March 29, 1932. J. J. NELSON 1,851,320

READING BOARD

Filed April 6, 1929

Fig. 1

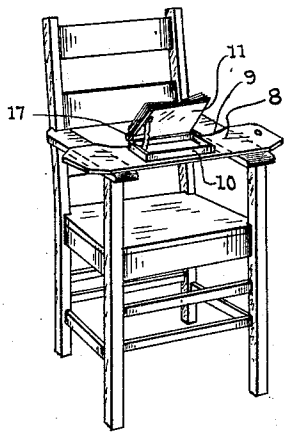



Fig. 3

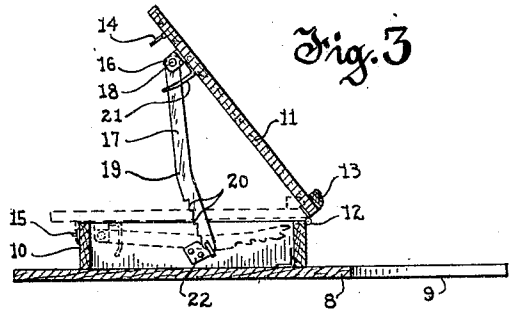



Fig. 4

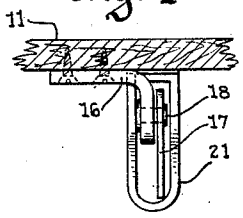



Fig. 5

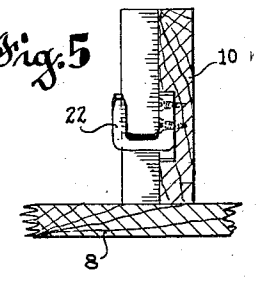
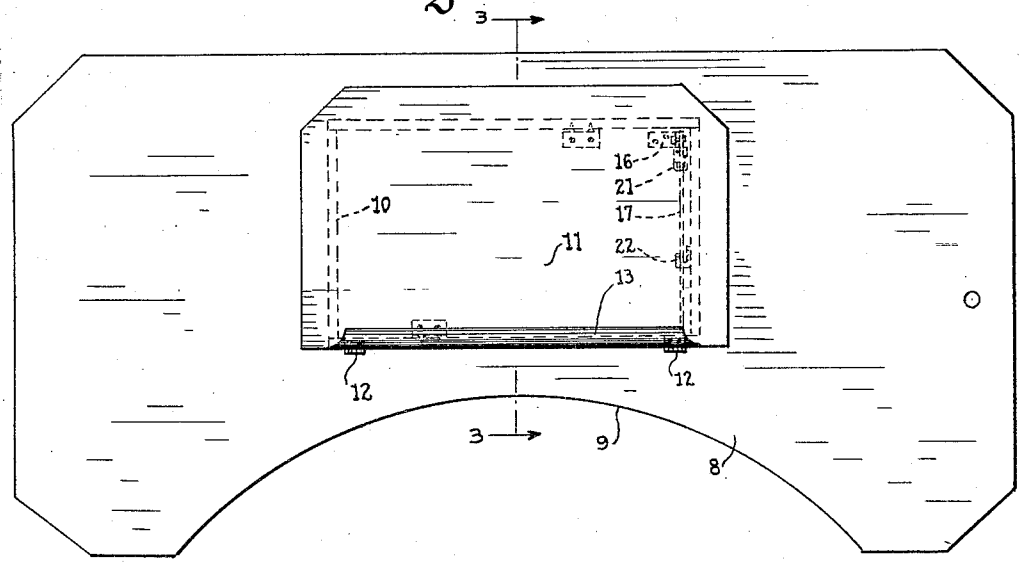



Fig. 2

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Patented Mar. 29, 1932 1,851,320

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN J. NELSON, OF NORTH MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

## READING BOARD

Application filed April 6, 1929. Serial No. 352,994.

This invention relates to improvements in reading boards.

It is one of the objects of this invention to provide an improved reading board which may be readily held on the lap or across the arms of a chair, and which is adapted to efficiently support a book or magazine, thereby relieving the reader of the task of holding the volume.

A further object of this invention is to provide a reading board in which the supporting member is readily adjustable to various angles with respect to the board so that the book may be held in any one of a number of positions, according to the desire of the user.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device of the class described in which the supporting member forms the cover of a box, the said box serving to receive and conceal the supporting arm when the cover is closed, and also serving as a receptacle for the book.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a reading board having a novel form of adjustable supporting arm for maintaining the book supporting member in the desired position.

A further object of this invention is to provide a reading board which is simple in construction, attractive in appearance, and well adapted for the purpose described.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention consists of the improved reading board, and all its parts and combinations, as set forth in the claim and all equivalents thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, in which the same reference characters designate the same parts in all of the views:

Fig. 1 is a perspetcive view of a chair showing the reading board as used in connection therewith;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the reading board;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 2, the full lines showing the cover in open position, and the dotted lines showing the cover in closed position;

Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view showing the loop member on the lower side of the cover and the supporting arm extending therethrough; and

Fig. 5 is an enlarged fragmentary sectional view showing the arm-engaging bracket.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 8 designates the base portion which is shown as substantially rectangular, but which may be of any other suitable shape. The inner edge of the base member is formed with a large recess 9 so as to provide ample room for the reader.

Positioned on a central portion of the board is a box 10 to one side of which a cover 11 is secured by hinges 12. The said cover is provided along its lower edge with a strip of material 13 forming a supporting shoulder for a book. Near the other edge of the cover, and secured to the lower side thereof, is a fastening member 14 for engaging a complementary fastening member 15 on the box to lock the cover in closed position.

Secured to the lower surface of the cover, at one side thereof, is an angle bracket 16, to the end of which, one end of a supporting arm 17 is pivotally connected as at 18. The said arm is slightly bent as at 19, and is formed on its outer edge with a plurality of teeth 20. A loop-shaped member 21, also secured to the lower side of the cover, forms a guide for the supporting arm. The teeth on the lower portion of the arm are adapted to engage a bracket 22 secured to and extending from a side of the box.

In using the device, it is preferably positioned across the arms of a chair, as shown in Fig. 1. The cover 11 is then opened to a position similar to that shown by full lines in Fig. 3, the arm 17 sliding over the bracket 22 as the cover is being opened, and automatically locking it in any desired position. It will be noted that in raising the cover it is unnecessary to touch the arm 17, as the latter is efficiently guided by the brackets 22 and 21, and the teeth 20 will catch of their own accord when the hand is removed from the cover. A book may then be placed on the cover as shown in Fig. 1, the lower edge of the book being supported by the shoulder 13.

To close the cover, it is merely necessary to

disengage the teeth 20 of the arm 17 from the bracket 22. When in closed position, the arm 17 fits within the box, as is shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 5, and is entirely concealed. The box 10 is of sufficient size to accommodate a book, and this convenient feature of construction makes it possible to place the book, which is being read, within the box, so that the reading board and book may be put away together, when not desired, ready to be used again at a later time.

Although only one form of the invention has been shown and described, it is not desired to be limited to the particular showing, as the broad concept of the invention contemplates all modifications and equivalents which may fairly come within the scope of the claim.

What I claim is:

A supporting board comprising a base member, a box portion on the upper surface of said base member, a supporting member hingedly connected to a side of said box, an arm pivotally connected at one end to said supporting member near the free edge of the latter and having teeth formed on its lower edge near the other end thereof, said arm having a length nearly as great as the width of the box and substantially having its free end positionable within the box portion greater than the depth thereof and adjacent the hinged edge of the supporting member when the latter is down, a bracket on an inner side of said box on which the lower edge of said arm rests, said arm being movable with the supporting member when the latter is raised, the lower edge of the arm sliding over the bracket, and the teeth being engageable with the bracket to hold the supporting member in any adjusted position, and a loop-shaped member extending from the supporting member and surrounding said arm to prevent outward movement thereof beyond the limits of the box.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

JOHN J. NELSON.

## CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION.

Patent No. 1,851,320. Granted March 29, 1932, to

JOHN J. NELSON.

It is hereby certified that error appears in the printed specification of the above numbered patent requiring correction as follows: Page 2, lines 29 and 30, of the claim, strike out the words "having its free end positionable within the box portion" and insert the same to follow the word "and" in line 31; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 3rd day of May, A. D. 1932.

M. J. Moore,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.

(Seal)