

(No Model.)

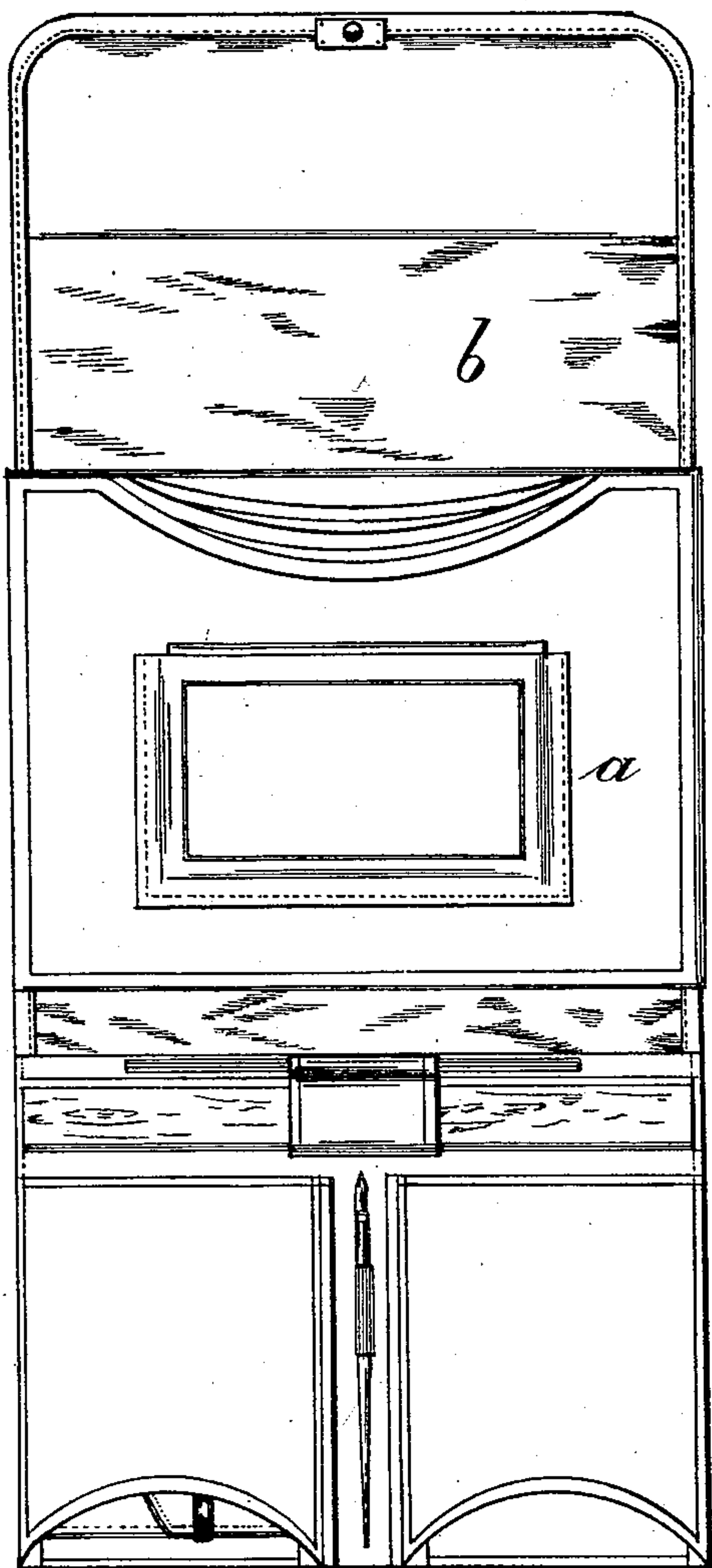
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. SCHÄFER.
ADJUSTABLE BACK FOR BOOKS, &c.

No. 508,988.

Patented Nov. 21, 1893.

Fig. 1.

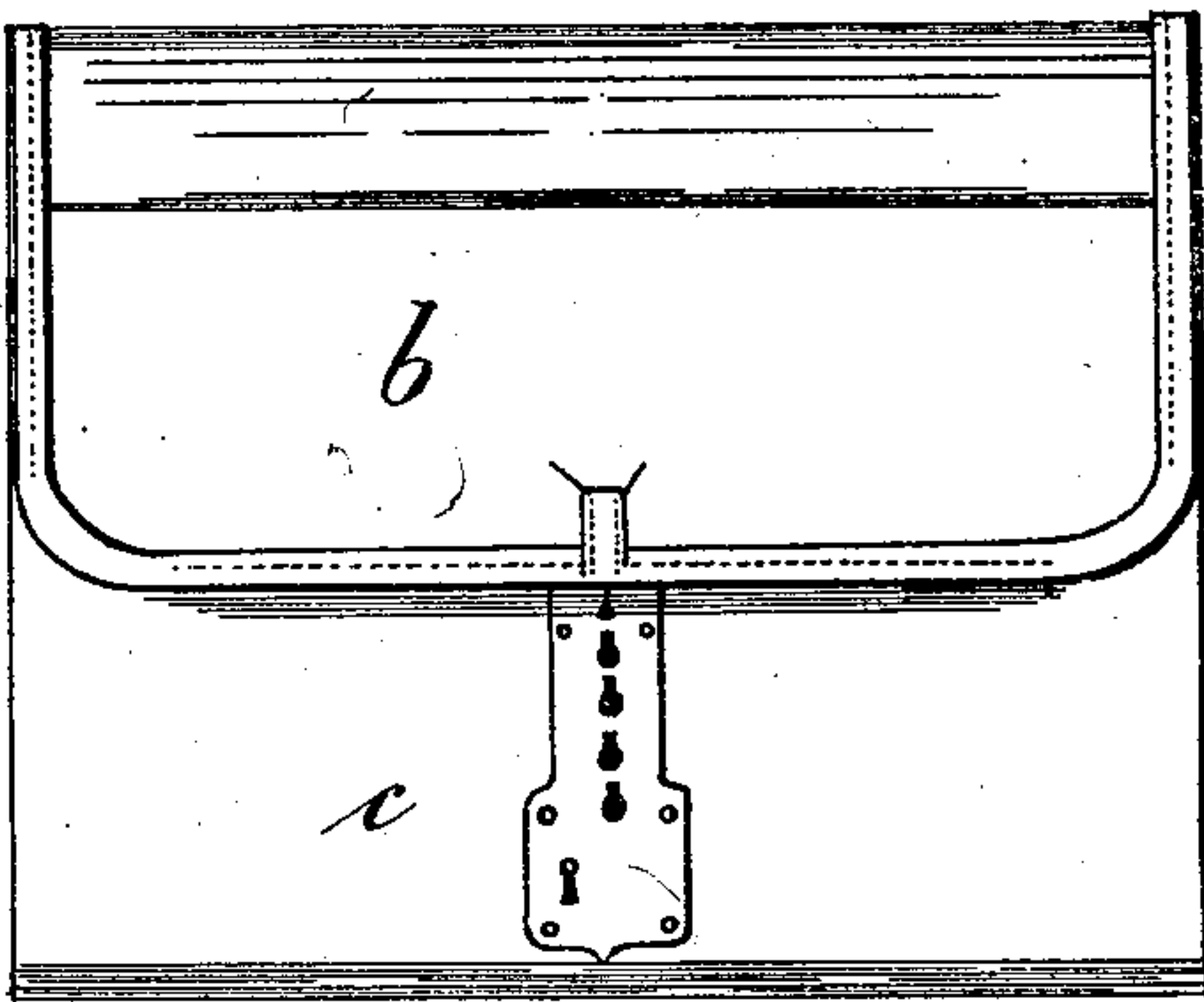


g

Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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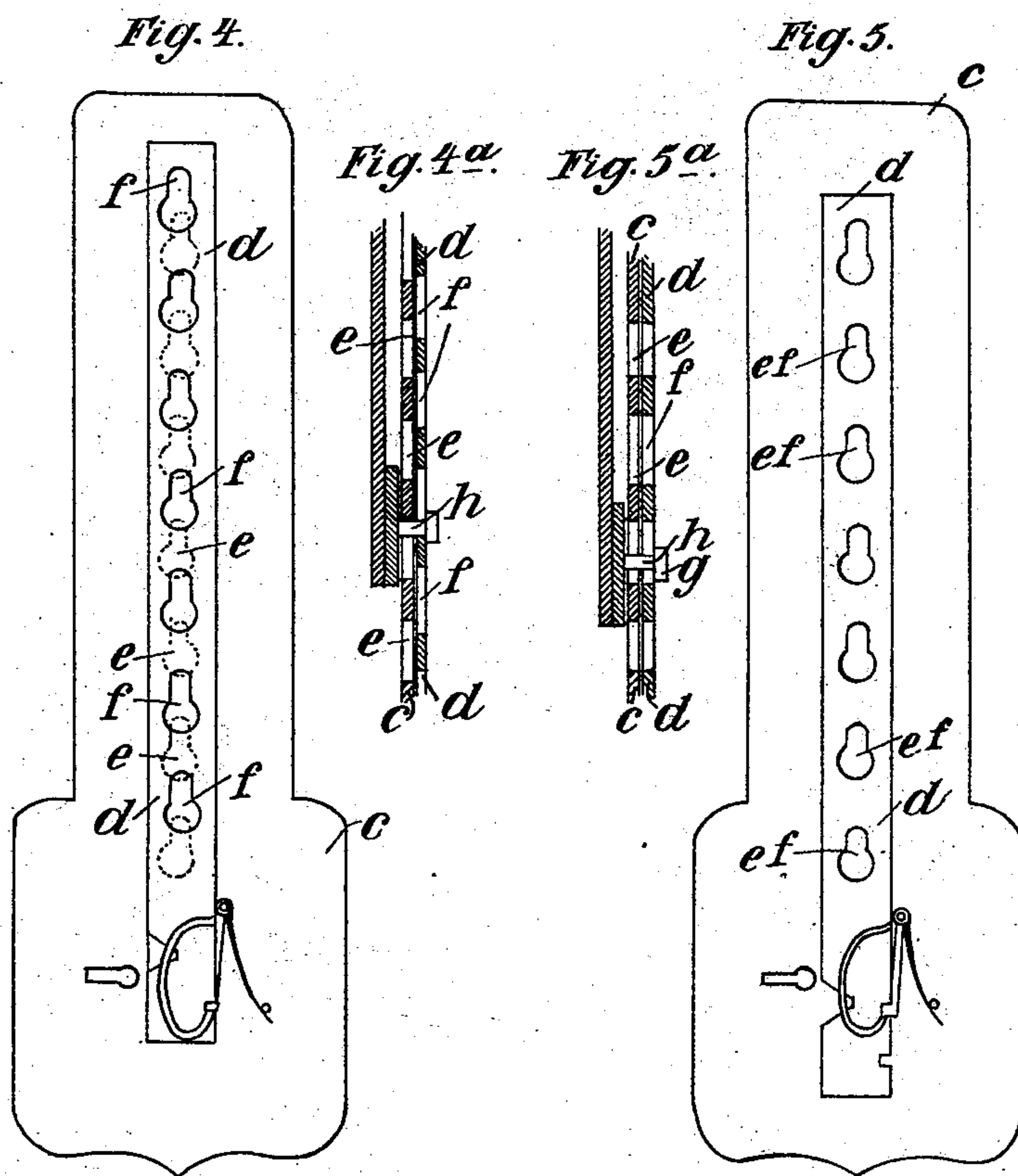
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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ADJUSTABLE BACK FOR BOOKS, &c.

No. 508,988.

Patented Nov. 21, 1893.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERNST SCHÄFER, OF ISERLOHN, ASSIGNOR TO JOSEF SCHMITZ-SCHLAGLOTH,
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ADJUSTABLE BACK FOR BOOKS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 508,988, dated November 21, 1893.

Application filed April 13, 1893. Serial No. 470,165. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNST SCHÄFER, of Iserlohn, in the Kingdom of Prussia and German Empire, have invented a new and useful Adjustable Back for the Covers of Books, Pocket-Books, Letter-Cases, Note-Books, Purses, and the Like, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 The object of the present invention is an adjustable back for books, letter-cases and the like, of every kind.

It is well known that note-cases and the like, as used hitherto, are not very suitable for carrying purposes, as by the width of the back of any such article the thickness thereof, as well as the capacity of the various partitions, is determined. In the back hitherto used it has been necessary to have a somewhat complicated construction, in order to secure greater width or commodiousness. In this way, however, a bulging appearance is given to the purse or pocket-book, which soon wears out, the lock also being strained and damaged.

25 All the above mentioned defects are overcome by the present invention which consists, chiefly, in the back being adjustable according to the number of the inclosures. Letter-cases and other articles can, thus, be preserved in good condition, irrespective of the fact of their being empty, or partially or wholly filled, the sides remaining always parallel to each other and the lock, even if of the most ordinary construction, remaining always in good condition, no matter how many inclosures may be introduced. At the same time, a far greater durability of the pocket-book or letter-case is secured.

40 The whole construction of the purse itself consists of two parts. The one part is composed of two layers of leather or suitable material, sewed together at the top and bottom, the sides being left open, while the other part is moved backward and forward through the open sides of the former.

45 Another feature of this invention consists in the lock. The locks used hitherto, in consequence of the strain which they undergo, become easily and rapidly injured. I have accordingly constructed a special kind of lock, by means of which a secure fastening is ob-

tained and the lock preserved in good condition, no matter what number of inclosures may be introduced.

In the inclosed drawings the invention is 55 represented.

Figure 1 shows the letter case, pocket-book or other article open. Fig. 2 is an edge view. Fig. 3 is a view showing the pocket book or letter case closed. Figs. 4 and 5 represent 60 the locking slides in the locked and unlocked positions and Figs. 4^a and 5^a are sectional views of portions of said slides.

The part *a* composed of two portions, sewed together, forms the back of the pocket-book 65 or letter-case. It can be provided with an unlimited number of pockets and receive any number of inclosures. The part *a* which is provided with a series of pockets has a passage through it at the back open at top and bottom and through this passage the back *b* 70 passes and thus the part *b* may freely slide up and down on the back to adjust the size of the covering flap of the part *b* to the requirements of the part *a*.

75 The part *b* while forming the back of the pocket-book or letter-case may be provided with a number of pockets, as at *c*, into which any required number of inclosures may be introduced. 80

As before stated the part *b* may be drawn to the extent of its own length through the opening left in the sides of the part *a*. When inclosures are introduced into the pockets the part *a* moves automatically in the direction of the lock. If the inclosures be removed, either partially or wholly, the part *a* is worked backward, in the direction of the lock, by a slight movement of the hand. 85

The fastening may be effected in different 90 ways, for instance, by an india rubber band, by a strap of leather, by buckles, or otherwise.

If the case be large, and it is found desirable to do so, leather straps or handles may 95 be employed for carrying purposes.

The lock used in this invention should be such as is usually applied to articles as before described but be provided with several holes, so as to allow of the fastening being effected 100 at a point higher up or lower down, accordingly as the pocket book, or case, is increased

or reduced in bulk by the introduction or removal of inclosures. In the key plate or scutcheon *c*, Figs. 4 and 5^a, are provided holes *e* cut at right angles and serving to receive
5 and retain the closing knob or head *g* and its neck *h*. The plate *d* behind the key plate *c* is provided with corresponding holes *f* of the same shape as the holes *e*.

The locking is effected by introducing the
10 knob or head *g* into one of the small holes *e* *f* (Figs. 5 and 5^a). The necks *h* of the knobs or heads *g* enter the rectangular holes *e* *f* when the pocket book or case is pressed tightly for the purpose of closing it. If the key be
15 now turned, the plate *d* will rise upward and the hole *f* be brought level with the neck *h* (Figs. 4 and 4^a). In this way the knob *g* is retained in the hole *e*.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In combination with a back piece *b*, a part *a* having pockets sliding on said back piece *b*, substantially as described.

2. In combination, a back piece *b* having pockets permanently secured to the lower
25 part thereof, and a sliding pocket part *a*, substantially as described.

3. In combination, a back piece *b*, a sliding pocketed part *a* carried thereby, a locking knob carried on the upper end of said piece
30 *b*, a series of locking notches in a plate in the lower end of said part *b*, a locking slide and a key for operating the same, substantially as described.

Barmen, the 24th day of February, 1893.

ERNST SCHÄFER.

Witnesses:

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