

(No Model.)

J. H. LOUDER.

BILL FILE.

No. 296,762.

Patented Apr. 15, 1884.

Fig. 1.

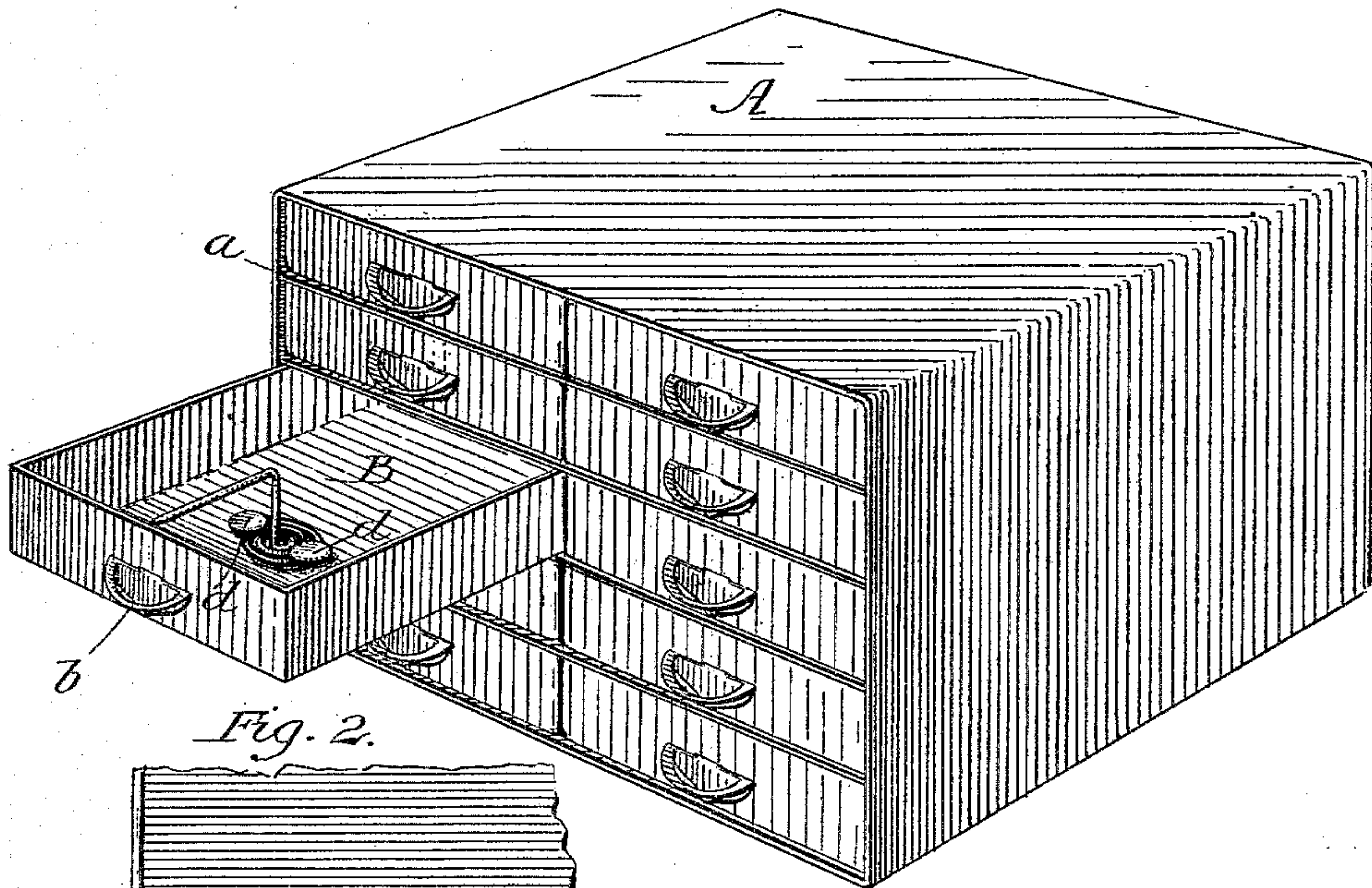


Fig. 2.

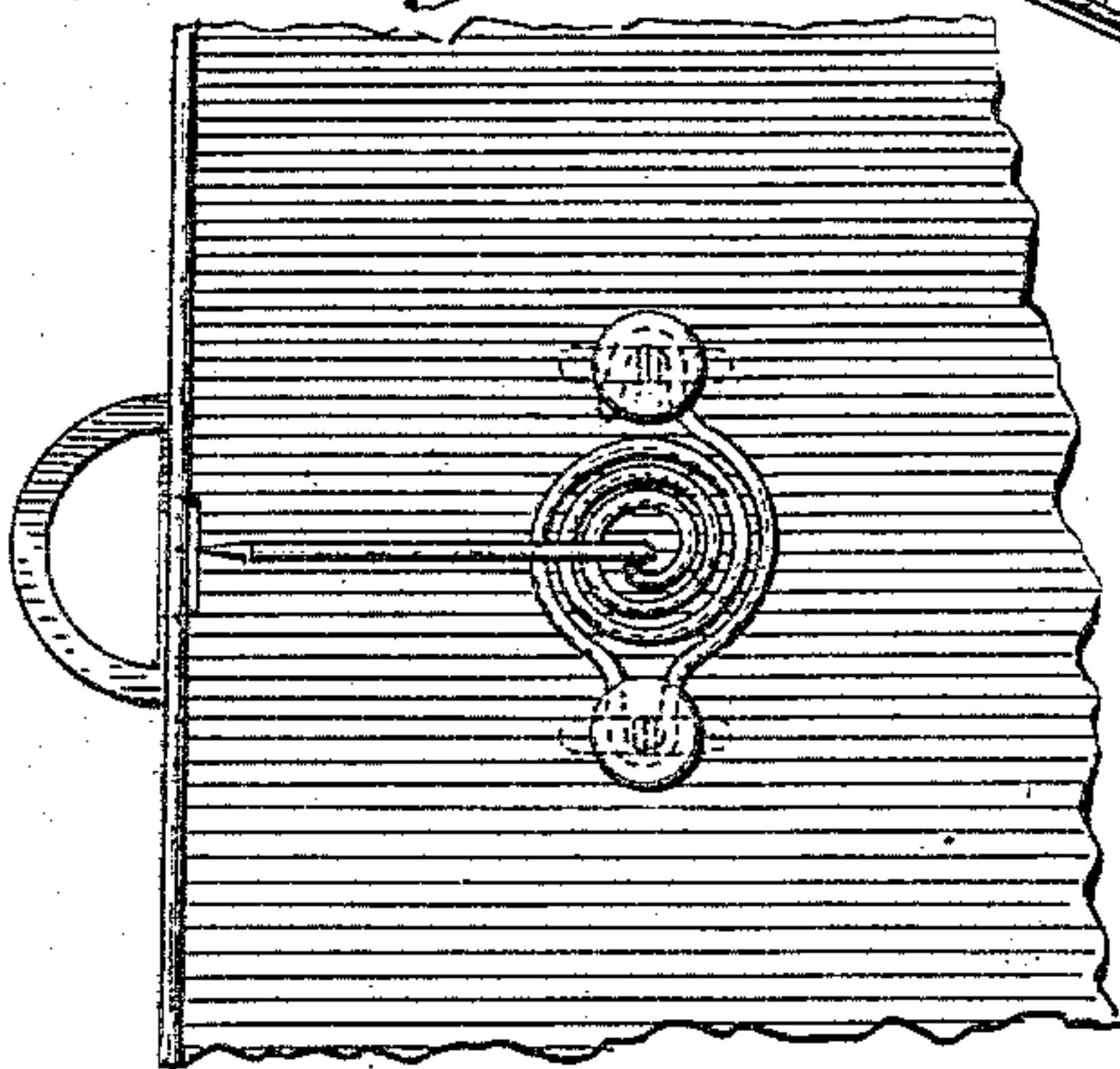


Fig. 3.

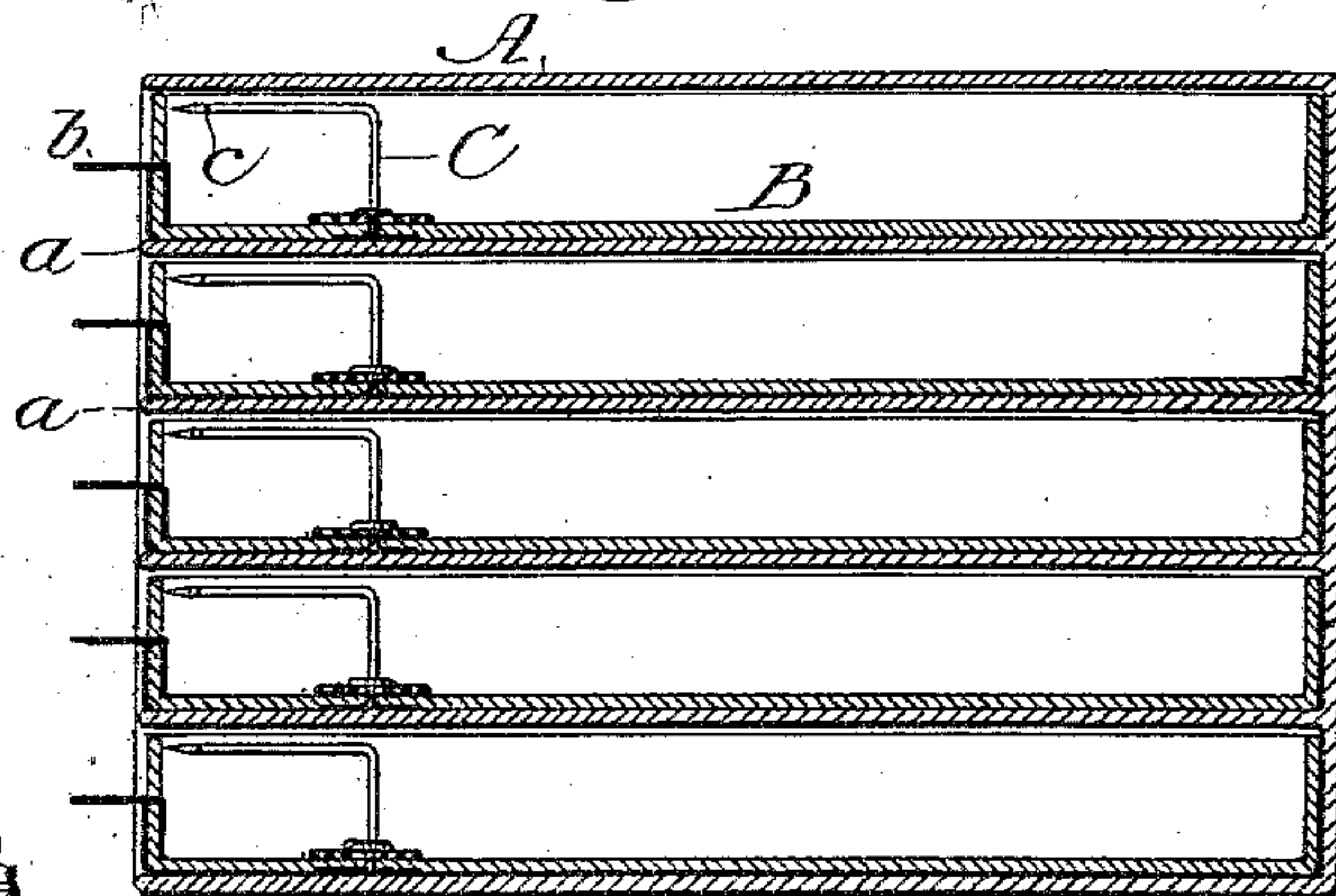


Fig. 4.

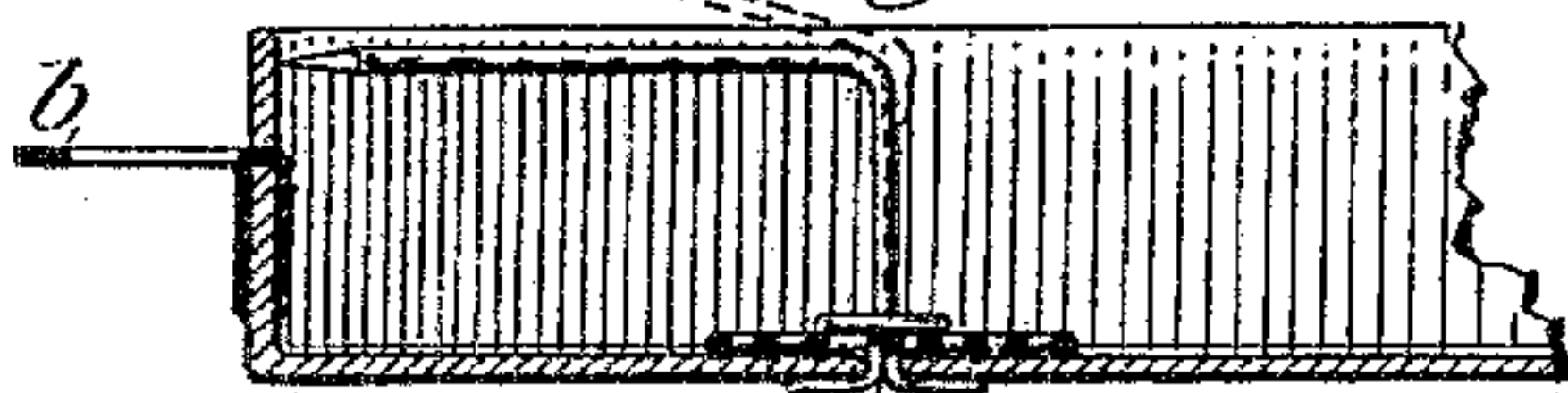
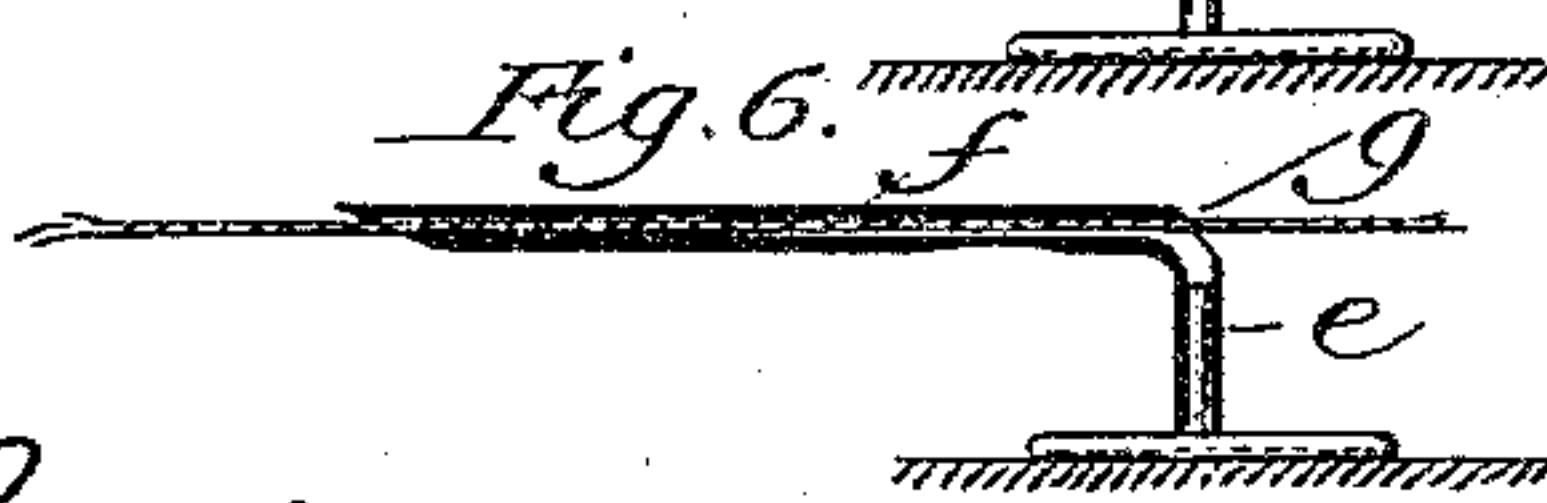


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.



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BILL-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 296,762, dated April 15, 1884.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOEL H. LOUDER, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bill-Files, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in bill-files more particularly adapted for the filing of small papers—such as prescriptions, &c.—in which a series of files forming drawers confined in a suitable case are provided with an elastic needle for perforating and holding the papers, and being provided with suitable means to hold a cord upon which the papers may be strung when taken from the file to be put away for future reference.

The objects of my invention are to provide a file or a series of files, adapted to securely hold papers and be confined in a suitable case, at a minimum cost consistent with effectiveness and durability; to provide a file with an elastic needle, which, in connection with the adjacent turned-up end or rim of the file, will removably lock the papers strung upon the needle; to provide an elastic needle so constructed as to retain its elasticity, though frequently used, and adapted for convenient attachment to its support. I attain these objects by the devices illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of a bill-file case embodying my invention, with one of the files partly drawn out. Fig. 2 is a detail plan view of my file. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section through one of the tiers of files and the case. (Shown in Fig. 1.) Fig. 4 is a detail longitudinal section of one of the files, showing the means employed for securing the needle and the handle of the file. Fig. 5 is an enlarged side elevation of the needle, showing the means employed for taking off papers on the file upon a binding-cord; and Fig. 6 is a side elevation of a modification of the needle.

Similar letters of reference indicate the same parts illustrated in the several figures of the drawings.

A represents a rectangular case open upon one end and preferably constructed of paste-board in any suitable manner consistent with rigidity and durability, which case is provided with a series of division-boards, *a*, horizontally

arranged and adapted to support a series of file drawers or holders, B, provided with handles *b*, and forming with the case a neat and compact cabinet, particularly adapted for druggists' use to hold prescription-papers once filled and desirable to be preserved for future reference.

C represents my file-needle, which consists, preferably, of spring-wire formed into a flat coil and continuing from the center coil into a right-angular bend, the end of which bent portion extends in a horizontal plane, and is pointed at its extremity, near which it is provided with an eye, *c*. In other words, the right-angular bent portion of the wire is the needle proper, and the coil a spiral extension of the same, and also the base-support of the needle. This coil has its outer convolution bent upon opposing sides into loops, forming seats for ordinary paper-fasteners, *d d*, which, passing through the bottom of the drawer B, are clinched upon the under side in the usual manner, and rigidly hold the coil and its needle in their operative position. In its operative position the point of the needle projects forward from the coil in a horizontal plane just below the top of the end rim of the drawer and almost, if not quite, in contact therewith, and in this position it will be seen by reference to dotted lines in Fig. 4 that by raising the point to clear the top edge of the rim, the papers may be slipped upon the needle, when by releasing the needle it will spring back to its place below the upper edge of the rim, after which the papers are pushed down on the vertical portion of the needle and in their proper place in the drawer. By this arrangement of the needle the rim of the drawer is made to lock the papers on the needle and prevent their accidental detachment, and furthermore, the point of the needle is guarded by the rim and prevented from injuring a person handling the file. The construction of the needle—that is to say, its termination in the coil—provides against frequent use of the needle, causing it to lose its elasticity, and being bent so as to remain above the rim, as it certainly would do in time if the coil were omitted.

When these files become full of papers, it is of course desirable to remove the papers to make room for others, and also to string or

bind those so removed. To facilitate the stringing or binding of the papers, the eye *e* is provided, through which a cord, or perhaps a wire, is passed, so that as the papers
5 are drawn off the needle they will at the same time be drawn upon the cord or wire, which is afterward removed from the eye and tied to secure the papers.

Instead of forming the needle and spring in
10 one piece, the central coil of the spring may terminate in a vertical end, *e*, (see Fig. 6,) and the bent needle be formed of a pointed tube having its vertical end sleeved on the end *e* of the spring, the bend of the needle
15 being cut away, as shown at *g*, to form an eye, so that a cord may be passed entirely through the horizontal portion of the needle to receive the papers as they are raised from the file and slipped upon and over the point
20 of the needle during their removal.

The handle *b* of the file is preferably stamped out of tin or other sheet metal, so as to have formed therewith brads or fasteners adapted to pass through the rim and be clinched, as
25 shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

From the above it will be seen that my prescription-case is very simple, costs but little, and is equally as effective in operation as others of a more complicated nature commonly
30 used.

I am aware that it is old to construct file-cases with fixed partitions forming a series of receptacles, each provided with an upright file-wire, said partitions being provided with openings through which a rubber band passes
35 and rests upon the file-slips, so as to hold them from accidental detachment.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a file-holder, the combination, with
40 the upturned rim thereof, of a needle, the point of which projects toward and is guarded by said rim, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a file-holder, the combination, with
45 the upturned rim thereof, of an elastic needle provided with a right-angular bend, and having its point projecting in close proximity to and in a plane just below the top of the rim, substantially as described.
50

3. The combination, with a file-holder, of an angular bent needle, and a coiled spring formed in continuation of said needle; substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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