V. Woodcock,

Arranging School Desks,

No. 12,497. Patented Mar. 6, 1855.

Fig. 1.

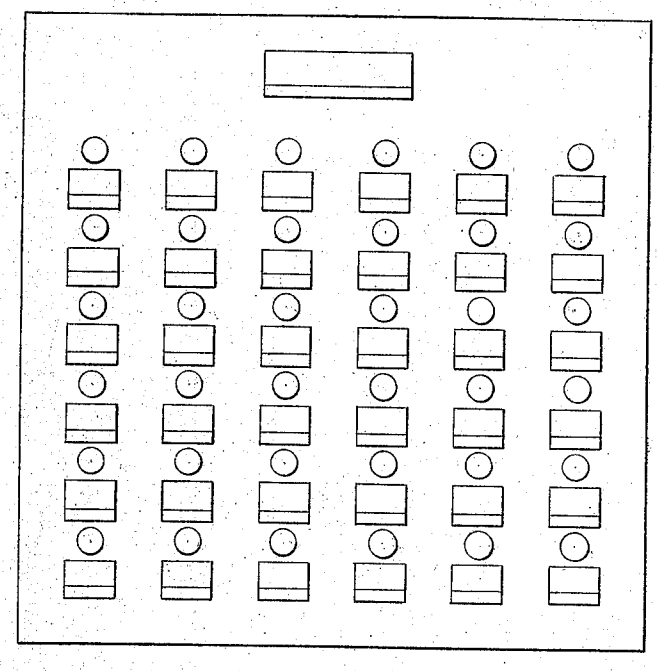


Fig. 2.

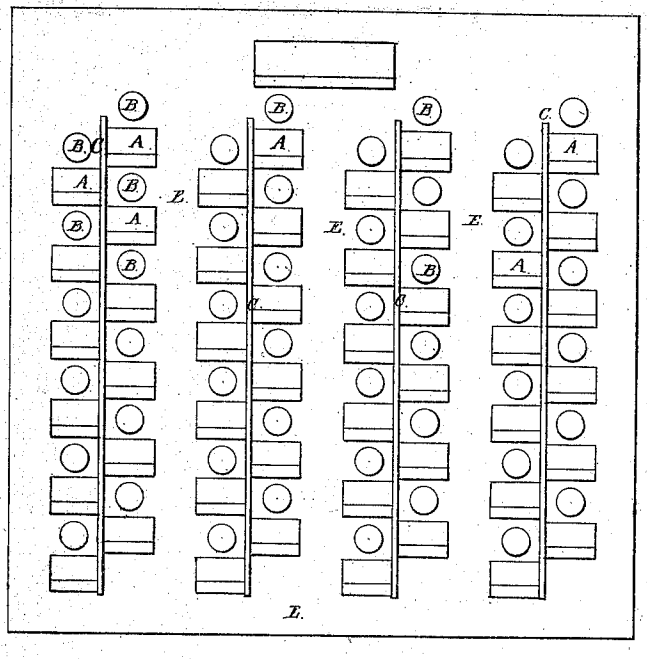
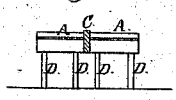


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

VIRGIL WOODCOCK, OF SWANZEY, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

ARRANGEMENT OF DESKS IN SCHOOL-ROOMS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 12,497, dated March 6, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VIRGIL WOODCOCK, of Swanzey, in the county of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Combination and Arrangement of School-Desks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the same.

The nature of my improvement consists in combining the rows of school desks together in such a manner that while each scholar is properly separated, a considerable saving is effected in space, and economy also gained in the cost of erecting the desks.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention I will proceed to describe its construction and operation, reference being had to the annexed drawings forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1, is a plan showing the common method of arranging the seats and desks, in school rooms. Fig. 2, a plan showing my improved method of arranging and combining the same. Fig. 3, is a side sectional elevation of two of my improved desks.

Similar letters of reference indicate the same parts.

A, the desk; B, the seats; C, connecting beam; D, legs of the desks; E, aisles.

The usual method of arranging the desks of school rooms, is to place them in rows, independently of each other with an aisle between each row. By my improvement I combine two rows of desks together with a separating beam C, between.

Fig. 1, is a plan of a school room, having the desks arranged in the ordinary manner, while Fig. 2, shows my improved arrangement. The ground surface is supposed to be the same in both figures; the width of the aisles is also the same. In Fig. 1, there are thirty six desks; in Fig. 2, there are forty eight desks, showing an absolute saving of thirty three and one third per cent. in ground surface, by the use of my arrangement.

In my improvement I provide a connecting beam C, and secure the desks in rows, one in front of each other, to the sides of the connecting beam. A seat intervenes between each desk, as shown. Two rows of desks are thus combined with each connecting beam. Aisles E, are left between each double row of desks.

The desks and seats it will be observed, are arranged diagonally in respect to each other which is an important advantage, since the occupants of seats thus located cannot communicate with each other so easily, as when they sit in parallel lines according to the old plan. Under the new arrangement the occupant of a seat cannot communicate with those next behind him, without turning almost entirely around,— a movement which would at once be observed from the teacher on the rostrum. Scholars occupying a room having a desk arranged according to my plan, will therefore be more easily controlled, because their attempts at conversation with their neighbors, will be attended with inconvenience, besides exposing them to the direct observation of the teacher.

In assembling the scholars in the aisles my improvement is also advantageous, since there can be no confusion, owing to the diagonal position of the seats and desks with reference to each other.

By attaching one end of each desk to its corresponding connecting beam, a greater stability is commnicated to the whole, so that the supports of the desks may be much lighter and less expensive than where every desk is required to stand independently by itself. In addition to the economy of my combination, there is another advantage, which consists in the facility of cleaning the floor of the room, the only supports of the desks being plain legs as shown in Fig. 3.

The upper surface of the connecting beam may be ornamented with scroll work to suit the taste.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

The diagonal arrangement of the seats and desks as herein described.

VIRGIL WOODCOCK.

Witnesses:
O. D. MUNN,
I. W. COOMB.