(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. DOM.

LETTER FILE.

No. 316,951. Patented May 5, 1885.

Fig. 1.

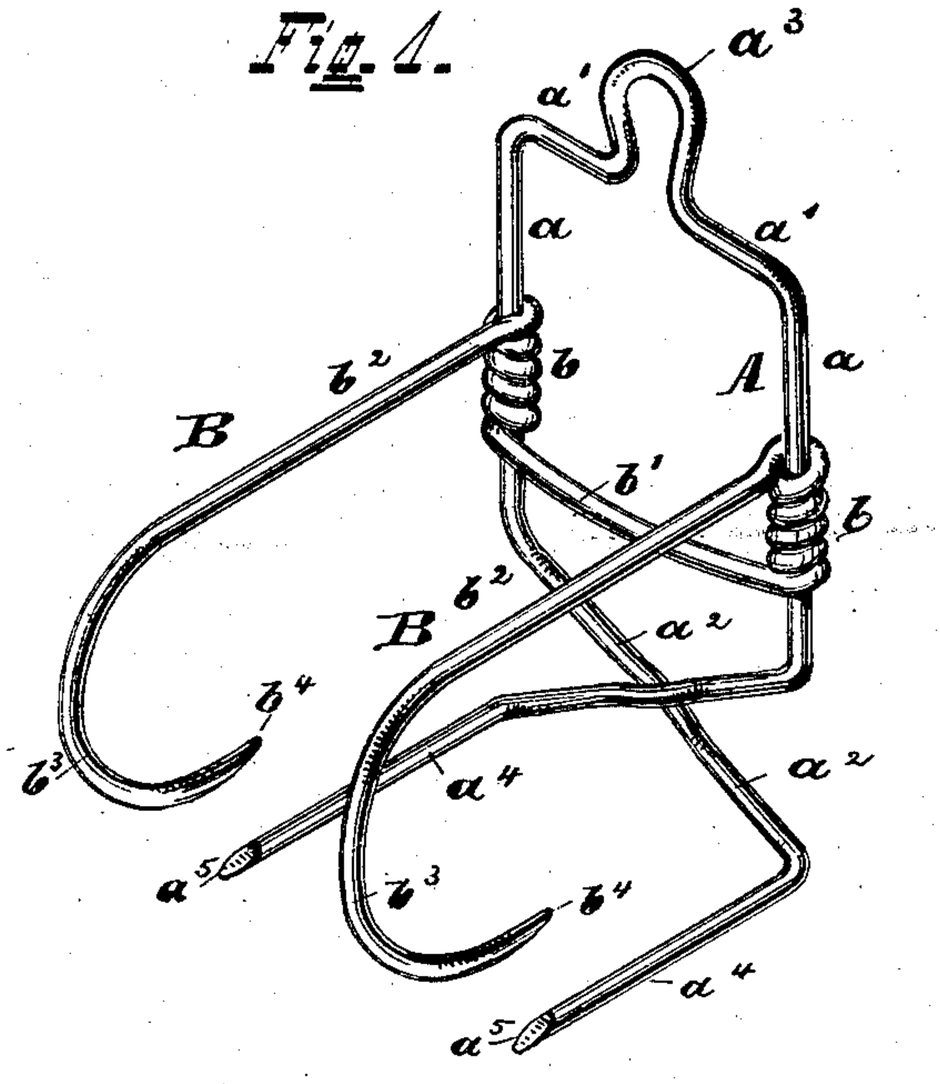
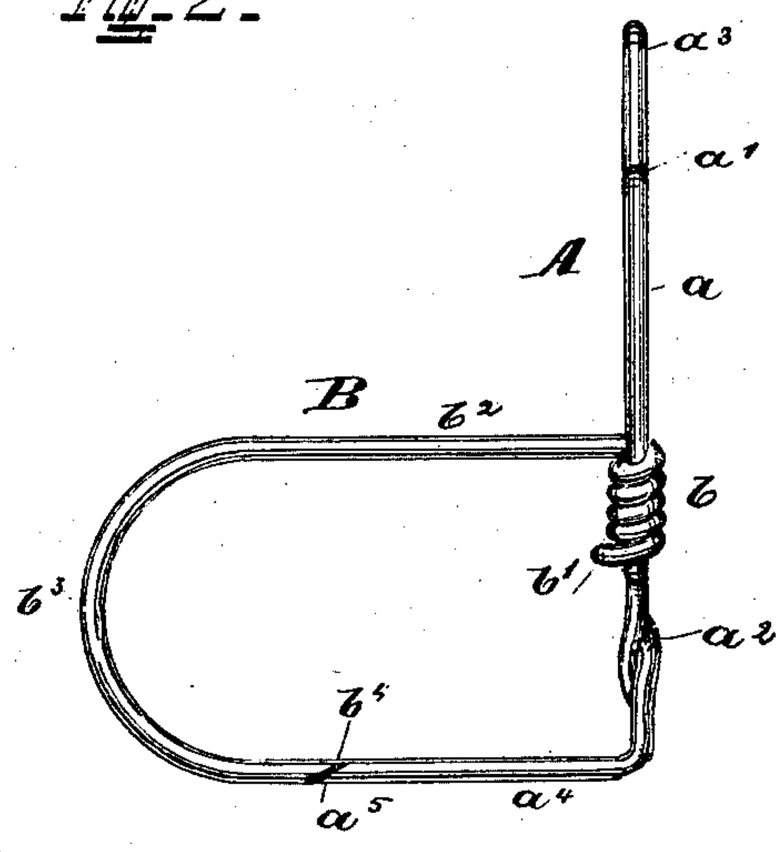


Fig. 2.



Attest Jno. W. Strehli
O. M. Hill

Inventor
Alexander Dom
per Wm. Hubbell Fisher Atty.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

A. DOM.

LETTER FILE.

No. 316,951. Patented May 5, 1885.

Fig. 3.

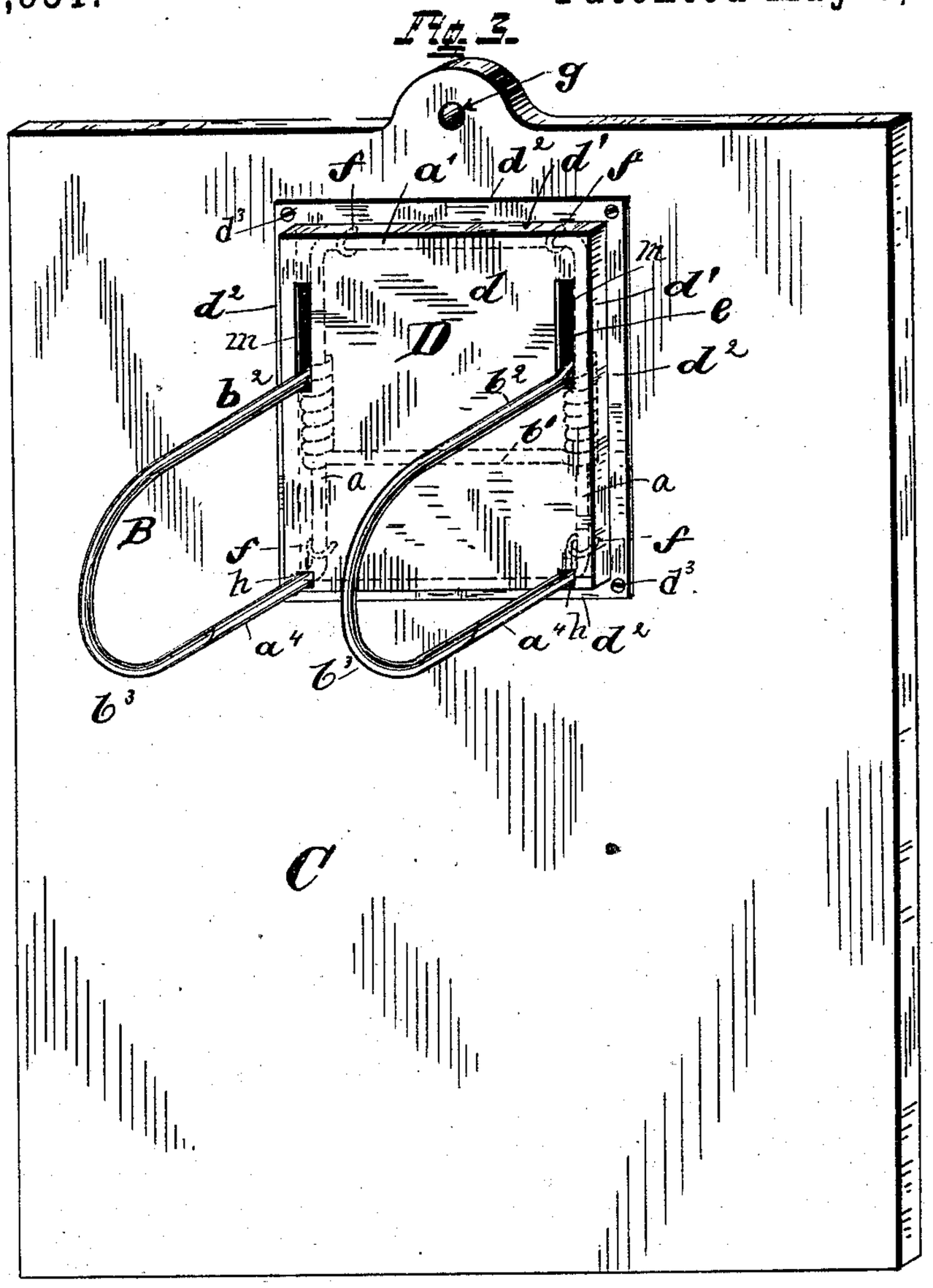
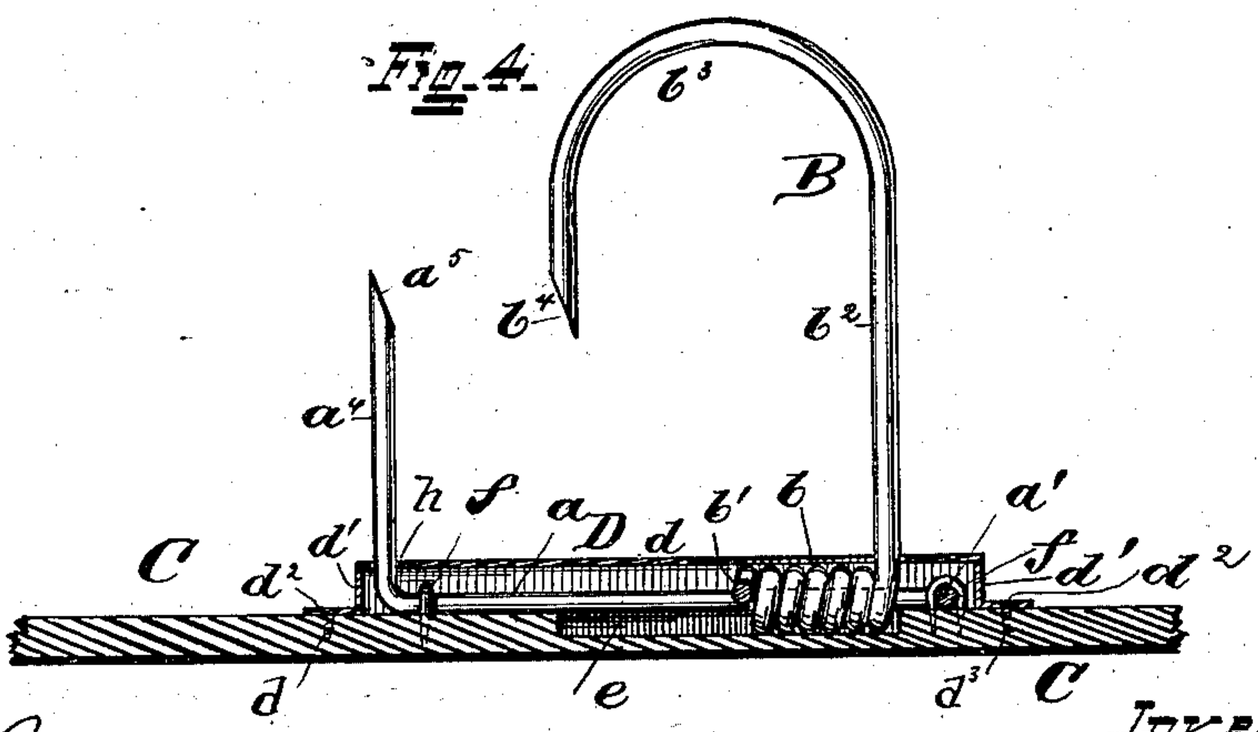


Fig. 4.



Attest Jno. W. Strehlix
O. M. Hill

Inventor
Alexander Dom
per
Wm. Hubbell Fisher Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER DOM, OF MOUNT HEALTHY, ASSIGNOR TO THE GLOBE FILES COMPANY, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

LETTER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 316,951, dated May 5, 1885.

Application filed September 15, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER DOM, a resident of the village of Mount Healthy, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Files, of which the following is a specification.

My object has been to provide a file for letters, bills, postal-cards, or papers of any description which shall be cheap and strong in construction, not liable to get out of order, readily used, shall have a means of preventing the filed papers from becoming detached, and, finally, may be used either flat on a table or hanging on a wall.

The several features of my invention and the various advantages resulting from their use conjointly or otherwise will be apparent from the following description and claims.

Figure 1, Sheet 1, represents a perspective view of a file illustrating certain features of my invention, the file being partially open. Fig. 2, same sheet, represents in side elevation the same device shown in Fig. 1, and shows the file closed. When the bottom or narrow edge of Sheet 1 is toward the spectator, the file in Figs. 1 and 2 is in the position it assumes when hung against a wall or equivalent vertical surface. When the top of this sheet has been turned toward the right, the bottom of the sheet being at the left hand, the file in Figs. 1 and 2 will be in the position it assumes when set upon a table or substantially horizontal support. Fig. 3 represents in perspective those features of my invention shown in Fig. 1 combined with a base-piece. Fig. 4 represents a transverse central vertical longitudinal section of the device shown in Fig. 3, the end portions of the said base being broken off.

The file preferably consists as follows: Two pieces of wire are employed, as shown. The first piece of wire is so bent as to form a base or back, A, which consists of two sides, a, a top, a', and cross-wires a^2. The extremities of the cross-wires a^2 are bent up at right angles to the plane of the back or base A and form the prongs a^4. The tops of the prongs a^4 are beveled off, as shown at a^5, or otherwise pointed, and thus form sharp points which perforate readily the papers as they are filed. In the top a' an eye or loop, a^3, is bent in the wire, and forms the means of hanging the file on a wall, and at the same time said eye or loop, lengthening the base A, increases the stability of the file when placed flat on the table. A sliding piece, B, is made from a second wire, which wire is wrapped around one of the sides a, forming a sleeve, b. This wire is then brought across the space between the two sides a, thus forming the connecting-piece b', and a second sleeve b is wrapped about the other side a. The respective ends of the wire B are turned at a right angle to the plane of the base or back A and make the standards b^2, the tops of which are turned over into hooks b^3, substantially as shown in the drawings. The extremities of the hooks b^3 are sharpened, and these extremities and the ends of the prongs a^4 are preferably so formed in relation to each other as that the ends of a prong a^4 and the extremity of the adjacent hook b^3 shall, when brought together, form a continuous wire. The preferred formation for such purpose is as follows: The extremities of the hooks b^3 are beveled at b^4, as are the ends of prongs a^4 at a^5, but in an opposite direction. Thus when the hooks are brought up to the prongs the two beveled surfaces will rest against each other, and the prongs and hooks will form a continuous wire, and the file will be closed.

The mode of operation is as follows: The sliding piece B is first pushed toward the top or rear a', leaving the file open, and the prongs a^4 are ready to receive the papers. Such papers as may be desired are now filed upon the prongs a^4, and the sliding piece B drawn downward or forward, closing the file, as shown in Fig. 2. When it is desired to remove any paper from the file, the sliding piece B is retracted, and the file thereby opened; but when closed the file is perfectly secured and no papers can be taken from it. The papers may be readily examined while on the file by sliding them, as fast as examined, over from one pair of uprights, as a^4 a^4, to the other pair of uprights, b^2, or vice versa.

As thus made, my device is a cheap, light, quickly-constructed file, which is easily ma-

nipulated, and forms a perfect retainer of the paper put on it. Its adaptability to both wall and table use is one of its desirable features.

The rearward movement of the rods b^2 may be stopped in any suitable manner. A convenient mode of thus stopping them is by making the rods a of such a length and to join the cross rear end portion, a', of the frame at such a point that the said cross-bar a' shall constitute a stop for the said upright rods b^2. The rearward movement of the rods b^2 should be of such an extent that when they are moved back and against the rear stop or stops the space between the end a^5 of a rod a^4 and of the adjacent end b^4 of a rod b^2 shall be of a suitable width to rightly receive the heads of the particular description of papers to be filed. By resting the upper edge of the paper to be filed against the front side of the hooks b^3 when the file is open, and then pressing the paper onto the points a^5 and sliding it down onto the uprights a^4, the hooks b^3 serve as gages for enabling each sheet of paper to be perforated by the points a^5 at an equal distance from the upper edge of the paper.

The mode of coiling the wire and forming a sleeve b is not only a ready way of forming and constructing a sleeve, but also is an easy mode of obtaining and regulating the desired amount of friction required to be present between the hooks or slides B and the base A, in order that the file shall not too readily open or shut.

The cross-piece b' is preferably made of spring metal and curved, (preferably as shown,) and thereby operates to press each sleeve against its respective guide or base rod a, thereby creating a moderate friction between the sleeve and its said rod. In this manner the sliding piece B will be securely held at any point along the rods a to which it has been moved by the operator. This friction is not so great as to prevent the sliding piece B from moving in answer to a decided pressure of the operator.

When desired, my device may be combined with a wooden or metallic base-piece, to give it more stability and weight. In Figs. 3 and 4 the preferred mode of combining my device with a base, and the preferred mode of construction of the said device and the base, are illustrated. The base C consists of a flat piece of wood or other suitable material or materials. The upper outer surface of the base C is usually raised enough above the lower or bottom surface of the file to allow the lower portion of the sleeve b to rest or lie in an opening, slot, or recess, e, in the base, and yet be free to slide without friction back and forth on its wire a. The wires a and the rear wire, a', rest, preferably, upon the upper surface of said base C, and are suitably secured thereto, preferably by staples f. The crossing of the rods a^2 may be dispensed with.

In the event of the file being combined with a base the rods a are preferably continued in a straight line forward, and then bent up to form uprights a^4, substantially as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The rods a and a' are in such event suitably secured to the base, preferably by staples f, as shown.

When it is intended to suspend the base C against a wall or the like, suitable means for its suspension are to be provided. A preferred and common mode is to locate an opening, g, in the base C or in an extension thereof. Through this opening passes the nail, hook, or the like which is attached to the wall, and by which the file is suspended. In the event of the base being thus constructed for suspension the eye or loop a^3 in the wire of the file may well be dispensed with, and the rod or wire a' be continued straight across from one rod a to the other rod a.

For the purpose of covering the sleeve b and cross-rod b' and rods a and a', and affording a smooth upper surface in the vicinity of the uprights a^4 a^4 and b^2 b^2, I preferably employ a cover, D, such as shown. This cover consists of thin sheet metal struck up or otherwise formed into shape, and has a top, d, sides d', and flanges d^2. These flanges d^2 project outward from the bottom edge of the sides d', and afford a convenient means for securing the cover D to the base C, nails or screws d^3 or the like being passed through the flanges and into the base. Each upright a^4 passes up through an opening, h, in its part of the cover D, and each upright b^2 passes up through an elongated opening, m, in its part of the cover, each of said openings m being elongated to allow the upright in it to slide back and forth as the file is opened and closed.

When rods a a', &c., are to be covered, the cross-rod b' is preferably bent down, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, between the sleeves b, so as to move under the cover and out of the way of the papers on the file. Obviously, by bending the cross rod or wire b', the tension or friction of the sleeves on the rods on which they respectively slide may be increased or diminished.

The cross-rod b' and the sleeve or coiled spring b, being made of spring metal, and by their peculiar curved shape, always provide a pressure outward or inward, and thus in the event of the pressure being either inward or outward the rod b' always regulates the amount of friction.

While the various features of my invention are preferably employed together, one or more of said features may be employed without the remainder. One or more of said features may, so far as applicable, be employed in other devices for filing papers, &c., than those herein specified.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A file having the uprights a^4, each upright being connected to a base-rod, a, and sleeves b, each sleeve carrying hooked uprights b^2 and sliding on its respective base-rod a, the

sleeves being connected together by the cross-rod or connection b', substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. A file having the uprights a^4, each upright being connected to its respective base-rod a, and sleeves b, each sleeve carrying a hooked upright, b^2, and sliding on its respective base-rod, the sleeves being connected to a cross-rod or connection, b', and the rear ends of the rods a being connected together by the rear cross-rod a', substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. In a file, the combination of the cross rod or spring b' and the friction-sleeves b, connected thereto, and rods a, on which said sleeves respectively slide, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. A file having the uprights a^4, each upright being connected to its respective base-rod a, and sleeves b, each sleeve carrying an upright, b^2, and sliding on its respective base, the sleeves being provided with a cross-rod or connection for preventing their turning laterally, and the base-rods a being connected to rear rod a', provided with eye a^3, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

5. A file having base-rods $a\,a$, crossing each other in front, and terminating forward, respectively, in the uprights $a^4\,a^4$ and rearward in the rod a', and hooked rods b^2, respectively connected to sleeves sliding on rods a, the sleeves being joined by a connection, b', substantially as and for the purposes specified.

6. A file having base-rods $a\,a$, crossing each other in front, and terminating forward, respectively, in the uprights $a^4\,a^4$ and rearward in the rod a', and hooked rods b^2, respectively connected to sleeves sliding on rods a, the sleeves being joined by a connection, b', the rod a' being provided with eye a^3, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

7. A file consisting of only two pieces of wire, one wire bent and forming standards a^4, rods a, rod a', and eye or loop a^3, and the other wire bent and forming the rods B, sleeves b, and cross-rod b', combined substantially as and for the purposes specified.

8. A file consisting of back A, provided with sides a, top a', eye a^3, cross-wires a^2, and prongs a^4, and sliding piece B, consisting of sleeves b, connecting-piece b', standards b^2, and hooks b^3, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

9. The combination of the wire-twisted sleeves carrying sliding pieces B B, and having cross-bar or connection b', and base-wires a, having uprights $a^4\,a^4$, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

10. The combination of base-piece C and the file consisting, substantially, of rods a, uprights a^4, rear rod a', sleeves b, uprights $b^2\,b^3$, and cross-rod b', substantially as and for the purposes specified.

11. The combination of base-piece C and the file consisting, substantially, of rods a, uprights a^4, rear rod a', sleeves b, uprights $b^2\,b^3$, cross-rod b', and the cover D, provided with top walls and flanges and openings, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

ALEXANDER DOM.

Attest:
JNO. W. STREHLI,
O. M. HILL.