

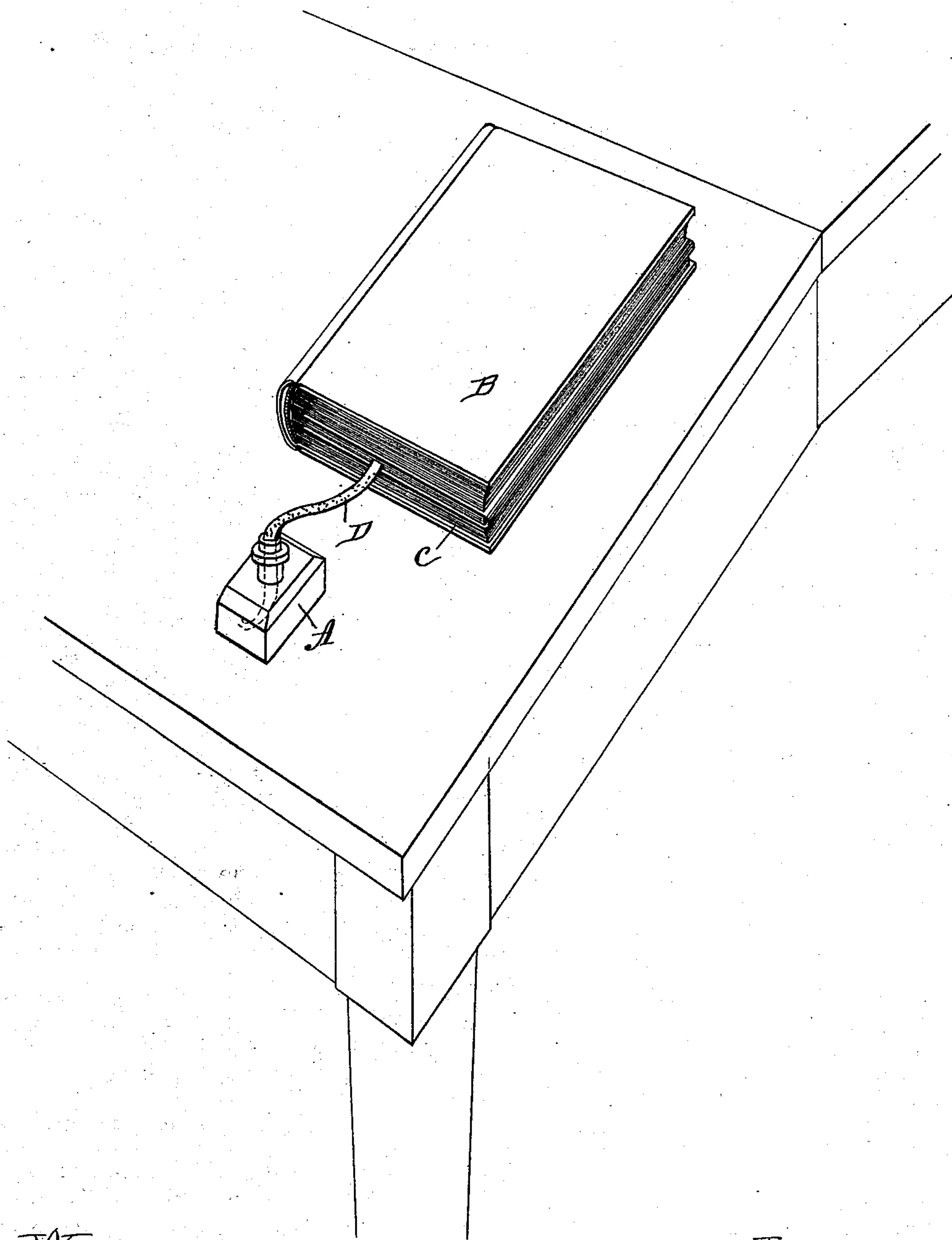
(No Model.)

H. THUM.

METHOD OF MOISTENING PRESS COPYING LEAVES.

No. 402,205.

Patented Apr. 30, 1889.



Witnesses.

Walter P. Keene.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGO THUM, OF GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

METHOD OF MOISTENING PRESS-COPYING LEAVES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 402,205, dated April 30, 1889.

Application filed July 25, 1888. Serial No. 280,994. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGO THUM, of Grand Rapids, in the county of Kent and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful
5 Improvement in Methods of Moistening Press-Copying Leaves; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention relates to the moistening of
10 sheets of paper used for press-copying, the object of the invention being to keep such sheets in any number uniformly and evenly moistened for any desired length of time. In processes heretofore used—such as the
15 “Chadwick”—the sheets are kept moist a week, but not evenly, as they are at the maximum condition of moisture at first, and the moisture decreases to the last, so that as ordinarily used there is an excess when the moisture is first applied and a lack at the latter
20 end of the interval (usually a week) between the successive applications of water to the sheets.

My invention consists, essentially, in supplying moisture to the sheets by means of a wick, and this I do in the manner hereinafter described. I may apply water to the loose sheets or to sheets bound in the form of a book. When so bound, each leaf is paraffined or treated with some equivalent water-proofing material on the margin next to the binding to prevent the moisture from injuring the binding or wetting the back of the book, and the moistened sheets are separated
35 from those which are to be kept dry by means of interposed oiled or paraffined sheets.

The accompanying drawing is a perspective view of a book with the reservoir and the moisture-conveying wick in position.

40 In carrying out my invention I take any suitable vessel, A, for a reservoir and fill it with water, to which I add a minute proportion of some antiseptic to prevent decomposition. This reservoir may be placed below
45 or on the stand or table on which the book B or pile of sheets is resting. The desired number of leaves of the book or a suitable number of sheets are separated from those which are to be kept dry by the interposed water-proof leaves C, as explained. Then one end
50 of the wick D is placed in the water of the

reservoir and the other between the leaves, preferably near the middle of the number separated from the others by the water-proof sheets. Instead of laying the end of the wick
55 between the leaves, a bibulous cloth or sheet of bibulous material, which will serve the same purpose, is laid between the leaves, and the wick is connected to that in any such manner that the water conveyed by the wick will
60 be taken up and distributed evenly by the bibulous sheet throughout the mass of leaves. Manifestly more than one such bibulous sheet or cloth may be used between different sheets and connected to the same wick. The amount
65 of moisture conveyed may be regulated by the size of the wick or by raising and lowering the reservoir. Evaporation of the water from the wick may be prevented by inclosing the wick in a rubber or other water-proof tube
70 from its exit from the reservoir to its entrance to the book. With this method a small quantity of water will keep a given number of sheets (for example, fifty) in the exact condition of moisture required for months. For
75 every wet sheet removed for use a dry one may be added to the wet by shifting the water-proof divisional sheet. In this way a definite number is always kept on hand and these are always and uniformly kept in a moist
80 condition in every part and to a proper degree.

The antiseptic is desirable to prevent the generation of microscopic plants or animalculæ, which would obstruct the wick, and it
85 also keeps the sheets from molding.

I claim as my invention—

1. The method of preparing a quantity of sheets of press-copying paper for use by moistening the same, consisting in placing and supporting one end of a wick in direct connection with the sheets, the other end of said wick extending to and being located and supported in a reservoir, the said wick remaining in permanent contact with the entire number of
95 sheets desired to be prepared to cause complete and proper saturation thereof, substantially as described.

2. The method of preparing sheets of press-copying paper for use by moistening, consisting in separating the desired number of sheets
100 from the entire number by means of oil-

boards, then placing and supporting one end of a wick in direct connection with and by said sheets, the other end of which extends into a reservoir, substantially as described.

- 5 3. The method of preparing sheets of press-copying paper by moistening the same, consisting in placing and supporting one end of a wick in direct connection with said sheets, the other end of said wick extending into a

reservoir containing water having an anti-septic therein, substantially as described. 10

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HUGO THUM.

Witnesses:

FREDERICK LOETTERT,
DAVID SCHOENFELD.