L. H. WALKER & C. E. WILSON.

SECTIONAL CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 17, 1909.

963,669.

Patented July 5, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

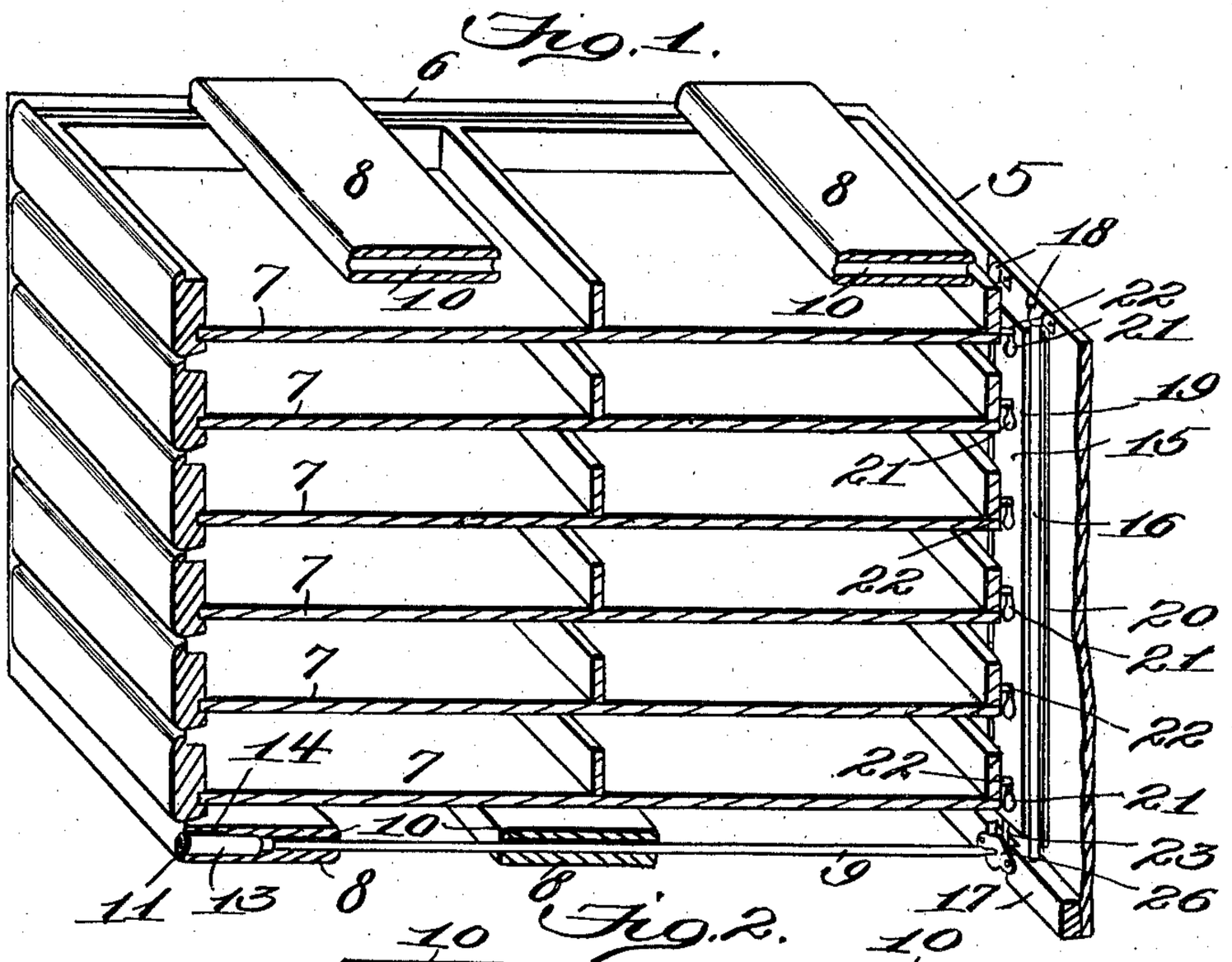


Fig. 2.

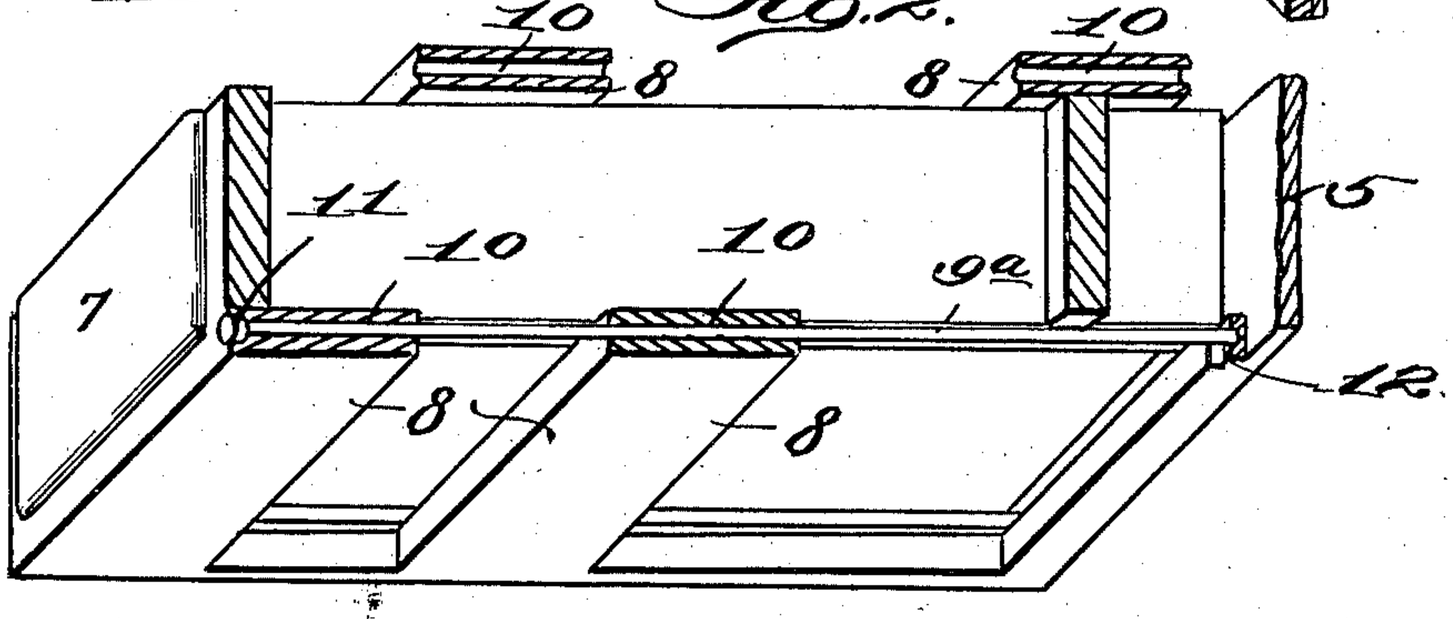
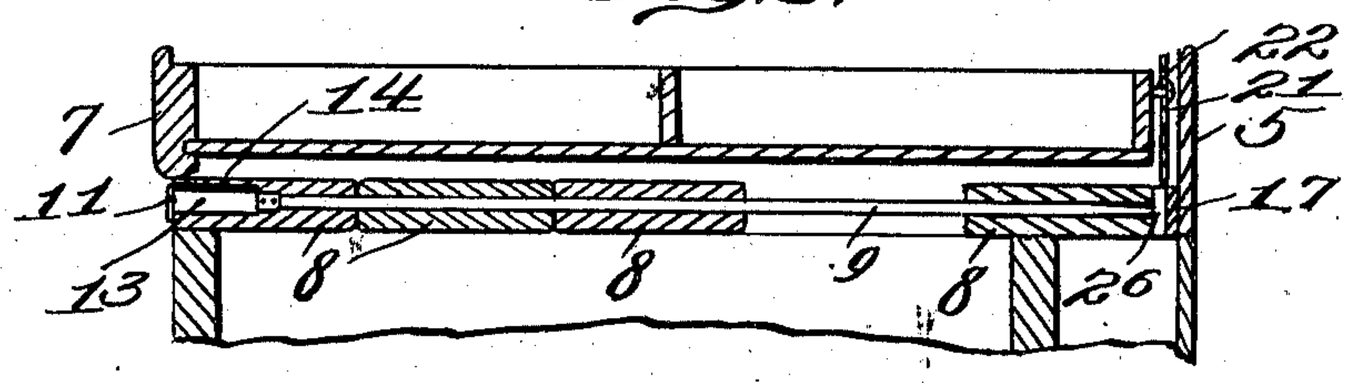


Fig. 3.



Witnesses;
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[illegible]

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

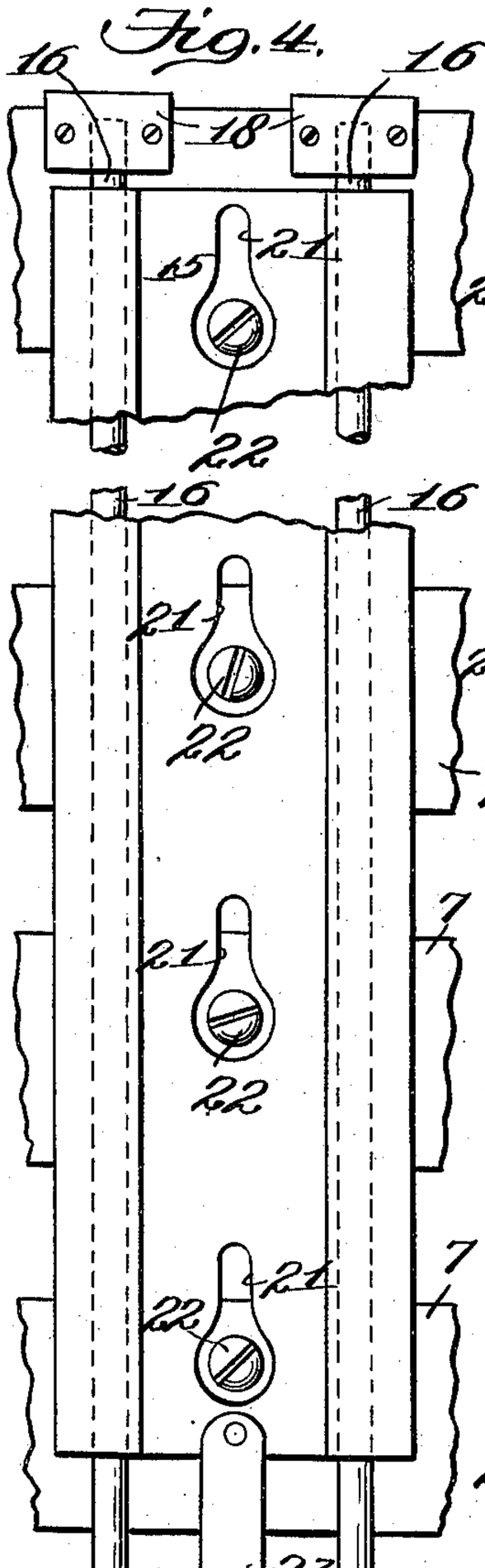


Fig. 5.

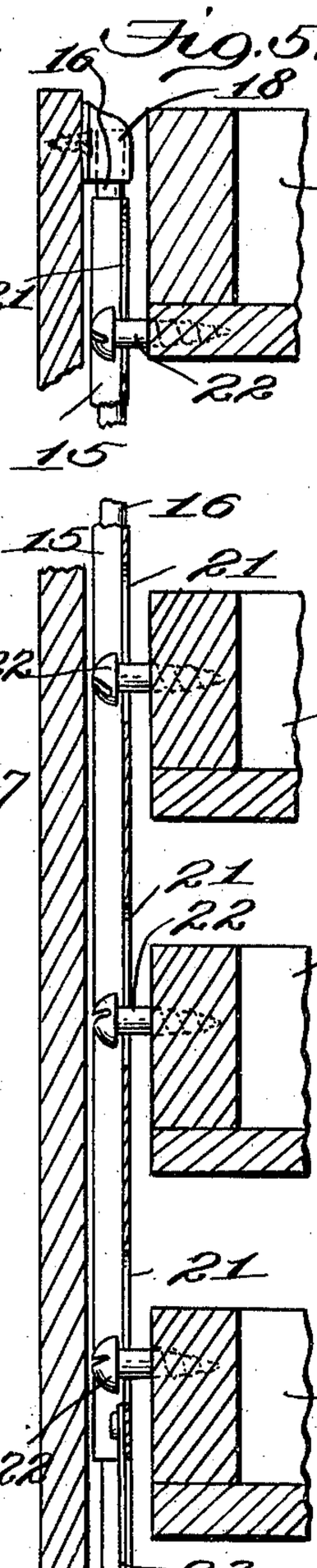


Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

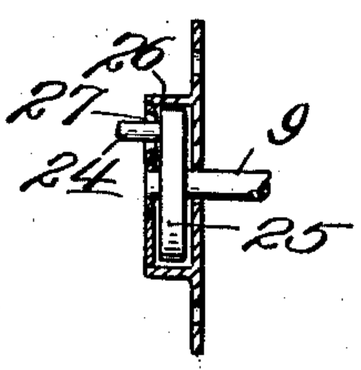
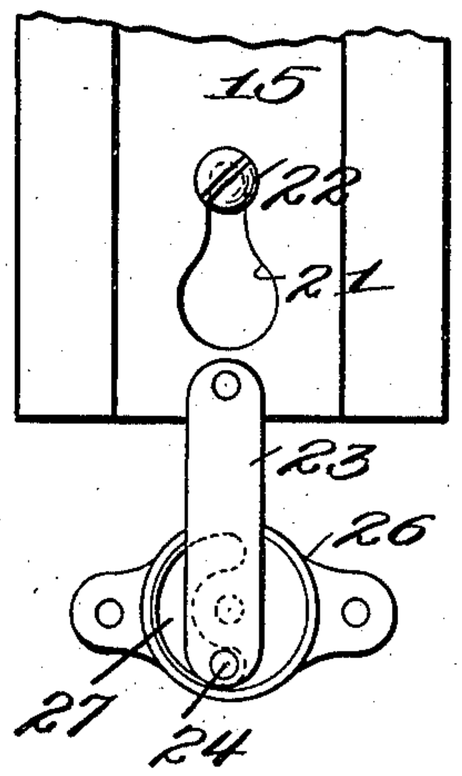
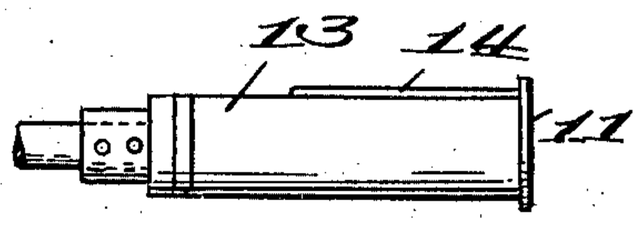


Fig. 6.





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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAWRENCE H. WALKER AND CHARLES E. WILSON, OF MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN.

SECTIONAL CABINET.

963,669. Specification of Letters Patent. **Patented July 5, 1910.**

Application filed May 17, 1909. Serial No. 496,514.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LAWRENCE H. WALKER and CHARLES E. WILSON, citizens of the United States, residing at Muskegon, in the county of Muskegon and State of Michigan, have invented new and useful Improvements in Sectional Cabinets, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to sectional cabinets or analogous devices embodying drawers or like movable containing devices, and the objects of the same are to provide simple and effective means for locking together a stack of sections for filing purposes when said sections are placed one upon another, and for simultaneously locking the drawers or movable containing devices in any one section and whereby a stack of sections of filing cabinets may be readily and reliably secured in associated relation and the drawers or other movable devices of each section held against movement independently of the drawers or movable devices of any other section in the group or stack of sections.

With these and other objects and advantages in view, the invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts which will be more fully hereinafter specified in preferred form.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a sectional perspective view of a portion of a filing cabinet embodying the features of the invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view of one of the cabinet sections. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of portions of the cabinet sections showing the manner of connecting the same. Fig. 4 is a detail elevation on an enlarged scale of the locking mechanism for the drawers or movable devices of each section, the drawers being shown broken away and the locking devices also partially broken through. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section through the organization shown by Fig. 4, parts being broken through at different points. Fig. 6 is a detail elevation of a portion of the locking devices shown in a different position from that illustrated in Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is a horizontal section through the locking devices for the drawers to particularly show the means for holding a slide plate in applied position. Fig. 8 is a detail sectional view showing the disk for operating the locking slide plate and the inclosure therefor.

The numeral 5 designates the back, and 6 the side of the frame of the cabinet as shown, and it will be understood that the two sides 6 of each cabinet section will be similar; and disposed between the sides and back is a plurality of drawers 7 for filing purposes or these drawers may be replaced by other analogous devices which are slidably mounted in the frame and superimposed as shown. The drawers 7 may be held in any suitable manner within the frame so that they will readily slide outwardly and inwardly and may also be divided and subdivided as desired. It will also be understood that the complete cabinet will be disposed upon a suitable base, not shown, or the lower part of the sections as shown by Fig. 1 may directly rest on a base support. The cabinet as shown will be built up from a series of sections separably connected without the use of permanent fastenings, such as screws, bolts or analogous devices, the object being to obtain a quick and reliable assemblage and a ready separation of the several sections.

As shown, the means for connecting or securing the sections in associated relation consists of cleats 8 extending transversely across each section at the bottom and top. These cleats 8 are suitably secured to the sides 6 and also to other parts of the frame structure, or, in other words, are rigidly held in place and the cleats at the upper and lower sides of each section occupy different positions so that they will be disposed between cleats of adjacent coöperating sections, as illustrated by Fig. 3. When the sections of the cabinet are assembled and the cleats 8 arranged as shown by Fig. 3, the several sections are connected by tie rods 9 and 9^a inserted from the front of the section through openings 10 in the cleats, and these rods may perform the single function of connecting the sections or be utilized as a means for operating the locking devices of the drawers or movable elements of each section, as respectively shown by Figs. 2 and 3; and as illustrated by Fig. 1 the group of drawers 7 all coöperate with locking mechanism operated by a rod 9. The rods have heads 11 exposed at their front extremities through the front of each section and the rod 9^a, as illustrated by Fig. 2, has its rear end fitted and held in a ledge 12 secured to the back 5.

The rods 9, as shown by Figs. 1 and 3, have cylindrical or tubular casings 13 adjacent to their heads and provided with a

longitudinal rib 14, one on each, to prevent the casing from rotating, the forward extremity of the rod 9 in the casing being rotatable, as will be more fully hereinafter explained.

From the foregoing it will be understood that the tie rods connecting the several sections may serve solely as a means for uniting the sections or be utilized both as a means for uniting the sections and operating the locking devices for the drawers.

The locking means for the drawers or movable elements of each section consists of a vertically movable slide plate 15 held against the back 5 by retaining rods 16 fitted at their lower ends in a sill 17 and secured at their upper ends by cap sockets 18. Each plate 15 is struck out from the center in box-like form as at 19 and has side flanges 20 over which the rods 16 extend. The intermediate box-like struck-out portion 19 of each plate has a plurality of central key-hole slots 21 which are in vertical alinement and disposed opposite to headed studs or screws 22 projecting from the rear of the drawers 7, there being one headed stud or screw 22 to each drawer.

It will be seen that the manner of securing the locking plate 15 in place is very simple and the rods 16 may be quickly applied with a minimized number of fastenings, the cap sockets 18 being practically the sole fastening means in view of the fact that the lower ends of the said rods are dropped into suitable openings in the sill 17. Sufficient space is provided between the rods 16 and the adjacent surface of the back 5 to permit the flanges 20 of the plate to easily move in rear of the rods, but the plate 15 is prevented from having too loose movement so that it will always be in condition for positive operation.

Connected to the lower extremity of the plate 15 is a link 23, the said link being also attached to a wrist pin 24 eccentrically projecting from a disk 25 held within a casing 26 secured on the sill 17, the said casing 26 having a segmental slot 27 therein to limit the throw or movement of the disk by the wrist pin 24 striking against the terminal walls of said segmental slot.

The rear end of the rod 9, as shown by Figs. 1, 5 and 8, extends through the casing 26 and is secured to the center of the disk 25, the forward extremity of said rod being rotatable in the casing 13 and actuated through the medium of a suitable key inserted in the head 11 of the rod. By turning the rod in one direction the plate 15 will be elevated so that the screws or studs 22 will be located in the lower enlarged portions of the key-hole slots to permit the heads thereof to be drawn clear of the plate, and by this means all of the drawers are released and may be drawn outwardly or pushed inwardly at will. When the rod 9 is turned in the opposite direction the plate 15 will be drawn downwardly and the studs or screws 22 will be located in the upper reduced portions of the key-hole slots which are of less width than the diameter of the heads of the studs or screws, and consequently the drawers will be locked closed. Each stack of drawers will be provided with a locking means similar to that just described, and one of the advantages in this particular arrangement is that the sections may be assembled without requiring a connection of the locking means after the sections are secured to each other and without in the least affecting the locking means for the drawers of each section. A still further advantage in the locking mechanism associated with each group or stack of drawers is that one set of drawers in a sectional cabinet may remain locked while another stack may be rendered freely accessible.

It will be understood that a number of associated sections may be provided with a cap or top, not shown, but said top can be connected to the uppermost section in a manner similar to the securement of two sections through the medium of the rods, as hereinbefore explained.

The improved structure will be found exceptionally convenient and economical, and it is obvious that the several parts may be modified as to their proportions and dimensions to adapt them for various applications.

What is claimed is:

1. In a device of the class specified, the combination of superposed cabinet sections having interfitting coöperating members in the same plane, said members having openings therethrough, and a device removably inserted in the openings and separably connecting the members.

2. In a device of the class specified, the combination of cabinet sections having transversely extending cleats with openings therein, the cleats of one section fitting between and flush with the cleats of the other section, and a tie rod removably inserted in said cleats and separably connecting the sections.

3. In a device of the class specified, cabinet sections having connecting members with openings therein, the members of one section fitting between the members of the other section, and means removably inserted in the said members of both sections to separably connect the latter.

4. In a device of the class specified, superposed cabinet sections having connecting members at the upper and lower portions thereof, the members of one section interfitting between the members of the contiguous section and all the members having coinciding openings, and means removably in-

serted in the openings of the members and separably connecting the sections.

5. In a device of the class specified, cabinet sections having connecting members with openings therein and also provided with drawers, the members of one section fitting between the members of the other section, a movable locking means coöperating with the rear portions of the drawers, and a tie rod removably inserted in the said members of both sections and also connected to the locking means for operating the latter.

6. In a device of the class specified, cabinet sections having drawers, locking means movably coöperating with the rear portions of the drawers, and a tie rod removably inserted in and separably connecting the sections and also attached to the locking means for operating the latter.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LAWRENCE H. WALKER.
CHAS. E. WILSON.

Witnesses:
CHAS. B. VAN DYKE,
FRANCIS D. CAMPAU.