

No. 755,615.

PATENTED MAR. 29, 1904.

W. E. CHATTERTON.
COMBINATION CASE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

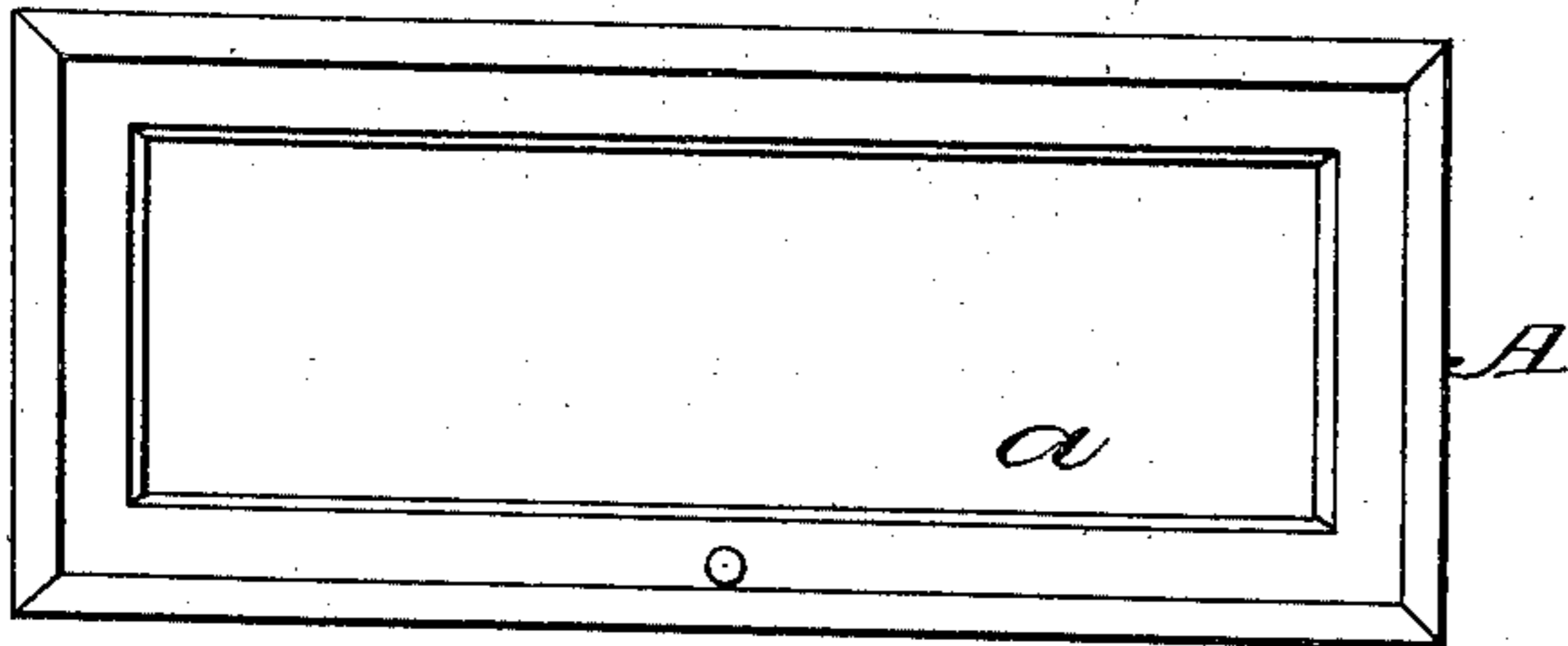


Fig. 2.

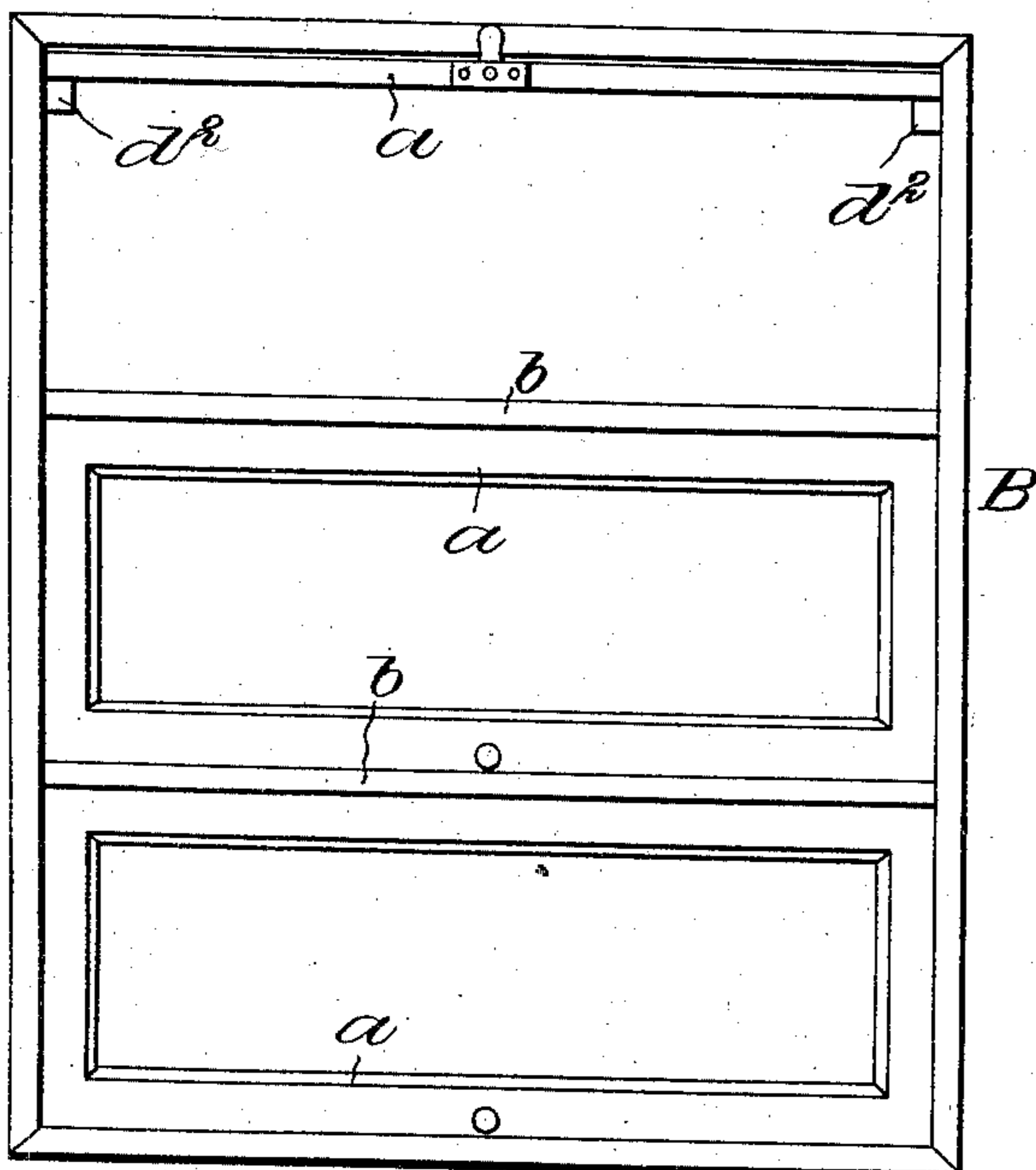


Fig. 3.

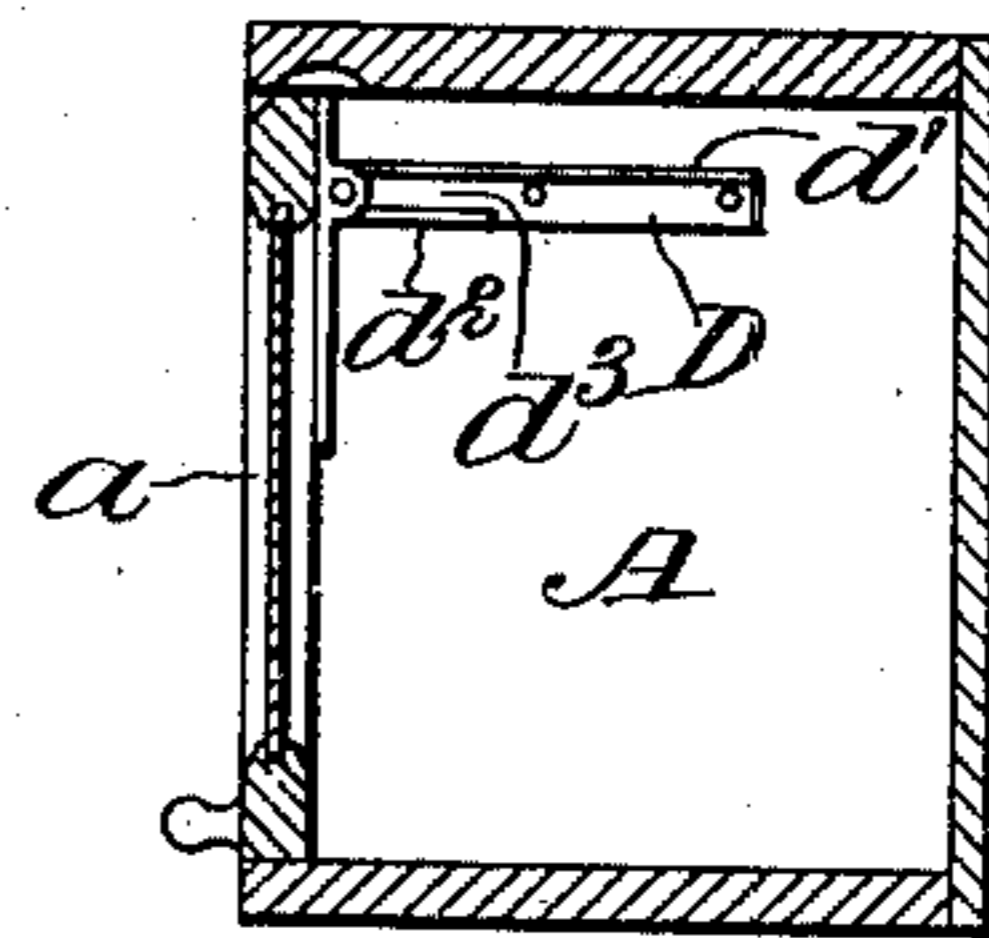


Fig. 4.

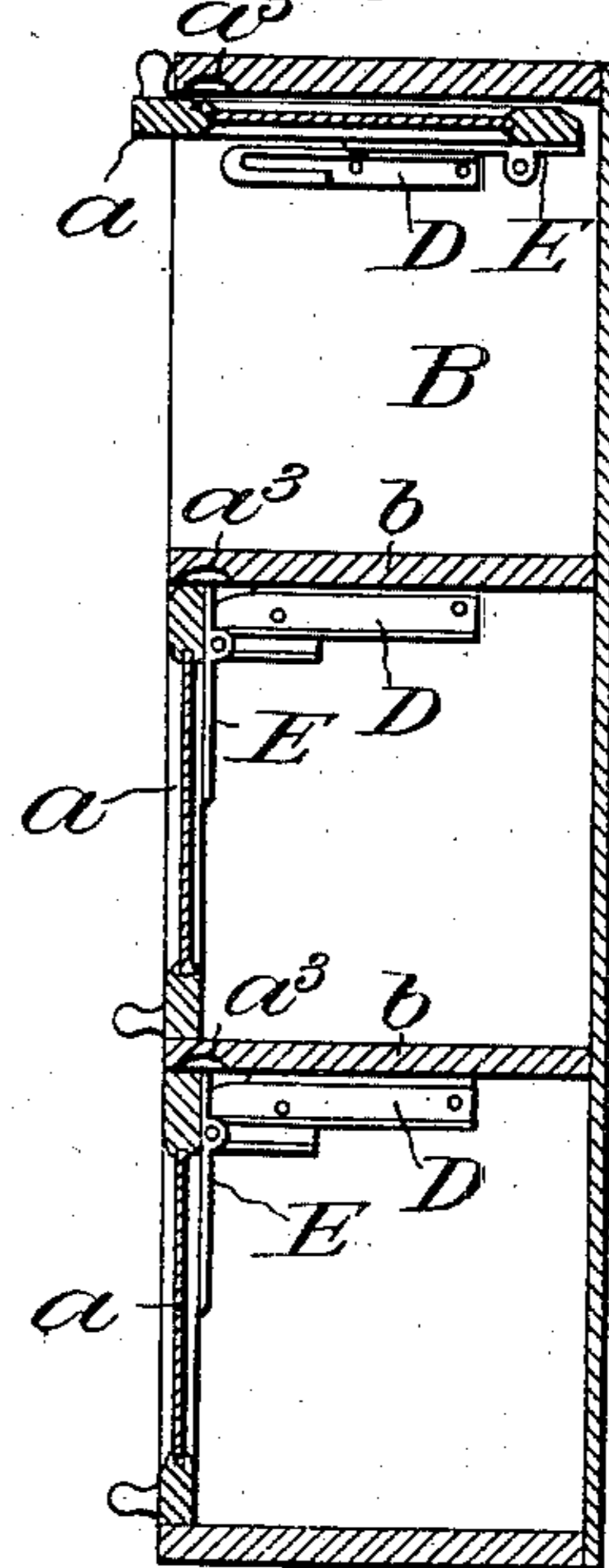
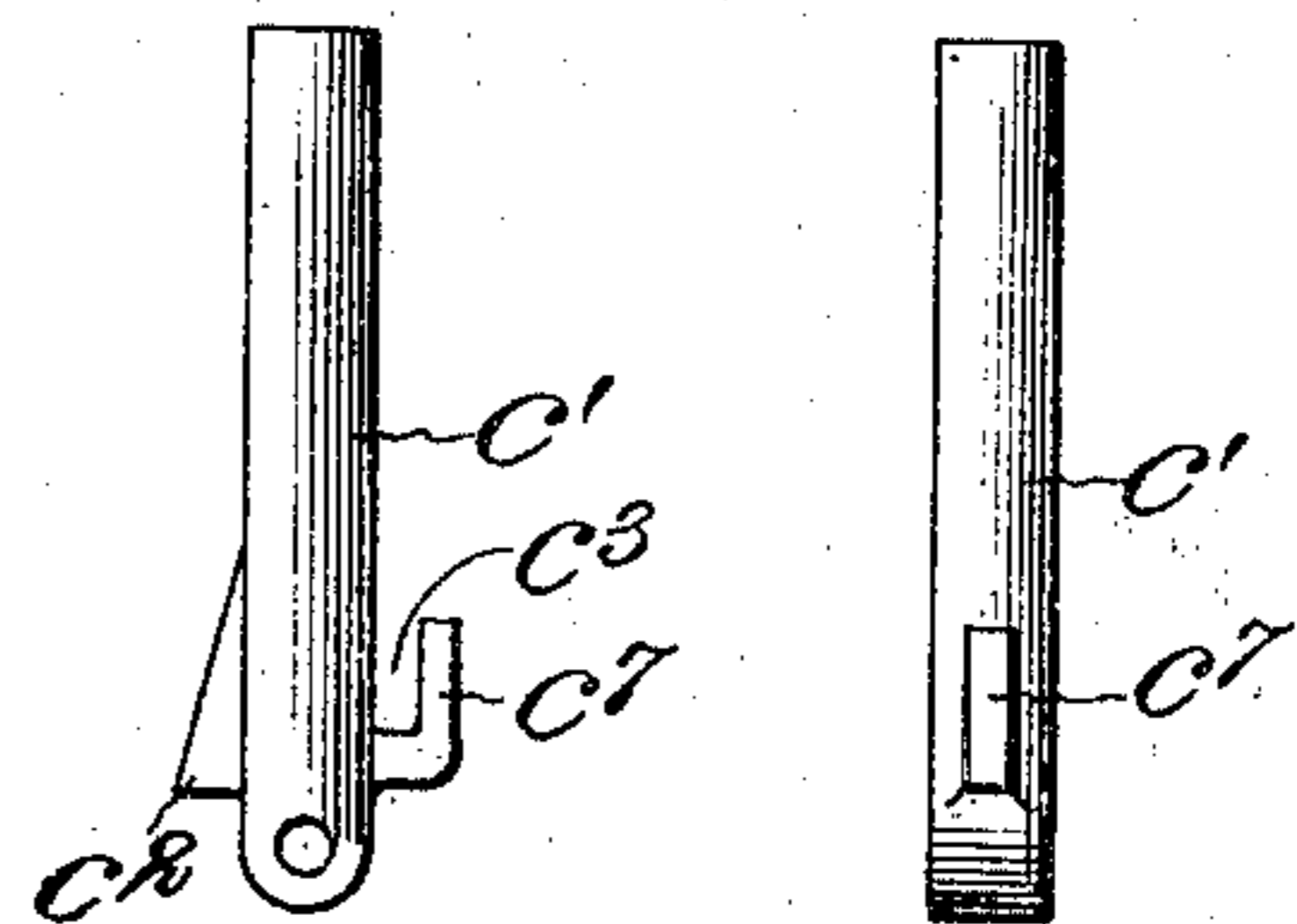
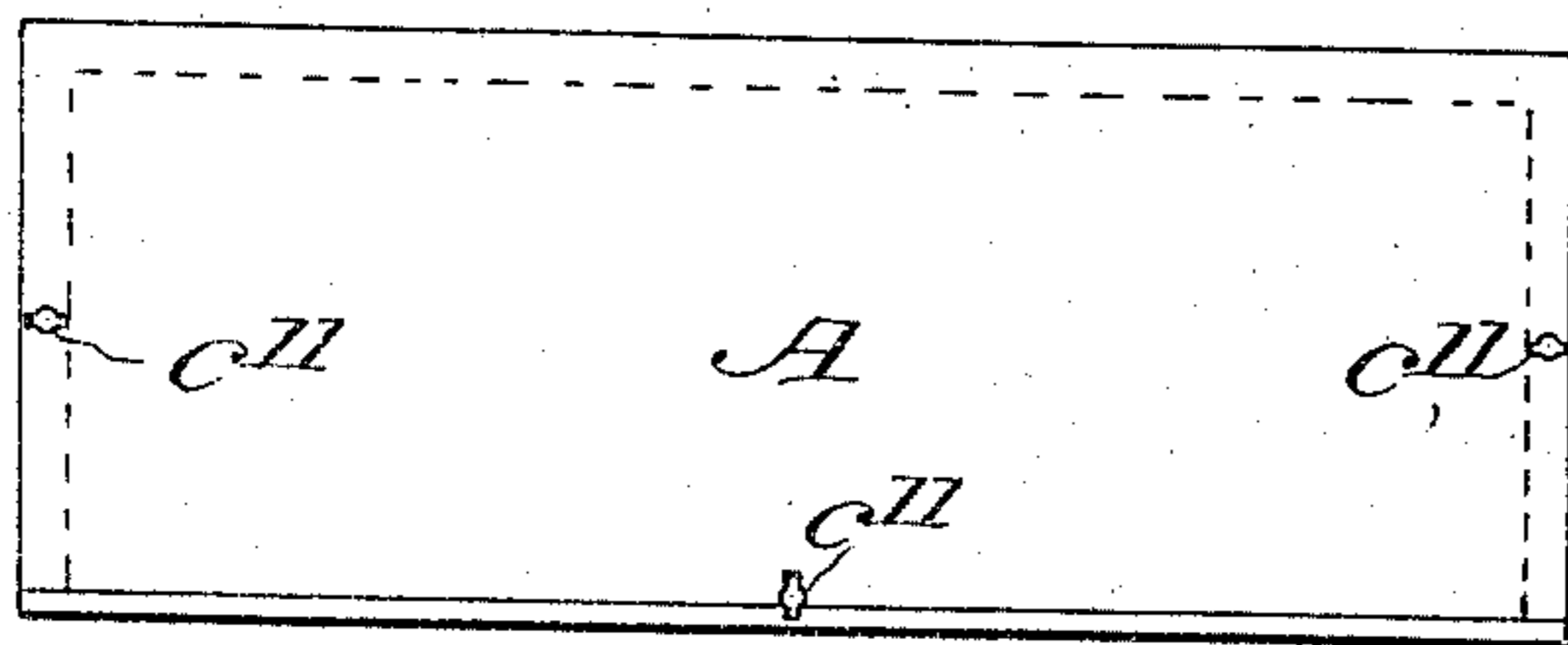


Fig. 6. Fig. 7.



Inventor

Witnesses

C. N. Walker
J. H. Jones and Doyle

Wm. E. Chatterton

By Wright, Brown & Quincy
Attorneys

No. 755,615.

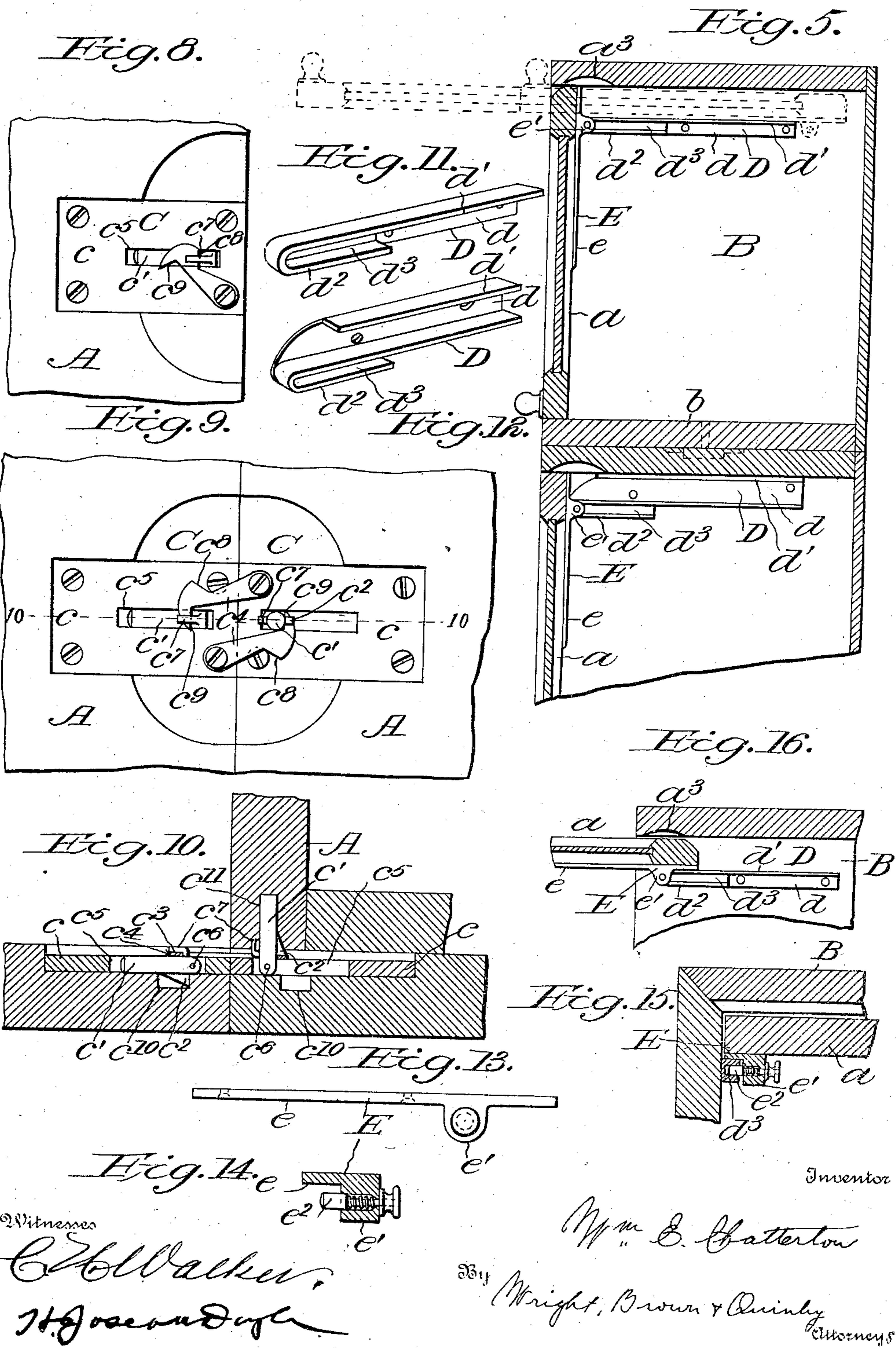
PATENTED MAR. 29, 1904.

W. E. CHATTERTON.
COMBINATION CASE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM E. CHATTERTON, OF MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS.

COMBINATION-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 755,615, dated March 29, 1904.

Application filed July 20, 1903. Serial No. 166,404. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM E. CHATTERTON, of Melrose, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combination-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in combination-cases, and has particular relation to devices for combining two or more independent cases to make a complete combination-case adapted to contain merchandise, books, &c.

The object of my invention is primarily to provide a combining device carried by each case and movable to a position where a part thereof will be interposed between and connect two adjacent independent cases in such manner as will prevent a relative movement of the cases without a positive disengagement, such device being, where cases are superposed, concealed from view.

A further object is to provide an improved door-hanger and device for removably securing the door in position thereon.

Other and further objects will appear as the invention is hereinafter disclosed.

Said invention consists in the improved construction and combination of parts as more fully described in the specification, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 designates a front elevation of a single case. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a case having a plurality of shelves. Figs. 3 and 4 represent vertical cross-sectional views of the cases shown in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view showing two cases in superposed relation. Figs. 6 and 7 are detail views of the combining-pins. Fig. 8 is a fragmentary plan view of the top of one of the cases, showing the combining-pin as nested within its recess, the catch being in position to retain the pin against movement to project from the face of the case. Fig. 9 is a similar view showing the arrangement of the devices where two cases are arranged end to end, the pin of the case shown on the right being in position to receive a superposed case. Fig. 10 is a sectional view taken on the line 10 10 of Fig. 9

and showing the superposed case in position. Figs. 11 and 12 represent different forms of the door-support, the latter form shown including a shelf-support. Fig. 13 is a side elevation of one of the door-pieces. Fig. 14 is a sectional view showing one construction of stop used in connection with the door-support. Fig. 15 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the manner in which the stop shown in Fig. 14 is located relatively to the door-support. Fig. 16 is a sectional view showing the door raised. Fig. 17 is a face view of one of the faces of the case, showing the location of the several recesses and openings to receive the combining-pins.

I am aware that combination-cases have been heretofore constructed; but generally the construction has been such as to require special forms of cases, &c., while the door-hangers, &c., are objectionable on account of the binding or sticking of the door while passing in and out of the case. In the present invention these disadvantages are overcome, the combining devices and the metal door-hangers herein disclosed providing structures which permit of the ready assembling or disassembling of the cases, the doors also being arranged to run freely, the hangers being so constructed to permit of the doors being hung in any desired position.

While the drawings disclose a complete embodiment of the invention, it will be readily understood that the invention as herein described and claimed may be applied in other forms, and I retain the right to make and use the same in so far as such modifications may fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the claims.

In the drawings A designates a single case, having the usual bottom, top, ends, and rear, the front being open and having the door *a*, which may be of any preferred construction. B designates a similar case, but being of greater height provides sufficient space for the insertion of shelves *b*, the spaces each having a separate door. It will be readily understood that the manner of constructing the cases or the sizes or relative arrangement of the interior may be of any preferred construction.

C designates a combining device which is adapted to be permanently attached to the case—for instance, by screws. The device consists of a metal plate c , having an elongated opening c^6 , within which is pivotally mounted what I term a “combining-pin” c' . The pin c' is of a preferable length, having near one end an opening (see Fig. 6) for the pivot c^6 (see Fig. 10) and is provided on opposite faces with suitable retaining means for a purpose presently described, said means being shown in the drawings as a lug or shoulder c^2 on the one side and an L-shaped hook c^7 , providing a recess c^3 , on the opposite side. While I have shown these specific means, it will be understood that any other suitable retaining means may be employed—as, for instance, by notching or grooving the pin. c^4 designates a combining-hook or catch pivotally mounted on the face of the plate c and having engaging faces c^8 c^9 , which cooperate with either of the retaining means c^2 and c^3 , as required. In securing the device in position the top of the case is recessed to receive the plate c , one end of the latter lying flush with the end surface of the case, as shown in Figs. 8, 9, and 10, the recess being of a greater depth than the thickness of the plate c ; thereby, in effect, countersinking the latter, it being intended that the entire device when in its nested position will have no portion projecting above the plane of the top surface of the case. As shown in Fig. 10, the case is also provided with a recess c^{10} to receive the lug c^2 . The bottom of the case is provided with openings c^{11} , corresponding in position to and adapted to receive the combining-pin c' when the latter is raised, said openings being of a shape which will permit of the pin, with its lug and hook, entering therein, as shown in Fig. 10. In use when a single case is used the pin is in its nested position, the face c^8 of the catch c^4 passing within the recess c^3 , thereby positively retaining the pin against movement on its pivot. When two cases are arranged side by side or end to end, the pins are retained in their nested position, each catch c^4 , however, being swung around to pass into the recess c^3 of the pin carried by the opposing case, in this instance the face c^9 passing within the recess c^3 . In both cases the top surface of the case or cases are free from projections. When it is desired to place one case above the other in superposed relation, the catch c^4 is moved to free the pin c' , after which the latter is raised to a position at right angles to the plane of the plate c and the catch c^4 moved in position beneath the lug or shoulder c^2 , as shown to the right in Fig. 10, thus locking the pin against a return movement. Any suitable means may be provided, if desired, to limit the pivotal movement of the pin against a movement greater than that which will carry it to a vertical position or one at right angles to the plane of the plate c . When three cases

are to be combined, two being arranged end to end, the third being superposed, as shown in Fig. 10, the arrangement is the same as above stated in connection with the two adjacent cases, with the exception that the pins c' of the case carrying the superposed case extend vertically and pass into the openings c^{11} of the superposed case, the catch c^4 of the opposing case passing beneath the shoulder c^2 instead of into the recess c^3 . When two pair of superposed cases are combined end to end, all combining-pins are raised, the catches c^4 passing beneath the shoulders c^2 . In other words, when the top surface of the case is unoccupied the catch c^4 passes into the recess c^3 of the pin. When occupied, the catch c^4 passes beneath the shoulder c^2 , thereby locking the pin in either extreme of its movement, the engaging face of the catch which is used depending on whether but a single case is used or whether two cases located end to end are used. One or more devices may be used at each end of the case and any desired number may be used at the back of the case, if desired, it being understood that the bottom of the case will be provided with a corresponding number of openings c^{11} . As the plate c extends flush with the end surface of the case, a continuous countersunk portion will be provided throughout the length of the two opposing devices when cases are arranged end to end, so that there will be no projecting portion of the device at any time, while the device will be entirely concealed when superposed cases are combined. As will be readily understood, when the cases are in superposed position the pin c' , being held against a movement pivotally, prevents the cases being moved laterally relatively to each other.

D designates the door-hanger, consisting of a plate d , adapted to be secured to the end of the case and having an angular portion d' , forming a support and wear-plate for the door. The front portion of the plate d' is bent downward and rearward, as at d^2 , to provide an open-ended recess d^3 , as shown. If desired, the plate d may be of sufficient height to extend beyond the upper surface of the door when resting on the plate d' , the upper edge of the plate d in such case being bent outward to form a support for a shelf, as shown in Fig. 4. The door is provided with a door-piece E , having a flat surface e , adapted to ride on the plate d' , the door-piece being secured to the under side of the door. The piece e is also provided with a downwardly-extending lug e' , having an opening for a stop e^2 , as shown in Figs. 14 and 15, the construction in these figures showing a spring-actuated stop. It will be obvious, however, that the stop may be formed by simply providing a screw-threaded pin and complementary opening in the lug, the stop being intended to normally retain the door from being withdrawn, the exposed end of the stop riding into the recess

7³, said stop, however, being movable to a point where the door may be moved from out of contact with the hanger. As indicated in the drawings, the upper edge of the door may be rounded or cut away to permit of its being oscillated, the stop forming the pivot, the opposing surface of the case being cut away, as at *a*³, to permit this movement. It will be understood that the opposing faces *d'* and *e* being of metal the movement of the door will have no tendency to bind, and hence the door may be readily moved to the desired position.

Having thus described my invention, pointing out one form in which the same may be carried out, but without specifying in detail all of the various modifications thereof which may fall within the spirit and scope of the invention, what I claim as new is—

1. A combining device for retaining two separable parts of combination-cases in relative juxtaposition, comprising a pin having a pivotal movement within the limits of a right angle, and means for retaining the pin in either extreme of its movement.

2. A combining device for retaining two separable parts of combination-cases in relative juxtaposition, comprising a pin carried by one of the cases and having a pivotal movement within the limits of a right angle, said pin being adapted to enter a recess of a superposed case when in raised position, and means for retaining the pin in either extreme of its movement.

3. A combining device for retaining two separable parts of combination-cases in relative juxtaposition, comprising a plate carried by one of the cases; a pin carried by said plate and having a pivotal movement within the limits of a right angle, and means carried by said plate for retaining the pin in either extreme of its movement.

4. A combining device for retaining two separable parts of combination-cases in relative juxtaposition, comprising a plate having a pivoted pin adapted to project in a direction at a right angle to the plane of the plate and to enter openings in a superposed case, and a combining hook or catch attached to said plate adapted to hold the pin in desired positions.

5. The combination with a plurality of cases having openings in the bottoms thereof, of combining devices permanently attached to the tops of the cases for retaining said cases in fixed relative positions, said devices comprising a plate having a pivoted pin adapted to project at a right angle to the plane of the plate, and a hook adapted to engage said pin in either its upright or nested positions.

6. The combination with a plurality of cases

provided with openings in the bottoms thereof, of combining devices permanently attached to the tops of the cases for retaining said cases in fixed relative positions, said devices comprising a plate having a pin pivoted thereto and adapted to project from the upper side thereof and in a direction at a right angle to the plane of said plate, and a hook adapted to engage the pin of the case to which it is attached or of the opposing case.

7. A combining device for retaining separable parts of combination-cases in relative juxtaposition, said device comprising a plate having a pivoted pin attached thereto adapted to lie flush with the face of said plate and movable to a position to project at a right angle to the plane of the plate, said pin being adapted to enter a suitable opening in the bottom of a superposed case, and having a combining-hook movable to either retain said pin in a fixed position or engage the pin of an adjacent case to hold said cases against positive disengagement.

8. A case of the character described, having a door provided with stops, and door-hangers each comprising an attaching plate or base, a flange projecting therefrom and adapted to support said door slidingly thereon, one end of each flange being bent downward and backward to form a loop or stop, the stops of said flanges being adapted to coact with the corresponding stops carried by the door to limit the outward movement of the latter.

9. A case of the character described having a door provided with stops, and door-hangers each comprising an attaching plate or base, a flange projecting from its upper edge to support a shelf, and a flange projecting from its lower edge to slidingly support said door, one end of the lower flange being provided with a stop to coact with one of the door-stops to limit the outward movement of the door.

10. A case of the character described, having a plurality of doors, said doors being provided with stops, and means coacting with said doors and stops for guiding the doors in their inward and outward movements, said means comprising attaching-plates, each plate having a flange projecting from one edge to guide the door, said flange having an integral stop to coact with one of the door-stops to limit the outward movement of the door.

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

WILLIAM E. CHATTERTON.

Witnesses:

R. M. PIERSON,
E. P. LUCIA.