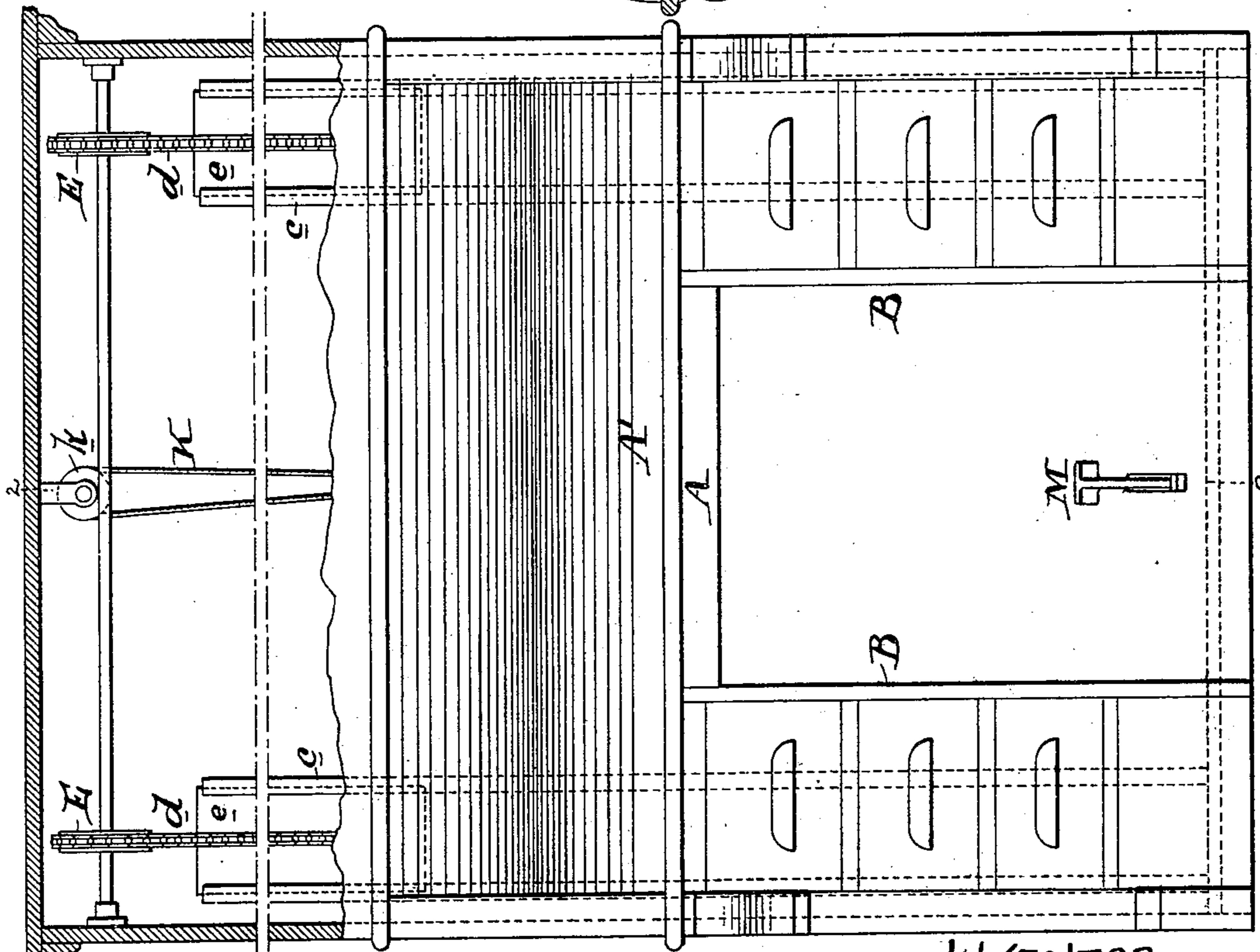
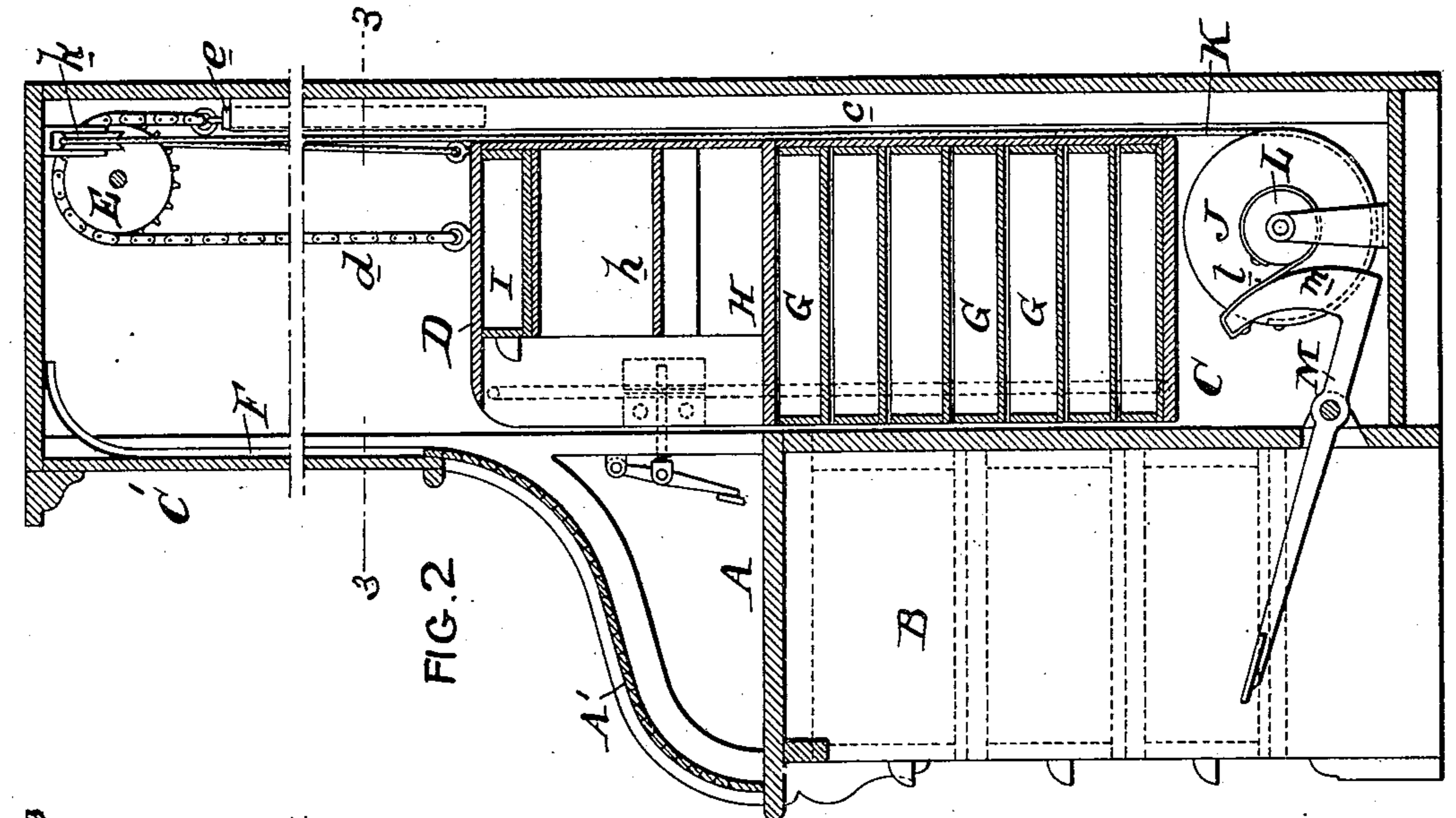


J. B. ROHRER.
OFFICE DESK.

(Application filed Oct. 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



WITNESSES:
Henry Dunning
R. M. Kelly

FIG. 1.

INVENTOR:
John B. Rohrer
By [Signature]

J. B. ROHRER.
OFFICE DESK.

(Application filed Oct. 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

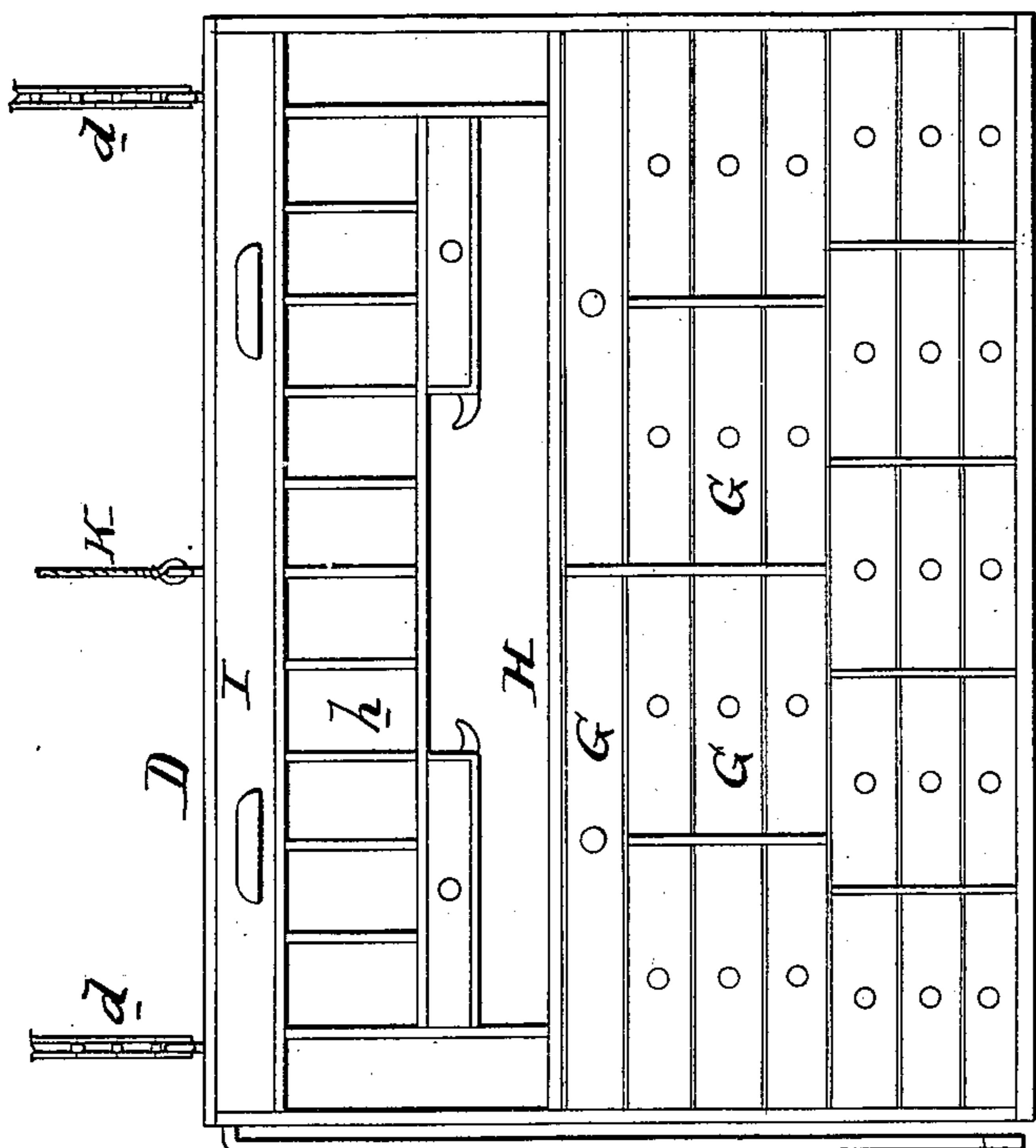


FIG. 4

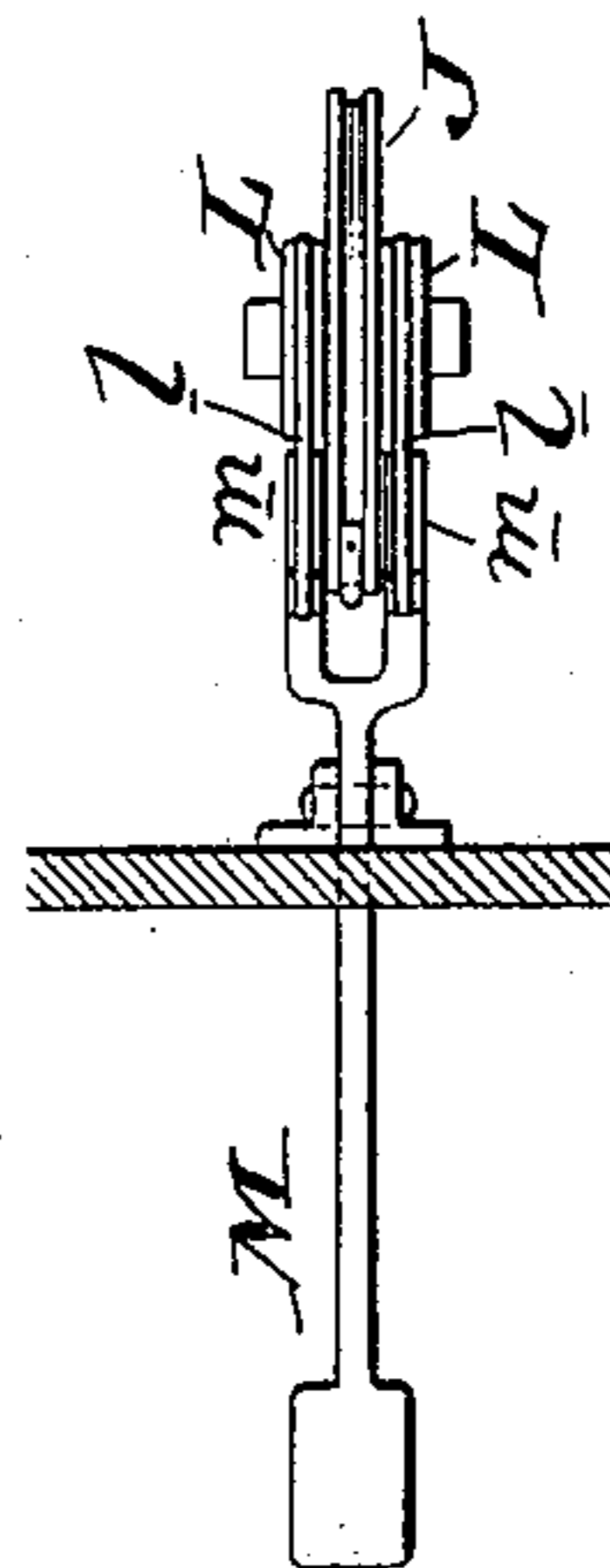


FIG. 5

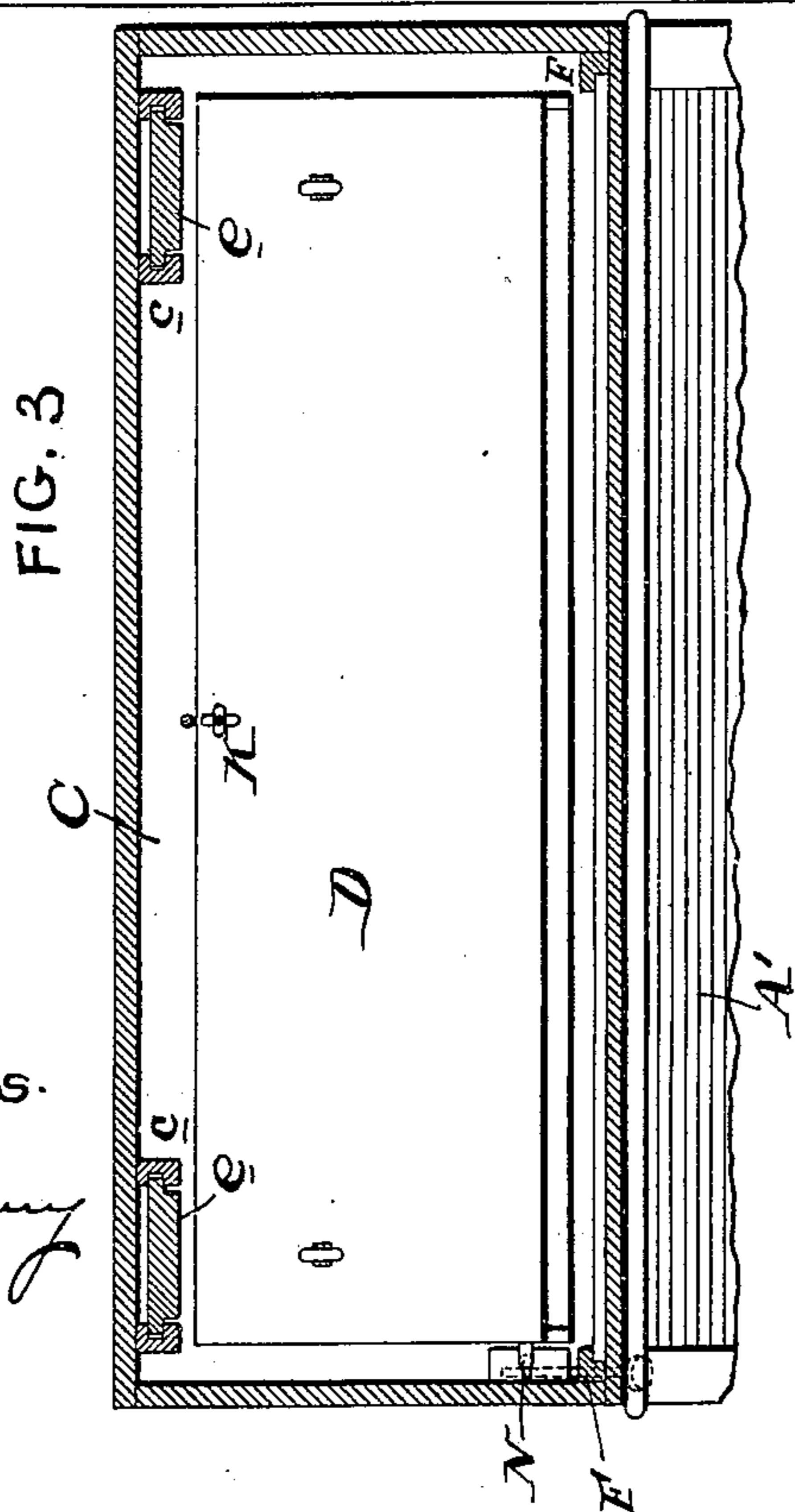


FIG. 3

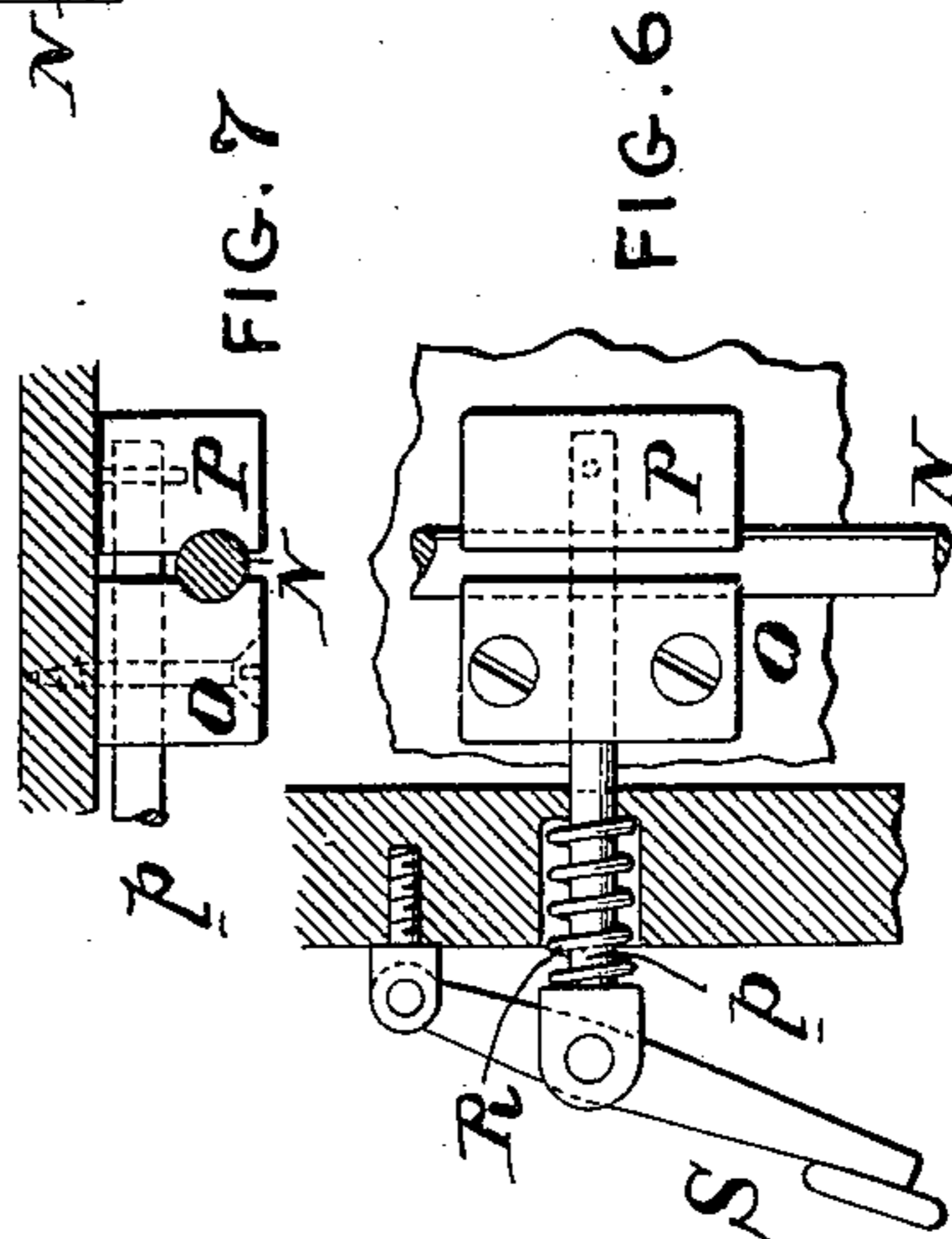


FIG. 7

FIG. 6

WITNESSES.

Harry Denny
R. M. Kelly

INVENTOR.

John B. Rohrer
By *[Signature]*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. ROHRER, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO
ELWOOD ROHRER, OF SAME PLACE.

OFFICE-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,802, dated July 2, 1901.

Application filed October 8, 1900. Serial No. 32,380. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. ROHRER, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improvement in Office-Desks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has reference to office-desks; and it consists of certain improvements fully set forth in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, which form a part thereof.

The object of my invention is to provide a construction of desk which shall obviate the employment of long drawers in the pedestal portions and substitute therefor drawers of short or reasonable length, combined with a vertically-adjustable frame at the back portion of the desk and extending downward to the rear of the pedestal-drawers, which frame may be provided with a series of compartments or auxiliary drawers.

In the preferred form of my invention I counterbalance the vertically-adjustable frame and provide a suitable foot-power device to enable me to raise or lower the said frame to any desired position, so as to expose the drawers or compartments in the lower part of said frame for access thereto at a point above the writing-surface of the said desk. I furthermore provide a suitable locking device for holding the said frame in any of its adjusted positions, so that it may be indefinitely maintained in such position after being adjusted. In this manner the movable frame may be provided with a complete set of bill and letter files, any of which may be quickly and easily brought into position to admit of access.

My invention also comprehends various details of construction, all of which will be better understood by reference to the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a desk embodying my invention with the upper part thereof broken away. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section of same on line 2 2. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional plan view through the upper portion of same on line 3 3. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of the vertically-adjustable frame. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the foot-power mechanism. Fig. 6 is a sectional side elevation showing the details of the locking

device for holding the adjustable frame in position, and Fig. 7 is a sectional plan view of a portion of same.

A is the main frame of the desk.

B B are the pedestal portions, having the usual drawers or other construction commonly in use.

A' is the sliding lid and is made of slats in the usual way.

C' is an upper compartment extending above what is normally the top of roll-top desks and is provided with an upwardly-extending guide structure F, into which the roll top or slide A' may be guided when the desk is opened. The drawers of the pedestal parts are made of short length, so as to leave a compartment C the full width of the desk and have a considerable depth to the rear of the drawers or pedestals. This compartment C is in effect extended to the extreme upper compartment C', and intermediate of the bottom and top portions it opens at the front onto the writing portion or table.

D is a rectangular frame guided vertically in the compartments C C' and adapted to assume any vertical position therein. This frame in the position shown in Fig. 2 has the parts H, h, and I formed in the appearance corresponding to the ordinary rear portion of the desk as commonly found on the market; but the lower portion which extends downward into the compartment C is provided with a large number of compartments or drawers, which may be used for letter or bill files and are normally shielded from view and protected against dirt and dust. This frame D is hung from the lower ends of the chains d, said chains passing over wheels E at the upper part of compartment C' of the desk and are counterweighted at e, said counterweights sliding in vertical guides c at the extreme back of the desk. By this means very little power is necessary for raising the frame D, and this power is conveniently applied by means of the mechanism now to be described. A cable K is connected to the upper part of the frame D, and after passing over a pulley k at the top of the compartment C' it extends downward about the periphery of the wheel J and is attached thereto. The wheel J has upon each side a small pulley L,

attached to the peripheral surfaces of which are bands *l*, the other or free ends thereof being secured to the segmental arc-shaped end *m* of a foot-lever *M*. It will now be
 5 seen that by depressing the free end of the lever *M* the pulley *J* will be rotated, taking up the cable *K* and lifting the frame *D*. By employing the large pulley *J* and small pulleys *L* a small movement of the lever *M* will
 10 secure a large movement of the frame *D*. Any other means for elevating the frame *D* may be employed, if so desired, that shown being given as a good example of a simple way of accomplishing the result.

15 The frame *D* is locked in its various positions by means of the following devices: To the side of the frame *D*, I provide a vertical rod *N*, which slides between a fixed jaw *O* on the main frame of the desk and an adjustable
 20 jaw *P*, which is moved by means of a rod *p* and hand-lever *S* against the action of a spring *R*. (More clearly shown in Fig. 6.) The spring *R* normally causes the jaws *O P* to clamp the rod *N* and hold the frame *D* in
 25 whatever position it may be. By pressing in on the lever *S* the rod *N* is released, and the frame *D* may then be elevated or allowed to descend. Any other suitable locking or latching mechanism may be employed to hold the
 30 frame *D* in the proper adjustable position. It is evident that the mere pulling outward to a small extent of one of the drawers or files *G* would lock the frame *D* in its elevated position while the contents of any of the other
 35 drawers above the writing-table portion were being examined.

I do not confine myself to any particular design or minor details of the configuration or construction of the desk proper, as all of
 40 these may be modified or varied without departing from the principles of the invention.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

45 1. In a desk, the combination of the main frame of the desk having the usual pedestal or pedestals at the forward part and a vertical covered compartment at its rear portion of greater height than the table portion of
 50 the desk, with a vertically-adjustable frame guided in said vertical compartment and provided with one or more compartments a portion of which are normally exposed and at all times above the writing-table of the desk and
 55 a portion shielded back of the pedestal portions thereof.

2. In a desk, the combination of the main frame of the desk having the usual pedestal or pedestals at the forward part and a vertical covered compartment at its rear portion
 60 of greater height than the table portion of the desk, with a vertically-adjustable frame guided in said vertical compartment and provided with one or more compartments a portion of which are normally exposed and at all
 65 times above the writing-table of the desk and a portion shielded back of the pedestal por-

tions thereof, and power devices for adjusting the vertically-adjustable frame in its compartment.

70 3. In a desk, the combination of the main frame of the desk having the usual pedestal or pedestals at the forward part and a vertical covered compartment at its rear portion of greater height than the table portion of
 75 the desk, with a vertically-adjustable frame guided in said vertical compartment and provided with one or more compartments a portion of which are normally exposed and at all times above the writing-table of the desk and
 80 a portion shielded back of the pedestal portions thereof, power devices for adjusting the vertically-adjustable frame in its compartment, and counterweights for counterbalancing the vertically-adjustable frame.

85 4. In a desk, the combination of the main frame of the desk having the usual pedestal or pedestals at the forward part and a vertical covered compartment at its rear portion of greater height than the table portion of
 90 the desk, with a vertically-adjustable frame guided in said vertical compartment and provided with one or more compartments a portion of which are normally exposed and at all times above the writing-table of the desk and
 95 a portion shielded back of the pedestal portions thereof, power devices for adjusting the vertically-adjustable frame in its compartment, and a locking device for holding the vertically-adjustable frame in any adjusted
 100 position desired.

5. In a desk, the combination of the main frame of the desk having the usual pedestal or pedestals at the forward part and a vertical covered compartment at its rear portion
 105 of greater height than the table portion of the desk, with a vertically-adjustable frame guided in said vertical compartment and provided with one or more compartments a portion of which are normally exposed and at all
 110 times above the writing-table of the desk and a portion shielded back of the pedestal portions thereof, power devices for adjusting the vertically-adjustable frame in its compartment, consisting of a pulley at the top of the rear
 115 compartment of the desk, a cable connected with the adjustable frame and guided over said pulley, a lever structure at the lower part of the desk, a large pulley to the periphery of which the cable is attached, a small
 120 pulley secured to the large pulley, and a band secured to the periphery of the small pulley at one end to the lever at the other end, whereby a small movement of the lever produces a large movement of the adjustable frame.

125 6. In a desk, the combination of the main frame having a shallow writing-table portion and a vertical inclosed compartment at the rear of the desk extending both above and below said table portion, and open at the
 130 front immediately at the table portion for a part of its height above the table portion, a vertically-adjustable frame adapted to said vertical compartment and provided with

shelves or divisions, and means for adjusting the said frame vertically in said compartment.

7. In a desk, the combination of the main
5 frame having a shallow writing-table portion and a vertical inclosed compartment at the rear of the desk extending both above and below the said table portion and open at the front immediately at the table portion, for
10 a part of its height above the table portion, a vertically-adjustable frame adapted to said compartment and provided with shelves or divisions, counterbalancing devices for coun-

terbalancing the adjustable frame but not sufficient to normally elevate it whereby it 15 may descend by gravity when released, locking devices for locking the frame in its adjusted position, and means for adjusting the said frame vertically in said compartment.

In testimony of which invention I have 20 hereunto set my hand.

JOHN B. ROHRER.

Witnesses:

ERNEST HOWARD HUNTER,
J. W. KENWORTHY.