

No. 765,656.

PATENTED JULY 26, 1904.

A. E. ANDERSON.
LOOSE LEAF LEDGER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 22, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

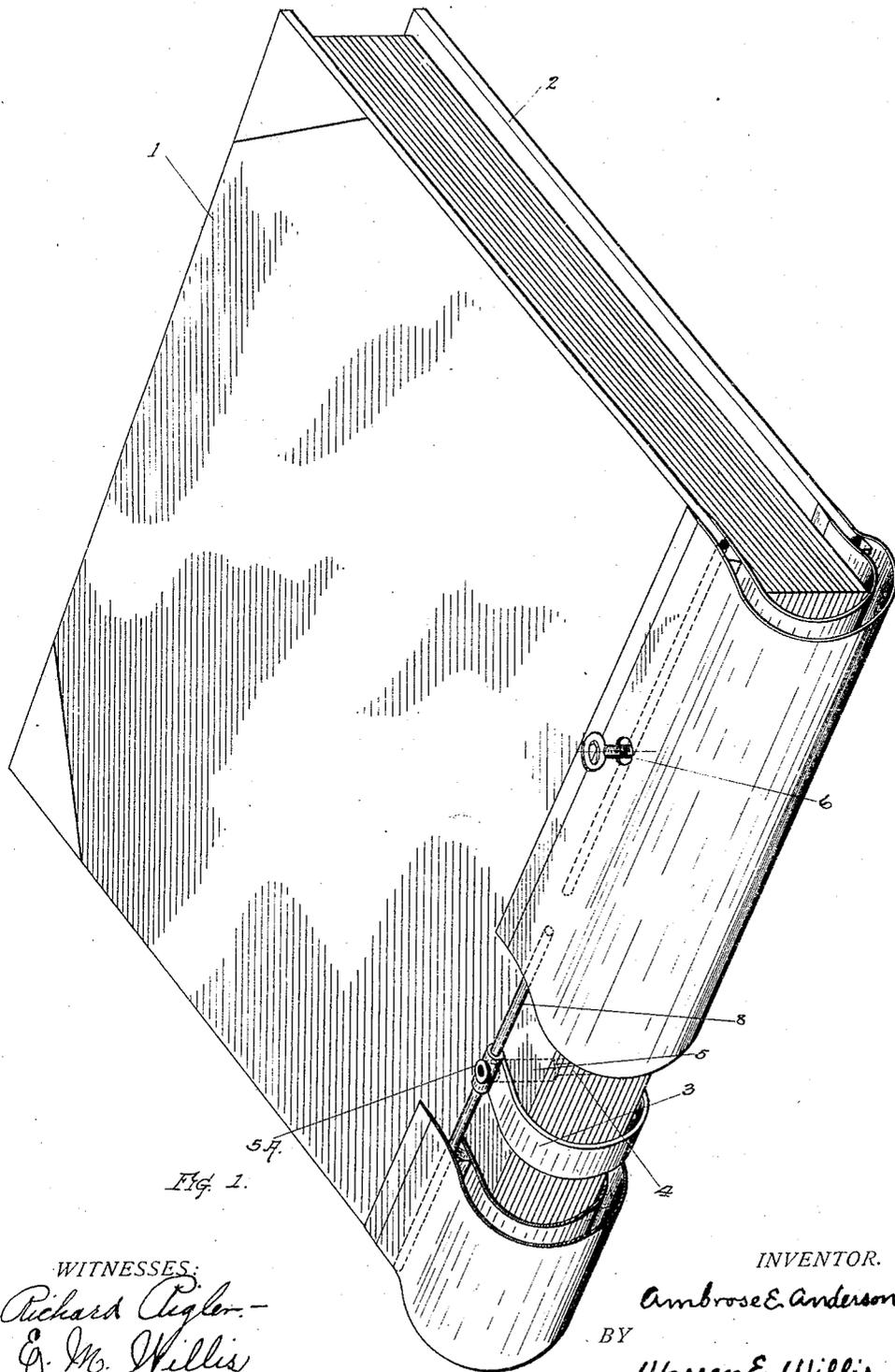


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES:

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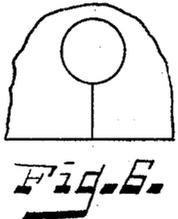
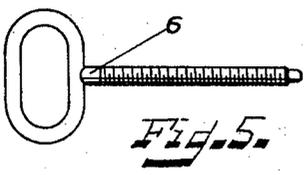
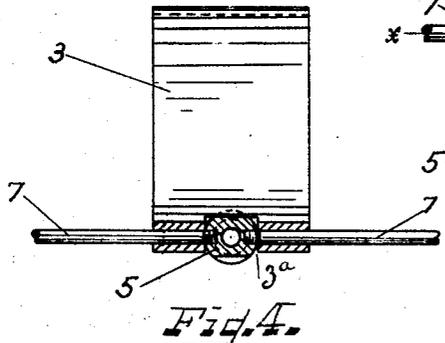
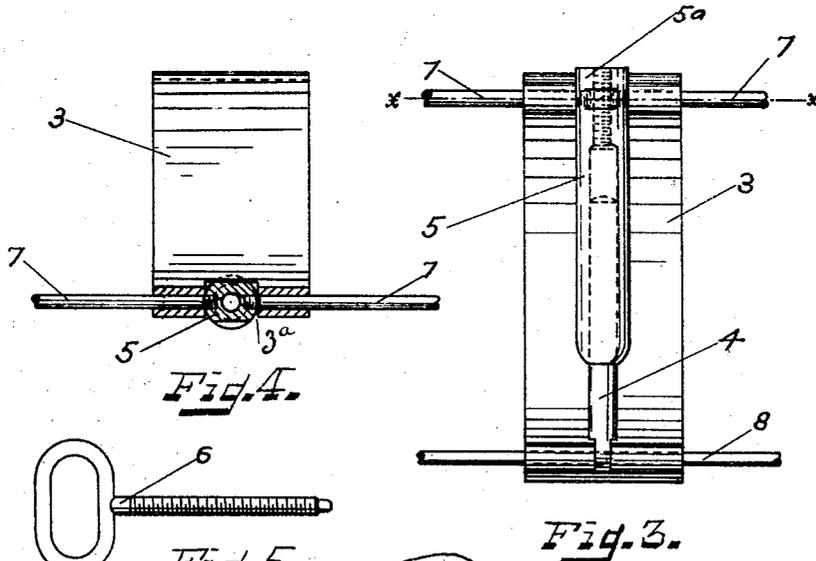
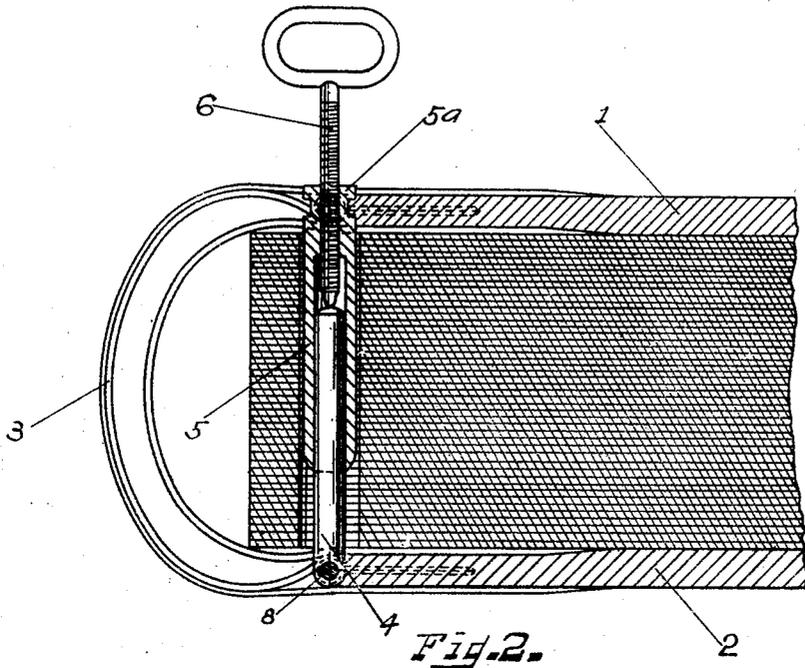
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LOOSE LEAF LEDGER.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 22, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AMBROSE E. ANDERSON, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

LOOSE-LEAF LEDGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 765,656, dated July 26, 1904.

Application filed November 22, 1902. Serial No. 132,446. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AMBROSE E. ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Loose-Leaf Ledgers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in securing the pages or leaves of books within their covers in general, and more particularly to that class of books used for keeping accounts and in which at times it is desirable to remove, insert, or exchange pages without destruction or mutilation thereof and which are commonly known as "loose-leaf" ledgers.

My object is to obtain a simple device that shall be easy to operate, positive in the performance of its functions, has no objectionable appearance, and no unsightly projections whatever to interfere with the ordinary handling and storing of the books.

A further object is to provide a book which having a given number of leaves need not necessarily be larger than an ordinary book having the same number of leaves and which may be as easily opened and closed.

I attain these objects by the combination of specially-prepared sheets or pages which, together with the covers, are constrained and connected by appropriately-shaped distensible flat springs attached to and forming a part of the binding.

The leaves of the book may all or partially be removed without detriment to the covers, and thus the same covers may be used over and over again with new leaves in whole or in part without trouble or difficulty.

My invention will be readily understood from the detailed description herewith presented, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a loose-leaf ledger embodying my invention, shown closed and partially broken away, allowing one of the springs to be seen and the key as applied in position. Fig. 2 is a transverse section of the book through the center of a spring. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the

spring and its attached parts. Fig. 4 is a section on line X X of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 represents the key, and Fig. 6 shows a fragmentary section of a page.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 and 2 respectively designate the front and back covers of the book, the said covers being made of any suitable material and finished in any preferred manner. Both covers are provided at their rear edges with wire rods 7 and 8, securely fastened to the material comprising the covers and running in the direction of the length of the book pass through loops formed by the outwardly-turned encircling ends of each connecting-spring in use. These springs 3 are preferably made of steel of uniform section formed into such shape as may be conveniently represented by the letter "C" and which in a normal unrestrained state form approximately a cylinder, the ends nearly touching each other. Midway in the width of these springs at the loop formed at each of their ends and immediately adjacent thereto a portion of the spring material is removed, leaving an opening rectangular in shape and of depth and width sufficient to allow the ends of the distending devices to be inserted, so that the central plane of the sleeves and bars shall be coincident with the centers of the loops at the spring ends, as shown at 3^a in Fig. 4 and as will be further explained, the whole being completely covered by the rear portion of the binding ordinarily connecting the covers of the book and which is attached thereto in the usual manner.

The wire rod 8 in passing entirely through one end of the spring 3 also passes through the end of one member of the distending device positioned in the opening at the spring end, the said distending device consisting of a slender round bar 4, the same being adapted to enter and move freely within a corresponding hollow cylindrical member 5 or sleeve attached to the opposite end of the spring 3. The method of securing this member 5 to the spring end, so as to withstand the force exerted by it, is by a shoulder formed near its upper end and abutting against the inner part

of the spring, a portion of the member extending out through the opening in the spring end and a washer or flange 5^a either integral therewith or separate, as may be preferred, 5 to rest upon the outer part surrounding the opening of the spring at its end. This hollow member or sleeve 5 is not held rigidly, but left free to adjust itself to the position it is obliged to assume by reason of its engagement with the other member 4. It is prevented from turning and also held in position 10 by short wire rods 7, which are screw-threaded into the head of the sleeve 5, on opposite sides thereof, as far in as possible without conflicting with the free passage of the screw-threaded 15 key 6, which is fitted to coincide with the internal screw-threads shown at the upper end of the sleeve. Both members 4 and 5 are covered by the binding of the book and do not 20 appear on its surface except at a point immediately over the opening in the sleeve where the cover is perforated for the insertion of the key 6.

From the above it will be evident that with 25 the leaves withdrawn the covers will be constrained to come into as close contact with each other as the length of the sleeves will permit and that upon insertion of the threaded 30 keys into the sleeves and turning the same therein the oppositely-disposed ends of the springs, together with the attached covers, will be forced apart in amount according to the number of turns made, thus permitting 35 the ready insertion of leaves at will. Upon turning the keys in the reverse direction the leaves will be compressed tightly together and securely held by the tension of the springs acting through the covers at the joint thereof. It is also evident that the joint between the 40 covers of the book and the springs constitute, in effect, a hinge, readily permitting the covers to be opened and the leaves to be turned at will without freeing the leaves from the pressure of the springs or allowing them to 45 get out of position in any way, and it may be further seen that the sleeves pass through the perforations in the leaves for this purpose, while the slit (see Fig. 6) is to admit of withdrawal or insertion upon removal of the pressure. 50

I am aware that springs have hitherto been used for the purpose of holding leaves within covers, and hence do not broadly claim that principle as my own.

55 What I do claim, and desire to cover by Letters Patent, is—

1. A device of the class described, comprised of two covers, pivotally united to, and connected by, one or more appropriately-curved 60 flat springs; of said springs and of distensible members permanently attached individually

thereto; and of separable, extraneous means for operating said distensible members, all substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination of covers, pivotally 65 united to the oppositely-disposed ends of a plurality of bent flat springs, means whereby the ends of said springs may be distended at will, leaves provided with slits and perforations to pass over said means of distension 70 and adapted to be alined by them.

3. The combination of suitable springs, of U-shaped section, attached pivotally, at their extremities, to the covers of a book adapted to receive them; rods, or bars, attached loosely 75 at one end to an end of the springs, at their pivotal point, extending in direction toward the other end of the springs; sleeves threaded internally, attached to the opposite ends of said springs, extending downwardly and 80 loosely surrounding the said rods or bars; keys, threaded externally on their shanks to engage with the threads in the sleeves; pages, having bifurcated and perforated openings, adjacent to their rear edges, adapted to pass 85 over and be constrained by the said rods and sleeves, all substantially as shown and described.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of covers, hinged at their rear 90 edge to a plurality of springs; of springs, whose normal, unrestrained shape approximates a cylinder, having the ends turned outwardly, a central rectangular portion removed from the ends, the remaining portions forming 95 looped forks of equal size; of pins, extending from the cut-away portions of the springs, outwardly into the material of the covers and firmly embedded therein; of a post secured between one pair of the forks on the 100 end of each looped spring; of a post-surrounding, tubular sleeve, attached to the opposite end of each spring; and of a key, having a threaded shank adapted to engage with the threads in the tubular sleeve, all substantially 105 as shown and described.

5. A book, comprising in its entirety, the combination of covers, hinged together, through the medium of flat springs curved appropriately; of distending devices consisting 110 of male and female members, attached at their extremities, to the springs, at their point of juncture with the covers; a plurality of leaves, provided with suitable apertures to enable them to be placed in position; all substantially 115 as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

AMBROSE E. ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

HOWARD Q. TURNER,
JOS. B. IMMLER.