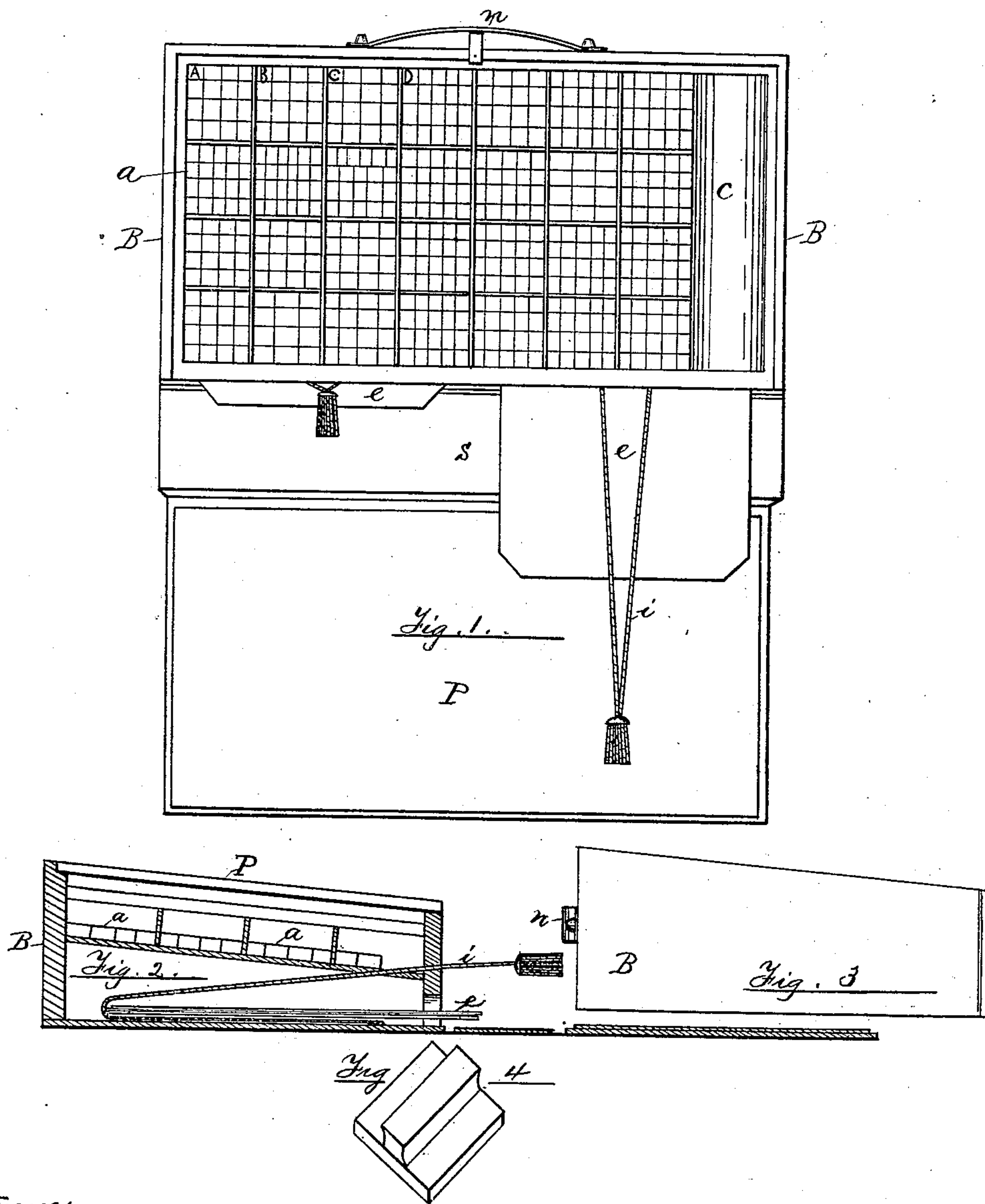


J. D. WILLIAMS.
Letter-Box Cabinet.

No. 217,566.

Patented July 15, 1879.



Witnesses

Thos H. Hutchins
Wm J. Hutchins

Inventor

James D. Williams

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES D. WILLIAMS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN LETTER-BOX CABINETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **217,566**, dated July 15, 1879; application filed November 22, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES D. WILLIAMS, of the city of Chicago, in Cook county, and State of Illinois, have invented a Letter-Box Cabinet, the use, construction, and operation of which I will proceed to explain, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the top of the case when open; Fig. 2; a central cross-sectional view of the case when open; Fig. 3, an end elevation of the case, and Fig. 4 a perspective view of a buffer to rub out marks.

The nature and object of my invention is to assist a little child to form words and sentences by the use of letter-blocks, by placing them in a row to spell a word, and by the words to form sentences, by means of which the child's physical powers, as well as its mental powers, are brought into use, and from the novelty of the arrangement is caused to more readily learn to spell and read. In order to accomplish this I use a novel arrangement, which, by reference to the drawings and the letters and figures thereon, I will proceed to explain.

In the drawings, B represents a case or box having a floor about midway between the top and bottom, as shown in Fig. 2. Above the floor the box is divided into square compartments, as shown in Fig. 1, very much like a printer's case. These compartments are designed to hold square blocks *a*, (shown in Figs. 1 and 2,) which blocks have the letters of the alphabet printed on them on one or all their four sides, as may be desired, and arranged in the order of the alphabet in the several compartments, as A B C D in Fig. 1, &c.

In the space under the floor, and between it and the bottom of the case, cards or tablets *e* are kept, having script or other lessons on them, which the child may use as a lesson to

spell his words from by using the letter-blocks *a*, arranging them in order to spell a word, and to place the words in a line to form a sentence from the lesson on the tablets *e*. These tablets *e* may be readily pulled out by means of the cord *i*, which is arranged to inclose the tablets, as is shown in Fig. 2.

When the case or box B is open, as is shown in Fig. 1, the lid P forms a slate upon which to write or cipher, and is connected to the box B by the hinge S. In one end of the case B is a compartment, C, in which to keep pencils, &c., and Fig. 4 represents a buffer or eraser to rub off the slate, and is designed to be kept in one of the compartments.

The whole box B, or, as it may be called, "cabinet," when closed up by folding the lid P over on the top of the box, as is shown in Fig. 3, forms a very neat and compact arrangement, and may be carried by the strap-handle *n*.

It will be perceived that the attention of a child can be easily obtained, and the manipulation of the letter-blocks amuse as well as instruct it in such a manner as to be not easily forgotten, thus teaching it to spell and read in a much quicker and easier way than any other way.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows, to wit:

The box B, having the compartments to hold the letter-blocks *a*, and the lower compartment to hold the tablets *e*, in combination with the letter-blocks *a*, slate-lid P, tablets *e*, and cord *i*, all arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

JAMES D. WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

THOS. H. HUTCHINS,
PERRY J. HOBBS.