

No. 676,951.

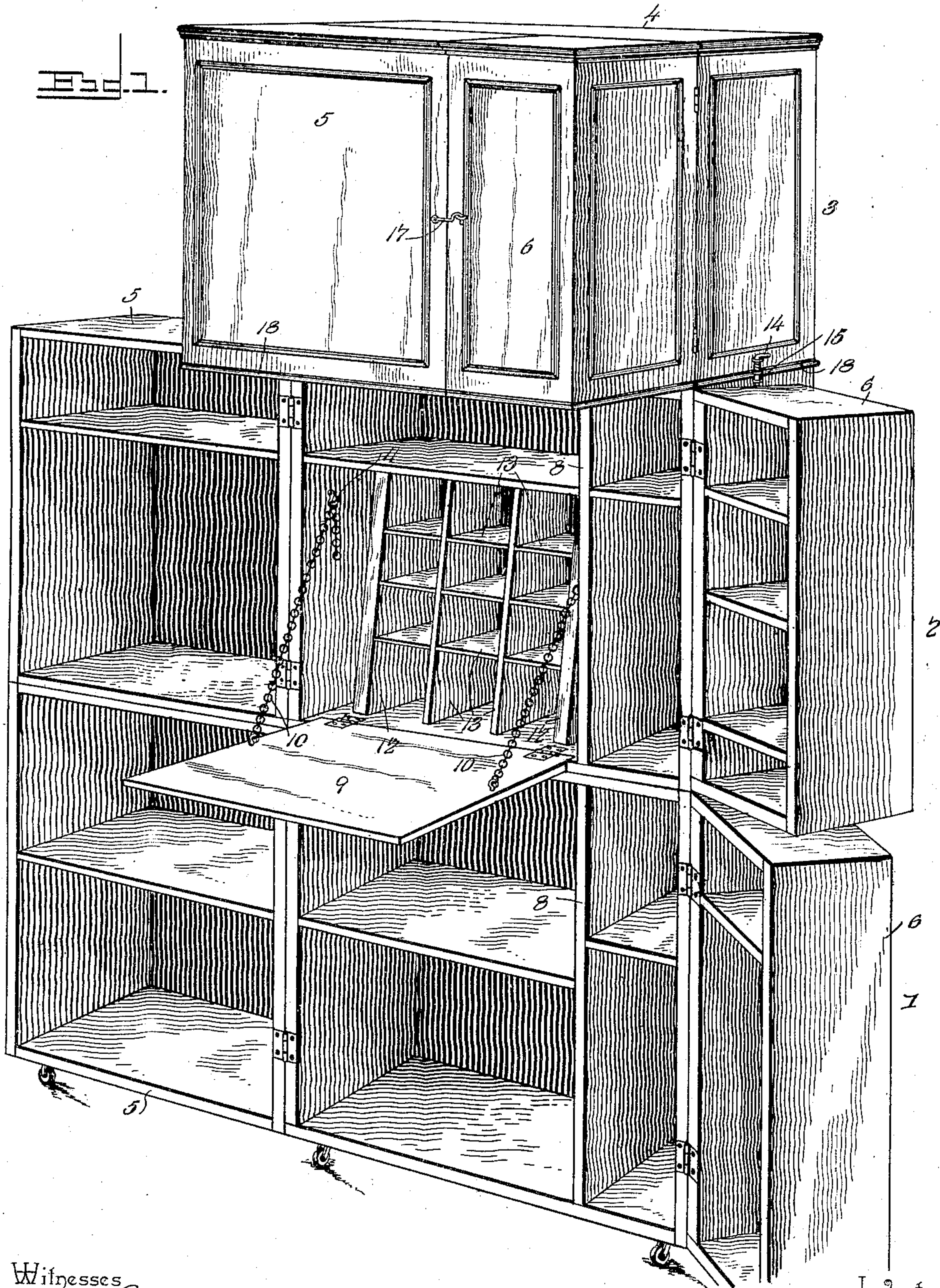
Patented June 25, 1901.

J. M. L. HOYLE.
COMBINED BOOKCASE AND DESK.

(No Model.)

(Application filed Aug. 2, 1899.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses
E. Stewart,
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By *his* Attorneys,

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James M. L. Hoyle

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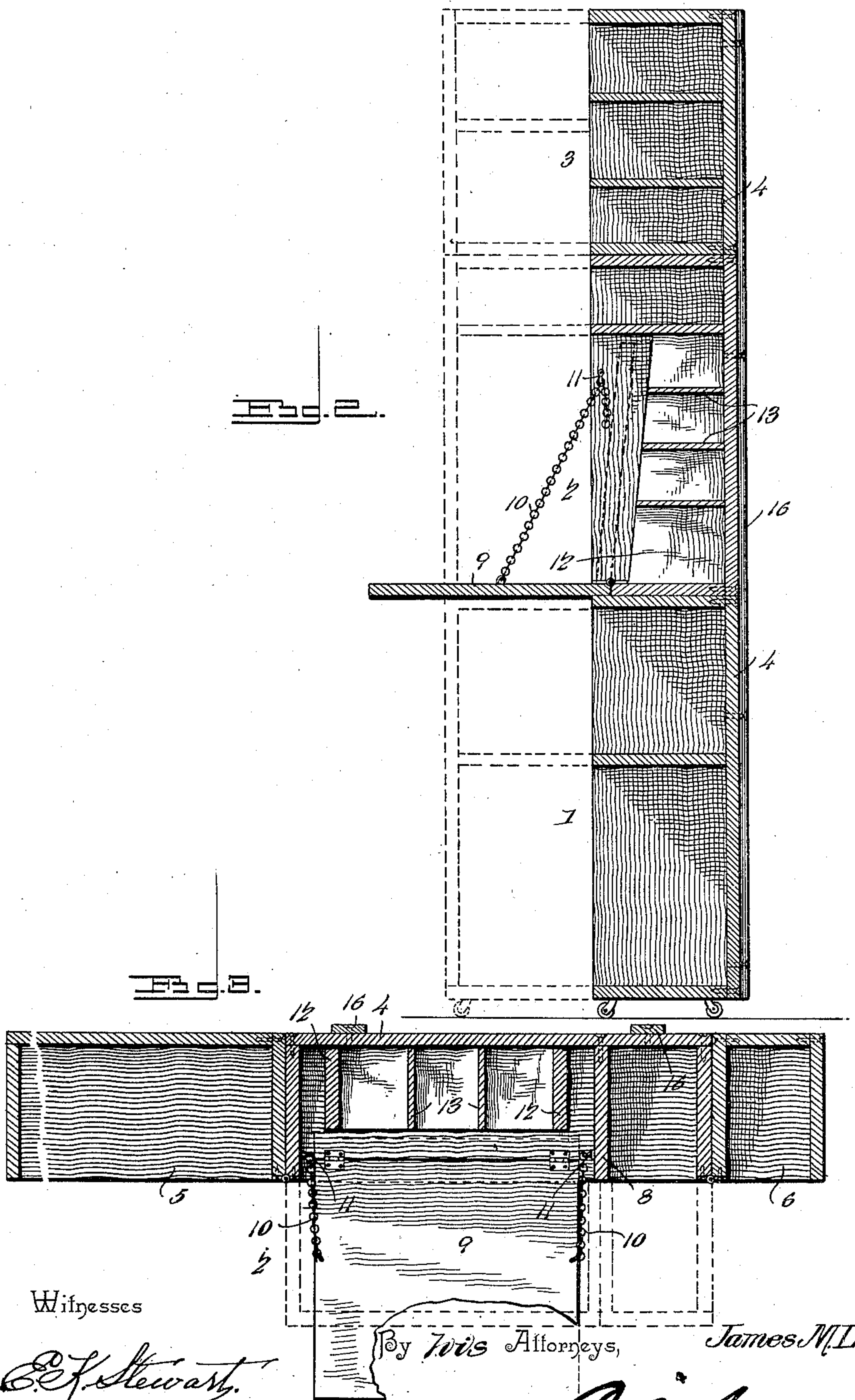
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. L. HOYLE, OF JAMESTOWN, MISSOURI.

COMBINED BOOKCASE AND DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 676,951, dated June 25, 1901.

Application filed August 2, 1899. Serial No. 725,905. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES M. L. HOYLE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jamestown, in the county of Moniteau and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Combined Bookcase and Desk, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to bookcases, and has for its object to produce a combined bookcase and desk which shall be formed in sections, each section being different from the others, yet adapted to be so combined together that when they are assembled they will form an article of great capacity and convenience.

The invention consists in the combination and improved construction of parts, as will be hereinafter more particularly set forth.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which the same reference-numeral indicates a corresponding part in each of the views in which it occurs, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved bookcase and desk, partly open. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view showing it open in full lines and closed in dotted lines, and Fig. 3 is a similar horizontal view.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 1, 2, and 3 indicate the sections comprising my improved bookcase and desk, each of which consists of a main portion or back 4 and two front portions or doors 5 and 6, so hinged together that when closed the two front portions will meet in front of the main portion and close the same. I prefer to make the front portions of unequal width, which will cause the point of separation between them to come at one side of the center. Each portion of each section is provided with horizontal shelves, and the main portion is provided with a vertical partition 8 at one side of the center to correspond with the meeting edges of the front portions. When the case is open, this construction forms two sets of shelves or receptacles on one side of the partition, one set in the back and one set in the front, and two sets of pigeonholes or smaller receptacles on the other side of the partition, one set in the back and one in the front. When the case is closed, either the shelves or the pigeonholes may be opened without the necessity of opening the other, the wider por-

tion of the front covering the shelves and the narrower portion covering the pigeonholes.

Although the sections are of the same capacity horizontally, so that their sides will correspond with each other when placed one on top of the other, the vertical capacity is different—that is, I prefer to make the bottom section of the greatest height for the reception of the largest and heaviest books, the second section of a less height for medium-sized books, and the top section of the least height for the reception of the smaller books. The smaller and lighter sections are thus placed at the top, which will make it more convenient in taking down or setting up the case, as the sections are to be handled without moving their contents, and it also permits of the heavier books being removed and replaced from the bottom with the least trouble and exertion. The bottom section should be made of such a height as to support the middle section high enough for a desk, which is higher than is necessary for the other sections.

The middle section is provided with a hinged shelf or leaf 9, which may be lowered to form a desk. The leaf is of a less length than the entire width of the section and is supported in its lowered position by means of a cord or chain 10, the rear end of which is secured to the back by means of a hook 11. By adjustably securing the chain to the hook the inclination of the desk may be raised to suit the convenience of the person using it. A portion of the front edge of the bottom of the intermediate section 2 is cut away, so as to expose a portion of the top of the bottom section 1, and the leaf 9 is hingedly connected to the edge of the cut-away portion, so as to lie flush with the bottom of the intermediate section when the leaf is extended to form a desk and also to rest upon the exposed portion of the bottom section as a support. By thus cutting away the intermediate section the leaf lies within the outer edges of the section, so that the opposite doors may close flush against the fixed section. That portion of the back to which the leaf is hinged is provided with two vertical walls or partitions 12 12, one near each side thereof, between which may be placed a series of racks 13 to

form receptacles for smaller articles. The partitions 12 and the racks do not extend out to the edge of the section, as do the other partitions and shelves, thereby causing a space to be formed between the receptacles and the desk when in its elevated position. By locating the partitions 12 near each side of the portion of the section to which the leaf is hinged two narrow spaces are formed of the entire height of the section, thereby affording very convenient receptacles for account-books and the like, and by locating the desk-lid in front of the portion covered only by the wider door access can be had to it by opening only one door instead of two, as would have to be done if the doors were of equal width or if the leaf extended the full width of the section. When the doors are open, the desk is located substantially midway of the width of the case, as the small door and its portion of the case are of substantially the same width as the wider door. This gives convenient access to all portions of the bookcase to a person seated at the desk. In moving or shipping this section cloth, paper, or other soft material can be placed over the books or other contents of the receptacles and the desk closed over them, which will prevent them from being injured or lost out of their respective places.

To prevent the sections from becoming separated or moved out of place, they may be connected together by spring hooks or clasps 14, which project beyond the top or bottom of the sections and engage with a loop or catch 15 in the adjoining section. An additional fastening may be provided in the form of strips 16, which may be nailed or otherwise secured to the back of the different sections. The doors of each section may be locked or fastened together in any suitable manner, as shown at 17. Beading or strips 18 may be placed over the joints between the doors or sections to make a neat appearance and to keep out the dust.

As above described, it will be seen that by providing the doors with receptacles or shelves instead of having them flat or plain the capacity of the case is doubled, and by separating the front into sections vertically

and horizontally access is had to all or any portion of the case, as desired, and the size of the case may be increased or diminished by adding or removing sections, as I do not limit myself to the three sections shown. It is also evident that the middle section may be used alone by being placed on suitable supports to hold it at the proper height for use as a desk. If desired, the bottom section may be provided with casters in the usual manner.

When it is desired to move the case, the doors of the sections are closed and locked and the sections separated. Each section is then packed or crated by itself without removing or disturbing its contents and moved to the desired place, where the sections may be again assembled, when the case is ready for use as soon as the doors are opened.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

A bookcase comprising the vertically-arranged separate and independent top bottom and intermediate sections removably supported one upon the other, each section being complete and composed of a back portion and doors of unequal width hinged to the side walls of the back portion and arranged to close over the front of the latter, the desk-lid hinged to the bottom of the intermediate section and inwardly offset from the front edge of the top of the bottom section and supported upon the latter when it is swung downward to a horizontal position, hooks arranged at the inner faces of the end walls of the intermediate section, chains secured to the desk-lid and detachably engaging the hooks, whereby the desk-lid is adjustably connected with the intermediate section, and the fastening devices arranged on the exterior of the side walls of the back portions of the sections and detachably connecting the same, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES M. L. HOYLE.

Witnesses:

GEORGE GENTZSCH,
J. B. INGRAHM.