(No Model.)

L. McC. SNYDER.

BOOK HOLDER.

No. 343,085. Patented June 1, 1886.

Witnesses
M. E. Fowler
Edward G. Siggers

Inventor
L. McC. Snyder
by C. A. Snowden
his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE McCLELLAN SNYDER, OF BROOKVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOOK-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 343,085, dated June 1, 1886.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LAWRENCE MCCLELLAN SNYDER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brookville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Book-Holders, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to improvements in book-supports; and the novelty consists of the peculiar construction and combination of parts, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

The primary object of my invention is to provide means which shall be normally pressed and held in engagement with the leaves of a book when it is placed on the holder, so as to prevent the leaves thereof from turning over, which means can be readily operated so as to be thrown out of engagement with the leaves of the book to permit them to be turned.

A further object of my invention is to provide means whereby books of various sizes can be very firmly held and clamped in the holder, to provide means whereby the angle of the book-supporting frame can be varied and held in any desired position, and to provide means which shall be simple, strong, light, and durable in construction, thoroughly effective, and easy of operation and adjustment, and cheap of manufacture.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a book-holder constructed in accordance with my invention, showing the device in a position for standing on a desk or the like. Fig. 2 is a vertical central sectional view of the same. Figs. 3 and 4 are views of a modification of my improvements.

Referring to the drawings, in which like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in the several figures, A designates the main supporting-frame, which is preferably made of wire, and so bent as to provide an upper horizontal bar, a, two parallel side bars, a', and supporting-legs a^2, and a socket, a^3, the supporting-legs and socket a^3 being arranged at the lower end of the frame. The legs a^2 are adapted to rest on a desk, table, or other like place, and are preferably bent at an angle, as shown, and a cylindrical shell, B, is secured between the wires that form the socket or loop a^3, by soldering or otherwise, that constitutes a handle, whereby the device can be conveniently held in the hand. This handle B is made cylindrical and hollow, with closed ends, and one of its vertical walls is slotted, as at b, for a purpose presently described.

C designates upwardly-extending arms or brackets, which are rigidly secured at their lower ends to the upper cross-bar, a, of the main frame A, said arms having trunnions c at upper ends, on which are journaled or pivoted a leaf-holding frame, D, also made of wire. This frame D is pivoted or journaled so as to move outwardly, to permit the leaves of the book to be turned freely without hinderance from the frame, and said frame comprises side bars, d, which are preferably inclined and bent inwardly at their ends, as at d', and the upper ends thereof have eyes or bearings d^2, bent or formed therein to engage the trunnions c, a lower cross-bar, d^3, connecting the lower bent ends of the side bars, and an upper cross-bar, d^4, to which is pivotally connected an actuating-rod, E. The lower end of this rod E enters the cylindrical or tubular handle B, and within the cylinder it has a head, e, secured thereto, and a thumb-piece, e', projecting through the slot b of the tubular handle B.

F designates a coiled spring located in the tubular handle beneath the head of the rod E, and normally pressing or bearing against the headed rod, so that it is forced upwardly, to keep the pivoted or oscillating frame D normally pressed down in engagement with the leaves of a book or against the main frame A, as is obvious.

G designates a shelf on which the book is to be placed and supported, said shelf being supported on the side bars of the main frame. This shelf is preferably made of light strong sheet metal, so as to provide two right-angled walls, and the vertical wall of the shelf is provided with sleeves or tubular portions g, that embrace and are free to slide vertically on the side bars of the main frame. If desired, this shelf may be rigidly secured on the side bars of the main frame; but I prefer to make it adjustable vertically thereon for the purpose of accommodating the device to hold books of different lengths.

In Figs. 1, 2, and 3 of the drawings I have shown two means for holding the adjustable shelf at any point of elevation, and I will now proceed to describe the detailed construction of these devices, reference being first had more particularly to Figs. 1 and 2.

H designates a rod, the upper end of which is bent to provide an inwardly-extending arm, *m*, that is rigidly secured to the shelf G, and the lower end of this rod enters the tubular handle B through an opening in the upper end or head thereof. The lower end of the adjusting-rod is threaded, and on this threaded portion works an adjusting-nut, *h*, that bears on the head of the tubular handle B, whereby when the nut *h* is turned by the hands of the operator the rod and the shelf to which it is attached will be adjusted vertically.

In Fig. 3 of the drawings the lower end of the spring-actuated rod E is threaded for a portion of its length, and on these threads work an adjusting-nut, I, which has a circumferential recess, *i*, formed therein, and in this recess of the adjusting-collar is loosely fitted the lower end of an arm, *n*, that is secured to and adjusts the shelf G on the main frame A.

J designates an adjusting-frame, which is adapted to support and hold the main frame at any angle when it rests on a desk, &c. This adjusting-frame is also made or bent from a single piece of wire, and the upper ends of the side bars thereof have eyes *j*, which are loosely or pivotally connected to hook-shaped pivots *j'* of the main frame A, thus adapting the adjusting-frame to be placed at an angle to the main frame, to support the main frame in an inclined position, which is very convenient to the reader. A threaded rod, K, is pivotally connected at one end to the upper cross-bar, *a*, of the main frame A, and at its opposite end the said rod passes through an eye, j^2, of the upper cross-bar of the hinged adjusting-frame J, nuts *k k'* being arranged on opposite sides of said eye j^2 and working on the said threaded rod to hold said frames at the proper desired angles to each other.

In Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings the legs a^2 of the main frame and the hinged adjusting-frame J are omitted to provide a device which is designed to be held in the hand of the speaker or reader; but these devices shown in said figures have the essential features of my improvements—namely, the main frame, the slotted handle, the pivoted leaf-holding frame, the spring-actuated rod, and the shelf G, for holding the book.

When it is desired to place a book, manuscript, &c., in the holder, the thumb-piece *e'* of the spring-actuated rod E is forced downwardly by the thumb or fingers of the hand that grasps the handle B, thus depressing the rod E and elevating the free end of the pivoted leaf-holding frame D, when the book is placed on the shelf G with its leaves opened, after which the thumb-piece is released and the frame D automatically descends and presses on the leaves of the book to hold the same open. When a leaf is to be turned, the frame D is elevated by depressing the finger-piece and rod. The shelf G can be raised or lowered very quickly and conveniently by turning the nuts in the required direction, and the hinged adjusting-frame can be very readily adjusted at any angle to the main frame to support the same and vary its inclination. The upper angles of the main frame are braced by diagonal brace-wires L, that are secured in the corners, as shown.

The various parts of the device are made of wire, for lightness of construction and cheapness of manufacture; but I do not desire to limit myself to the use of wire frames, as any other material can be substituted therefor without departing from the spirit of my invention.

I am aware of the patent granted to C. Parent, No. 241,412, for a music-rack, in which a hollow or tubular standard is employed to contain a coiled spring, which bears against the lower end of a solid standard that carries a pivoted arm arranged transversely across the plane of the solid standard, and is provided with a coiled spring and a handle-piece to actuate the same; but such is not my invention. I provide a book-holder which comprises a main frame having upwardly-extended supporting-arms, a frame for holding the book open that is journaled or pivoted at one edge of the said arms, and a spring-pressed rod which is provided with a suitable finger-piece for operating it, and pivoted to the leaf-holding frame for actuating the latter.

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

1. In a book-holder, the combination of a main frame having a handle, a leaf-holding frame, D, pivoted on the frame A, an operating-rod, E, pivoted to the frame D, and provided with a pressure-spring that is inclosed within the handle, and a thumb-piece for actuating the rod to raise the free edge of the pivoted frame D, substantially as described.

2. The combination of a main frame, a tubular handle secured thereto, a leaf-holding frame pivoted on the main frame, a rod pivoted to the leaf-holding frame at its pivoted end, and having a finger-piece working in a slot of the handle, and a spring for bearing against the rod to hold the pivoted frame normally depressed, substantially as described.

3. The combination of the main frame A, a movable shelf, G, loosely fitted at its ends on the parallel side bars of said frame, a threaded rod rigidly connected to one end of the shelf, and a nut for adjusting the rod and shelf, as set forth.

4. As an article of manufacture, a book-holder comprising a main frame, a vertically-adjustable shelf mounted thereon, a handle secured to the main frame, a threaded rod secured to the shelf, an adjusting-nut fitted on the rod and bearing against the handle to ad-

just the rod and shelf vertically, substantially as described.

5. The combination of a main frame, A, formed of a single piece of wire, and having the eyes *j'*, a supporting-frame, J, pivotally connected to the eyes and adjustable at an angle to the frame and provided with an extended arm, *j²*, a threaded rod, K, pivoted to the main frame A, and passing through the arm, and the nuts bearing against the arm and fitted on the rod for adjusting the frames J and A at an angle to each other, substantially as described.

6. As an article of manufacture, a book-holder comprising a main frame having a tubular slotted handle, a leaf-holding frame journaled on the main frame, a spring-actuated rod pivoted to the leaf-holding frame, and having a finger-piece that works in the slot of the handle, a vertically-adjustable shelf mounted on the main frame, a hinged adjusting-frame, and threaded rods and nuts for adjusting and holding the shelf and adjusting-frames, substantially as described.

7. In a book-holder, the combination of a main frame, a vertically-adjustable shelf mounted thereon, a hinged leaf-holding frame, and a spring-actuated rod pivoted to the hinged frame, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

LAWRENCE McCLELLAN SNYDER.

Witnesses:
J. C. SNYDER,
SCOTT MCCLELLAND.