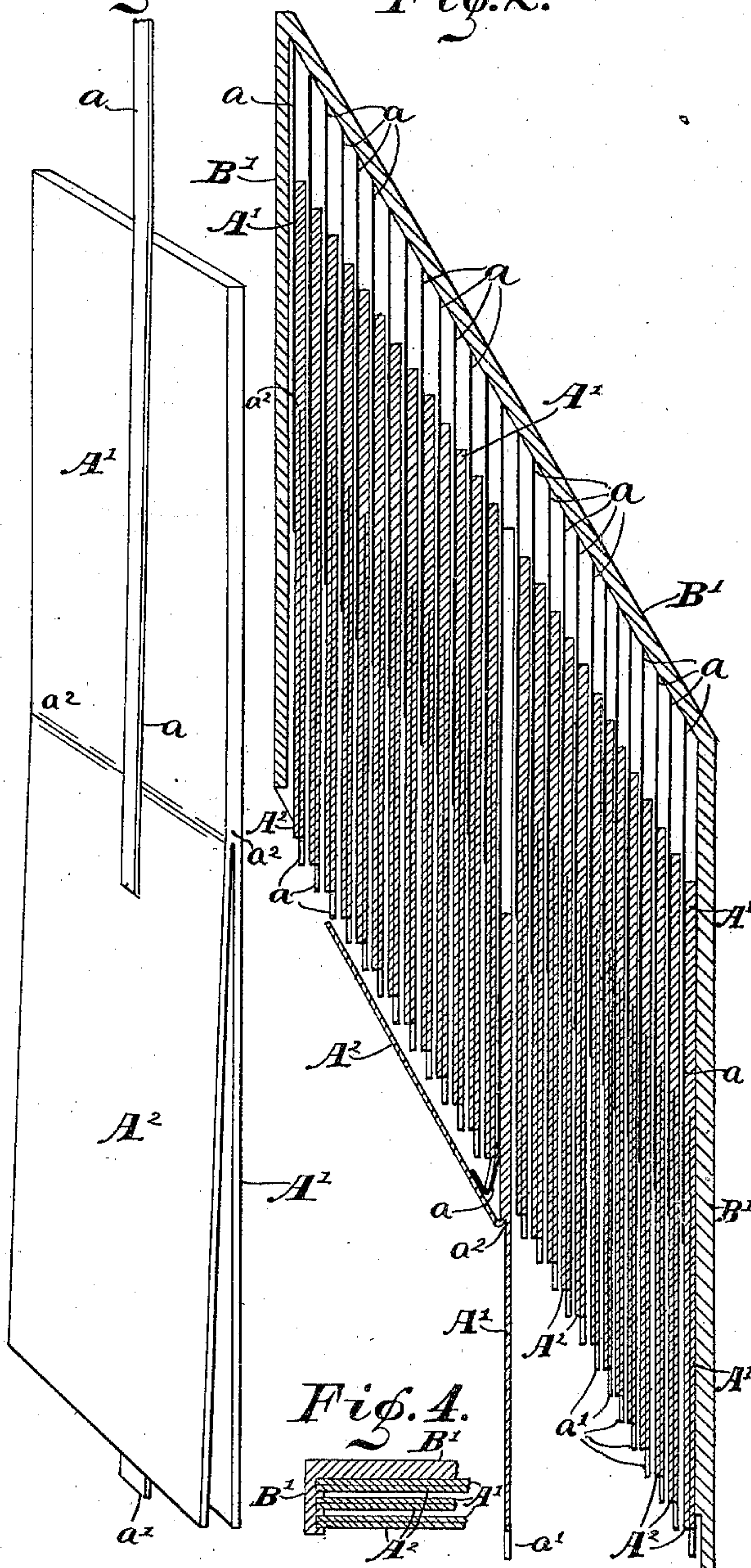


E. B. MARTINDALE.
INDEX OR DIRECTORY CASE.

Patented Aug. 25, 1885.

Fig. 2.



INVENTOR. *B*¹

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ELIJAH B. MARTINDALE, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

INDEX OR DIRECTORY CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 324,861, dated August 25, 1885.

Application filed May 20, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELIJAH B. MARTINDALE, of the city of Indianapolis, county of Marion, and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Index or Directory Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My said invention relates to that class of indexes which consist of a case of index-sheets adapted to be displayed one at a time, and is adapted to serve as a substitute for various indexes, directories, &c. This invention is especially designed for service as a telephone-directory, and this is the use for which I have particularly designed it.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and on which similar letters of reference indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a case or box embodying my invention, a portion of the front being broken away; Fig. 2, a vertical sectional view of the same, looking toward the left from the dotted line *y y*; Fig. 3, a perspective view of one of the sheets, and Fig. 4 a detail section on the dotted line *z z*.

In said drawings the portions marked *A'* represent the sheets, and *B'* the inclosing-case.

The case is usually a pasteboard or light wood box of a size and shape to just accommodate the sheets, the lower end being open to permit said sheets to be pulled down for use. Its sides are preferably provided with grooves, which serve as ways for the sheets, as shown in Fig. 4, although said sheets are capable of being successfully operated without ways. The sheets are arranged in the case so that each one projects slightly below the one in front, so that the lower edges of all are exposed. Each is suspended to the top of the box by an elastic cord or spring, *a*, which permits it to be drawn down, as desired, and which is adapted to automatically draw it back into position when released. Each is provided at the lower end with a tag or pull, *a'*, by which it is drawn down, and upon which a letter or numeral, indicative of the matter inscribed on the sheets, may be placed. The lower part of each sheet *A'* is recessed, and a second sheet, *A²*, hinged to the lower end, *a²*, of the thick upper portion, as shown most clearly in Fig. 3. The hinge is generally formed by making the upper portion of the hinged sheet *A²* at

the point *a²*, where it joins onto the sheet *A'*, flexible, and the device, as a whole, thus appears like a thick sheet having its lower end split. The elastic cord *a* is connected to a point on this sheet *A²* a short distance below its hinge, and operates, when the sheets are drawn down, to draw up said sheet *A²*, so as to expose the under or back side. In this way an inscription occupying the back side of this sheet and the front side of the lower portion of the sheet *A'* may be displayed, as desired, the cord *a* serving both to sustain both the sheets *A'* and *A²* and to raise the sheet *A²*, as will be presently described.

The operation of my said invention is as follows: The proper matter is first printed or otherwise inscribed upon the back of the several hinged sheets *A²* and the front of the lower portions of the several main sheets *A'* in such relation that when the lower end of a sheet, *A²*, is raised up the matter will read continuously down both sheets. The several sheets are then mounted in the case, as shown, one behind the other, each one depending a short distance below the one in front, and the lower edges or tags attached thereto being inscribed with letters or other characters to indicate the character of the matter inscribed thereon. In the drawings each is shown with a letter of the alphabet inscribed thereon, and the device is thus adapted for index or directory purposes, the names being the matter inscribed upon the sheets.

As will be readily understood this arrangement is of great convenience and value in a telephone-directory, the case being adapted to be secured to the wall alongside the telephone, and the sheets adapted to be drawn down one at a time, as the information thereon is desired for use. As each sheet is pulled down, when it reaches the point where the sheet *A²* is entirely below the bottom of the sheets in front, the elastic *a* acts to draw said sheet *A²* up in the position in which one of them is shown in Fig. 2, and holds it in that position until the use is completed, when it is returned to its former position within the case by simply folding said sheet *A²* down against the sheet *A'*, when said elastic *a* draws both back up into the case. As the sheets reach their highest position they are stopped in place by coming in contact with the top of the grooves in the case *B'*, in which

they slide, or with stops provided for the purpose.

Having thus fully described my said invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure
5 by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a case, of a series of sheets independently mounted on elastic cords or springs, inscribed with index or directory matter, and provided with indicator
10 characters or letters on the lower ends, each sheet being arranged to drop slightly below the one in front, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of a case, sheets A', sus-

15 pended therein, supplemental sheets hinged thereto, and an elastic cord, *a*, extending from a point below said hinge on said sheet A² to a point above said sheets in said case, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 20 17th day of May, A. D. 1884.

ELIJAH B. MARTINDALE. [L.S.]

In presence of—

C. BRADFORD,
CHAS. L. THURBER.