No. 815,110. PATENTED MAR. 13, 1906.

H. F. MOSSES.

CARD CATALOGUE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 17, 1905.

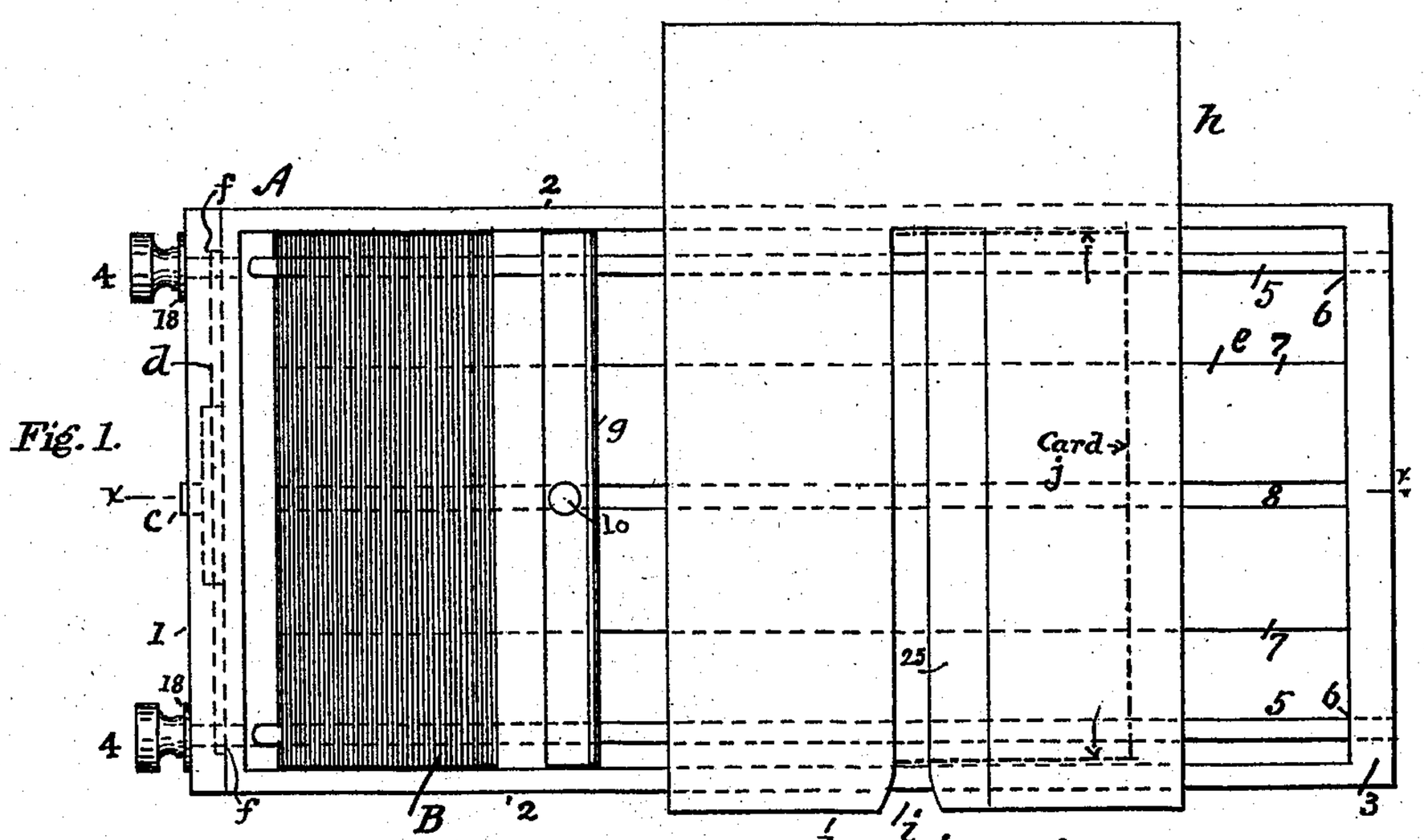

Fig. 1.

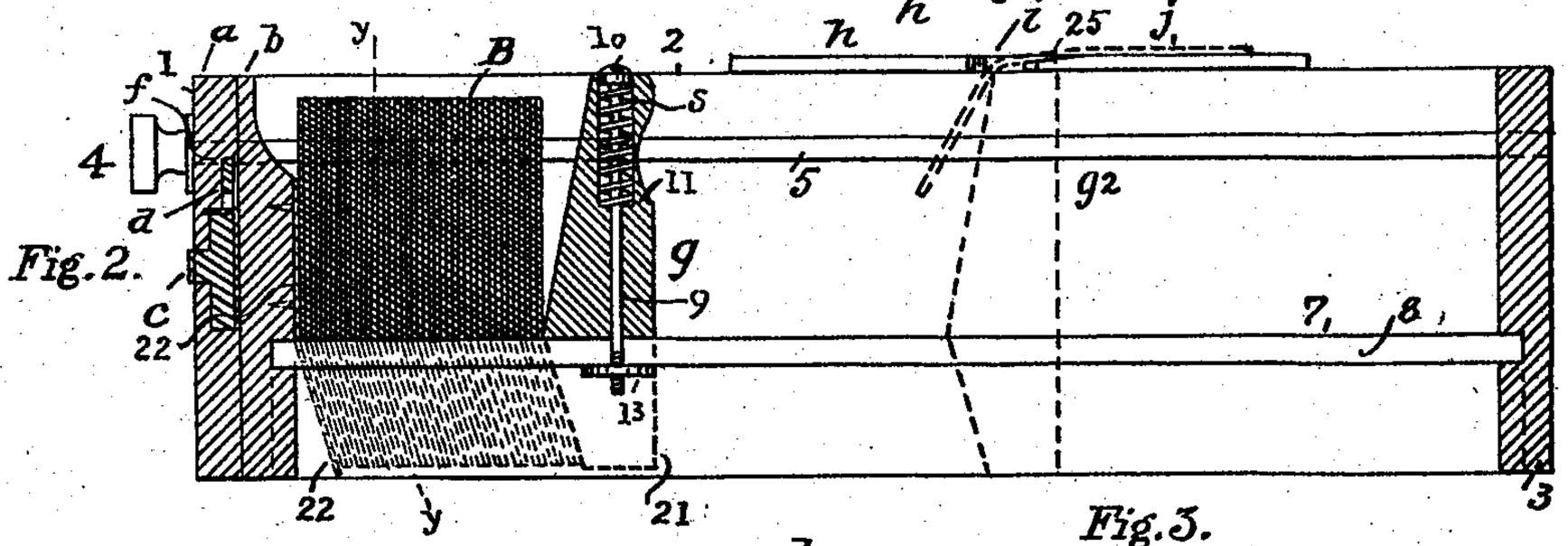

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

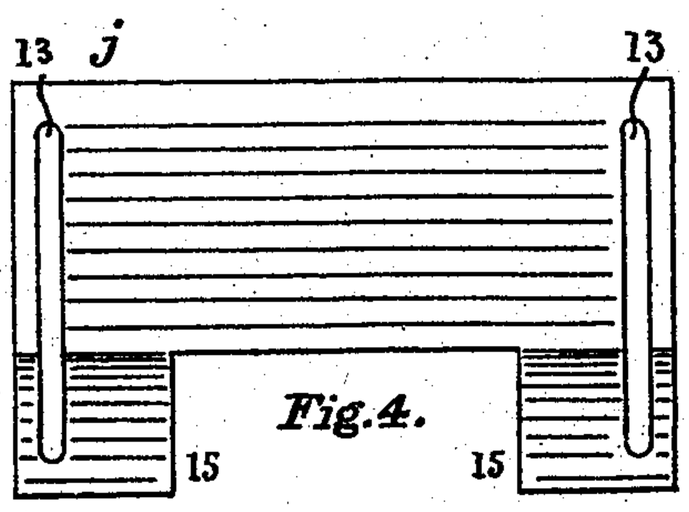

Fig. 4.

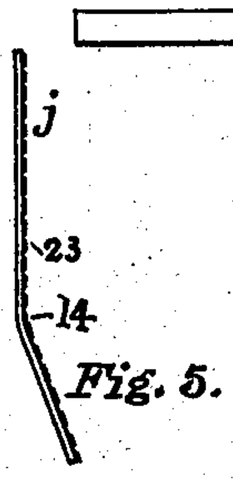

Fig. 5.

Fig. 7.

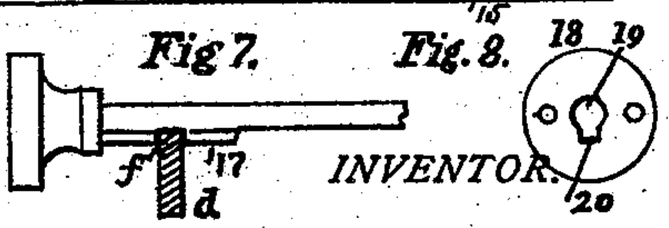

Fig. 8.

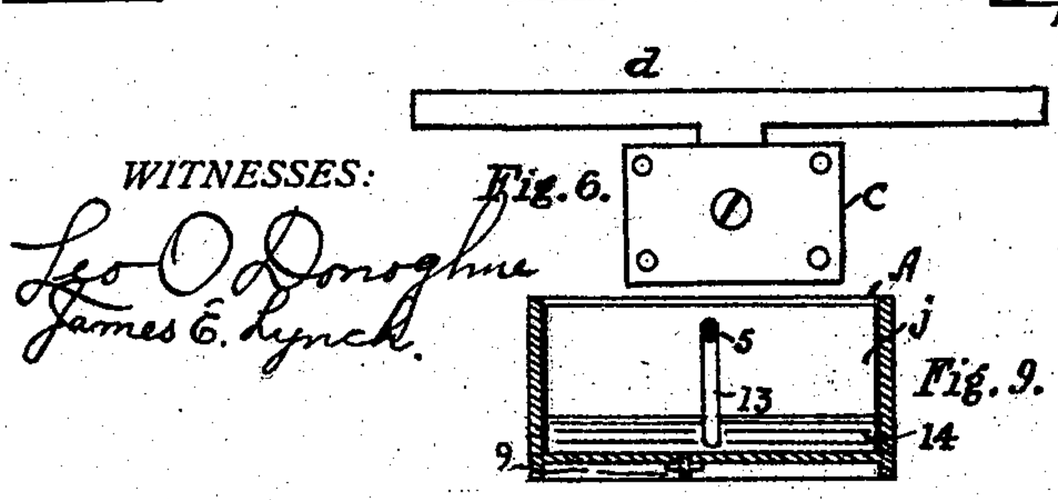

Fig. 6.

Fig. 9.

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CARD-CATALOGUE.

No. 815,110. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 13, 1906.

Application filed April 17, 1905. Serial No. 255,889.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY F. MOSSES, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain Improvements in Card-Catalogues, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to card-catalogues, both to the card and to the box in which it is held. It is well understood that in the common apparatus for this purpose the rectangular cards are placed in a box or drawer and are strung upon one or more rods which pass through the front of the box and are screwed into a nut in the front end of the same and are held close to each other by a block or follower which is adapted to slide away from the cards in order that the cards may be bent back, so that the writing thereon may be seen, and is also slid backward in order that a card may be removed from the box, the rod having been unscrewed and withdrawn in order that the card may be released.

The apparatus referred to possesses disadvantages which it is the object of my invention to avoid. An important disadvantage is that as the cards cannot be bent backward very far it is extremely difficult to read the information thereon, and in order to add any new information the card must be removed and placed upon some level support to do so, and the cards are thus subject to displacement and loss, and as the rods are easily removed cards may be abstracted by unauthorized persons and a record mutilated or destroyed.

In carrying out my invention I provide means for locking the rods in place, so that no card can be removed except by the proper persons, and in case a card is to be inspected it can be drawn up from the stack, so that its whole surface will be exposed, and if information is to be added to the card an attachment is provided whereby the card may be thus drawn up and bent down upon the top of said attachment and said information written upon it.

The invention also consists of certain details and improvements, which I will now proceed to describe, and point out in the appended claims.

In the drawings which illustrate the invention, Figure 1 is a plan view of a box or drawer, showing the invention. Fig. 2 is a section on line *x x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a section on line *y y* of Fig. 2. Figs. 4 and 5 are respectively side and edge views of my improved card. Fig. 6 is a front view of the rod-locking device detached from the box. Fig. 7 is an enlarged side view of the end of a rod to show the locking device. Fig. 8 is a front view of the escutcheon through which the rod passes, and Fig. 9 is a cross-section of a box without a midway longitudinal portion.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a box or drawer made of wood with a front part 1 and a rear part 3, to which are mortised the side pieces 2 2, and *e* is an inverted trough-like card-support midway of the box and mortised into the front and rear ends thereof and consists of the top or floor pieces of wood 7 7, separated by a space 8, and the two side pieces 16 16. Extending longitudinally through the box near its upper part are the steel rods 5 5, provided on the external front with the thumb-buttons 4, having knurled peripheries. The opposite ends of the rods extend into holes 6 in the rear part 3 of the box. Adjacent to the buttons 4 there is a spline 17 on the end of the rods 5, having a notch *f* midway of the same. The rod in entering the box passes through hole 19 in a metal escutcheon 18, secured to the face of the end 1 thereof. This hole has an elongation 20 on its lower side in which the spline 17 fits, and thus prevents the rod from turning.

The front end piece 1 is made of two pieces of wood *a* and *b*, secured to each other, and the piece *a* is hollowed out to receive a lock *c*, whose bolt *d* is elongated to reach under the two rods 5 5, so that when the key is turned in the lock the bar will pass upward into their notches *f f* and secure the rods from being withdrawn. The card-follower *g* is perforated in order that it may slide freely on the rods 5 5, as shown, and its lower side is cut away, so that it will straddle the midway portion *e* and rest thereon, while its wings 21 will extend downward between the walls of the box and the said midway portion. A hole is bored through the follower *g* and central thereof and counterbored at its upper end to receive the rod 9, which is screw-threaded to receive the nut 13. The upper end of the rod has a head 10, between which and the bottom of the counterbored part is the spring *s*,

which keeps the follower *g* in any position it is placed by frictional or spring pressure as the rod 9 passes freely in the space 8. By depressing the head 10 the nut is forced away from the pieces or floor 7 7, so that the follower may be moved backward or forward.

Secured to the inner face of the end part *b* is a metal spring-plate 22, bent rearward, as shown, between which and the follower *g* is a stack B of cards. Each card *j* is made, as shown by Figs 4 and 5, with its lower central part cut out to fit over the midway portion *e* and having depending sides or wings 15 15 between the walls of the box and the said portion *f*, which are bent rearward on the line 14 and when in the stack B are held between the spring 22 and the inclined wings 21 of the follower *g*. On each end of the cards are long slots 13, extending nearly across the card, which slots are so proportioned that when in position upon the rods 5 5 they will not rest upon the rods in order that no strain shall come upon the cards. The cards are made in one piece of even thickness, as indicated, and when bent rearward on the line 14 remain in that position permanently, so that when they are bent farther over, as hereinafter described, to write upon them they are not fractured. I strengthen the cards by pasting upon their backs a thickness 23 of preferably some absorbent material to serve as an ink-blotter, so that cards freshly written may not be blurred.

I prefer to load the box with a suitable number of cards, to which others may of course be added, and then lock them in place, and when writing is to be made upon a card the follower *g* is loosened and moved backward, as explained, and an attachment *h* (shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3) is placed upon the top of the box to serve as a table. This attachment *h* is made from thin board, with one end 12 thicker than the remainder, to serve as a guide. In the center of the board is a slot *i*, extending from the offset of the end 12 to the opposite edge, where its sides round outward, and one side of the slot is beveled, as 25. The slot *i* is placed over the card to be drawn up, so that it will come up therethrough, as shown in Fig. 2, where the follower *g* is represented in dotted lines and the attachment in position over the same, while the card *j* (shown in dotted lines) is represented as drawn up through the slot *i* until the lower ends of the slots 13 13 strike the under side of the rods 5 5 and the card is laid flat upon the top of the attachment *h*, in which position it can be written upon.

It will be seen that the bending of the card upon the line 14 assists materially in placing it in the position for writing, and when the attachment *h* is withdrawn the card can be easily slid back into position and the follower *g* brought forward.

It will be seen that any card can be readily removed from the box by unlocking and withdrawing the rods, as in the ordinary box. At the same time the advantages of the invention are evident.

The invention is entirely workable when the cards are provided with but one rod 5 and one slot 13, but is smoother in operation when two rods and cards with two slots are employed.

Fig. 9 represents the cross-section of a box without the midway portion *e*, the cards being a complete rectangle and having a central slot 13, through which passes a rod 5, the lower part of the cards 14 being bent rearward, while the rod 9, which holds the follower in position, is in a slot in the box-bottom, as will be readily seen.

I claim as my invention—

1. A card adapted for use in a card-catalogue with a perforation for the retaining-rod, its rear side reinforced with absorbent or blotting material, and its lower edge bent rearward, as set forth.

2. A card adapted for use in a card-catalogue with perforations for the retaining-rods, its central lower part cut out, the remaining ends or wings bent rearward, and its rear side reinforced, as set forth.

3. In a card-catalogue, a box or drawer with a longitudinal midway raised floor having a central opening or space, a movable perforated block or follower having its lower central part cut out and resting upon the said floor and its sides or wings extending downward and their front faces inclined rearwardly, provided with frictional means for grasping the said floor, a stack or plurality of cards between the front of the box and the said block each card having elongated perforations at its sides and the lower central portion cut away and resting upon said floor and the sides or wings extending downward and inclined toward the wings of said block, and rods passing through the ends of the box threading the perforations of the cards and of the block, with means for locking the said rods to the front end of the box.

4. In a card-catalogue, a box or drawer consisting of a stack or plurality of cards, each having elongated perforations at its ends, rods extending longitudinally through the box and threading through said perforations, a detachable device consisting of a thin board or table having a slit inward from one end, the opposite end provided with a stop or abutment, adapted to extend across the top of said box over said cards, as set forth.

5. A card adapted for use in a card-catalogue made in one piece of even thickness

with elongated slots or perforations at each end for the retaining-rods, a rectangular portion cut out from its central lower part adapted to rest upon a raised central portion of the floor of the card-holder, and the remaining ends or wings creased and permanently bent rearward, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 14th day of April, 1905.

HENRY F. MOSSES.

Witnesses:
JOHN L. MANNING,
GEO. WILLIS PIERCE.