

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. J. WELLS.  
PAPER OR BILL FILE.

No. 386,673.

Patented July 24, 1888.

Fig. 1.

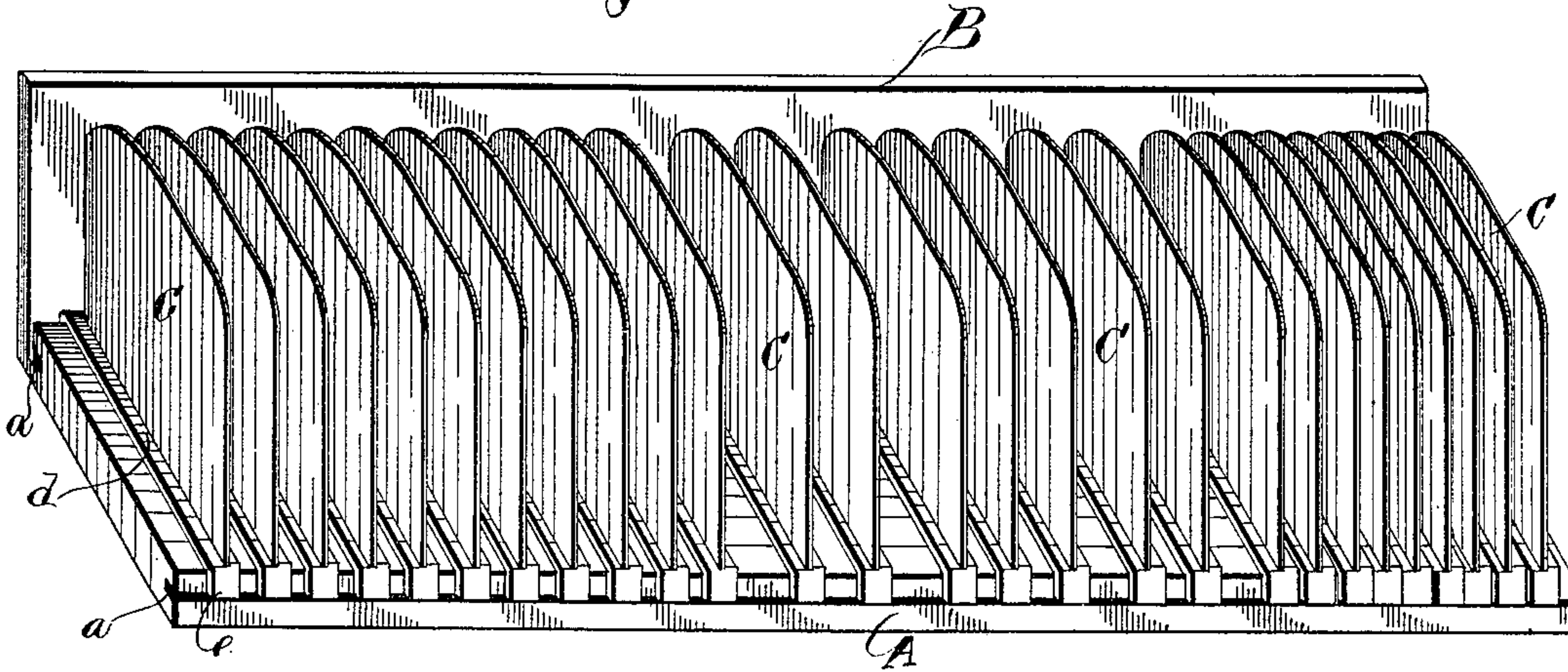


Fig. 2.

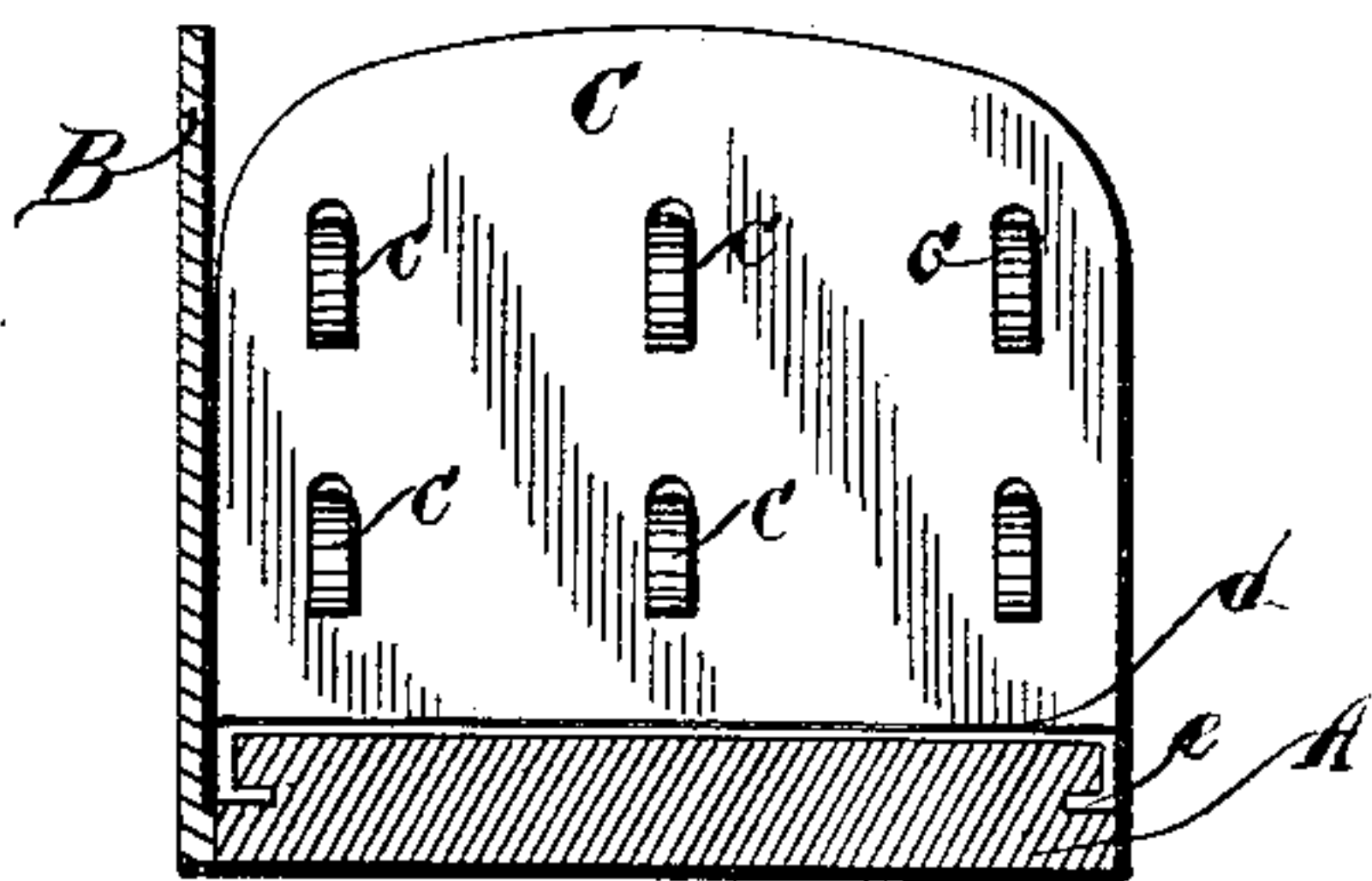


Fig. 4.

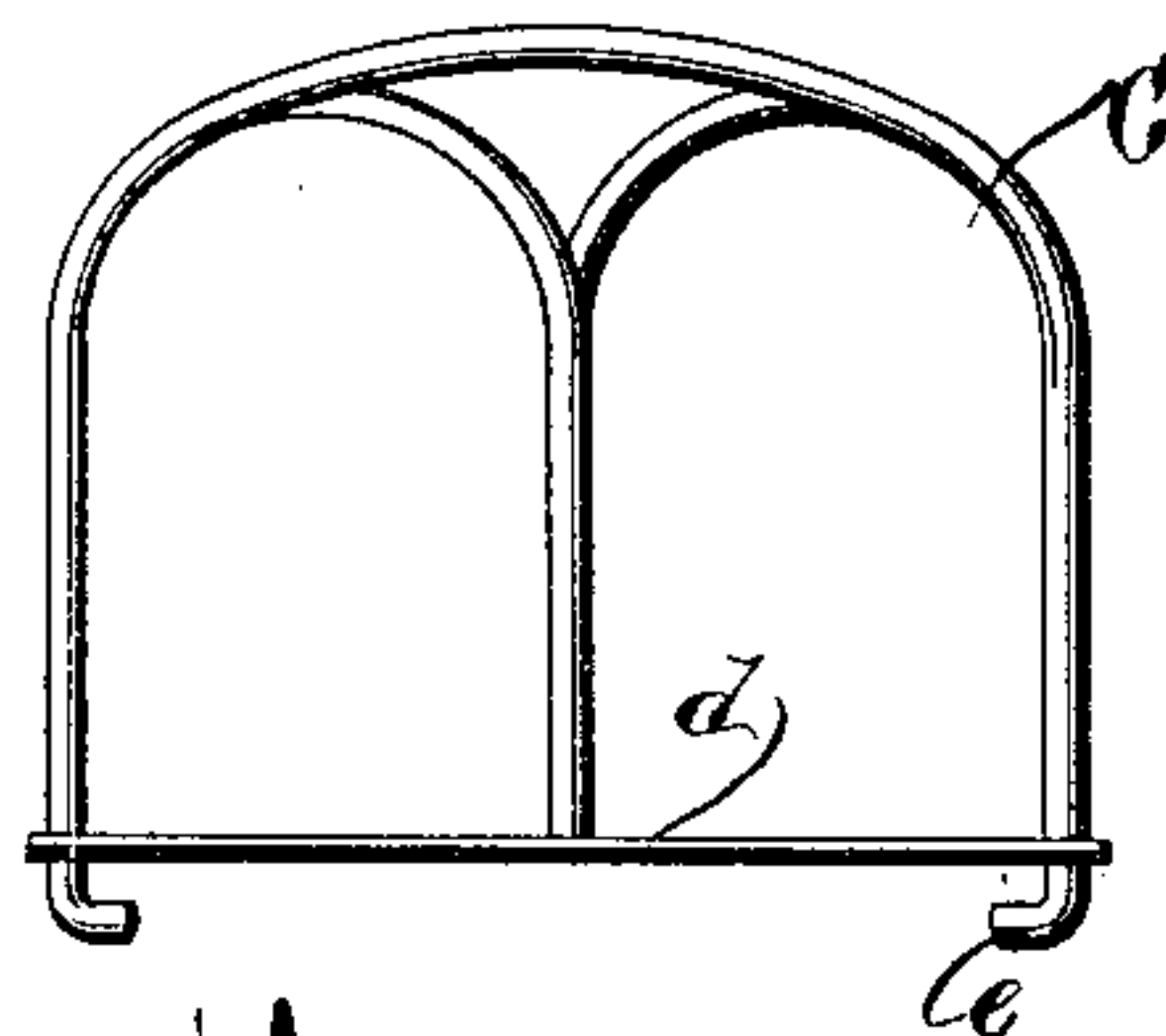


Fig. 3.

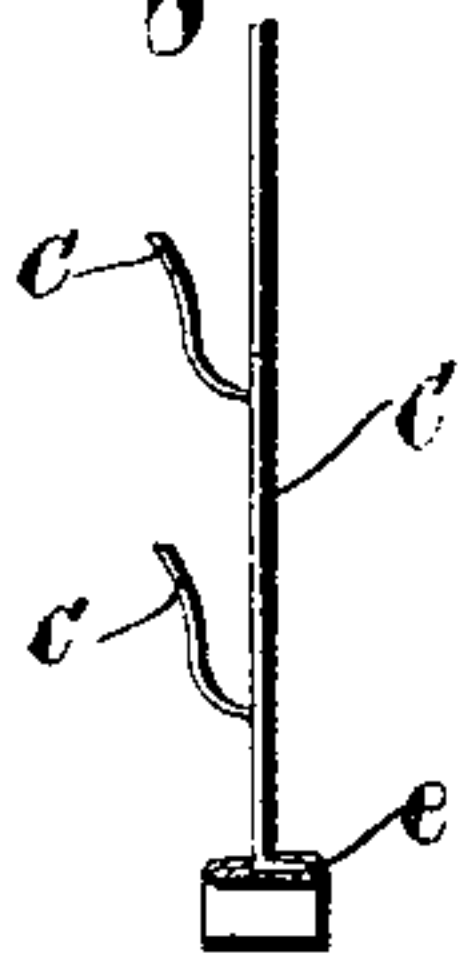


Fig. 5.

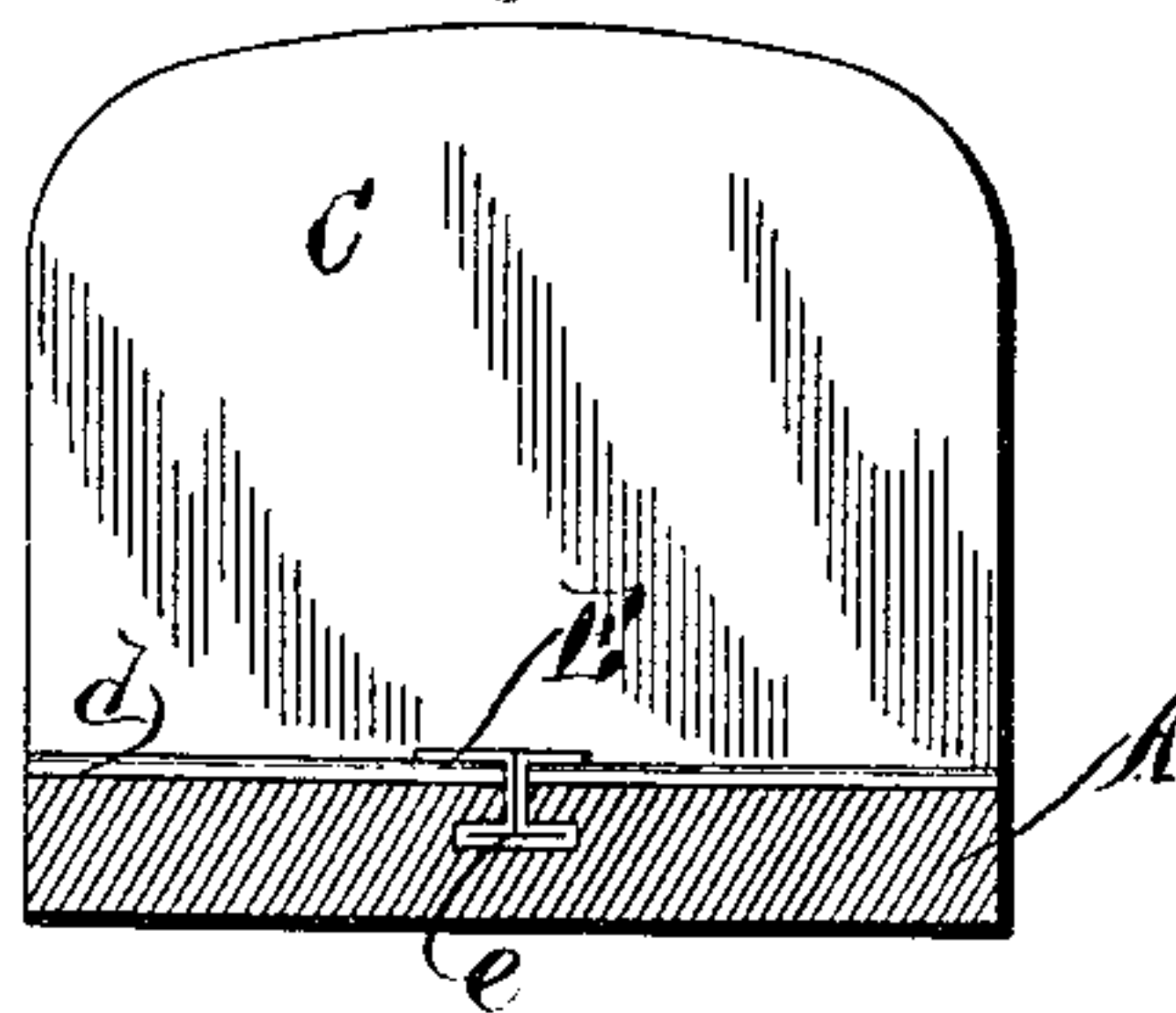
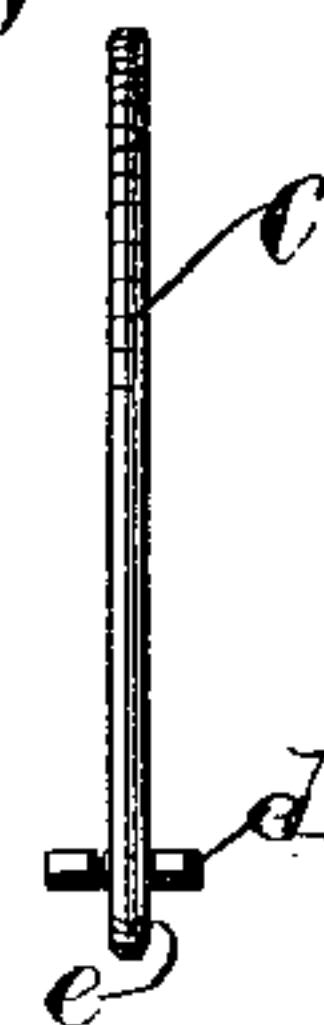


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 7.

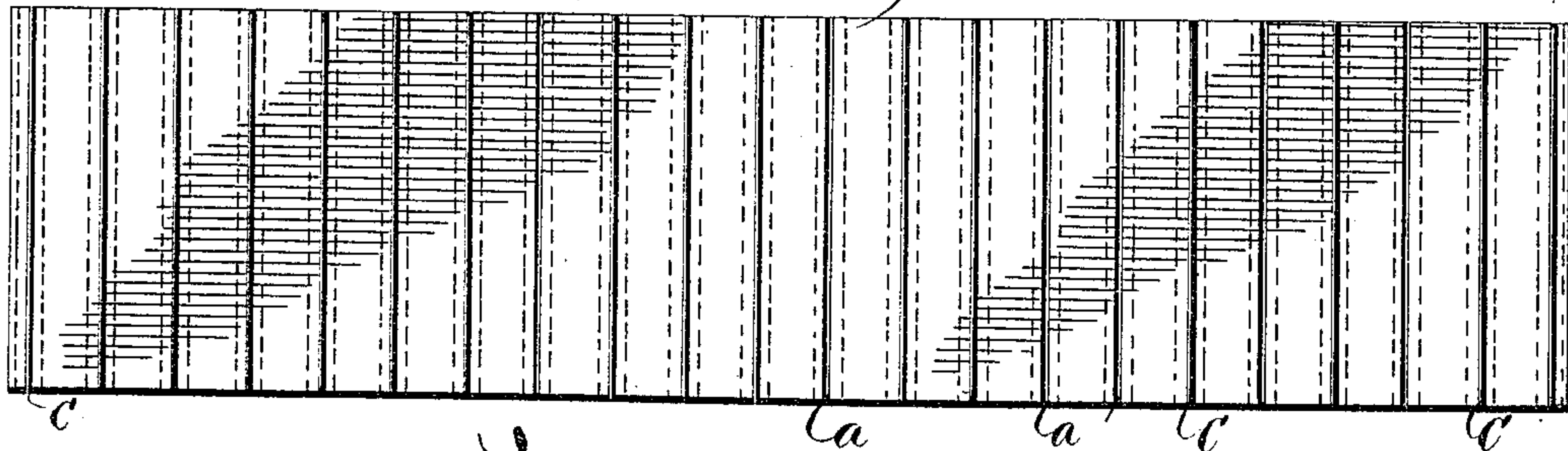


Fig. 8.

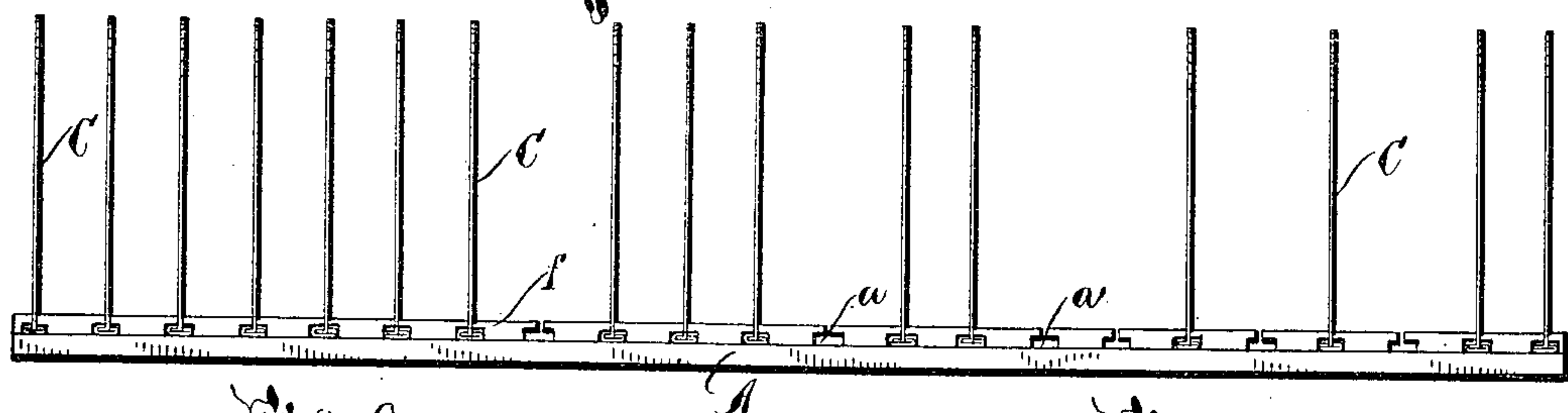


Fig. 9.

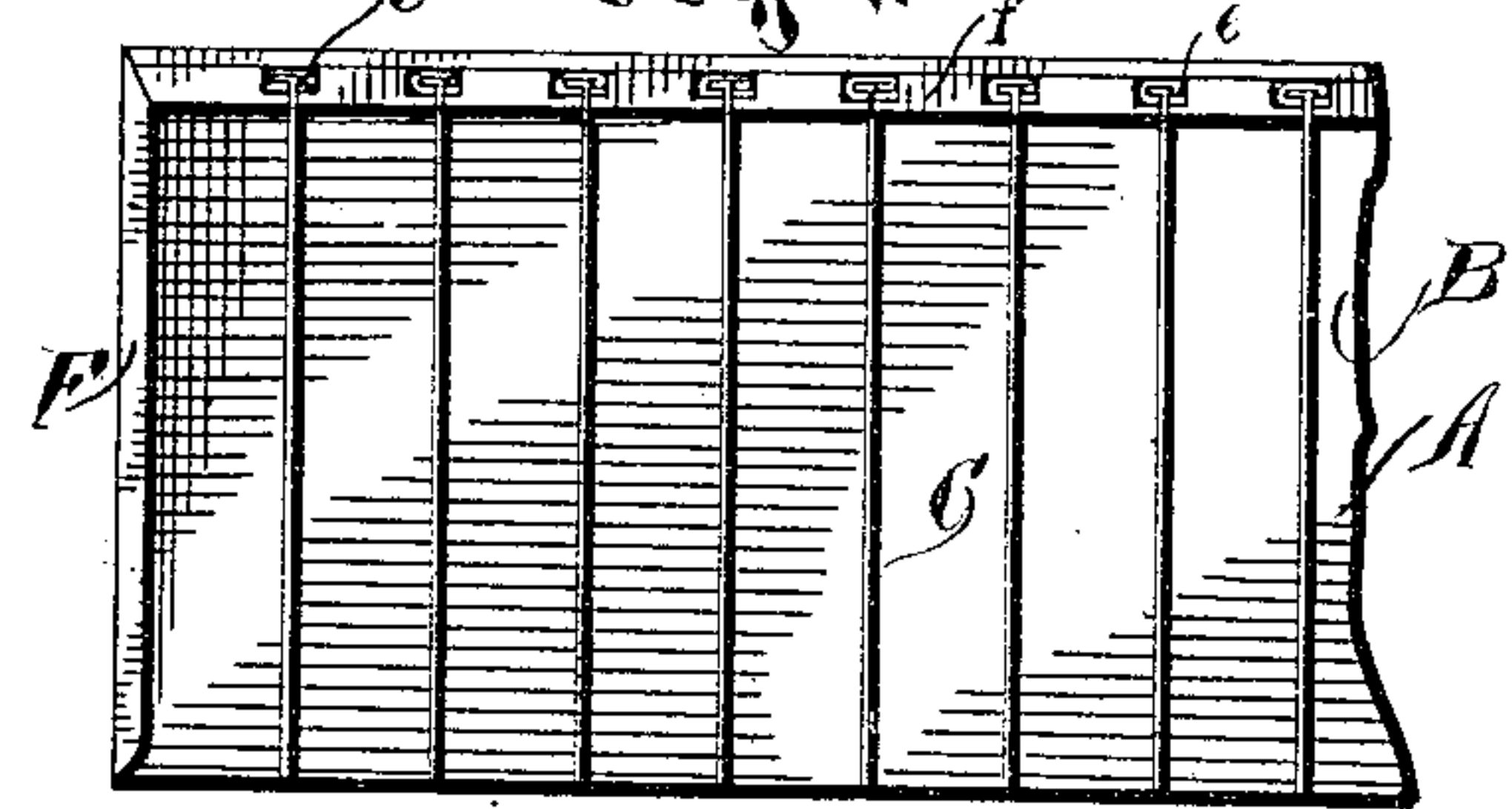


Fig. 10.

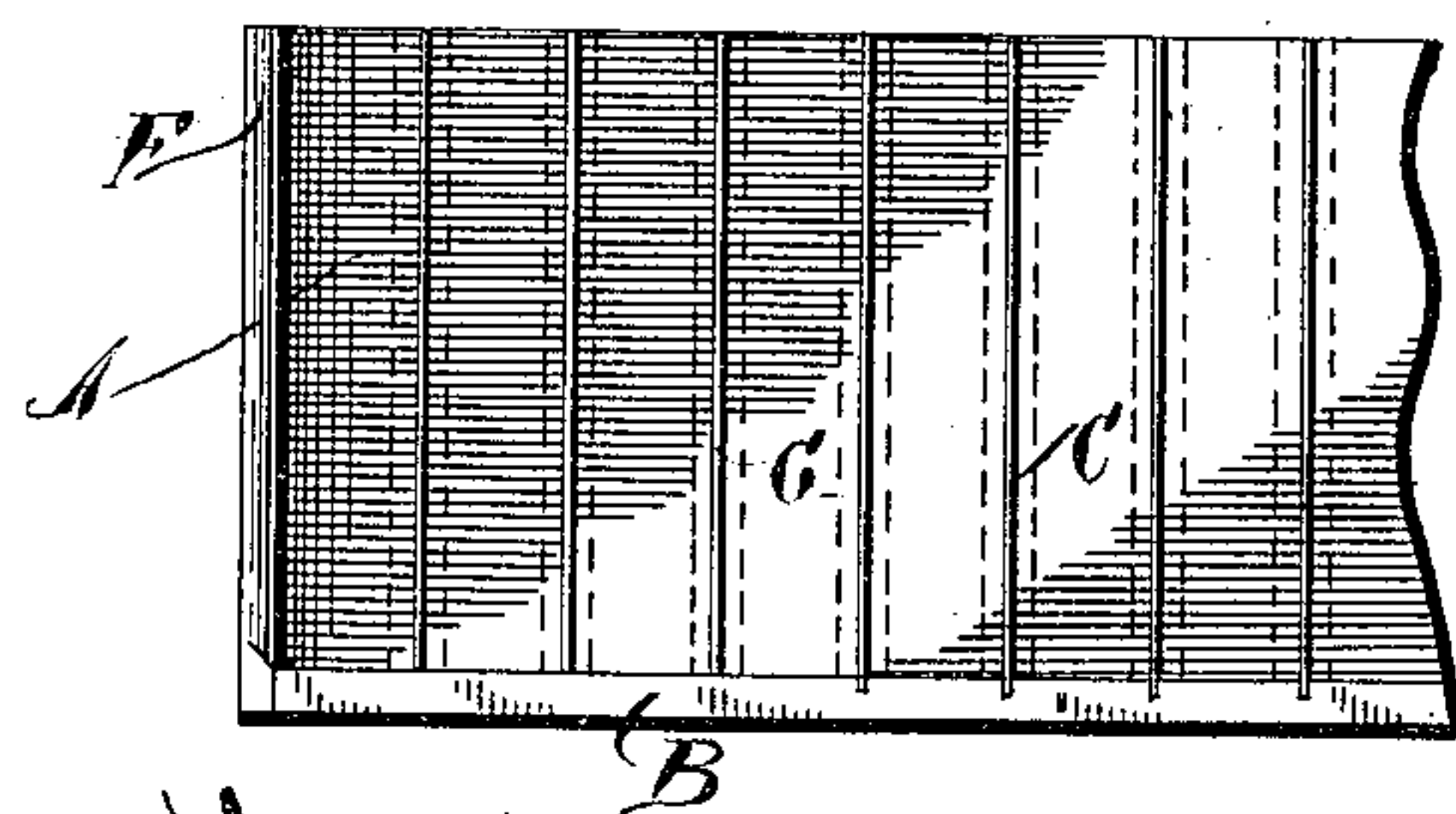


Fig. 11.

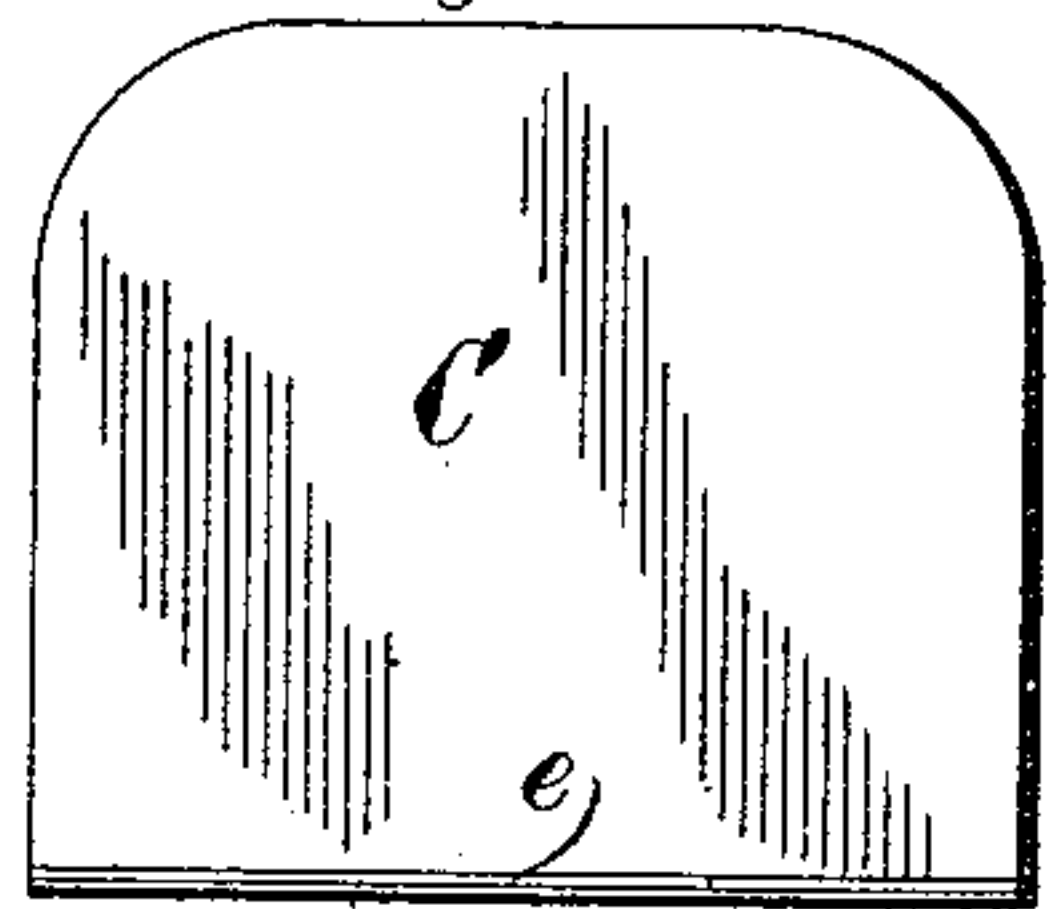


Fig. 12.

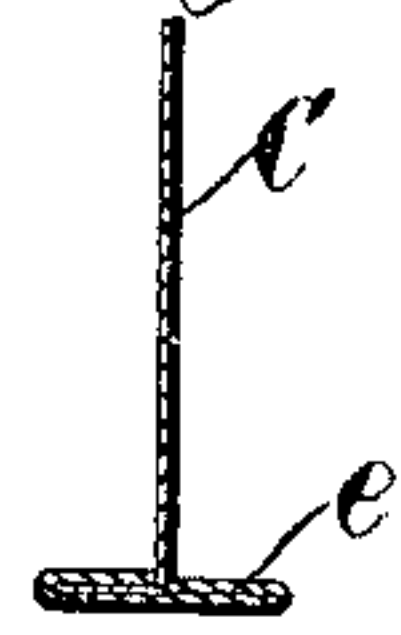


Fig. 13.

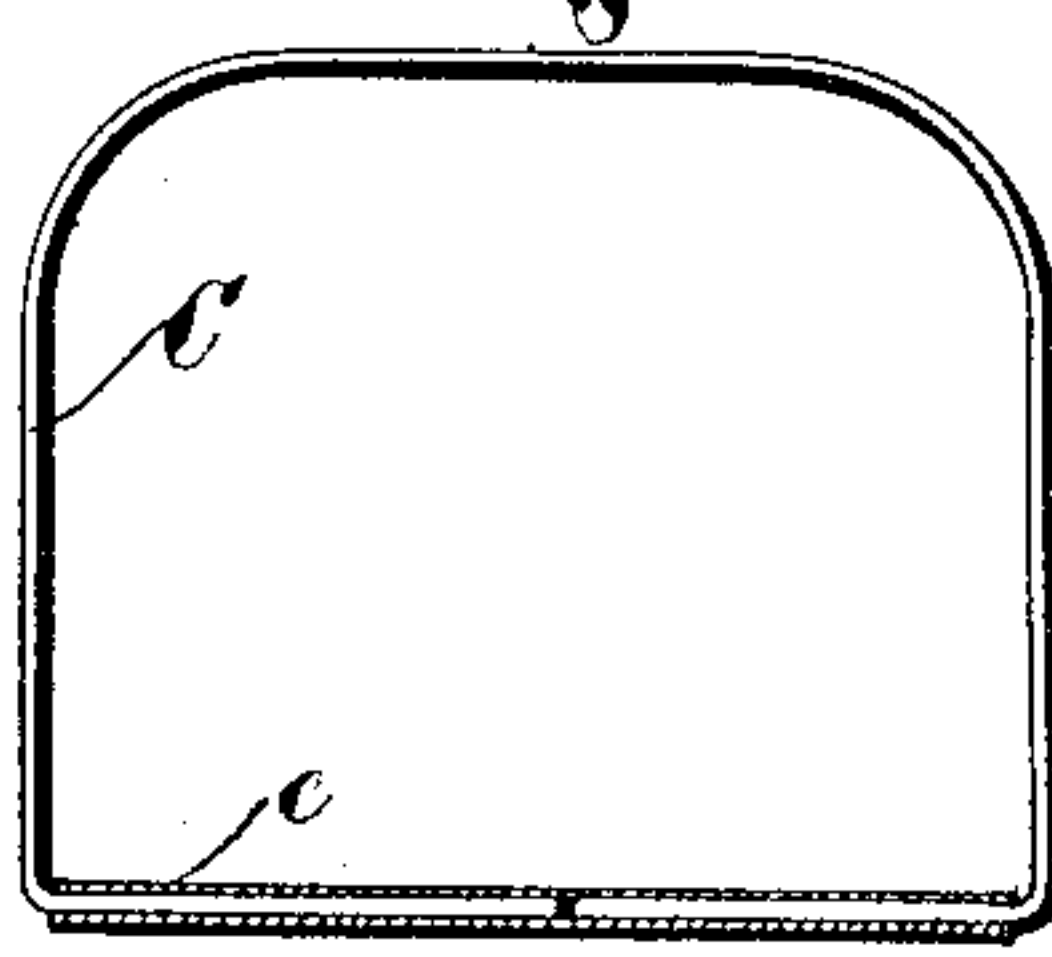


Fig. 14.

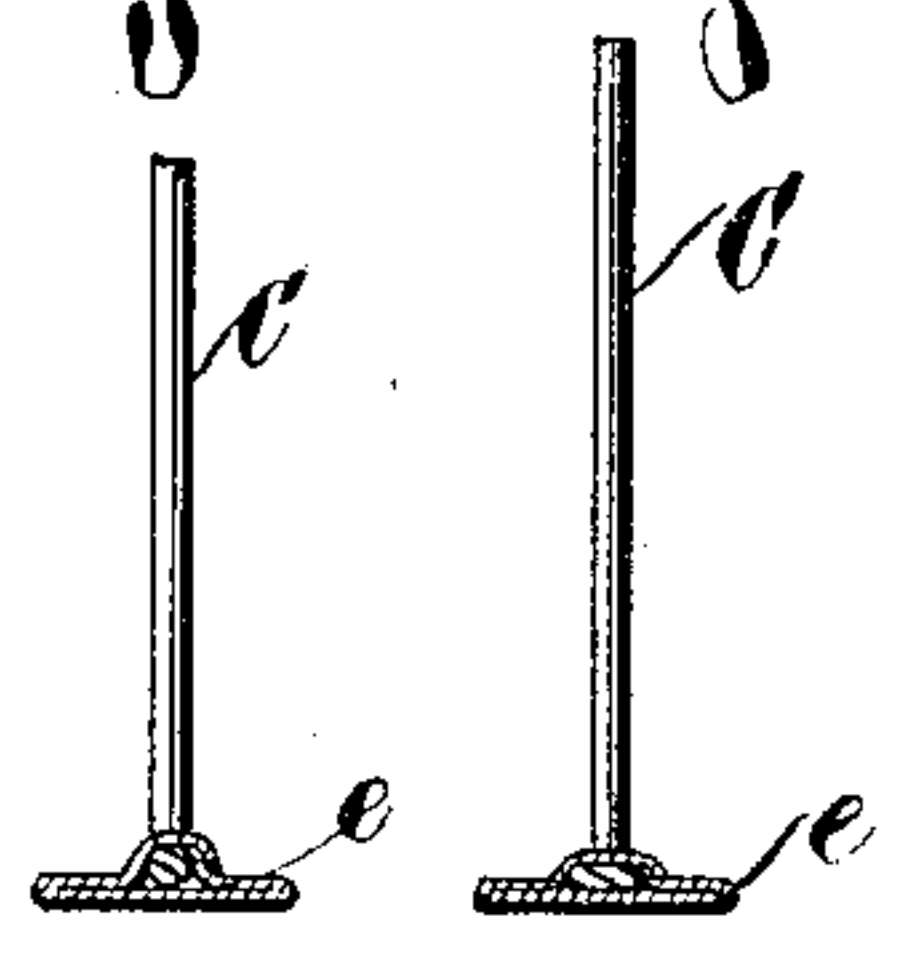


Fig. 15.

Fig. 16.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR J. WELLS, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

## PAPER OR BILL FILE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 386,673, dated July 24, 1888.

Application filed September 9, 1887. Serial No. 249,198. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ARTHUR J. WELLS, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Paper or Bill Files, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists in improvements in bill or paper files, and has for its object the production of a simple portable file-rack which may be set up on the desk or in any desired position, and which may be readily adapted, by reason of its adjustability, to any suitable dimensions for the use required of it; and to this end the invention consists, essentially, in a knockdown adjustable paper file or rack having a base provided with grooves or rabbets and slides provided with tongues adapted to be engaged with the grooves or rabbets of the base, whereby, when the slides or partitions are joined to the base, adjustable compartments are produced, into which the papers or bills may be filed.

It consists, furthermore, in the detail construction and arrangements of the parts, all as hereinafter more fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In specifying my invention reference is had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which, like letters indicating corresponding parts in all the views, Figure 1 is an isometric view of my improved paper-file set up for use. Fig. 2 is a transverse section illustrating the manner of connecting the partitions or slides to the base, and also one of the slides provided with holders for forming a pen-rack. Fig. 3 is an edge view of the sliding tongue and pen-rack, the flanged base being in section. Fig. 4 shows a modification in the construction of the sliding tongue. Figs. 5 and 6 illustrate further modifications in the tongue-and-groove connection of the slides to the base. Figs. 7 and 8 are respectively a top plan and front edge view of a further modification in the construction of the rack, the grooves or rabbets for the slides being arranged transversely across the base instead of lengthwise, as in my preferred construction. Figs. 9 and 10 illustrate details of construction in the rack; and Figs. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 illustrate further details and

also modifications in the construction of the tongue device on the slides.

A represents the base of my improved paper file or rack. Said base is provided with grooves *a a*, Fig. 1, which preferably extend lengthwise of the base, as best shown in Fig. 1, which illustrates the preferred form or example of my invention.

Where the rack or paper-file is intended for use on tables or other places where it cannot abut against a back of some kind, I provide a back, B, as shown in Fig. 1, which affords a support for papers thrown into the file.

C is a slide or partition provided with a base, *d*, and a tongue, *e*, which are bent over, as best shown in the sectional view, Fig. 2, the said tongue *e* engaging the groove or rabbet *a* when the slides or partitions C are set up on the base A.

It will be observed that each rack is made up of the base and a number of these partitions or slides C, and that, for convenience in shipping and portability, the slides may be taken off of the base and packed within a small compass. At the same time, however, the important feature in respect to my improved paper-file consists in providing the adjustable slides or partitions, which may be readily shifted on the base, so as to adapt the rack or file to any purpose, as desired. Thus, where the file is used in a counting-room or mercantile office where there is a large correspondence, and it is desirable to file away temporarily letters awaiting the filling of orders or for any other purpose, by my invention a file is produced whereby the compartments thereof may be adjusted to suit the circumstances of the correspondence readily, and the file also may be so located as to keep the correspondence in convenient position where the same is not liable to be overlooked, and thus a very desirable acquisition to an office outfit is provided. Furthermore, the improved paper-file is exceedingly simple and durable in construction and susceptible of an elegant finish at a small expense, and is accordingly very desirable in this respect.

My invention is susceptible of several modifications in construction; hence I do not restrict myself to the specific construction illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2.

At Figs. 4, 5, and 6 I have illustrated a



modification in the construction of the partitions or slides. At Fig. 4 I have shown a slide or partition formed of wire with bends *e*, which serve the function of the tongues *e* in the example of my invention illustrated at Fig. 1. At Fig. 5 I have illustrated a modification in the construction of the slide, in which I bend up of sheet metal an H-shaped piece, E, provided with the tongue *e*, formed from the shorter leg of the H, and in this form I simply provide a groove or rabbet central in the base A.

At Fig. 3 I have illustrated a further modification of the construction of the tongue *e*, and have also shown the slide or partition C provided with cut-outs *c*, or brackets, which form pen-racks.

At Figs. 7 and 8 I have illustrated a still further modification in the construction of my improved paper-file, the essential difference consisting in providing the base with transverse grooves *a* and providing the slides with tongues *e*, extending lengthwise thereof across the slide, the said tongues sliding in the transverse grooves *a*, as best shown in the drawings.

Figs. 9 and 10 show a still further modification, in which the grooves are formed in the vertical back B and the slides C have the tongue *e* on their rear edge instead of the lower edge. This modification is substantially the same as that illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, with the addition of a side or fixed end, F.

The modifications illustrated in Figs. 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 will be readily understood upon reference to the drawings, and relate wholly to the formation of the tongue *e* on the slides or partitions C.

At Fig. 12 the tongue *e* is formed by bending the metal of the slide itself angularly, as shown in the drawings, thus forming the tongue from the metal of the slide itself.

At Figs. 13, 14, and 15 the partition or slide is formed of wire and the sheet-metal tongue is bent over the ends of the wire, as clearly shown in the drawings, and wrapped upon itself to stiffen the tongue sufficiently for the desired purpose.

In the modification in which the transverse grooves are employed, as illustrated in Figs. 7 and 8, I form the grooves preferably of strips *f*, Fig. 16, having the rabbets *a'* cut on the opposite edges thereof, and secure such strips *f* on the base A, as best shown in Fig. 8.

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

1. In a paper or bill file, the combination, with a base formed with longitudinal grooves in its edges, of a series of partitions provided with tongues to engage said grooves, whereby the partitions are readily adjusted to form a series of compartments of various sizes, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a paper or bill file, the combination, with a base, of a series of detachable partitions adjustable to and from each other, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, with the longitudinally-grooved base A, of the metallic slides or partitions C, provided with tongues *e*, to enter the grooved edges of the base, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name, in the presence of two attesting witnesses, at Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, this 5th day of September, 1887.

ARTHUR J. WELLS.

Witnesses:

FREDERICK H. GIBBS,  
E. C. CANNON.