

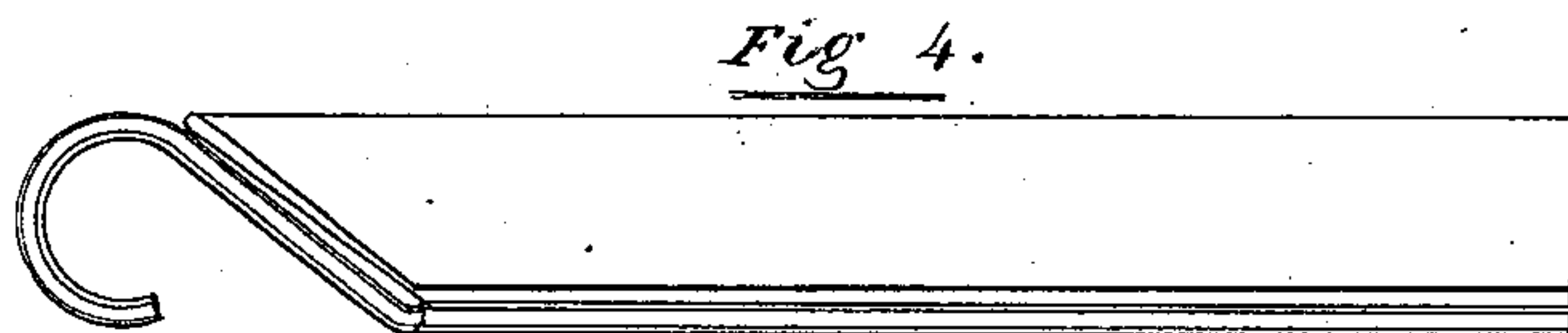
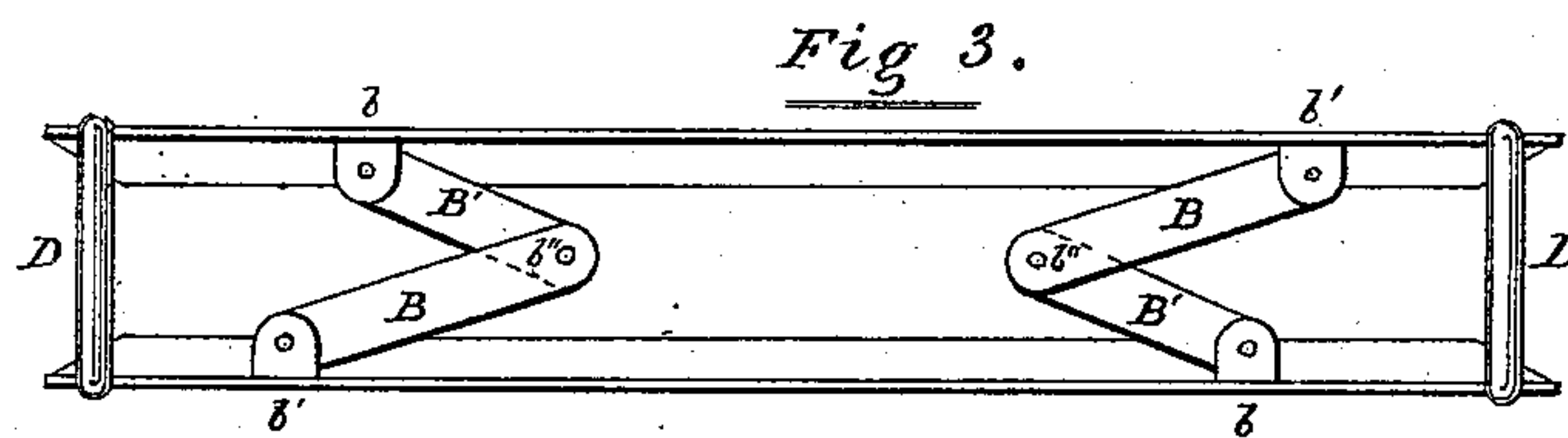
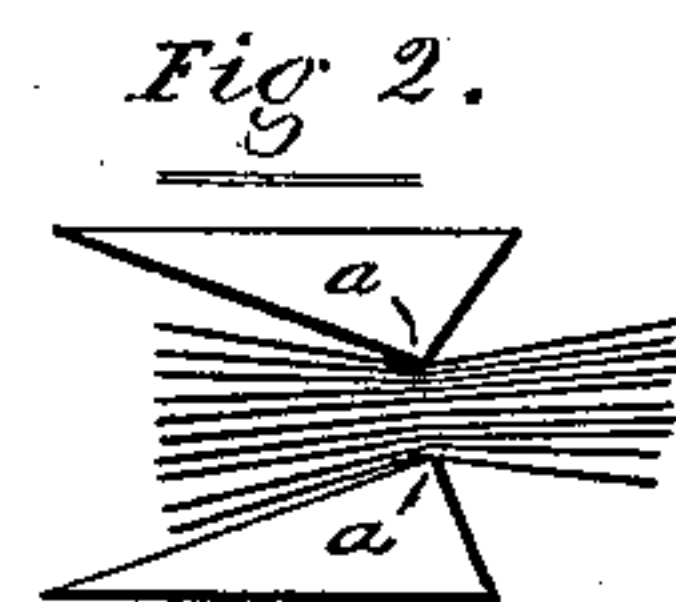
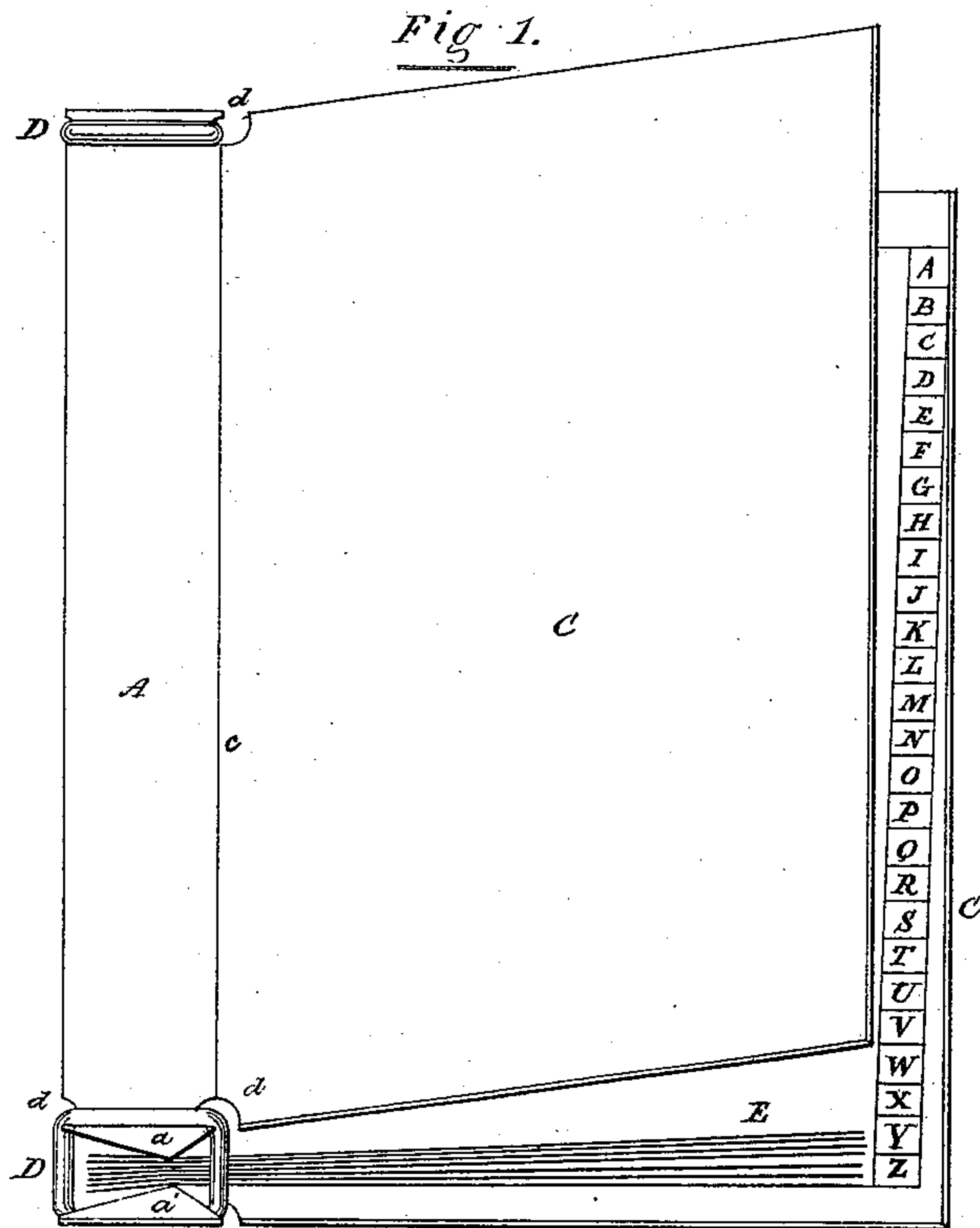
(Model.)

L. P. KEECH.

LETTER AND BILL FILE BOOK.

No. 309,858.

Patented Dec. 30, 1884.



*Witnesses*

Mr. Morris Smith  
W. K. Callan

*Inventor*

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Lawson P. Keech

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWSON P. KEECH, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## LETTER AND BILL FILE BOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 309,858, dated December 30, 1884.

Application filed October 10, 1883. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LAWSON P. KEECH, of Brooklyn, county of Kings, State of New York, have invented an Improvement in Letter and Bill File Books, of which the following is a specification.

This invention embodies sundry features shown in previous patents to me, dated September 2, 1873, and November 17, 1874, and it is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, to which reference is made.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the file-book complete. Fig. 2 is an end view of the beveled clamping-bars with papers between them, and Fig. 3 is a view of the back of the file-book with the metallic hinge-arm connections of the bars. Fig. 4 is a view of the filing implement hereinafter described.

To the rear edge of each of the covers C is connected, by a flexible joint, *c*, a cast-metal bar, A, the inner side of which is beveled, as shown, so as to produce a clamping-edge, *a*.

On the outer edges of the bars A are cast or otherwise secured lugs *b b'*, in which are pivoted one end of steel hinge-arms B B', the outer ends of which are pivoted together at *b''*.

It will be observed that the lugs *b* and *b'* are placed at different distances from the ends of the bars, and that the arms B B' are of correspondingly different lengths. This arrangement enables the lugs to pass one another when the bars approach each other, so that the clamping-edges *a* thereof may be brought closely together and secure even a single sheet of paper.

Near the ends of the bars A are formed notches *d*, which receive elastic rings D, acting to press the bars together; and allowing them to be readily forced apart for the insertion of additional sheets.

By combining the steel hinge-arms with the cast-metal beveled bars in the manner described I attain the desired effect of holding the latter in rigid position, parallel from side to side, so that their angles meet when they come together, and as they are separated to receive the sheets filed and drawn toward

each other again by the strain of the elastic rings they impinge, nipper-like, upon the sheets or volume, about half an inch from the back edge, in exactly opposite points on each side, whereby the papers are allowed to swell or expand from the impinging point toward the back edge in a dovetail form, and the volume is thus held firmly for use in book form. As the bars clamp closely together, the volume may be commenced with a single sheet without an index, if desired, as by simply slipping off the elastics from the top bar and allowing them to remain around the bottom bar the top bar, with cover, is easily raised sufficiently, the sheets to be filed are laid in against the hinged arms, and then the elastics are replaced.

When index separating sheets are used and letters or sheets are required to be inserted between them without removing the elastic bands, I employ the filer shown in Fig. 4, which consists of a strip of sheet metal folded and having turned in one of its edges a stiff wire, one end of which is extended as a handle. The edge of the sheet to be inserted in the book is slipped into the fold of the filer, and after projecting the handle through the elastic band at the bottom of the book the filer is pressed down between the leaves until it strikes the hinge-arms, whereupon the sheet is held in place by one hand, while the filer is by the other withdrawn endwise through the band.

I do not claim herein this filing implement, as it is made the subject of another application for patent filed by me April 10, 1884, Serial No. 127,385.

The covers C being flexibly connected to the clamping-bars, they may be thrown open readily for the inspection of the contents of the book.

When the holder becomes sufficiently filled, the contents may be withdrawn bodily and placed in a box for preservation, and the holder used again and repeatedly; or the holder, with contents, may be adopted as a permanent book for preservation and reference, in which case the elastics may be removed and cord substituted and tied.

I claim—

1. The file-book constructed substantially as described, having its beveled clamping-bars A connected together at their back edges by jointed hinge-arms and at their ends by elastic rings D, as set forth.

2. The file-book consisting of the beveled clamping-bars A, jointed to the covers C,

and provided with lugs *b b'*, the hinge-arms B B', pivoted together and to the lugs, and the elastic rings D, fitting on the ends of the bars, all substantially as described.

LAWSON P. KEECH.

Witnesses:

W. C. KEECH,

B. F. MORSELL.