

No. 846,881.

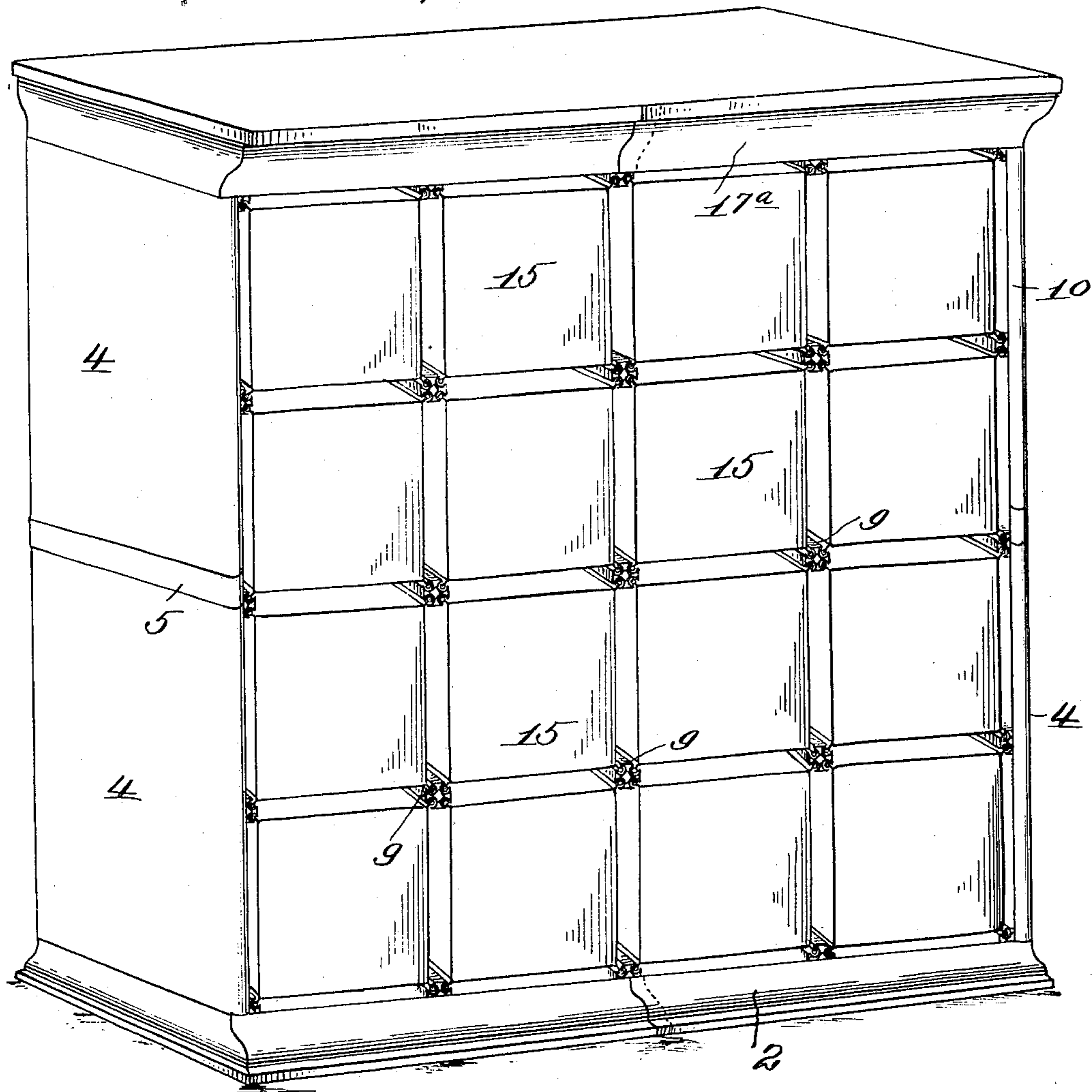
PATENTED MAR. 12, 1907.

S. T. WALTON.
FILE CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 25, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



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Samuel T. Walton

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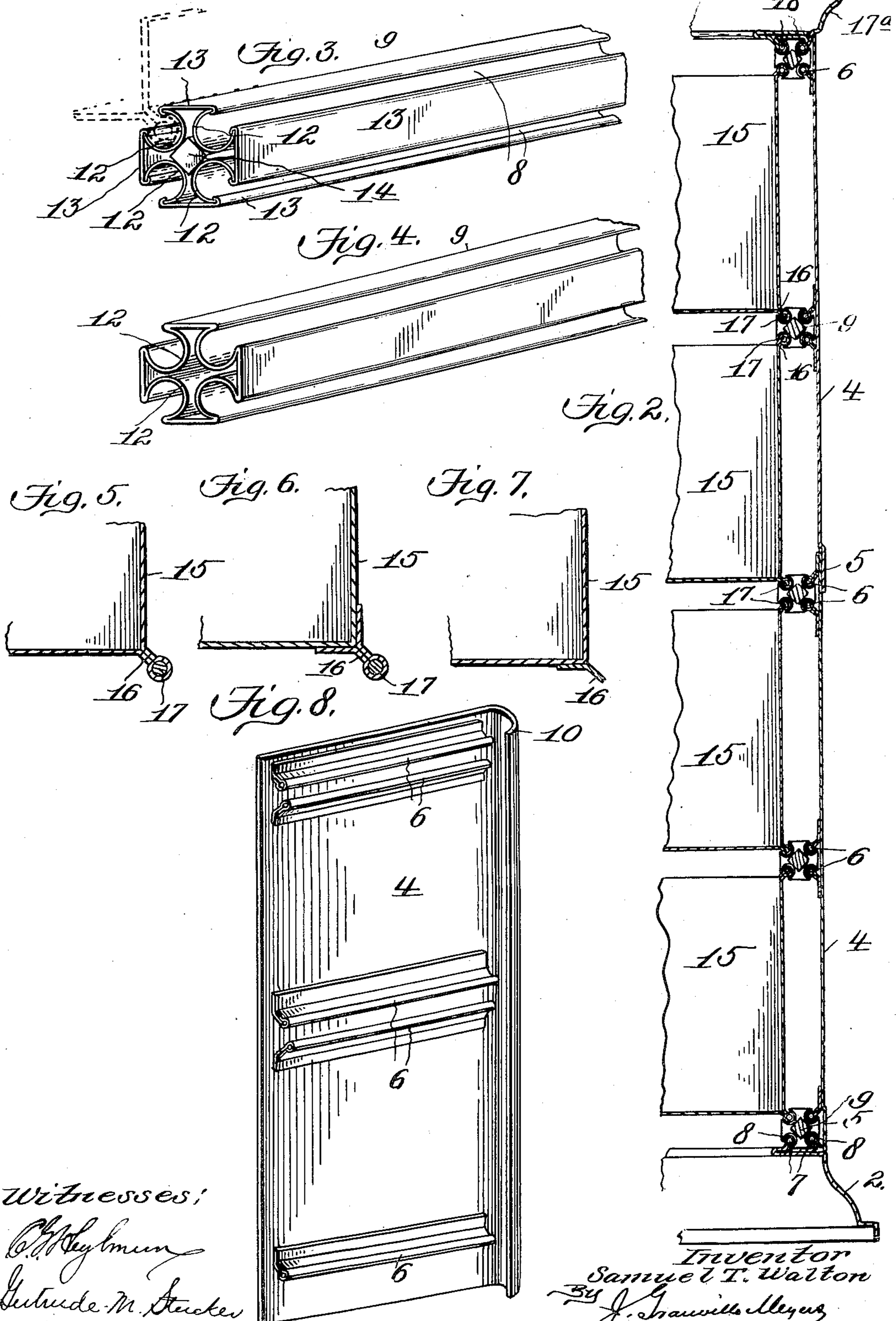
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL T. WALTON, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

FILE-CABINET.

No. 846,881.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 12, 1907.

Application filed August 25, 1905. Serial No. 275,816.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL T. WALTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in File-Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to file-cabinets of that type in which a plurality of boxes, drawers, or receptacles are assembled in close relation in a supporting frame or casing, so that they may be individually withdrawn for the purpose of depositing, removing, or inspecting papers or files.

The improvements which I have devised embody the "unit" idea or system, by means of which an "elastic" cabinet is provided or one which may be made up of more or less sections or units, according to the needs of the user.

Stated generally, my invention contemplates a structure which is of skeleton-like form in that the supporting frame or casing proper is made up of base end panels and crown or top piece with an unobstructed interior and a series or plurality of boxes or drawers within the inclosing frame in combination with a novel drawer guide and support, by the use of which I am enabled to dispense with division-walls or supporting-partitions between the drawers.

Primarily my invention relates to an improved form of drawer guide and support by means of which the cabinet or sum of units may be readily built up, this drawer-guide, as well as the other parts of the cabinet, being made entirely of metal, as hereinbefore stated, and of such construction that it permits a close assemblage of the several drawers or receptacles, at the same time affording a firm and secure support therefor and one which allows the ready withdrawal or replacement of the drawers or file-boxes.

Secondarily, my invention relates to improvements in the inclosing casing of the cabinet, to the end that this casing may be expanded or contracted as the cabinet is built up by adding more file-case units or reduced by subtracting them.

In the drawings herewith I have illustrated one embodiment of my invention in order that the same may, in connection with the detailed description hereinafter, be made clear to those skilled in the art, and in said drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cabinet

constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of one end of the cabinet to show the relation of the base end panels, crown, and drawers. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the drawer-guide. Fig. 4 is a detail view of a slightly different construction of guide. Fig. 5 is a detail view of one of the corners of a drawer to show the guide-engaging rib thereon. Fig. 6 is a view similar to Fig. 5 of a slightly different construction of drawer-corner. Fig. 7 is a detail view of still another form of corner, and Fig. 8 is a detail perspective view of one of the end panel-sections of the cabinet.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, like numerals indicating like parts in the several views, 2 designates the base or foot sections of the cabinet, each of which is made of sheet metal of suitable thickness to give the necessary structural rigidity and is molded by rolling or stamping to such form and design as may be desired. These base-sections 2 will be made up of any desired length, those herein shown being of a width approximately equal to the combined widths of two drawers and at their meeting ends will overlap, as shown, so as to give a spliced joint and furnish a rigid sectional formation of unbroken design. Rising from said base 2, at the ends thereof, are the end panels 4, of sheet metal, these panels 4 being preferably equal to the combined height of two boxes in furtherance of the "unit" system. The panels 4 have lapped joints 5, as shown, in order that the casing or frame may be rigid and of completed design and appearance when built up, and each panel 4 has affixed to its inner face in any suitable manner ribs 6, which, as will presently appear, serve to support the interlocking guides, which not only serve to connect the various parts of the cabinet, but also act as guides and supports on which the individual drawers or receptacles slide. The lower panels 4 are removably secured to the base-pieces 2 by means of foot-ribs 7, similar to ribs 6, above referred to, which ribs 7 engage undercut channels or runways 8 in guides 9, suitably mounted on and secured to the base-pieces 2 by means of ribs 7 on said base-pieces 2, (see Fig. 2,) which engage and slide in the channels 8 of the guides 9. The said panels 4 are preferably provided on their front vertical edges with right-angle flanges 10 for the purpose of giving a finish to the casing and bridging or covering the inter-

space between the sides of the drawers and the panels, these flanges 10 being preferably embossed or molded, as shown, to give a finished design to the casing or frame.

5 The ribs 6 on the inner face of the panels 4 serve as supports for the guides 9, said guides being cruciform in cross-section, as shown, and preferably approximating the form of the Maltese cross, so as to provide
10 longitudinal channels or runways 8 between their limbs for the reception of the supporting and connecting ribs 6 on the panels 4 and also to receive the guide-ribs on the drawers, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.
15 These guides 9 may be formed, as shown in Fig. 3, of four continuous strips or channel-pieces 12, substantially semicircular in cross-section, held together by the interlocked crown-pieces 13 and having the central core or spreader 14, or they may be
20 made up of a single strip bent up into cruciform shape to provide the channels or runways 8 for the engaging ribs, as shown in Fig. 4.

25 The drawers 15, of sheet metal, are provided at their four longitudinal corners with outstanding centrally-disposed ribs 16, said ribs 16 being preferably formed of the metal of the drawer itself and being round in cross-
30 section, with a core 17, of wire, as shown in Fig. 5; but they may be shaped up flat, as shown in Fig. 7, and, if desired, either form of rib may be made separate from and be attached to the longitudinal corner of the box
35 in any secure fashion. These ribs 16 are designed to engage with and slide in the channels or runways 8 of the guides 9, the end guides or those secured at one side to the ribs 6 on the ends of the panels 4 of the case
40 serving to support two boxes 15 one above and one below, as will be apparent. After the end tier of boxes 15 have been placed in position with their ribs 16 in engagement with the channels 8 of the guides 9 a second set
45 of guides 9 will be engaged with the ribs 16 on the opposite side of the first tier of boxes, a second tier of boxes 15 will be engaged with the guides 9 thus built into the system, and so on until the limit desired has been
50 reached, when end panels 4 and an end base-piece 2, identical in construction with the end panels and base-piece above described, will be added, and the case is complete.

Preferably the case or cabinet will be finished by a sectional lapped joint crown or
55 top piece 17^a, which is molded after the fashion of the base-piece 2 and of corresponding and harmonious design. The said crown-piece 17^a has ribs 18 similar to the ribs 7 on the base-piece 2, which engage the upper row
60 of guides 9 in an obvious manner and lock the top piece or crown in place.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided a cabinet or file-case which
65 may be constructed wholly of metal, so that

a light but rigid structure is obtained; one which may be quickly set up, taken down, or expanded; that the system is one which admits of expansion and contraction by the addition or subtraction of units; that I am enabled to dispense with intervening partitions
70 between the boxes, for the reason that the boxes, combined with the guides, are self-sustaining, and that the said guide-pieces constructed in accordance with my invention
75 serve to lock together and hold the other elements or parts of the cabinet into a rigid and complete structure.

While I have shown and described a particular construction and that the best now
80 known to me, it will be understood that this showing is merely illustrative, and since it is apparent that many changes in details of construction may be made by a skilled mechanician without departing from the spirit of
85 my invention I do not limit myself to the construction shown and described except so far as I am limited by the prior art to which this invention belongs.

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

1. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing having an unobstructed interior, a plurality of drawers having corner-ribs, and rib-engaging drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers.

2. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing having an unobstructed interior, a plurality of drawers having corner-ribs, and removable rib-engaging drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers.

3. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing having an unobstructed interior, a plurality of drawers, drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers, and means to form an interlocked sliding connection between said drawers and guides.

4. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing having an unobstructed interior, a plurality of drawers, removable drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers, and means to form an interlocked sliding connection between the said drawers and guides.

5. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having guide-engaging corners, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers having sliding engagement with said drawer-corners.

6. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having guide-engaging corners, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers having sliding and interlocking engagement with said drawer-corners.

7. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an

- inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having ribs extending diagonally outward from the drawer-corners at an angle equidistant from the walls of the drawers, said ribs being provided with guide-engaging and interlocking beads, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers having channels or runways to receive and interlock with said beaded ribs.
8. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having outstanding corner-ribs, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawer shaving channels or runways to receive the corner-ribs of said drawers.
9. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having outstanding diagonal corner-ribs, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers having diagonally-arranged channels or runways to receive said diagonal corner-ribs.
10. In a file-cabinet and in combination, an inclosing frame or casing, a plurality of drawers having outstanding diagonal corner-ribs provided with guide-engaging beads, and drawer-guides at the intersections of said drawers provided with undercut channels or runways to receive said beaded corner-ribs.
11. A drawer-guide for file-cabinets of substantially cruciform shape in cross-section and having means for engaging ribs on the adjacent corners of a group of drawers.
12. A drawer-guide for file-cabinets of substantially cruciform shape in cross-section, and having means for making interlocking engagement with ribs on the adjacent corners of a group of drawers.
13. A drawer-guide for file-cabinets of substantially cruciform shape in cross-section and having channels or runways to receive ribs on the adjacent corners of a group of drawers.
14. A drawer-guide for file-cabinets of substantially cruciform shape in cross-section and having undercut channels or runways to receive and interlock with ribs on the adjacent corners of a group of drawers.
15. In a file-cabinet, the combination with a plurality of sheet-metal drawers having outstanding corner-ribs, of a drawer-guide formed of sheet metal and having rib-receiving channels or runways to receive the adjacent corner-ribs of a group of drawers.
16. In a file-cabinet, the combination with a plurality of sheet-metal drawers having integral outstanding corner-ribs, of a drawer guide and support formed of sheet metal and having rib-receiving channels or runways to receive the adjacent corner-ribs of a group of drawers.
17. In a file-cabinet, the combination with a plurality of sheet-metal drawers having integral outstanding beaded ribs provided with stiffening-cores, of a drawer guide and support formed of sheet metal and having undercut rib-receiving channels or runways to receive and interlock with the adjacent corner-ribs of a group of drawers.
18. In a file-cabinet and in combination, a group of drawers, guide-engaging members on said drawers, a drawer-guide comprising a group of channel-pieces curved in cross-section to form reentrant rib-receiving channels or runways, and means for securing said channel-pieces together.
19. In a file-cabinet and in combination, a group of drawers, guide-engaging members on said drawers, a drawer-guide comprising a group of semicircular channel-pieces, and crown-pieces to engage and lock the said channel-pieces together.
20. In a file-cabinet and in combination, a group of drawers, guide-engaging members on said drawers, a drawer-guide comprising a group of semicircular channel-pieces, crown-pieces to engage and lock said channel-pieces together, and a sustaining and stiffening core placed centrally of said group of channel-pieces.
21. A sheet-metal file-cabinet comprising a sectional base formed of overlapped sections, overlapped sectional end panels having interlocking connections with said base-sections, a plurality of drawers, a plurality of drawer guides and supports at the intersections of said drawers, and an overlapping sectional crown-piece supported by and interlocked with said panels.
22. A sheet-metal file-cabinet comprising a sectional base formed of overlapping sections, overlapping sectional end panels having interlocking connection with said base-sections, drawer guides and supports on the inner sides of said panels, a plurality of drawer guides and supports distributed at the intersections of said boxes to interlock and support the same, and overlapping sectional crown-pieces supported by and interlocked with said end panels.
23. In a sheet-metal sectional file-cabinet, the combination with end panels, of drawer-guide-supporting ribs on the inner sides of said panels near the adjacent ends thereof, and a drawer guide and support detachably engaged with said ribs and serving to hold said panels together.
24. In a sheet-metal sectional file-cabinet, the combination with a base-section, of a guide-engaging rib on said base-section, a detachable panel-supporting guide engaging said base-section rib, and a panel having a foot-rib detachably engaging said guide.
25. In a sheet-metal sectional file-cabinet, a crown-piece having guide-engaging ribs, a detachable panel-supporting guide engaging said ribs, and an end panel having a top rib detachably engaging said guide.
26. In a sheet-metal sectional file-cabinet,

the combination of cabinet-sections having
outstanding guide-engaging ribs at their
abutting ends, a guide member making inter-
locking engagement with said ribs to hold
5 said cabinet-sections together, drawers
grouped within said cabinet, and means car-
ried by said guide to serve as drawer guides
and supports for the contained drawers.

10 27. In a file-cabinet, the combination with
suitable drawer-guides, of a drawer having
guide-engaging ribs extending diagonally
outward from the corners thereof at an an-
gle equidistant from the walls of the drawer.

28. In a file-cabinet, the combination with
suitable drawer-guides, of a sheet-metal 15
drawer having diagonally-placed integral hol-
low ribs at its corners, and sustaining and
stiffening wires within said hollow ribs.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand in presence of two subscribing wit- 20
nesses.

SAMUEL T. WALTON.

Witnesses:

HENRY A. HOYT,
THOS. MOON.