No. 632,957. Patented Sept. 12, 1899.

S. BILLOW.

DUPLEX MENU.

Application filed Aug. 30, 1898.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.

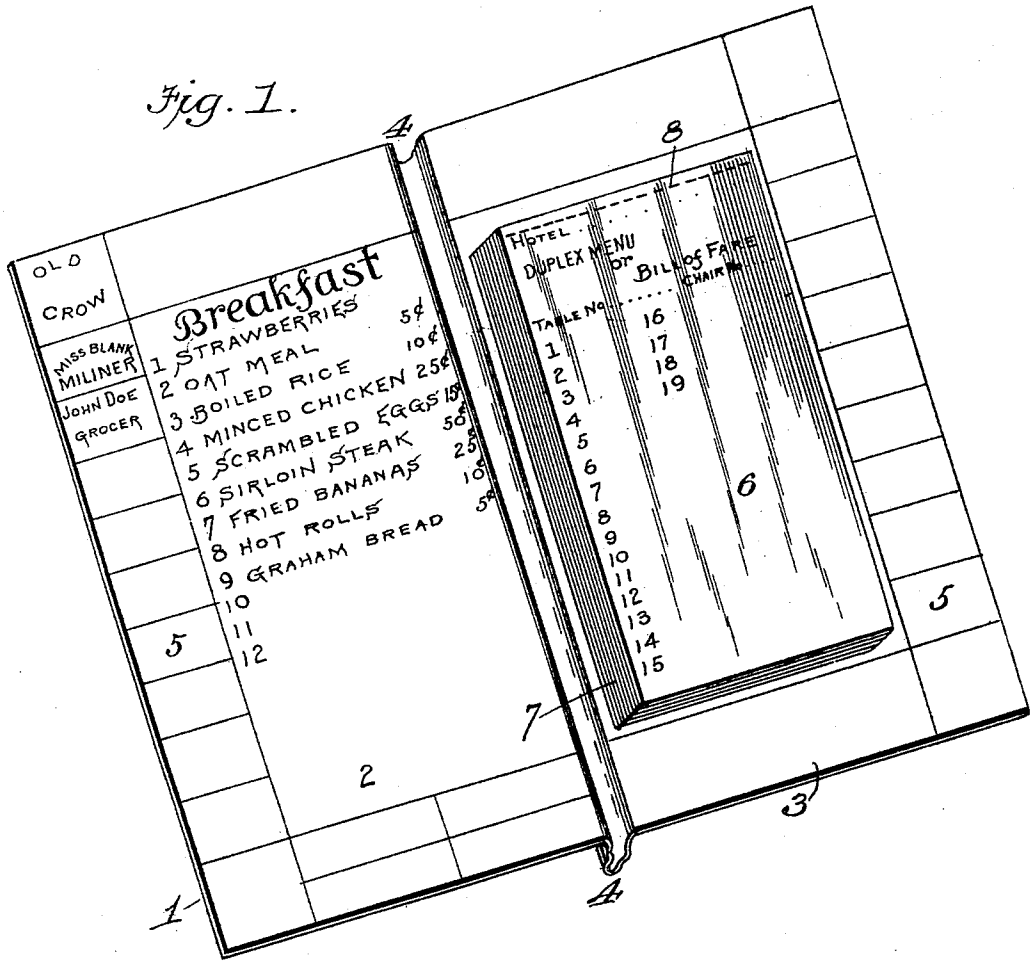
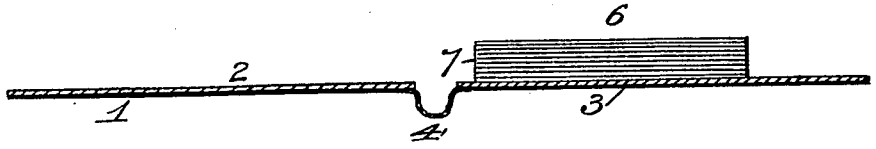


Fig. 3.



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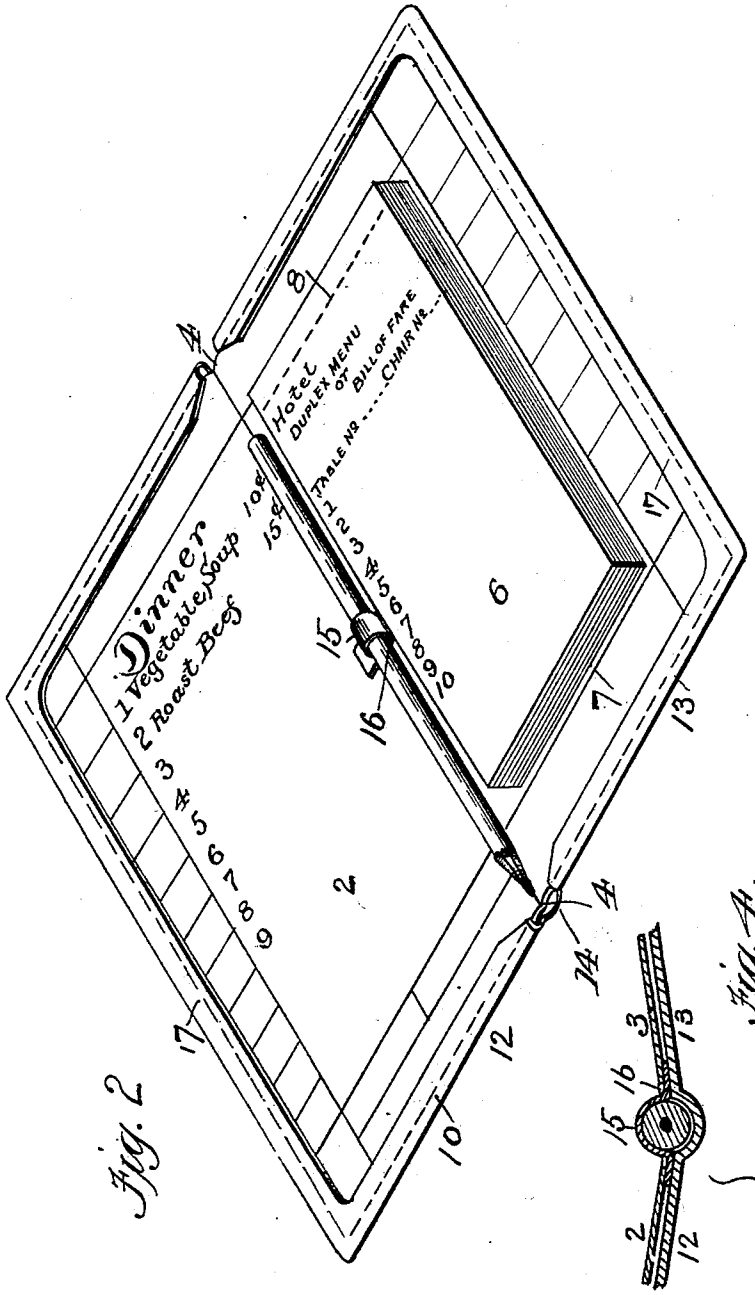


Fig. 2.

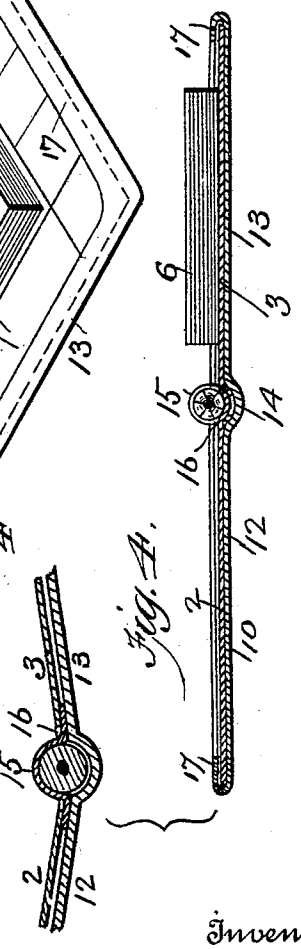


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SHERMAN BILLOW, OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

DUPLEX MENU.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 632,957, dated September 12, 1899.

Application filed August 30, 1898. Serial No. 689,851. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SHERMAN BILLOW, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Antonio, in the county of Bexar and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Duplex Menus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a duplex menu or bill of fare for the use of hotels, restaurants, eating-houses, club-houses, steamers, steamboats, and dining-cars generally; and its object is to provide an improved construction of the same which will not only render the ordering of meals or articles of food less irksome to the guests, but will also insure their getting just what they ordered. It will also relieve the cooks or those who serve the meals of a great deal of work and will act as a check, so that the cashier or proprietor can know exactly what has been served, thereby allowing him to trace the source of the "leaks" and put a stoppage to the same.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a duplex menu-card or bill of fare constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view of a modified construction. Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal section of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a similar view of Fig. 2.

In the said drawings the reference-numeral 1 designates a cover comprising a front 2 and a back 3, somewhat similar to the cover of an ordinary book and connected together by a flexible joint 4. Around the edges of the inner sides of said cover are spaces 5, containing suitable advertisements, and in the central space on the inner side of the front 2 is printed a menu or bill of fare of the dishes served, which dishes are consecutively numbered and which also have the prices of the same printed thereon, if desired.

Connected with the inner side of the back 3 is a tablet 6, consisting of a number of separate leaves 7, connected or attached to each other at the upper ends or edges. Each of these leaves has printed thereon consecutively-arranged numbers corresponding with the numbers on the menu or bill of fare and having also printed thereon, near the upper end, "Table No. —" and "Chair No. —," the dashes designating spaces for the number of the table and chair to be inserted by the waiter. The said leaves near their upper edges are provided with a row of perforations 8 to facilitate their attachment.

In using the invention the guest will look over the menu-card or bill of fare and selecting such dishes as he wishes will check off the numbers thereof on one of the leaves 7. This leaf will now be detached by the waiter, who will enter thereon the number of the chair and table occupied by the guest and will take the leaf to the cook or server of the articles of food, who will have a corresponding menu or bill of fare, so that all he will have to do in order to prepare the dish or dishes ordered will be to note the number or numbers of the same on his menu-card or bill of fare. If desired, a sheet of carbon-paper may be interposed between said leaves and coupons, (the use of the carbon-paper being especially adapted for restaurant service,) so that a duplicate of the order may be made which can be furnished to the cashier or proprietor, who will be enabled to see just what has been ordered by the guest. It will thus enable the guest to know precisely what he orders and the cost thereof and avoid all controversy between the guest and the waiter or cashier as to the articles ordered and their cost.

By the said invention the guest will be relieved of the trouble of writing out the names of the dishes he wishes, as he simply checks off on the leaves the numbers of said dishes, and it will also obviate the necessity of the waiter committing to memory the dishes ordered and communicating them to the servers, which is liable to lead to confusion, especially in time of a rush.

In the modification shown in Figs. 2 and 4 the said cover is connected with a casing 10, also consisting of a front 12 and a back 13, connected together by a flexible joint 14. This joint 14 is provided with a loop 15, which serves as a clasp or clamp for holding a lead-pencil. This loop passes through an opening 16 in the joint of the cover formed by slitting the material thereof. The edges of the said casing are provided with inwardly-extending flaps 17, which engage with the edges of the cover

and hold it in place. The manner of using the device shown in this modification is the same as before described.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

As an improved article, a duplex menu consisting of the outer covers connected together by a flexible joint and provided with a loop and the inner covers formed with an aperture through which said loop passes one of which inner covers is provided with a permanent list of articles consecutively numbered and the other provided with a tablet comprising a number of detachable leaves having thereon numbers corresponding with the numbers of said articles and provided with spaces to receive the number of the chair and table, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

SHERMAN BILLOW.

Witnesses:
J. J. MAURER,
N. F. NEELY.