(No Model.)

W. H. DODGE.

SCHOOL DESK.

No. 286,594. Patented Oct. 16, 1883.

Fig. 1

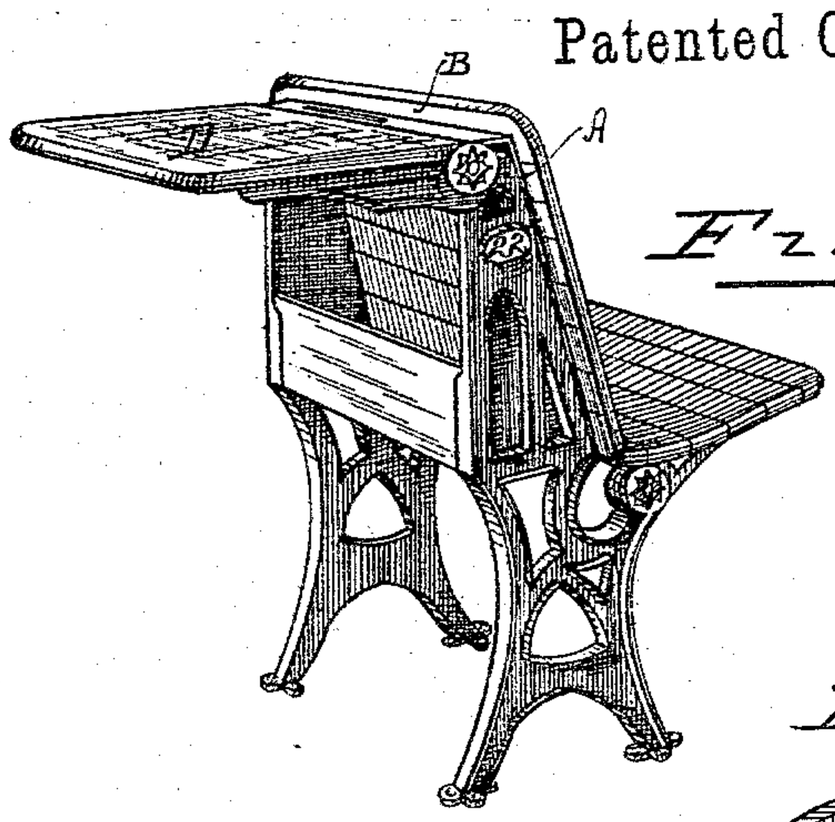


Fig. 3

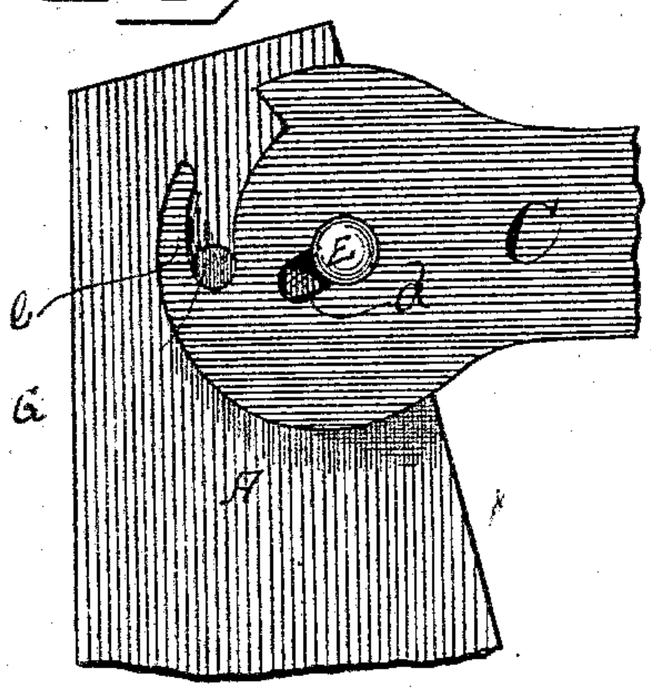


Fig. 5

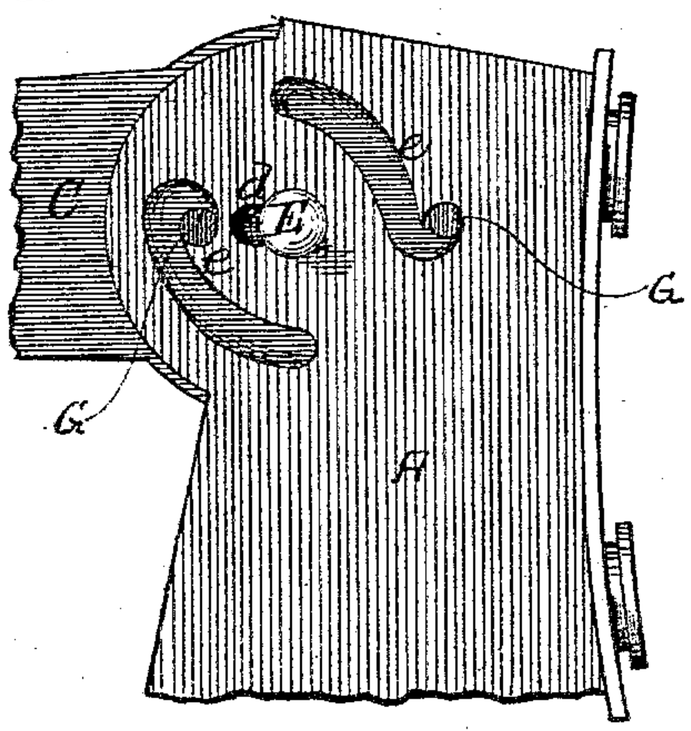


Fig. 4

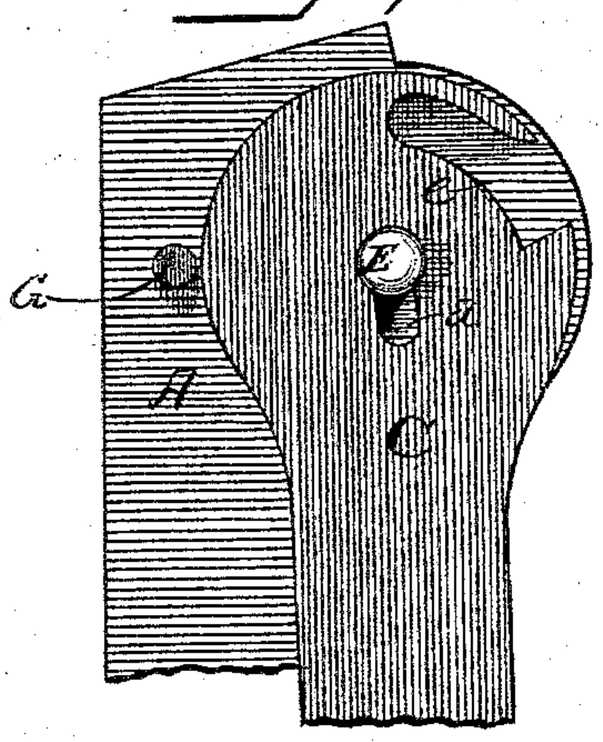


Fig. 2

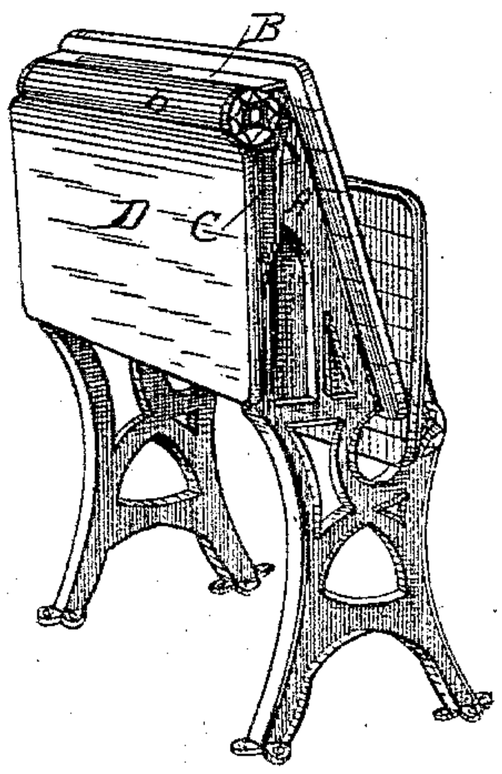
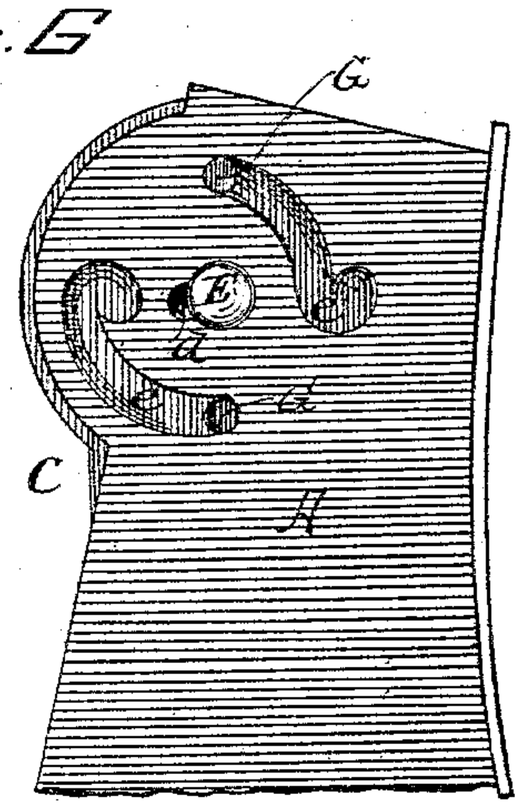


Fig. 6



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALLACE H. DODGE, OF MISHAWAKA, INDIANA.

SCHOOL-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 286,594, dated October 16, 1883.

Application filed February 27, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALLACE H. DODGE, of Mishawaka, in the county of St. Joseph and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Folding Desks for use in School-Rooms, &c.; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and accurate description of the same.

It is now very generally desired that school-desks shall be provided with a receptacle for the students' books, and that they may be secured therein by a lock. It is also desired that both seat and desk shall "fold" or be capable of assuming a vertical position, so as to facilitate cleansing the floor, &c.; and it is now common to construct the desk in such a way that when it folds it may close downward in front of the book-rack, so that when locked in that position said desk may serve as the door or shutter for said book-rack.

My improvement relates to that class of desks which are provided with a book rack or receptacle and a hinged folding desk or leaf which, when folded, will cover and close said book-rack; and it consists in the manner, hereinafter described, of constructing the hinge or joint for the support and attachment of said desk to the frame, so that when the desk is raised it will be locked against accidental displacement. Simplicity and durability are prime requisites for this joint, because they are seldom under care of skilled mechanics, and are frequently, when in use, entirely out of reach of skilled labor.

The frames of school-furniture are now usually made of iron, and the arms which support the desk are also of iron. The joint is constructed with a lock of some sort, whereby the desk may be held in position for service without the employment of removable braces or brackets.

Having now set forth the general nature of my improvement, I will more particularly describe it, having reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing my desk in usable condition. Fig. 2 shows the same folded. Figs. 3 and 4 are details of the locking-joint in and out of action. Figs. 5 and 6 show a modification wherein there are two locking lugs and notches instead of one.

A is one of the end frames of the desk, and B is the wooden back board for the same.

b is the wooden joint-roll, secured at its ends to the frame A and along its back edge to the back board, B. The metallic arms C, pivoted at each end frame, are attached to and support the ends of the desk D. Pivot-bolts E unite the arms C to the frame, so that the desk D may be raised or lowered upon said bolts as an axis. When the desk is raised up into position, it is to be retained and held there by being locked, and this is accomplished in my improvement by rendering the arms C capable of an endwise movement transverse to its axis E, so that it may engage with a locking-lug, G, cast or otherwise rigidly secured to the frame A. To render this movement and engagement easy, I make a slot, *d*, in one of the parts, preferably in the arm C, through which the bolt E is inserted, and I also make a hooking-notch, *e*, in the edge of said arm, to receive and engage with the lug G.

To operate the desk, its forward or free edge is raised a little higher than its proper position, so as to permit the lug G to enter the notch *e*, and it is then pushed backward, sliding on the bolt E by means of slot *d*, until said lug has entered said notch, and then said desk is permitted to descend to its operative position, from which it cannot be removed without reversing the above movement. While the lug G is in the hooking-notch *e*, the desk cannot move either forward or back in a direction longitudinal to itself, and the bolt E and lug G constitute two points of support to retain it in an extended or operative position.

It will be apparent, therefore, that three successive movements of the desk are required to raise and lock it in position, or vice versa—viz., upward, backward, and downward—to seat the lug G in the notch *e*, and that these movements cannot occur accidentally. In other desks of this class where the hooking-notch is absent, only two of said movements are required, and these may occur accidentally, because the upward and backward movements may occur simultaneously, instead of consecutively, and an accidental upward blow from the knee will be sufficient to unlock the desk. If, for any reason, extra precaution or strength is desirable, I may con-

struct my locking device double, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6; but this is merely a modification of that which is described above, and involves the same movements. The upper edge of the desk D is fitted to slide over the roll *b*, in the manner well understood, whereby a close joint is preserved, whether said desk be extended or folded.

Having described my improvement, what I claim as new, is—

In a desk, the combination of a standard provided with a projecting pin with a moving part, C, provided with a slot, *a*, and notch *e*, the said moving part being pivoted to the standard through the slot *d*, as described, and for the purpose set forth.

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