No. 885,789. PATENTED APR. 28, 1908.

J. D. RIPSON & E. G. SAMPSON.

DOCUMENT FILING CASE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 29, 1907.

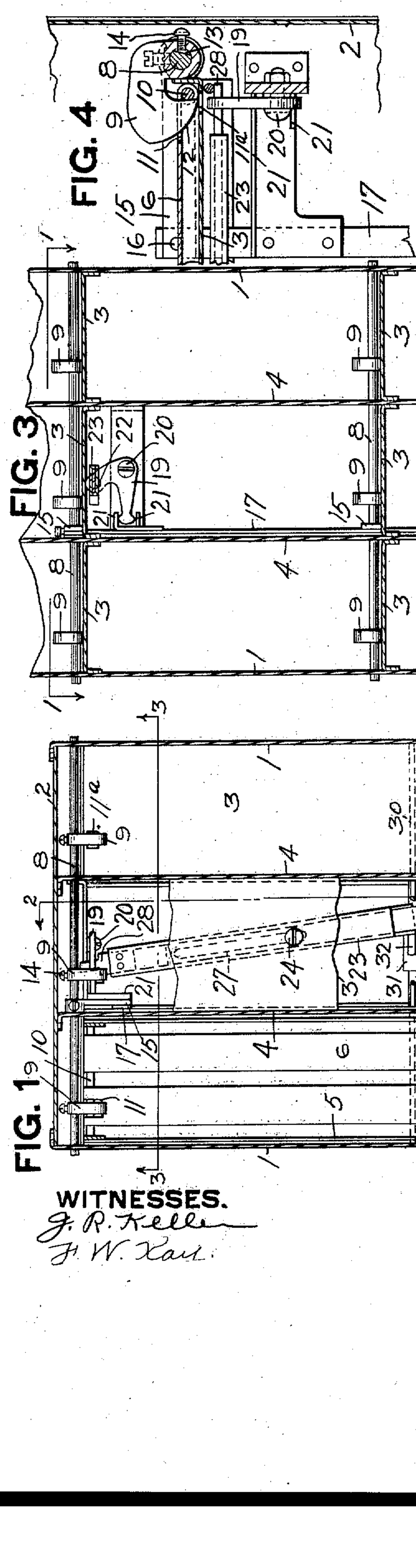

FIG. 1

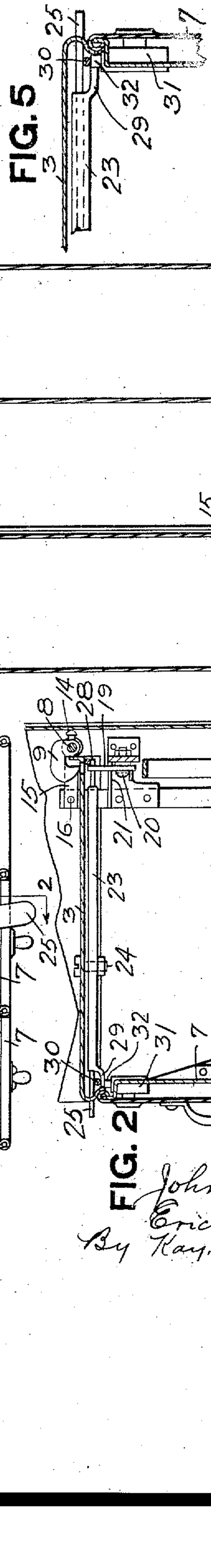

FIG. 5

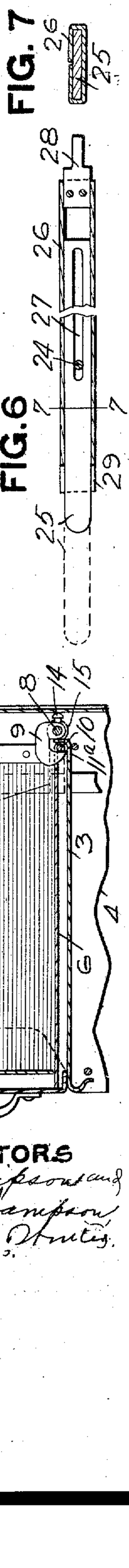

FIG. 7

FIG. 3

FIG. 6

FIG. 2

FIG. 4

WITNESSES.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DOCUMENT-FILING CASE.

No. 885,789. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented April 28, 1908.

Application filed August 29, 1907. Serial No. 390,572.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN D. RIPSON and ERICK G. SAMPSON, residents of Jamestown, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Document-Filing Cases; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

This invention relates to filing cases such as used for filing documents and other papers.

The object of the invention is to provide mechanism for locking the filing drawers or bases so that they cannot be opened by an unauthorized person, which mechanism is easy of operation so that very large units can be locked and unlocked simultaneously with little effort, and which furthermore, is so constructed that a filing base or drawer can be put in and automatically locked when the remaining filing bases are locked and without the use of springs in the mechanism.

The invention comprises the construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings Figure 1 is a horizontal section through a portion of a filing cabinet constructed according to our invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section therethrough taken from front to rear on the line 2—2 Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a similar section taken from side to side on the line 3—3 Fig. 1; Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of a portion of Fig. 2, partly broken away; Fig. 5 is an enlarged view of the key locking means shown in Fig. 2; Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section through the operating lever; and Fig. 7 is a cross section through the same.

The cabinet comprises a suitable casing having top, bottom, side and rear walls, the drawings showing the side walls 1 and the rear wall 2, but do not show the top and bottom. The cabinet is divided by horizontal partitions 3 and vertical partitions 4 forming a series of pockets or pigeon holes for the reception of the filing bases 5, which may be either in the form of a drawer or a modified base having a bottom 6 and front 7, provided with suitable means for holding the documents to be filed, such holding means not being shown.

The locking mechanism shown comprises rock shafts 8, one for each tier of filing bases and preferably located in the rear of the casing, each rock shaft being provided with a series of hooks 9 or similar locking members, one for each filing base and constructed and arranged to engage a projecting portion or shoulder on the filing bases, such as the bar strengthening rods 10 of the filing bases, the latter preferably having their bottoms cut away as at 11 to provide clearance for the ends of the hooks. A hole 11ª is also cut in the horizontal partitions underneath each hook 9. The hooks have their noses beveled off as shown at 12, so that they automatically lift when a file base is pushed in, causing the hook to slide over the rod 10 and drop in front of the same. To permit a single base to be slid in and automatically locked without disturbing the other bases of the cabinet, the hooks are attached to the rock shafts in a manner to permit each hook to rise without rotating the shaft. This can be accomplished by having a proper lost motion connection between the hooks and the shaft, such as by providing the shaft with a cut-away portion or recess 13 into which projects the end of a set screw 14 which acts as the means for securing the hook to the shaft. The recess in the shaft is of sufficient length to permit the end of the screw to have a limited movement, sufficient to permit the hook to rise sufficiently to engage the filing base without rotating the shaft.

The several rock shafts of the cabinet are connected to a common actuating means whereby all of the shafts may be rotated to unlock all of the filing bases simultaneously. This mechanism may be of various constructions and arrangements. As shown each rock shaft has secured thereto an arm 15, the outer end of which is pivotally secured at 16 to a bar 17 having a vertical movement in holes in the horizontal partitions 3. This bar is elevated by means of a bell crank lever 19 pivoted at 20 to a suitable part of the casing, and having the end of one arm lying between projections 21 on the vertical bar 17 and having its opposite end connected by a slot and pin connection 22 to the end of a lever 23, said lever being pivoted at 24 to one of the horizontal partitions 3 and having its end projecting out through the casing, preferably at the front thereof. The lever pref-

erably is made telescoping so that it can be drawn out to get a long leverage for operating the locking device and when not in use can be pushed inwardly so as not to project far beyond the casing. As shown the lever comprises the outer operating bar 25 and the inner substantially tubular part 26 into which the bar slides, said bar being held from accidental disengagement by being provided with a slot 27 through which the pivot pin 24 projects. The tubular portion 26 at its inner end carries a part 28 which has connection with the bell crank lever 19. The outer end of the tubular section 26 is provided with a tongue 29 which engages and is guided by a rod 30 secured to the casing.

The lever 23 may be arranged to be locked so that it cannot be operated by an unauthorized person, by any suitable key locking means, such as a key lock 31 mounted on the front of one of the filing bases, and so positioned that its bolt 32 holds the lever in the position which it assumes when all of the filing bases are locked. When said bolt is withdrawn the lever can be swung to the opposite position to raise the vertical bar 17 and through the same rotate the several rock shafts 8 to disengage the hooks 9 from the rear ends of the filing bases.

The operation of the apparatus described will be understood from the illustration and foregoing description. The specific mechanism shown and described can be varied within considerable limits. For instance, a sliding operating member could be substituted for the pivoted operating lever. Also different mechanism might be used in place of the bell crank lever for transferring the motion from the lever to the upright bar. The shape of the locking hooks or members may also be changed.

The locking mechanism described is so constructed that a filing base can be pushed in and automatically locked when the other filing bases are locked and without disturbing the latter, this being effected by the lost motion connection between the hook and rock shaft and without the necessity of springs or other easily derangeable member. The locking movement is practically a rotary one so that friction is eliminated to such an extent that the mechanism can be applied to sections of very large size and without rendering the operation thereof unduly difficult.

What we claim is:

1. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidably mounted therein, locking members at the rear of the casing arranged to engage said filing bases and hold the same against withdrawal, a lever having actuating connections to said locking members, said lever being pivotally mounted in the casing and having a telescoping member arranged to be drawn out through the front of the casing, and a key-controlled lock arranged to engage said lever to prevent its actuation.

2. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidably mounted therein, rock shafts mounted in the rear side of the casing and carrying members arranged to engage the bases and hold the same against withdrawal, mechanism for rocking said shafts, an actuating lever for said mechanism projecting to the front of the casing, and a key-controlled lock arranged to engage said lever to prevent its actuation.

3. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a casing, filing bases slidably mounted therein, rock shafts mounted in the casing and provided with means for engaging the bases and holding the same against withdrawal, a reciprocating bar connected to each of said rock shafts, and a telescoping lever having actuating connections to said bar.

4. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidably mounted therein, horizontal rock shafts mounted in the casing and carrying means for engaging the filing bases and holding the same against withdrawal, arms on said rock shafts, a vertically reciprocating bar connected to said arms, a bell crank lever having one arm connected to said reciprocating bar, and a horizontally moving operating member connected to the opposite end of said bell crank lever.

5. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidable therein, horizontal rock shafts mounted in the rear part of the casing and carrying hooks for engaging the filing bases and holding the same against withdrawal, arms on said rock shafts, a vertically reciprocating bar connected to said arms, and a lever having actuating connections to said reciprocating bar.

6. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidable therein, a rock shaft mounted in the casing, hooks carried by said rock shaft and having a slight movement independent thereof, and actuating mechanism for said rock shaft.

7. In a filing cabinet, the combination of the casing, filing bases slidable therein, a rock shaft mounted in the casing, locking members secured to the rock shaft by means permitting the members to move independently of the shaft, said locking members being arranged to engage the filing bases and provided with inclined faces to permit the filing bases to be inserted without rotating the shaft, actuating means for said rock shaft, and a key controlled lock for preventing operation of said actuating means.

8. In a filing cabinet, the combination of a casing, filing bases slidable therein, rock shafts mounted in the casing and carrying

means for engaging and locking the filing bases, an operating lever having two members one telescoping in the other, connections from the inner of said members to the rock shafts, and a key controlled lock for engaging the said lever to prevent its actuation.

In testimony whereof we the said JOHN D. RIPSON and ERICK G. SAMPSON have hereunto set our hands.

JOHN D. RIPSON.
ERICK G. SAMPSON.

Witnesses:
ERIK A. EKEDAHL,
C. W. STRONG.