

**B. M. WILKERSON.**

**Business-Cards.**

No. 167,045.

Patented Aug. 24, 1875.

Fig. 1.

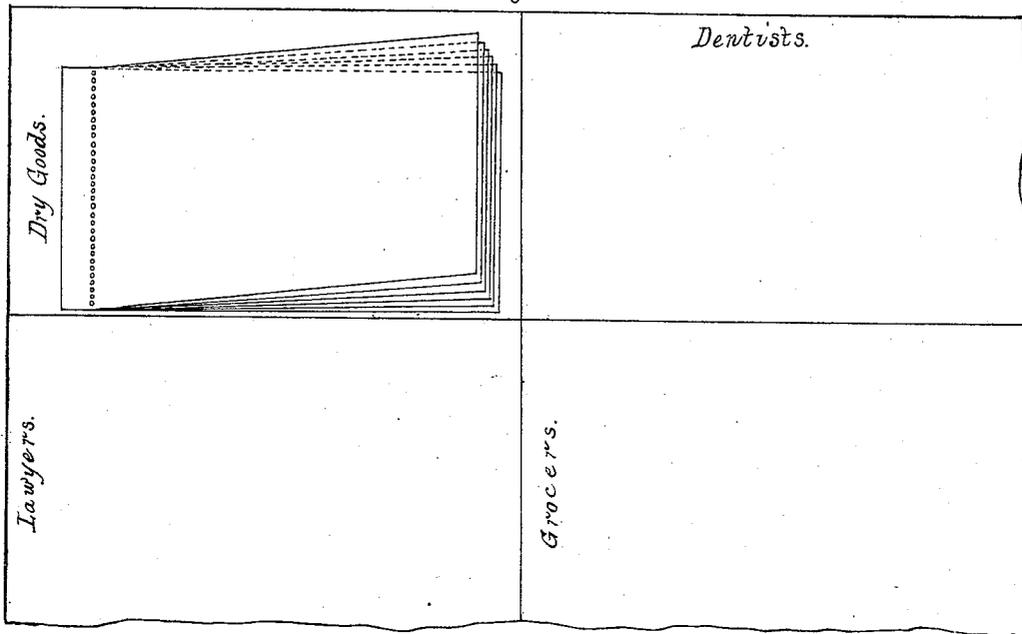


Fig. 2.

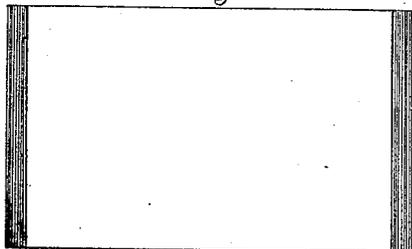


Fig. 3.

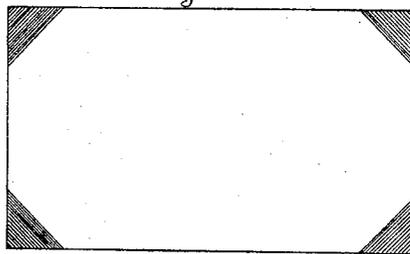
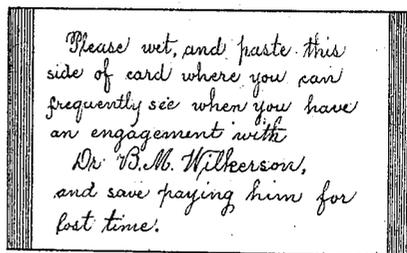
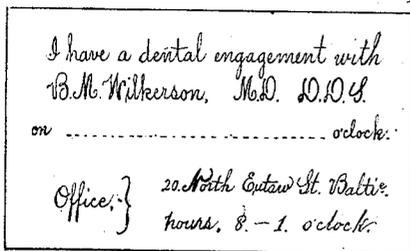


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BASIL M. WILKERSON, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS-CARDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **167,045**, dated August 24, 1875; application filed October 15, 1874.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BASIL M. WILKERSON, of the city and county of Baltimore, State of Maryland, have invented an Improvement in Business-Cards, and in the means of preserving them for future use; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

The object of my invention is to furnish a business-card which is capable of being instantly filed conspicuously, and yet removable for further use, and which dispenses with the ordinary card-rack, and is not likely to fall from its place when filed, thus avoiding that source of frequent annoyance when card-racks are used; and the invention consists in preparing the back of the card at or near the edge with gum or adhesive material, so as to make it self-adhering upon applying a little moisture, after the manner of applying postage-stamps, and in perforating the card between the gummed and the ungummed portion.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows several cards made in accordance with my invention, and gummed at one end only on their backs, and applied by the gum to a similar sheet of card-board by way of illustrating the simple mode of filing, which is attained by reason of making the card self-adhesive.

It will be seen that any number of cards may by this method be applied one on top of the other, to any desired number, without occupying any more area on the sheet or other article to which they may be applied than a single card requires, and that the whole series may be turned back like the leaves of a book without risk of detaching, unless desired, when any of them can be instantly torn away without detaching the rest; and to facilitate such removal I sometimes make them perforated at one side or end, as shown at the line *a b*. They may be gummed at the sides instead of the ends, or at both ends, as shown at *c* in Fig. 2, or at one or more or all of the corners, as shown at *d* in Fig. 3, or at the cen-

ter or elsewhere, as preferred; or in some cases when to remain permanently affixed to the sheet, desk, wall, &c., they may be gummed over the whole surface of the back.

This method of preserving cards has the great advantage to business men of permitting a classification of them in groups—as, for instance, all cards of dry-goods dealers in one group, grocers in another, lawyers in another, &c.—as indicated in Fig. 1, thus preventing the need of looking at random over a filed card-rack at great waste of time for a particular card, perhaps to discover at last that it has been lost from its place and disappeared.

For professional men and others who have to make many engagements for certain hours, days, and weeks in advance my invention is of great convenience, as I have learned from my own experience, and which has prompted this invention.

Patients, especially those of a dentist, are very apt to forget the day and hour assigned for their call, but upon his giving them, when their engagement is first made, one of his self-adhesive cards with the fact and date of the engagement stated thereon, and with a request on its gummed back to stick it up in a conspicuous place at home as a constant reminder, it assists to insure a prompt fulfilment of the engagement. Such a card is shown in Fig. 4, both sides of it being displayed. All the matter may be printed in advance upon these cards, except the period of the engagement, thus saving the necessity of writing particulars for many patients during the hurried hours of business.

Another advantage in my invention is, that cards will be much less likely to be wasted or thrown away, as they can be so readily preserved when there is no card-rack at hand by means of their self-adhering feature.

I am aware that postage-stamps and druggists' labels have had their backs dry-gummed, in order that they might be permanently attached without any need or intent of subsequent removal from the article to which they were secured. Nor could they be so removed without damage or danger of destroying them,

as the thinness of the paper would not permit it. I do not therefore claim these. Nor do I claim any novelty in dry-gumming, broadly; but

I claim—

A business or professional card perforated near one of its edges, and having that part

of its back between the perforations and its edge dry-gummed, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

BASIL M. WILKERSON.

Witnesses:

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CHAS. T. DAVIS.