(No Model.)

E. W. WOODRUFF.

CABINET.

No. 535,782. Patented Mar. 12, 1895.

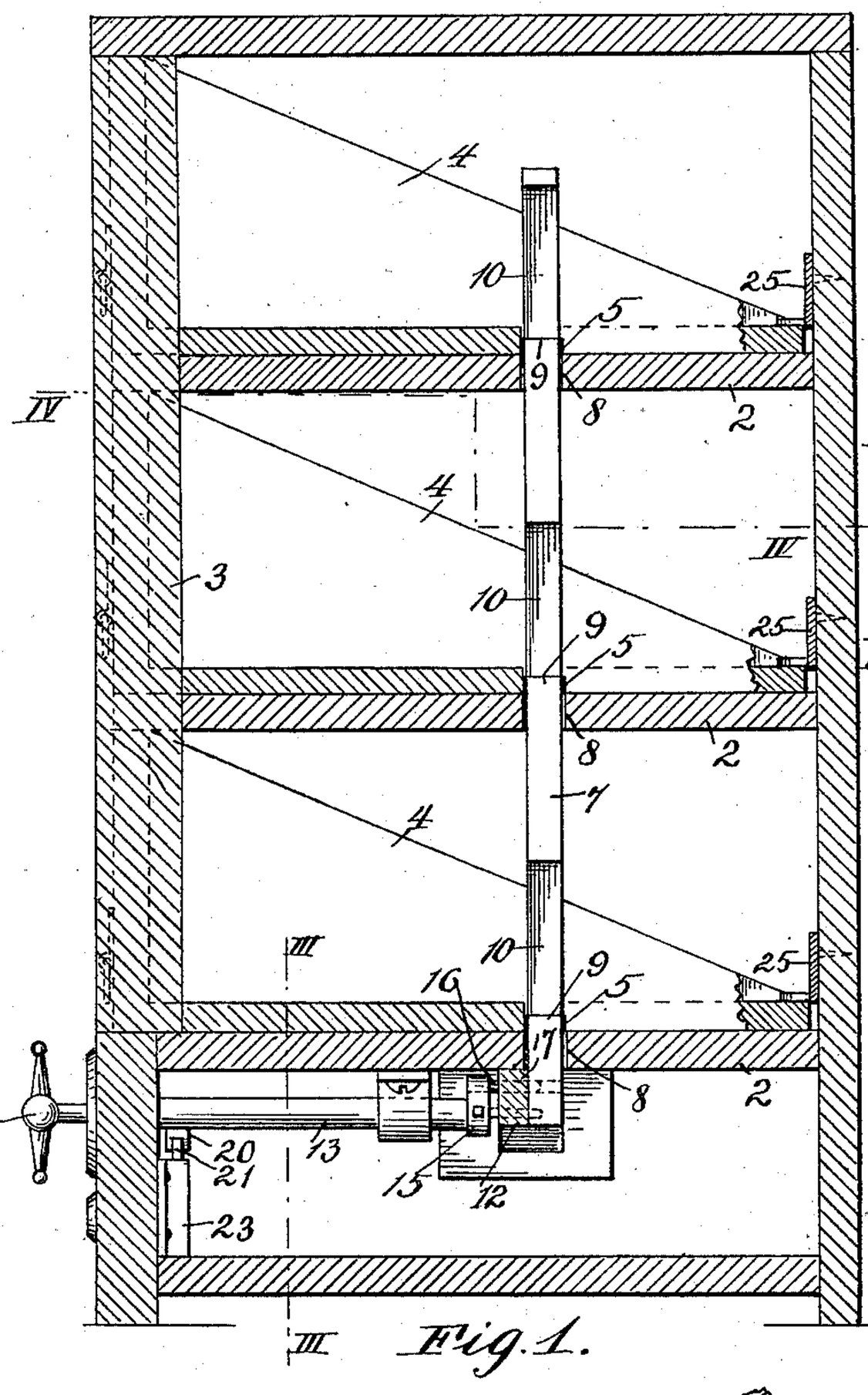

Fig. 1.

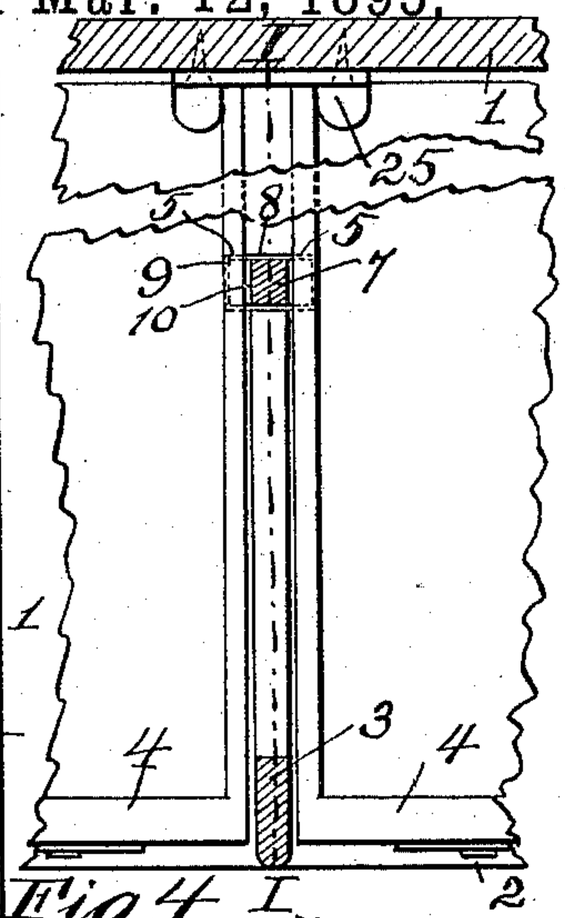

Fig. 4.

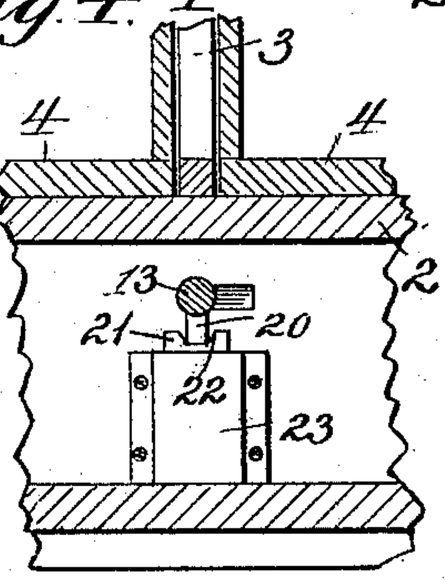

Fig. 3.

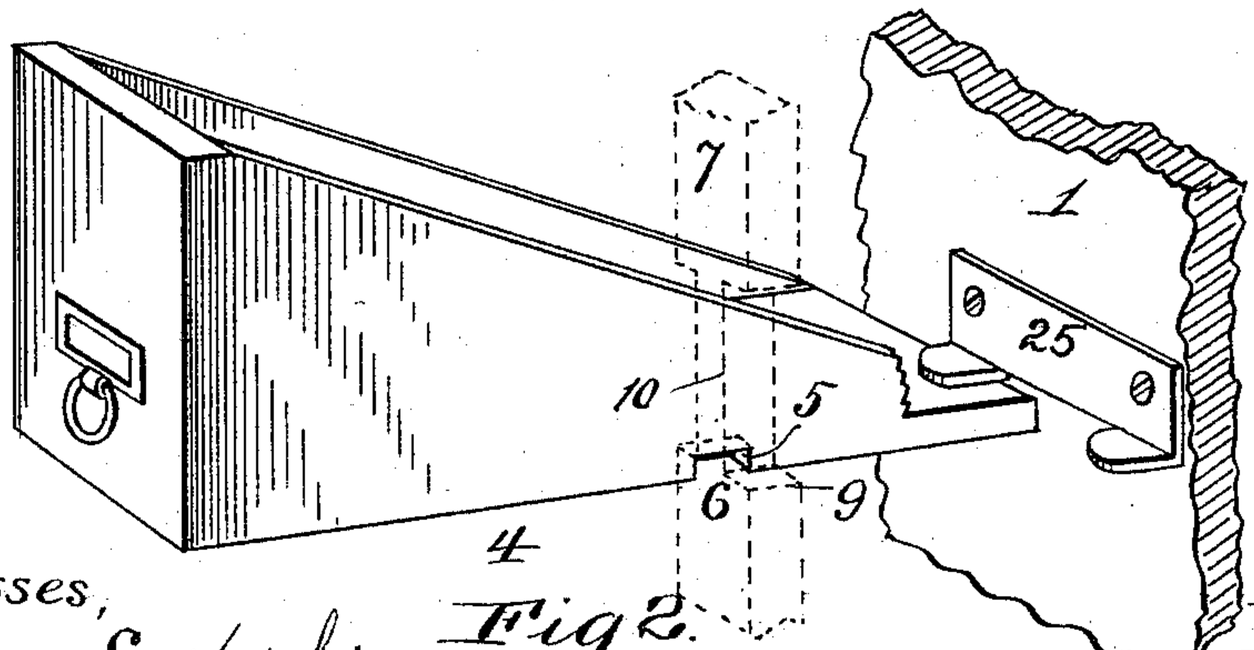

Fig 2.

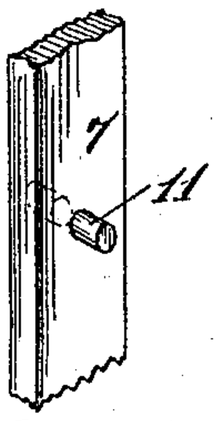

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDMUND W. WOODRUFF, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CABINET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 535,782, dated March 12, 1895.

Application filed June 2, 1894. Serial No. 513,307. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDMUND W. WOODRUFF, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

My present improvements relate to that class of cabinets for file boxes or analogous receptacles which are adapted to securely lock the receptacles in their places within the cabinet so that their contents may be kept private and safe and are especially adapted for so locking those receptacles the sides of which are, at the back of the box, lower than the fronts of the receptacles.

The principal objects of my invention are to render the locking of the receptacles more secure by causing the locking devices to engage a portion of the file box itself as distinguished from engaging an attachment with which the box may be provided; to simplify and cheapen the construction by combining with the locking devices the shelves or supports of the file boxes or other receptacles in such manner that said supports furnish bearings or guides for the locking devices in the locking and unlocking movements of the latter; and to lessen the number of locking devices by combining them with the receptacle in such manner that each device will serve to lock two of the receptacles.

From considerations of economy and security it is very desirable to arrange the locking devices in the form of vertical bars situated intermediate between the file boxes and provided with stops or shoulders which engage corresponding stops or shoulders upon such boxes. The sides of these boxes are however of relatively thin material and it is not feasible to form notches in their upper edges which will afford secure and strong locking shoulders. It is therefore necessary to form the locking notches or recesses in the bottoms of the holders, and in such case it is further necessary that the locking bars, when they are moved into their locking position, shall be thrust upward into place. The arrangement thus described would form a very efficient and secure cabinet lock for file boxes, except for the fact that the rear ends of such boxes are usually lower than their fronts, the side pieces ordinarily tapering down from the front to the back of the box upon a diagonal line. This configuration of the box or holder enables its upper front end to be tilted outward, causing a corresponding upward tilting of the inner ends, which would release from the locking shoulders of the vertically movable rods the recesses in the bottoms of the boxes. To obviate this last mentioned difficulty I have combined with the boxes recessed as described, and with the vertically movable locking bars, stops secured within the cabinet and overhanging the rear ends of the file boxes so as to prevent said ends from being tilted upwardly with the above mentioned undesirable result.

With such objects in view, my invention consists in the parts and combinations thereof hereinafter more particularly set forth.

In order to make my invention more clearly understood, I have shown in the accompanying drawings means for carrying the same into practical effect, without limiting my improvements in their useful applications to the particular constructions which, for the sake of illustration, I have delineated.

In said drawings:—Figure 1 is a vertical sectional view on line I—I, Fig. 4, of a cabinet embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a file-box or holder adapted for use with my invention showing also a portion of the cabinet with one of its fixed stops, and, in dotted lines, one of the locking bars. Fig. 3 is a sectional view on line III III Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a sectional view on line IV IV Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a perspective view illustrating a detail of another form of my invention.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates a cabinet or frame, in this instance arranged for receiving what are known as file boxes, for the securing of which latter in their spaces or pigeon-holes, my invention is applied.

2 indicates the shelves, ledges, flanges or other supports of the cabinet upon which the boxes rest and slide, and 3 denotes vertical members, which may or may not be employed, dividing the cabinet into spaces or pigeon-holes for the file-boxes or equivalent receptacles. The latter are shown at 4, and are provided upon their under sides with shoulders or stops 5, adapted to be engaged by the locking or securing devices. These shoulders are

conveniently formed by cutting in the bottom of the file-box a recess 6, the rear wall of which constitutes the shoulder. The shoulders 5 are made right and left upon the successive file boxes in a row, so that the shoulders of each pair of boxes are together and adapted to be engaged by the same locking device situated between the boxes. The locking devices are shown at 7, consisting of rods or bars which are vertical, or transverse to the direction in which the file-boxes reciprocate, and which are mounted in suitable bearings in the cabinet. These bearings are indicated at 8, situated in the dividing plane of each pair of boxes and are formed in the shelves or equivalent horizontal supports 2. The locking bars 7 are formed or provided with shoulders or stops 9 adapted, by a suitable motion of the bar, to be brought up in front of and into the path of the shoulders 5 on the file-boxes when the latter are in place in the cabinet and effectually prevent their withdrawal.

The stops 9 may be conveniently formed by the full thickness of the bars 7, in which case the latter are recessed as at 10, contiguous to said stops. When the cabinet is unlocked the bars 7 are moved down to bring their said recesses into line with the stops 5 on the receptacles, thus permitting the latter to be removed from or inserted in their pigeon-holes. The bars 7 may, however, be made thin, without recesses 10, and provided with stops in the shape of projecting pins 11, as seen in Fig. 5.

Various means may be employed to move the securing bars 7 so as to bring their stops into and out of engagement with those of the receptacles. I may employ a known form of mechanism comprising a horizontal transverse bar 12 connected with the lower ends of the bars 7, and a rock shaft 13 passing through the front of the case, having an operating handle 14, and connected with said bar 12 by a crank arm 15, having a wrist pin 16, entering a horizontal transverse slot 17 in the bar. Any suitable locking device may be applied to secure said mechanism from movement. I prefer, however, to provide the rock shaft 13 with a radial projection 20, and to combine with the latter a reciprocating bolt 21 having in its end a recess 22. By this device, when the bolt is thrust toward the rock shaft, the projection on the latter is engaged upon both sides and securely held. Said bolt may form a part of a lock 23, affixed to the frame of the cabinet and operated by a key which may be inserted through the front of the cabinet in the usual manner.

From Fig. 1 it will be seen that when the securing bars 7 are in their raised or locking positions the crank arm 15 is on its dead center, that is, the pin 16 is directly over the shaft 13, thus preventing the falling of the bars.

As in practice the file boxes do not exactly fit their pigeon-holes, it might be possible, to so tilt or move the boxes as to disengage the recesses from the stops of the securing bars. To prevent this I have provided stops 25 which are secured to the inner rear wall of the cabinet and overhanging the rear ends of the boxes. These stops are so constructed and placed that one stop is capable of holding two contiguous boxes, and in conjunction with the bars 7 they hold perfectly rigid the boxes.

I claim—

In a file box cabinet, the combination with the boxes or holders lower at their rear than at their front ends and provided in their under sides with recesses, of locking devices comprising movable bars arranged between the boxes and having stops adapted to be entered into said recesses, means for actuating said bars, and fixed stops secured in the cabinet and overhanging the rear ends of the boxes, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

EDMUND W. WOODRUFF.

Witnesses:
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CHAS. W. PARKER.