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W. F. FLORENCE
INDICATOR FOR CABINETS

2,586,930

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FIG. 1.

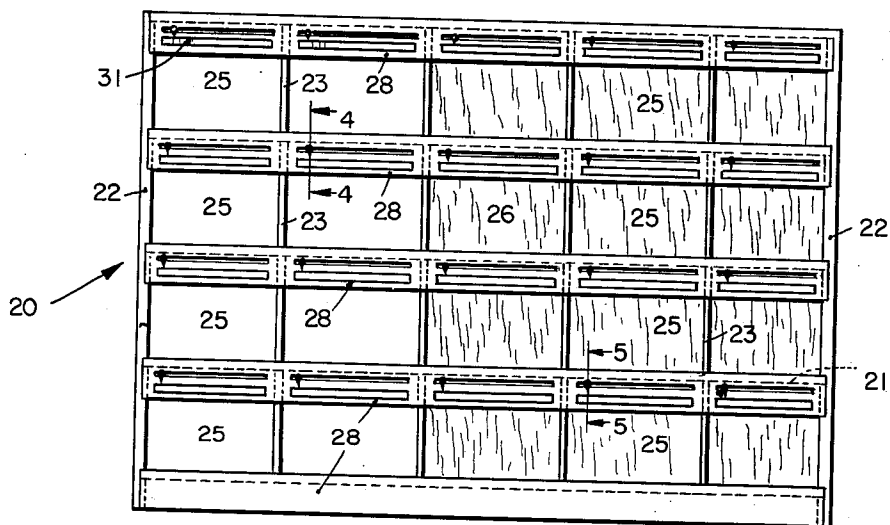


FIG. 3.

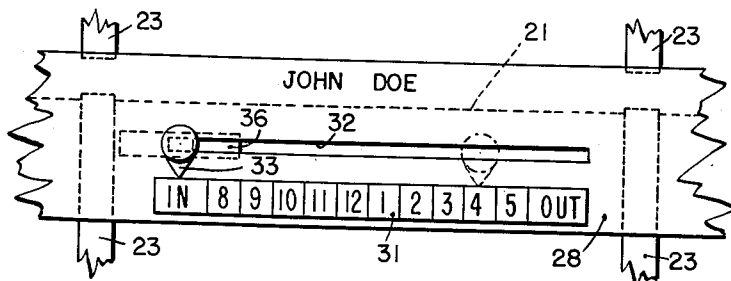


FIG. 2.

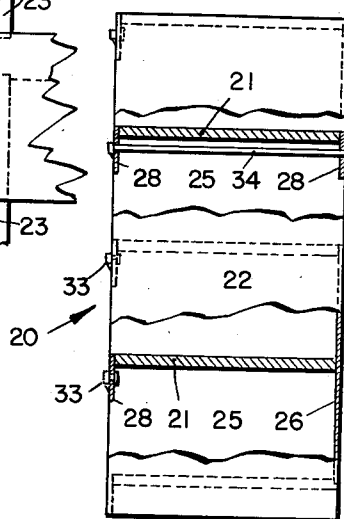


FIG. 4.

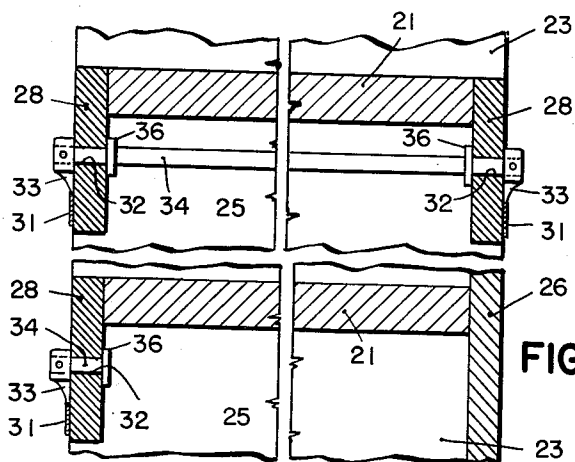


FIG. 5.

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INDICATOR FOR CABINETS

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2 Claims. (Cl. 116-135)

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The present invention relates to cabinets in general and particularly to filing cabinets. More specifically the invention comprises a rack or filing cabinet formed with a multiplicity of small compartments or pigeonholes adapted to receive classified letters, etc., and which incorporates indicating means by which information as to the whereabouts of the owner of the compartment may be evidenced.

The usual reception office or waiting room is provided at the receptionist's desk with a rack or filing cabinet comprising a plurality of compartments in which mail and papers arriving for various members of the company or firm may be placed so that when the owner of the cubbyhole enters the office he may immediately notice and pick up the mail awaiting attention. Such cabinets are frequently positioned adjacent or upon the telephone cabinet, particularly in the event the receptionist is also the telephone operator. During the day the officers or other members of the firm or company having individual compartments in the cabinet may leave the office, informing the receptionist as they do so that they will return at a certain hour. In a small concern this presents no difficulty but in a large organization it becomes impossible to retain such information without making notations relative thereto. The present invention is directed to a filing cabinet incorporating indicating means by which information concerning the holder of the compartment or pigeonhole can be recorded. Such indicating means can be so positioned as to convey information only to the receptionist or, if desired, to the receptionist and to the general public upon the opposite side of the cabinet.

Referring now to the drawing in which a preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of the cabinet constructed in accordance with the present invention as viewed by the receptionist;

Figure 2 is an end view of the cabinet in Figure 1, part of the end wall being broken away;

Figure 3 is an enlarged showing of the indicator panel which is typical of those positioned above each compartment or cubbyhole;

Figure 4 is a partial section upon the line 4-4 of Figure 1 showing indicating means positioned upon both front and rear faces of the cabinet; and

Figure 5 is a section similar to Figure 4 through a different part of the cabinet in which indicating means are positioned only upon the receptionist's side of the cabinet.

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In the drawing a filing cabinet or rack is indicated generally by the reference character 20 and is seen to be formed of horizontal boards or plates 21 supported by vertical upright end members 22, the space between each pair of adjacent horizontal members being subdivided by vertical side wall members 23 which are in alignment in the various tiers to provide cubbyholes 25 which, in the illustrated embodiment, are of uniform size. Pigeonholes 25 are open at both ends, that is, in the front and rear faces of the cabinet 20 in the two vertical series at the left of Figure 1, while the remaining three vertical series to the right thereof are closed by a back wall 26.

Panel members 28 extend across the forward face of the cabinet adjacent and below each horizontal base 21. A similar panel extends adjacent each base upon the rearward side of the cabinet for those cubbyholes which open on that side.

That portion of the panel board 28 which overlies the top portion of each cubbyhole 25 may be referred to as the indicator board for that cubbyhole, and each carries a chart, indicated generally by the reference character 31, which, in the preferred form illustrated most clearly in Figure 3, comprises a horizontally arranged series of numbers running from 8 to 12 and from 1 to 5, corresponding to the usual working hours of the normal office. At the left hand side of the series of numbers appears the word "In," while at the right appears the word "Out." Each of the words and each of the letters is preferably positioned within its own square or rectangle. In the case of pigeonholes 25 open at both ends the chart is reproduced at each end although, for reasons which will be apparent, the arrangements will be reversed at the opposite ends.

The indicator board for each pigeonhole is provided with an elongated slot 32 positioned above and extended for the full length of the chart 31. A pointer 33, the pointed end of which extends in the direction of the chart, is carried by a member 34 which itself extends through the slot 32 being transversely slidable therein in the direction of the chart length. In the case of those pigeonholes 25 open at both ends the member 34 comprises a rod extending for the full length thereof and through the slot 32 in the panel 28 at the opposite end to carry a second indicator 33 adjacent its outer face. In the case of the pigeonholes 25 which are closed at their rear faces by the back wall 26 the element 34 comprises merely a pin. In either case

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an elongated and flat plate member 36 is fixed to the member 34 to make sliding contact with the adjacent inner face of the adjacent panel 28 for the purpose of preventing any angular tilting movement which could result in the binding of the member 34 in the slot 32.

The operation of the cabinet is believed to be clear. Its use as a filing rack or cabinet for the sorting and retention of mail, etc. conforms to the usual practice. The receptionist places each letter or batch of mail in that compartment or cubbyhole assigned to a particular individual as indicated by his name positioned upon the indicator board immediately thereabove. In Figure 3 the name John Doe is illustrative of the positioning of such a name. The use of the device as an indicating mechanism and as an aid to the receptionist in maintaining an accurate account of the comings and goings of the individuals with whom she is connected is also believed to be clear. As each man arrives in the morning the receptionist slides the pointer 33 facing her to the left until it is positioned as shown in full lines in Figure 3 in which position it points to the word "In" upon the chart 31. The indicator then conveys the information that Mr. John Doe is in his office. If Mr. John Doe's pigeonhole is one of those open at both ends this information is also conveyed by the pointer 33 positioned at the opposite side of the cabinet, the pointers moving in synchronism by virtue of their connection by the rod 34. If Mr. John Doe prefers, however, that the fact he is in or out of the office be kept from the public generally then he would be provided with one of the cubbyholes 25 which is closed at its rear face by the back board 26.

If, during the working day, Mr. John Doe leaves his office, as he passes the receptionist he may inform her that he will return at, say, 4 o'clock. In that event the receptionist moves the pointer 33 from its full line position to a position opposite the figure 4, a position illustrated in dotted lines in Figure 3. The indicator then conveys the information that Mr. John Doe is out and will return at 4 o'clock. If instead, however, Mr. John Doe states that he is to be gone for the day the receptionist moves the pointer all the way to the right to indicate the "Out" position.

The cabinet constructed in accordance with the present invention may be made in various sizes and of various materials. It may be of sheet metal, wood, plastic, or any reasonable substitute therefor. The indicators are intended to be readily adjustable but are retained in a set position against accidental displacement by any common or well known means.

While the particular apparatus herein shown and described in detail is fully capable of attaining the objects and providing the advantages hereinbefore stated, it is to be understood

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that it is merely illustrative of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention and that no limitations are intended to the details of construction or design herein shown other than as defined in the appended claims.

I claim.

1. Indicating means for a cabinet of the type comprising a rigid body having spaced sides and divided into pigeonholes extended between said sides each of which is open at at least one of its ends at said spaced sides, said means comprising individual intelligence-conveying markings for each of said pigeonholes positioned upon the opposite sides of said body and at the opposite ends of the related pigeonhole, the markings upon opposite sides being arranged sequentially in reversed order, manually adjustable pointers positioned adjacent the markings upon the opposite sides of said body, and a rigid connecting element extended between said pointers at the opposite ends of a particular pigeonhole connecting them for simultaneous conjoint movement, said element being slidably mounted in said body.

2. Indicating means for a cabinet of the type comprising a body having spaced sides and divided into vertically and horizontally arranged pigeonholes extended between said sides each of which is open at at least one of its ends at said spaced sides, said means comprising aligned marks upon each side of said body positioned adjacent a particular pigeonhole to convey intelligence concerning a party assigned to that pigeonhole to a person facing the side of said body, the aligned marks upon opposite sides of said body adjacent a particular pigeonhole being apposed and arranged in reverse sequence, pointers for each pigeonhole adjacent the aligned marks upon each side of said body, and a rigid rod carrying said pointers related to a particular pigeonhole in said body to change the position of said pointers relative to said marks, characterized in that the adjustment of the pointer at one side of said body simultaneously changes the adjustment of the pointer at the opposite side of said body.

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