(No Model.)

# F. A. COFFIN.

## LETTER FILE.

No. 365,433. Patented June 28, 1887.

FIG. 1

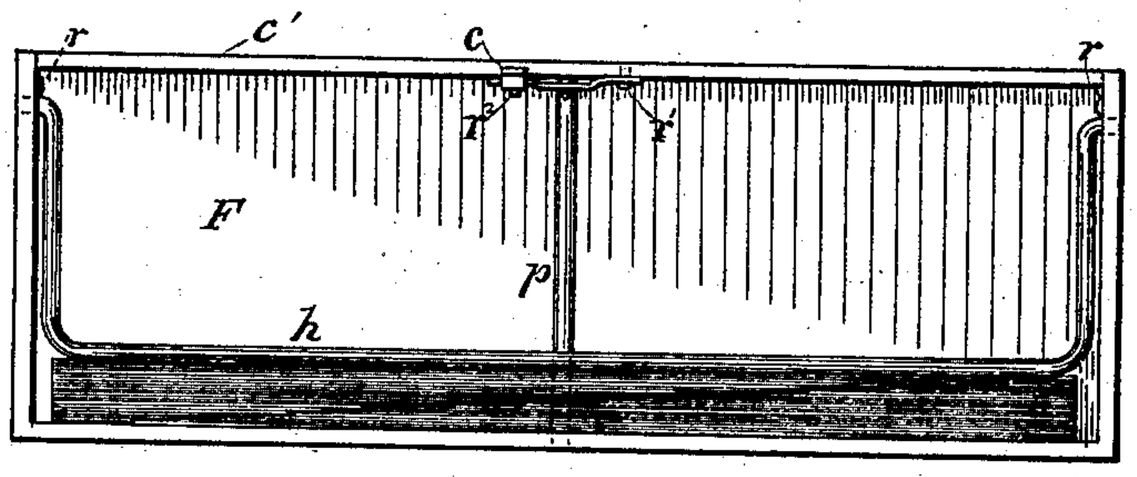



FIG. 2

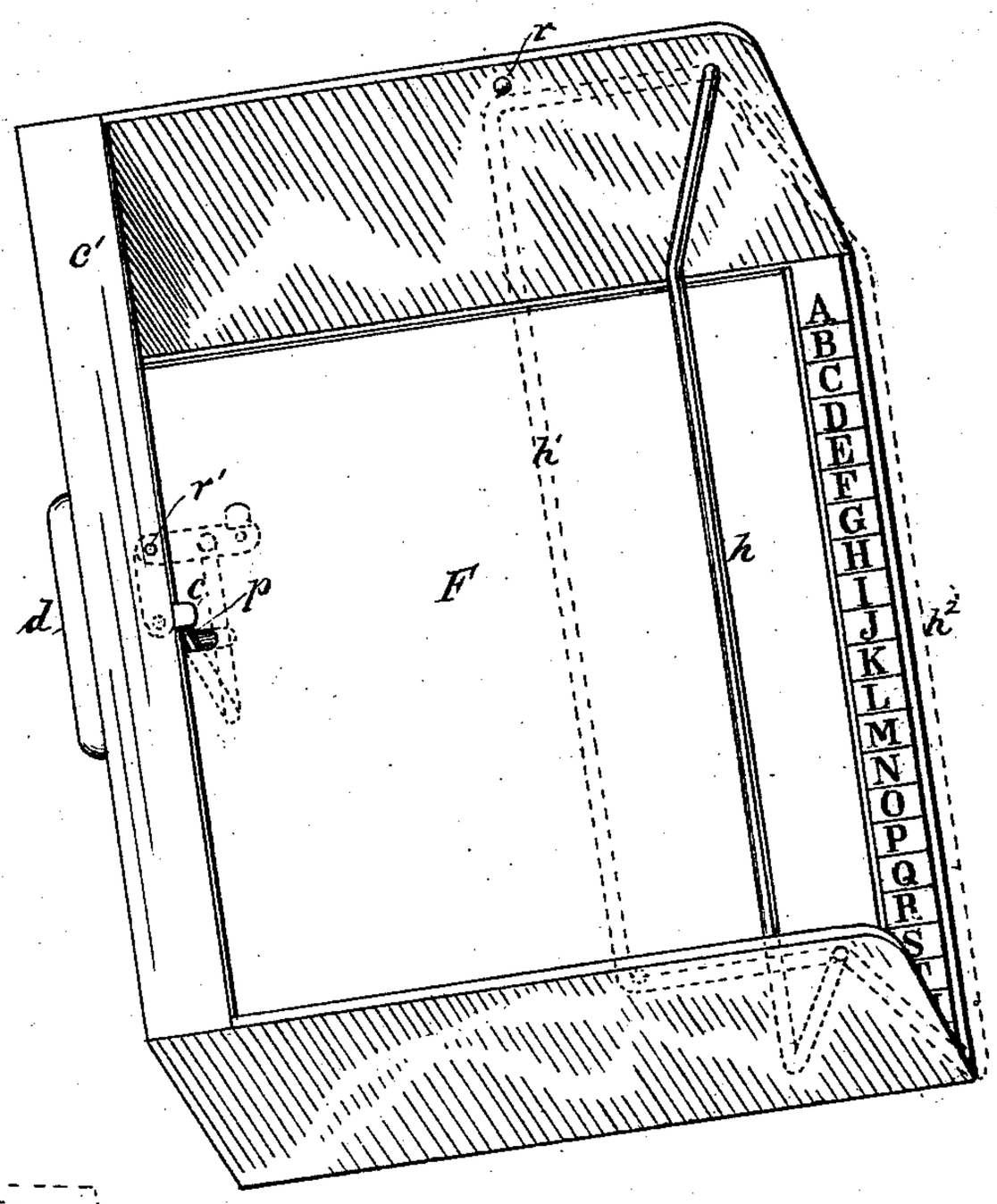



FIG. 3

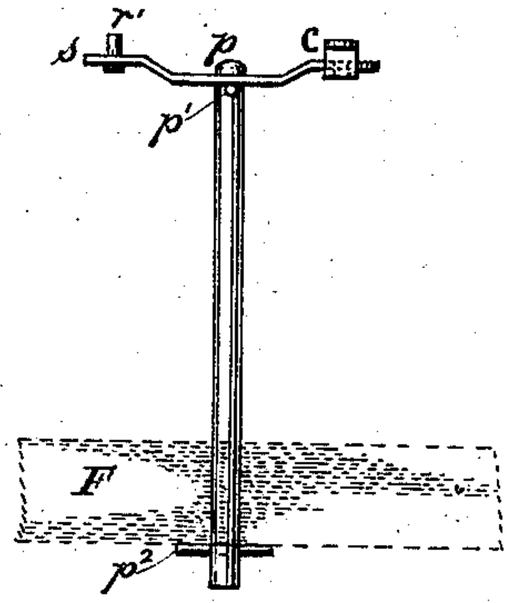
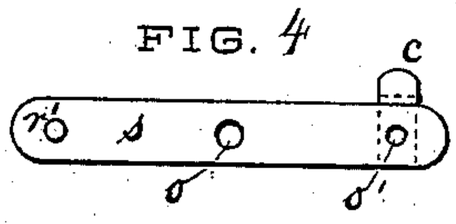



FIG. 4




WITNESSES.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCIS A. COFFIN, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR TO THE INDIANAPOLIS CABINET COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

## LETTER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 365,433, dated June 28, 1887.

Application filed December 16, 1886. Serial No. 221,794. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANCIS A. COFFIN, a resident of Indianapolis, Marion county, Indiana, have made certain new and useful Improvements in Letter-Files, a description of which is set forth in the following specification, reference being made to the accompanying drawings, in the several figures of which like letters represent like parts.

My invention consists in an improvement in the mechanism which is intended to hold a letter file or index in place in a suitable drawer or box, and will be understood from the following description.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a front view of a drawer containing my invention, looking into the drawer from the inner end. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the post which holds the file, and the spring at the top providing a bearing for the upper end of the post and locking it in place. Fig. 4 is a view from the under side of the spring. Figs. 3 and 4 are drawn on a larger scale than Figs. 1 and 2.

In detail, *d* is a drawer or case adapted to slip in an opening in the desk, the inner end being left open for the admission of the file-book F, which is constructed and indexed in the usual manner. This file-book has a slot cut through at the back end, through which a post, *p*, passes, as indicated in Fig. 3. The bottom of this post has a bearing in the bottom of the drawer, and the upper end of this post has a bearing in an opening, *o*, in the spring-plate *s*, which is pivoted at *r'* on the under side of a cleat or strip, *c'*, connecting the sides of the drawer, as shown in Fig. 2. This spring *s* has a catch, *c*, attached to one end, which has an opening, *o'*, and when the spring is pushed back, as shown in Fig. 1, it passes over the end of a pin, $r^2$, which enters the opening *o'*, locking the spring in place. A pin, *p'*, furnishes a bearing on the post *p*, to prevent the spring *s* from slipping down, and a similar pin, $p^2$, passes through the lower end of the post *p*, to prevent the file F from coming off.

*h* is a holder, consisting of a bent wire, its ends turned up at right angles, and having bearings in the sides of the drawer, as shown in Fig. 2. In this figure the rod is shown as clamping the front end of the index, holding the leaves together. To open the file, the rod is rotated on its bearings and lifted up toward the inner end of the drawer, where it assumes the position shown by the dotted lines *h'*, and the file may be removed.

*r* is a pin projecting a short distance from the inside of each end of the drawer to prevent the holder *h* from slipping past.

When it is desired to open the file, the holder *h* is thrown over nearly a complete revolution, and the holder in this case takes the position shown by the dotted lines $h^2$, the top portion thereof fitting down closely against the outer end of the drawer, being completely out of the way, so that the drawer may be slipped in the desk with the wire even in this position, if desired.

When it is necessary to remove the file, the catch *c* is pressed down until it is released from its engagement with the pin $r^2$, and then it is pulled out so as to be nearly, if not quite, parallel with the sides of the drawer, and this releases the top of the post from its bearing in the opening *o* of the spring-plate, and the post may be drawn forward until it assumes an oblique position, and the file may be slipped up and off the end of the post and a new one inserted. When this is done, the spring is pushed round until the opening *o* is again brought over the upper end of the post *p*, and the spring is then forced in until it catches upon the pin $r^2$, and the parts are locked in place.

I am aware that letter-files provided with wires for holding the indexes in place and with posts and catches for locking the file therein are not new, and do not broadly claim the same as my invention. Mine, however, differs from any I have known in the particular construction hereinbefore specified, which constitutes my invention.

What I claim, therefore, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is the following:

1. The drawer *d*, provided with the cleat *c'*, upon the under side of which is fastened the spring *s*, having the catch *c*, the detachable post *p*, having bearings at its lower end in the bottom of the drawer and at the upper end in the spring-plate *s*, the file F, slotted to admit the post *p*, and mounted thereon, the holding-wire *h*, whose upturned ends have bearings in the sides and near the inner end of the drawer and

adapted to revolve on such bearings, all combined substantially as described.

2. A letter-file composed of a drawer or case whose front portion sustains a detachable post and a catch for locking the same, an index-file slotted and passed over such detachable post, and a holding-wire having bearings in the sides and near the rear end of the drawer and adapted to revolve thereon, so that when thrown inward it clamps the sheets of the letter-file, and when thrown outward it is completely removed from the file and rests against the edge of the drawer-bottom out of the way of the user, all combined substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of February, 1886.

FRANCIS A. COFFIN.

Witnesses:

C. P. JACOBS,

E. J. RALSTON.