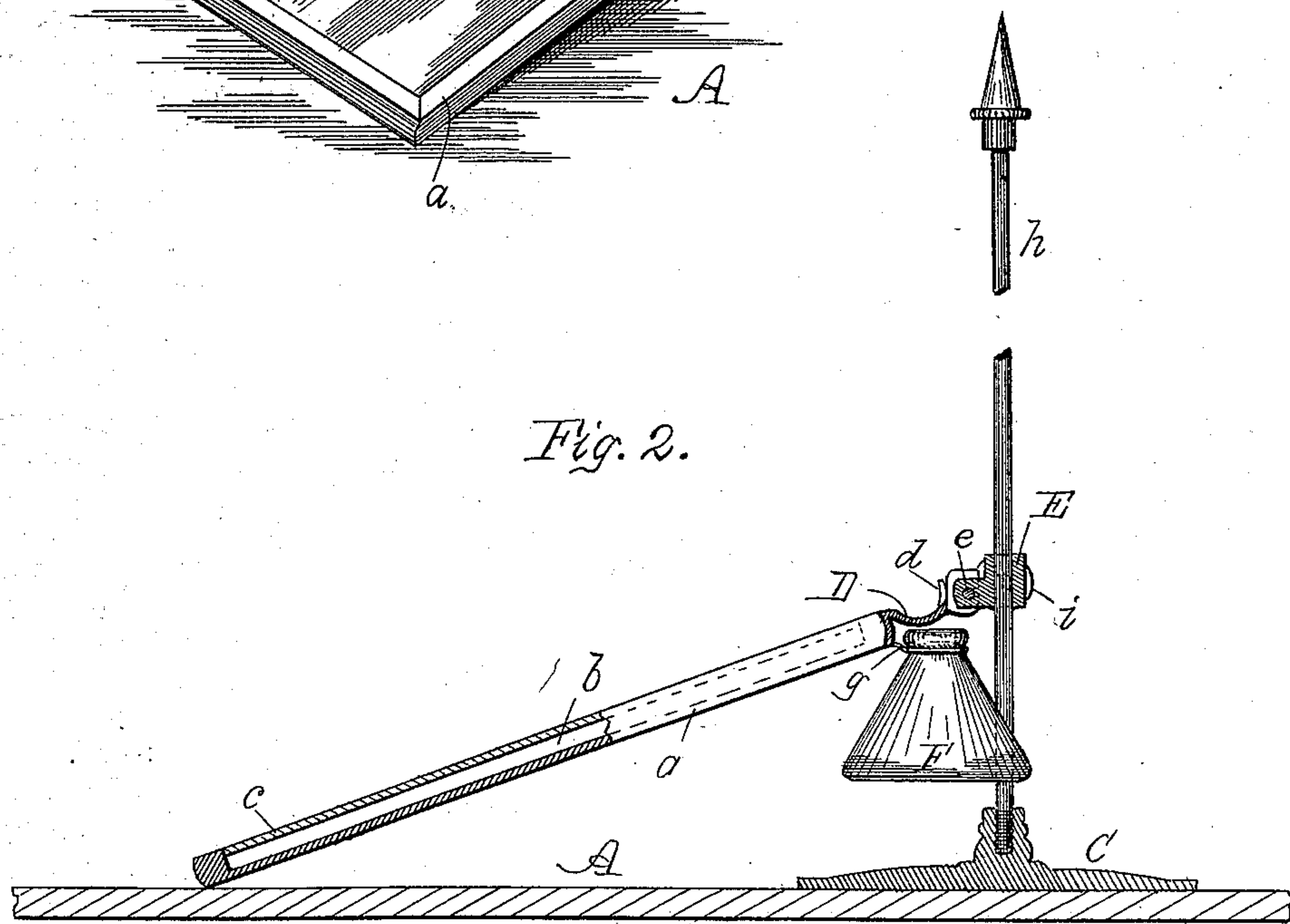
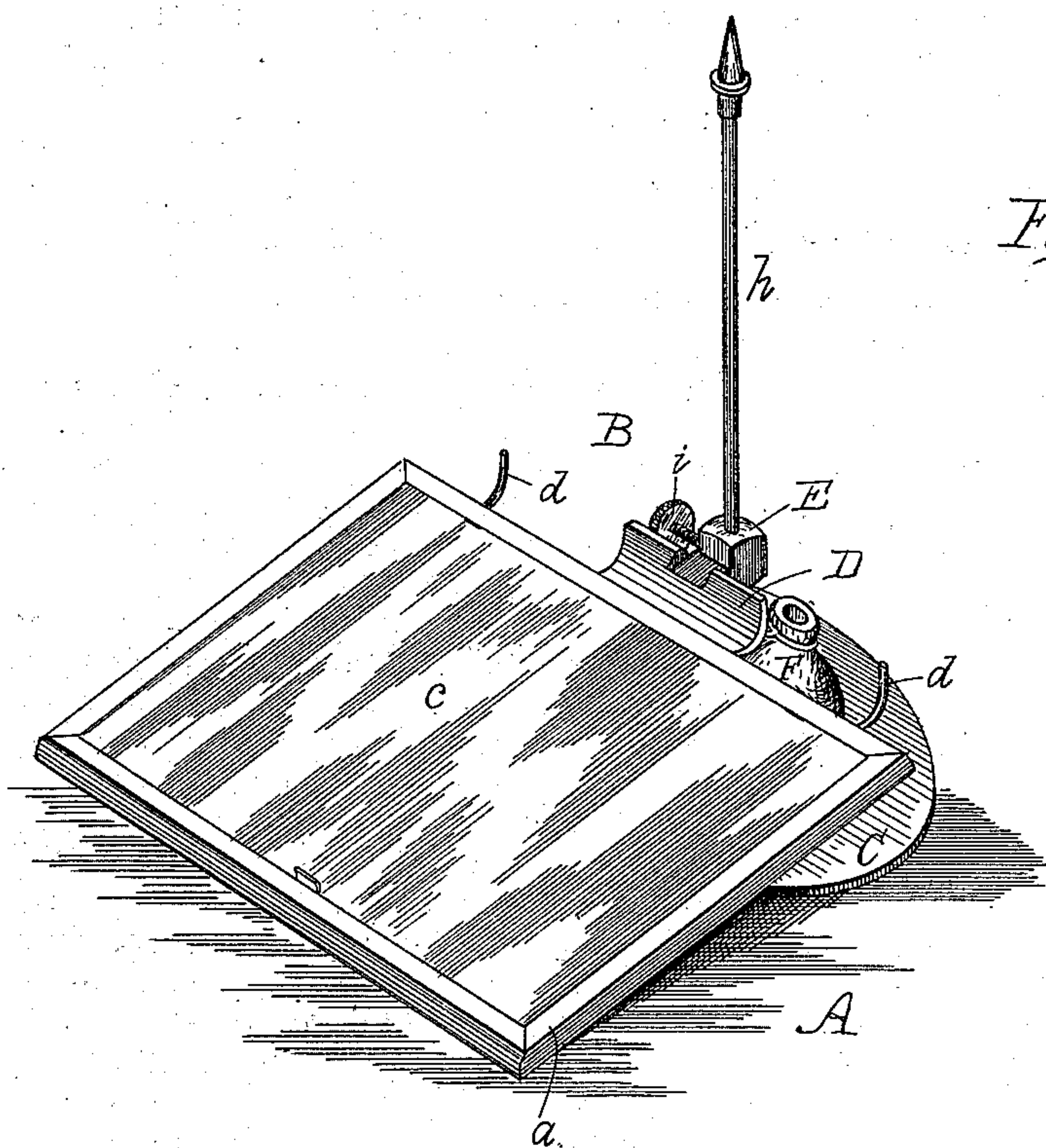


(No Model.)

C. E. HICKS.
WRITING CASE.

No. 402,244.

Patented Apr. 30, 1889.



Witnesses.
E. K. Boynton
John A. Dougherty

Inventor.
Charles E. Hicks.
H. E. Lodge, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. HICKS, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

WRITING-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 402,244, dated April 30, 1889.

Application filed February 18, 1888. Serial No. 264,490. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. HICKS, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Writing-Cases; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to "writing-cases," so called, composed of a rectangular slab of wood or other light material, usually provided with a movable top to permit access to the interior, which is a hollow receptacle to contain writing materials. In writing-cases of the above premised class the article is generally, when in use, laid flat upon a table or other fixture.

The object of my invention is, primarily, to employ such an attachment that the rear edge, or that opposite to but farthest from the person using said case, is capable of being adjusted in a vertical plane at pleasure. In this way the desired slope or angle of inclination of the writing-case may readily be varied, while the attendant advantages, such as are derived from an ordinary sloping desk, accompany it.

Secondly, my invention consists in the mechanical arrangement of the several parts composing the writing-case, which are such that they may be disengaged from each other and packed snugly away, more particularly since this class of writing-cases are much in use by persons traveling.

The drawings represent, in Figure 1, a perspective of a writing-case embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional elevation of the case, the movable support being also shown partly in section.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a table-top or fixture upon which the writing-case B as an entirety is to be placed, and by which it is to be supported when in use. Said case is composed of a main body or frame, *a*, of any suitable light material, as wood,

leather-board, or analogous substances, preferably rectangular in shape, and made hollow or recessed at *b* to contain writing materials. Access to the latter is had by means of a movable lid or cover, *c*, exteriorly faced with a blotting-pad or some absorbent material.

One objection hitherto to writing-cases of the above class is that the writing-surface has been horizontal, inasmuch as the writing-case has rested flat upon the table or other support, and as an inclined or sloping surface affords greater facility for writing I have secured to the rear edge of the case, or that farthest from the writer and centrally or thereabout, a metallic plate, *D*. The upper surface of this latter is preferably curved to better adapt it to support, by aid of two curved pins, *d d*, also affixed in said edge at each end of the frame *a*, pencils or pens, as may be desired. Furthermore, I have pivotally united this writing-case at *e* to a metal block, *E*, which is centrally bored and adapted to receive a vertical rod, *h*, upon which it slides. The position of said block is maintained or adjusted by the aid of a set-screw, *i*.

To provide a steady support to the rear or elevated edge of the writing-case, the rod *h* is mounted in a broad disk or base, *C*, circular or otherwise, said base resting upon the table, as shown. To render the writing-case peculiarly adapted for travelers, I have screw-threaded the lower extremity of the rod *h*; hence when it is to be packed away the latter may be unscrewed and slipped out from the block *E*, and in this condition the several component parts occupy little or no space.

To render the writing-case as an entirety more complete, I have provided a support, *g*, upon which an inkstand, *F*, may be removably hung; but this arrangement may be omitted, if desired.

The operation of the apparatus is readily comprehended. The individual places the writing-case before him upon a table, or wherever he proposes to write, adjusts the frame *a* to any desired angle by sliding the block *E* up or down upon the rod or post *h*, and then clamps it with the set-screw *i*.

I do not desire to be confined solely to a writing-case as regards the mechanism for mounting and adjusting the same, since a

similar arrangement may be equally applicable to writing-tablets or employed for artists' blocks, in which event it would serve as an easel; or should the block E be pushed up to the upper extremity of the vertical rod *h*, which permits the frame *a* to hang vertically therefrom, it may then be employed, in connection with a piece of silvered glass, as a mirror.

It is to be understood by the above-described mechanism that the angle of inclination in the writing-case is not produced by a swinging movement, since I am aware that many devices have been made in which such object is accomplished by hinging one edge and then swinging up the other. In my invention the rear or back edge moves in vertical planes, while the front edge advances toward or retreats from the supporting-post in a horizontal plane.

What I desire to claim is—

1. A writing-case composed of the frame or slab *a*, with a plane writing-surface, *c*, and a plate, *D*, combined with the base *C*, the vertical rod or standard *h*, and the block *E*, adapted to slide upon the latter and pivotally united to the writing-case frame *a*, substantially for purposes described.

2. The combination, with a table or other support, *A*, a stand composed of a base, *C*, and removable rod *h*, a sliding block, *E*, with its fastening-screw *i*, of a writing-case, *B*, having curved pins *d d*, and pivotally united to said block, whereby the rear part can be raised to change the inclination of said writing-case, substantially as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES E. HICKS.

Witnesses:

H. E. LODGE,
E. K. BOYNTON.