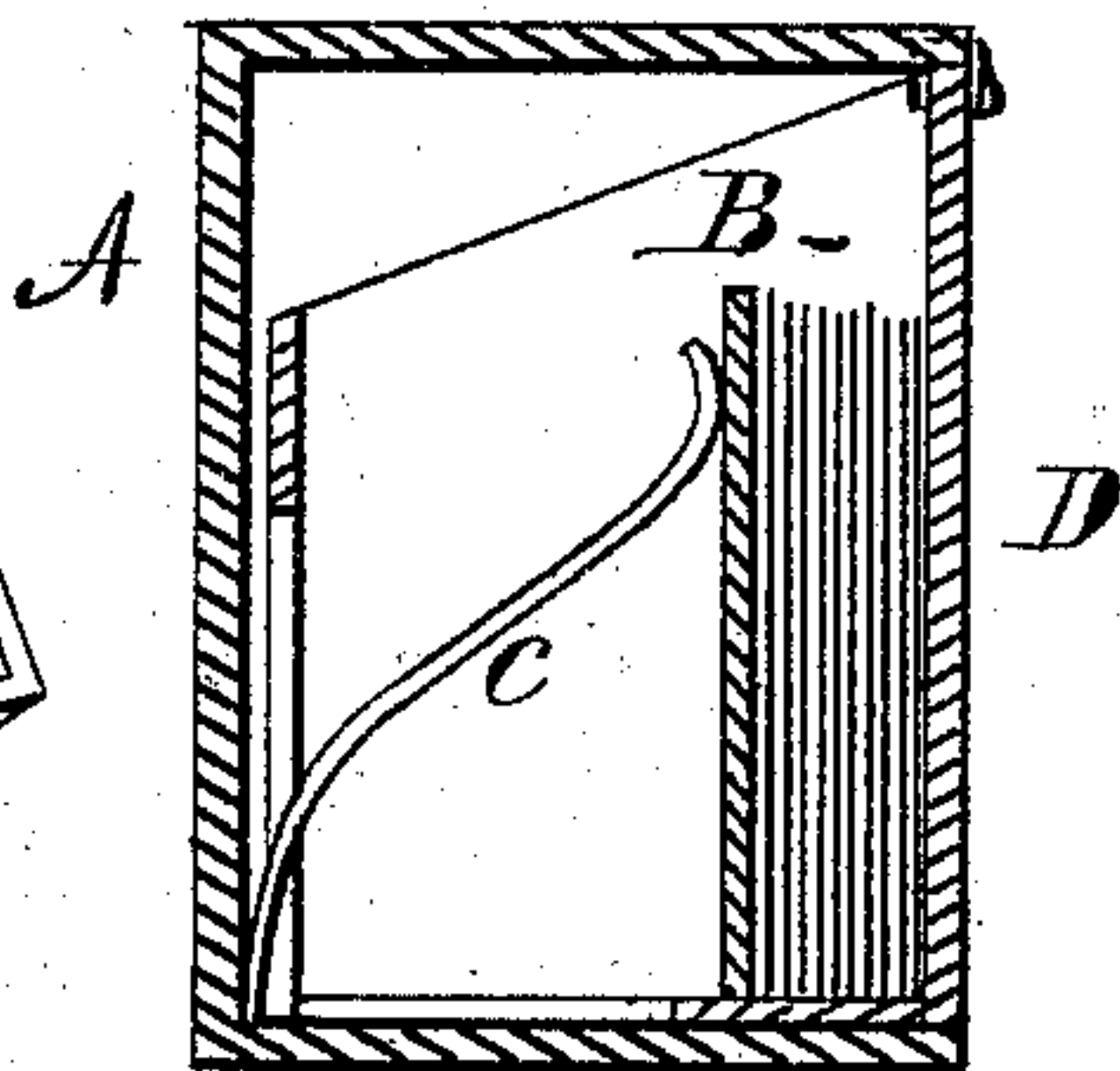


Fig 9.

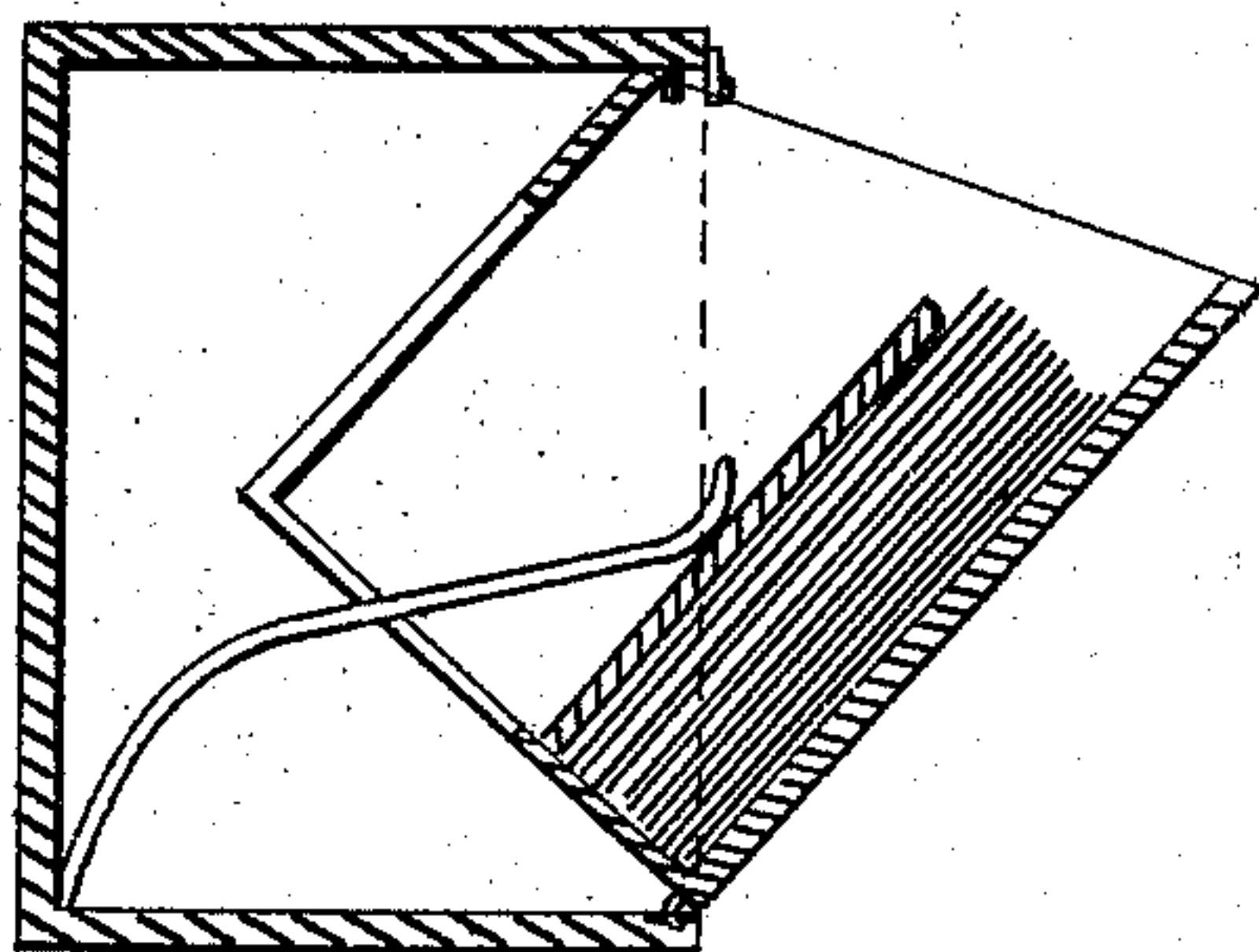
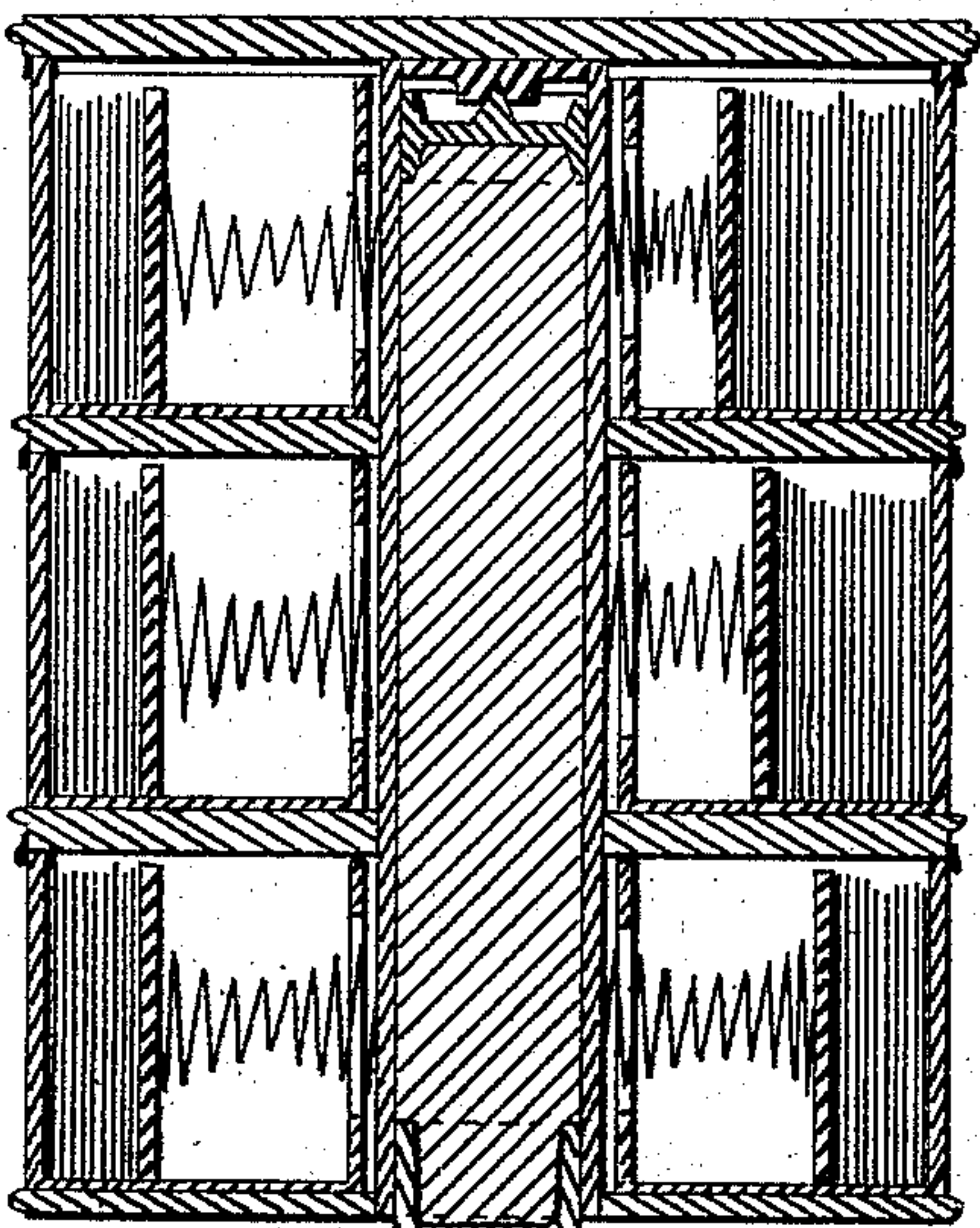


Fig 10.



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Fig 12.

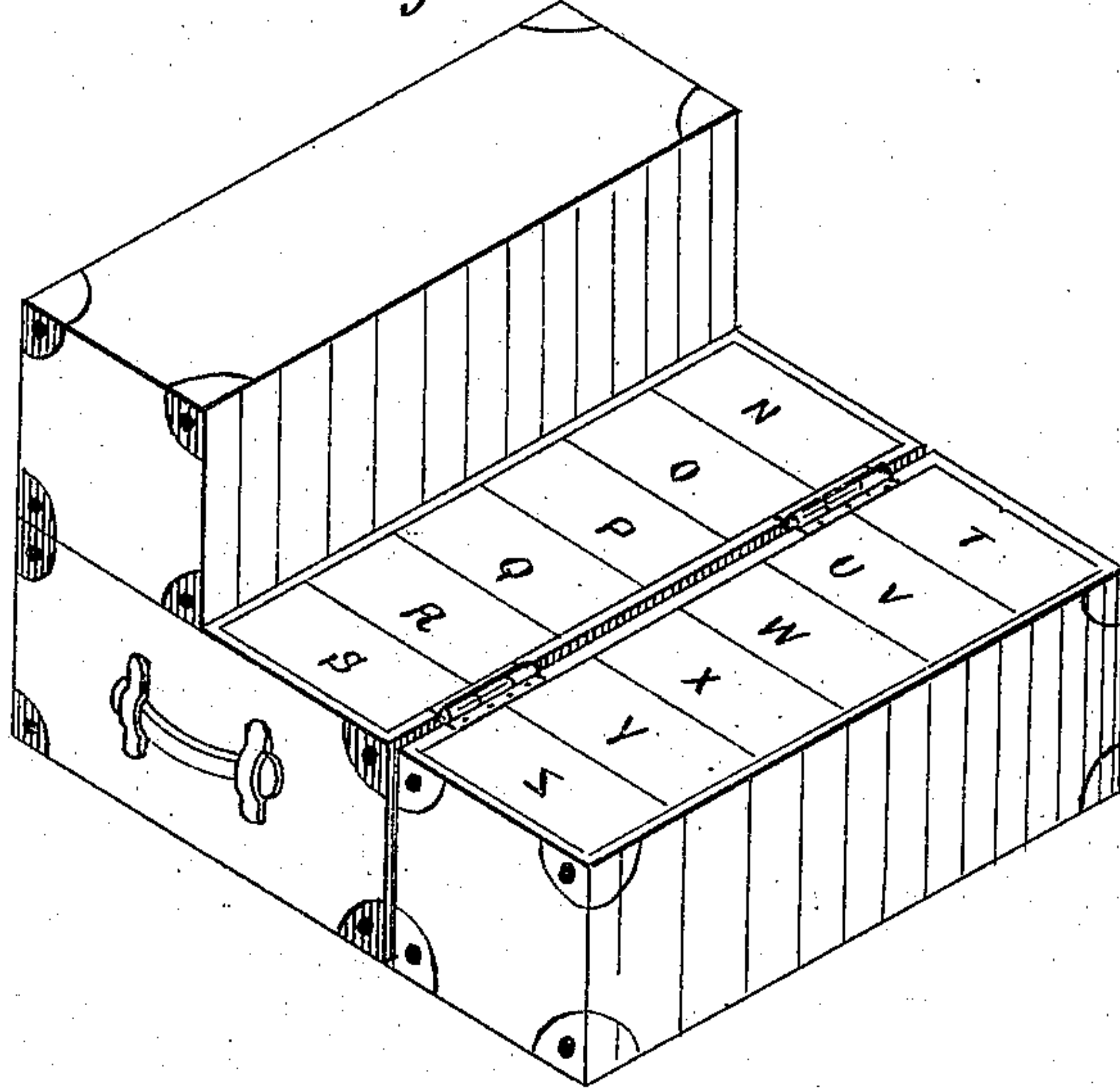
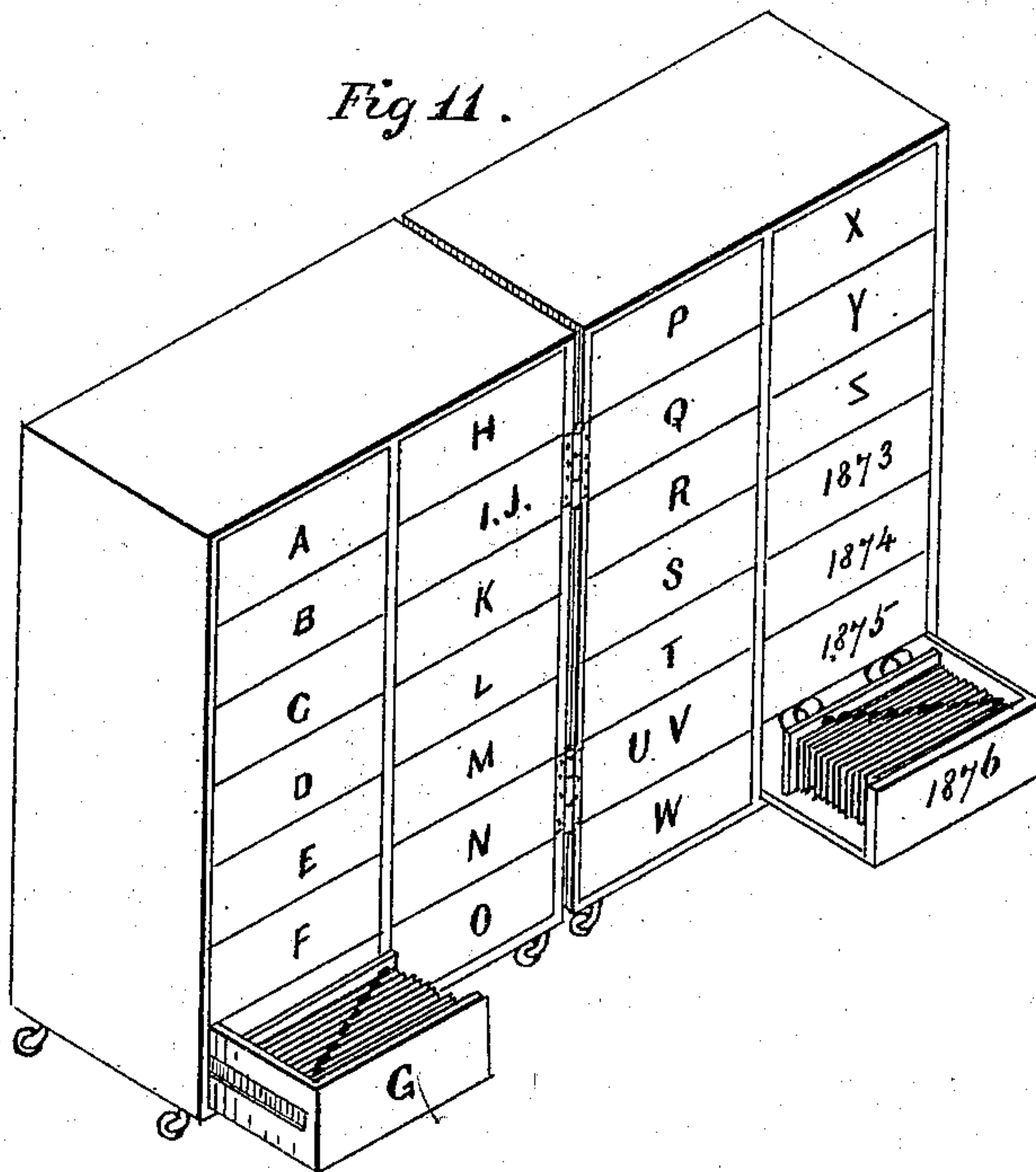


Fig 11.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES S. WHITMAN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BILL-FILES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 182,726, dated September 26, 1876; application filed August 15, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES SIDNEY WHITMAN, of the city of Washington, District of Columbia, counsellor-at-law, have invented new and useful Improvements in Cases and Cabinets for Holding Documents, which improvements are fully set forth in the following specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The object of my invention is the construction of a document case or cabinet which not only affords complete protection to the papers, but permits of any given document being instantaneously filed therein or withdrawn therefrom; and to that end my invention consists in combining a drawer for holding documents with an elastic medium or spring which performs the threefold office of holding the documents compactly in position, forcing the drawer outward, and releasing the documents in such a manner that they may be handled with facility.

In the accompanying plate of drawings, in which corresponding parts are designated by similar letters, Figure 1 is a sectional view of an incased drawer for holding documents, having my improvements applied thereto. Fig. 2 represents in section the drawer partially withdrawn from the case. Fig. 3 illustrates, in perspective, the drawer almost entirely withdrawn from the case. Fig. 4 is a front view of two of a series of drawers, arranged side by side between horizontal shelves. Fig. 5 illustrates a catch or lock, which may be made use of for locking the drawer and preventing the parts thereof from being forced too far outward by the action of spring when the drawer is crowded with papers. Fig. 6 illustrates, in perspective, a drawer provided with side strips which slide in grooved guides, and in which the documents are horizontally arranged and alphabetically indexed. Fig. 7 is an inclined cabinet of the kind which I prefer to use for holding the tilting drawers illustrated in Figs. 8 and 9. Fig. 10 is a view, in section, of a revolving cabinet, containing a series of drawers similar in construction to those shown in Figs. 1 and 2, arranged one above the other, and side by side in a revolving cabinet. Fig. 11 illustrates a series of drawers alphabetically arranged in a stand composed of two folding parts, and hav-

ing one of the sides thereof removed in order to facilitate the manipulation of the papers. Fig. 12 illustrates a series of drawers alphabetically arranged in a chest of three folding parts.

In the said drawings, A designates the casing, within which the drawers are arranged. Between the said casing and the follower B is interposed an elastic medium, which may be a spring of any known construction which it may be deemed advisable to use. The interposed spring may be attached to the casing or the platen, or to both.

The drawer D may be of any known construction, but should be of a size and shape adapted to the kind of documents which are to be filed, the manner of filing them, and the cabinet in which they are arranged. Thus in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4 a drawer is shown of greater height than width, while Fig. 6 illustrates a drawer the width of which is greater than its height; and Figs. 8 and 9 show a drawer which, instead of being forced horizontally outward, is made to describe the arc of a circle about one of its lower corners. The documents to be filed are inserted between the follower and the front side of the drawer; but if file-jackets are used the follower may be dispensed with, in which case the spring would act directly upon the rearmost wrapper.

When tilting drawers, similar to those shown in Figs. 8 and 9, are made use of the follower should be made to slide in grooves, or upon guides formed upon the sides or bottom of the drawer, in order that the pressure of the spring may not force it upward. The spring passes through an aperture cut in the back or bottom of the drawer, or the back board of the drawer may be entirely removed.

The drawer may be held in position when closed by a spring-catch, lock, or any of the known methods of securing a drawer to its casing; but I prefer to make use of a fastening the construction of which is best illustrated in Fig. 5, when the drawer is crowded with papers, and it is desirable to prevent it from being forced from the casing. The said fastening consists of two downwardly-projecting lugs, *a b*, attached to a cylinder, which has its bearings in the casing, and arranged at an angle of about sixty degrees of each other.



The force of gravity causes the outer lug to assume a position which will hold the drawer in place when closed, and the inner lug *b* to assume a position which will prevent the follower from being forced outside of the casing.

For ordinary purposes, however, a button-catch, pivoted to the top, side, or bottom of the casing, will be all that is required to hold the drawer in position.

The operation of filing papers in a drawer of this construction is exceedingly simple. The button spring-catch, or other locking device made use of, having been actuated in such a manner as to release the drawer from the casing, the expansive force of the spring upon the follower causes the drawer to fly outward and assume a proper position for the reception of the documents to be filed, which are inserted through the opening in the top or side of the drawer. The drawer is then forced backward to its original position, and the papers are firmly held between the follower and the outer casing of the box by the action of the spring.

It will be obvious to men of clerical skill that an apparatus of this kind possesses great advantages over the devices and methods heretofore in use for filing papers. Among these advantages may be mentioned the following: The use of tape or straps is dispensed with. The file-case is rendered self-indexing by placing within the drawer *D*, in front of the follower, a series of partition-leaves arranged alphabetically, as is clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

In order to file and index a document simultaneously, it is only necessary to insert the same in the rear or front of the partition-leaf the letter of which corresponds with the initial letter of the first surname indorsed on the document to be indexed. Thus a document indorsed "James T. Brady" would be placed

in the rear or front of the partition marked *B*; The Wiley & Russell Manufacturing Company, in the rear of partition marked *W*; papers in a law-case entitled "Seymour vs. Osborne," in the rear of the letter *S*.

For extensive business, however, a cabinet containing as many, or almost as many, file-cases as there are letters in the alphabet will be necessary, as is shown in Figs. 11 and 12.

Each file-case is provided with twenty-four partition-leaves, alphabetically arranged, as above described. By this construction five hundred and seventy-six compartments are constituted, in either of which one or more documents may be simultaneously filed and indexed.

In making use of these compartments I avail myself of both sur and Christian names. Thus papers relating to James T. Brady's estate would be placed in file-case *B*, behind partition-leaf *J*, and the will of A. T. Stewart would be placed in file-case *S*, behind letter *A*; in other words, the letter upon the file-case is for the surname, and the letter upon the partition-leaf within the file-case for the Christian name. In other cases the first important word of the indorsement would indicate the file-case, and the second the partition-leaf. Thus a brief in the case of Seymour vs. Osborne would be placed in case *S*, behind partition-leaf *O*.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

A document-case provided with a movable drawer, having a follower operated by a spring attached to the back of the case, as and for the purposes described.

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