

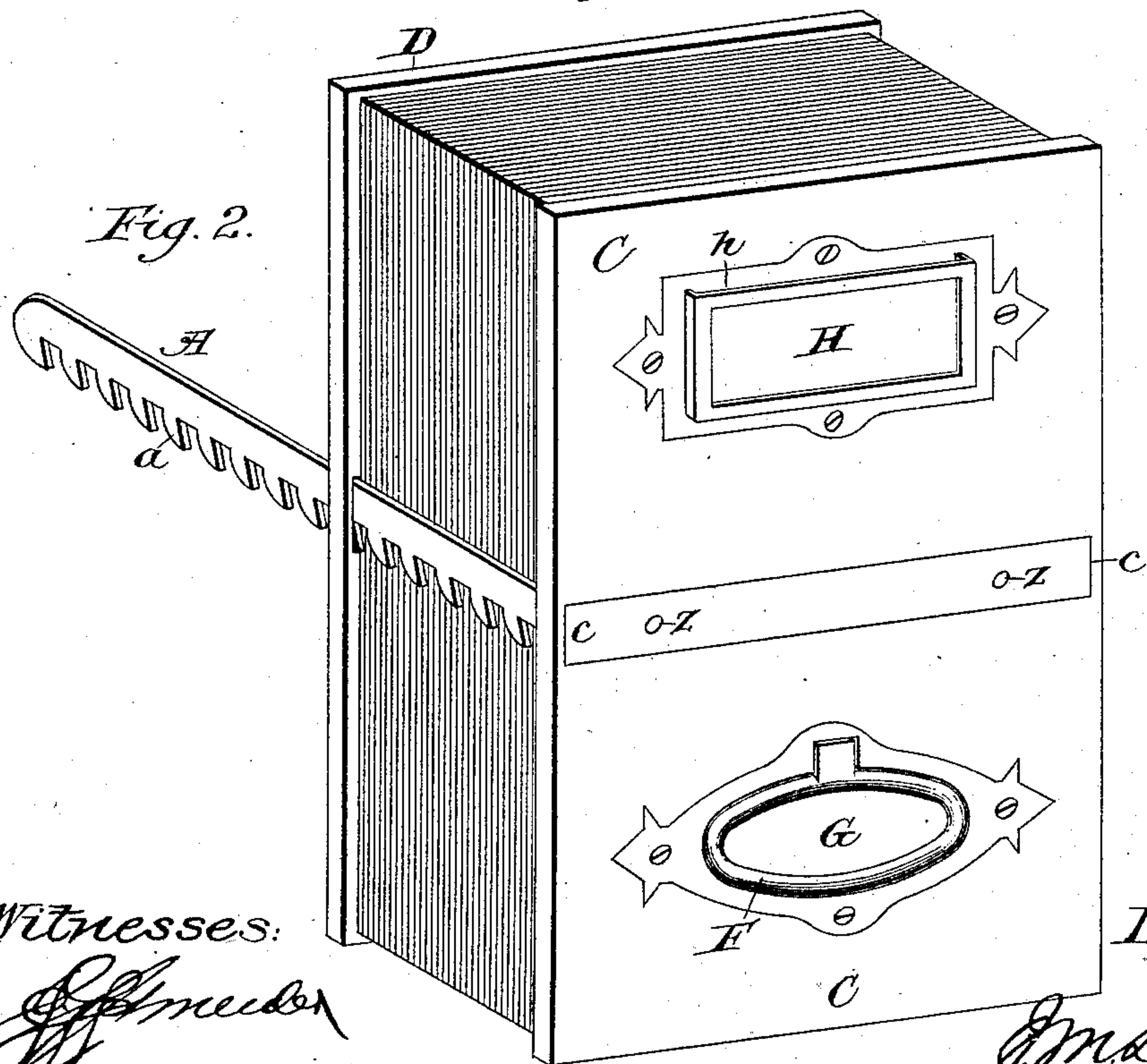
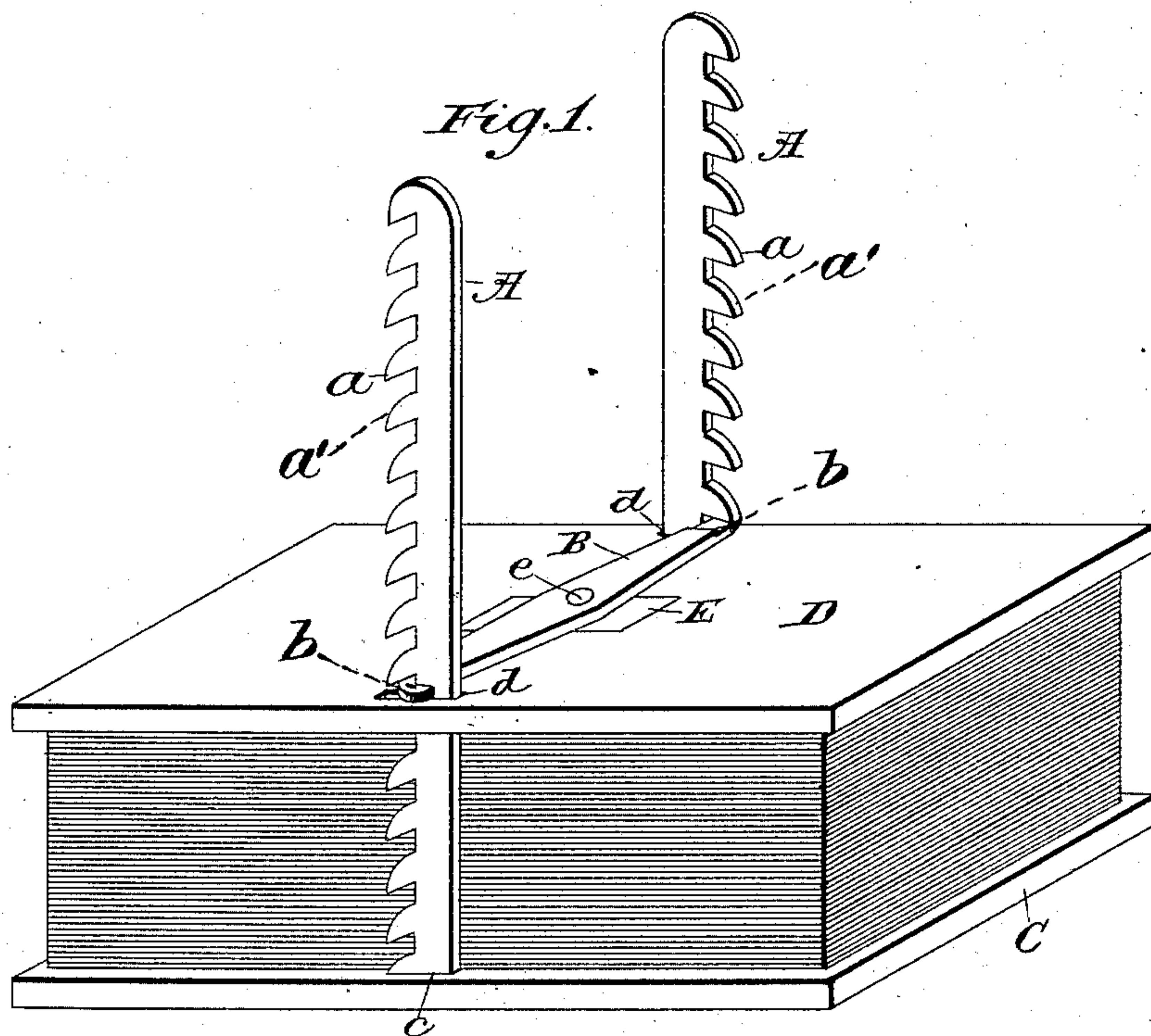
(No Model.)

J. M. D. FRANCE.

PAPER FILE.

No. 374,467.

Patented Dec. 6, 1887.



Witnesses:

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

Inventor:

*J. M. D. France*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN MASON DUNCAN FRANCE, OF ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

## PAPER-FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 374,467, dated December 6, 1887.

Application filed May 7, 1887. Serial No. 237,477. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN MASON DUNCAN FRANCE, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Joseph, in the county of Buchanan and State of Missouri, have invented new and useful Improvements in Bill-Files, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

10 Figures 1 and 2 are perspective views of a bill-file constructed according to my invention.

The invention consists in certain features of construction and novel combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

15 The plate C, which may be termed the "main" or "base" plate, is provided with a card-receiver, H, countersunk at *h*, to receive an index of the contents of the file. This plate also has a hand-hold, G, having a handle, F, which opens 20 to an extent not exceeding twenty degrees and serves to facilitate the handling of the files, which handle, when not in use, seats in a recess flush with the face of plate C. A section of this handle F is round, so that when the 25 file is placed upon the face of plate C the handle will, by virtue of the weight of the file, assume its proper place in its own recess or pocket.

30 The slide board or plate D has slots at *d* for the passage of the rack-arms A, and has the locking-bar B, pivotally connected at *e* centrally with it. This pivot is preferably effected through the medium of a plate, E, countersunk in the slide D, as shown most 35 clearly in Fig. 1. At its ends the bar B has bent portions, forming hooks *b*, which fit around or engage the rack-arms in such manner as to firmly secure the slide board or plate D, as will be seen in Fig. 1.

40 The rack-bars A, it will be seen, form a part of a frame which extends through slots *c c* in the main plate, the frame being fastened on the outer side of plate C by rivets *z z*. By the said construction the frame is held in place 45 and the file is strengthened, and, by reason of the arrangement of the racks A in from the side edges of the plates C D, the insertion of the files in the reversal of same from cases is rendered easier.

50 The bars A have teeth *a*, the upper sides, *a'*, of which are practically beveled or inclined for

the purpose of engaging with and releasing the locking-bar in the operation of the invention. These bevels or inclines are preferably secured by curving the upper sides of the teeth, as 55 shown in both figures of the drawings.

In use the papers to be retained are placed on the main plate and the sliding plate is pressed down on the papers and the locking-bar turned into engagement with the appropriate teeth of the arms A. By reason of the elasticity of the papers between plates C and D and the hooks *b* of bar B, the filed papers will be held securely and in such manner as to be 60 protected from the effects of dust. To release the papers in the file, it is only necessary to press on the slide-plate D with sufficient force, when the locking-bar will engage the beveled upper edge of the next lower tooth, by which means the said bar will be released and the 65 slide D may be pushed back. By extending the rack-arms through slots in the plates the said arms will be held from spreading, and the file will at all times retain its normal width. The metal rack-arms, being arranged 70 in from the edges of plates B and C, will not come in contact with and abrade or otherwise damage the metal cases in which the files are kept, and the desks, books, or other objects upon which the files may be placed. The 75 bar B, with its curved ends *b*, when in the ratchets *a*, will serve as a lock, and in case a file with the papers in place should fall on the floor the bar B will not be moved from the ratchets in which they are inserted. 80

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

1. A bill-file comprising a base or main plate, the ratchet-arms secured to said main 90 plate, and a slide-plate having slots *d* for the passage of said arms, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in a bill-file, of the base or main plate, the ratchet-arms secured thereto and having their rack-teeth provided with 95 beveled upper surfaces, as described, the slide-plate, and the locking-bar, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination, with the base-plate, the slide-plate, and the rack-arms, of the locking-bar provided at its ends with hooks *b b*, 100 substantially as set forth.

4. The combination of the base-plate, the  
slide-plate having slots *d*, the rack-arms se-  
cured to the base-plate and extended through  
slots *d*, and the locking-bar having hooks *b b*,  
5 substantially as set forth.

5. The combination of the base or main  
plate having slots *c c*, the metal frame ex-  
tended through slots *c c* and having a portion  
secured at *z z* to the base-plate and provided  
10 with ratchet-arms, the slide-plate having slots

*d* for the passage of the rack-arms, and the  
locking-bar, substantially as and for the pur-  
poses specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my  
hand in the presence of two subscribing wit- 15  
nesses.

JOHN MASON DUNCAN FRANCE.

Witnesses:

J. P. SCHNEIDER,

HENRY SCHULER.