This invention relates to cabinets and more particularly to cabinets for card trays and the like.

In former card tray cabinets, it has been proposed to provide a handle on the front face of each card tray but such an array of handles is not only expensive but unsightly. Furthermore, in such cabinets, the releasing buttons or knobs of the latches for the trays are necessarily spaced from the related handles so that it is awkward to remove the lower trays from the cabinet. In addition such a tray cannot be carried in one hand without spilling the cards therefrom.

The present invention has for its purpose a card tray cabinet which is attractive in appearance and which can be manufactured at reduced cost and which has its latch releasing means conveniently located. The trays of this cabinet can be easily carried without spilling the contents.

The various features and advantages of the invention will appear from the detailed description and claims when taken with the drawing in which Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred form of the card tray cabinet of this invention illustrating one card tray slide in its fully withdrawn position and with one of the card trays removed from the slide; Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view of a catch and latch mechanism for locking a tray slide in the cabinet; Fig. 3 is a side view partially in section of a tray slide and tray, with the tray catching depressing the spring latch prior to latching; Fig. 4 is a similar view illustrating the tray latched on the tray slide; Fig. 5 is a like view showing the front of the tray elevated with respect to the tray slide so that its catch is disengaged from the latch; Fig. 6 is a vertical section of a fragment of a tray taken substantially on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 is a vertical section of a tray taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 1 illustrating the mounting of the extensible handle.

Referring especially to Fig. 1, 5 generally designates a cabinet which is open at its front and which has a top 6 and sides 7. A plurality of tray slides 8, each adapted to carry a group of trays 9, are mounted in any preferred manner for sliding movement into and withdrawal from the cabinet. These slides with the trays thereon close the front of the cabinet.

As herein illustrated each tray slide is carried at its opposite sides on rollers (not shown) of extensible supports 11 of well-known construction so that the trays thereon can be withdrawn free from the cabinet. Each tray slide is preferably provided with side rails 12 to engage the exposed sides of the group of trays thereon but the front of the slide is left open so that the group of trays, which normally close this front, can be removed or replaced therethrough. The front edge of each slide, is provided intermediate of its side edges, with a handle 13 by which the slide with its trays can be withdrawn from the cabinet. Each tray slide is held in its closed position by any well-known type of spring latch mechanism. As herein illustrated the latching mechanism comprises a catch 15 projecting forwardly from a reinforcing cross strip 16 carried by the cabinet and positioned beneath each tray slide. The tray slide itself, has mounted thereon for limited lengthwise movement, a bar 17 which is provided with a projecting latch 18 adapted to engage a notch in the catch 15. The bar and its latch are normally urged toward the left by a coil spring 19 having one end attached to a fixed part of the tray slide and its other end attached to an ear on the right hand end of the bar 17, as viewed in Fig. 2. A latch releasing button 20 secured to the left end of the bar 17 projects through a slot in the front of the tray slide adjacent the handle so that the operator while grasping the handle with one hand can simultaneously move the latch releasing button 20 toward the right with the thumb of the same hand, to disengage the latch from its catch.

Each group of trays is locked on its tray slide while this slide is in the cabinet but are individually removable therefrom without difficulty when the slide is partially or completely withdrawn. The locking means for the trays includes a raised channel portion 21 positioned on the tray slide intermediate of the trays thereon. The channel on its upper surface has mounted thereon a leaf spring bent intermediate its ends to form a latch 22. One end of the leaf spring is welded or otherwise fastened to the channel and its other end projects through an opening in the channel so that the latch can be readily depressed when a tray is forced rearwardly on the slide. The sides of the trays are provided with catches 25 adapted to engage their related leaf spring latch 22 when these trays are in their normal position on the slide.

It will be noted that the front face of each card tray is free from any handle but instead an extensible handle 26 is mounted within the tray at the front thereof. This handle is U-shaped and its arms 27 extend through pairs of aligned apertures in a channel-shaped strip 28 welded to the inner front wall of the tray, the lower ends of
the arms 27 being enlarged as indicated at 30, to prevent their complete withdrawal from the channel bar.

In the cabinet any one of the tray slides 5 may be withdrawn by means of the handle 18 after its latch button 20 has been moved to the right to disengage the latch 19 from the catch 16. When the slide has been partially or completely withdrawn any one of the trays thereon may be disengaged with the tray slides mounted in spaced relation for movement into and withdrawal from said cabinet, latch mechanism individual to each slide for locking the same in the cabinet, a handle for each slide, latch mechanism releasing means adjacent each handle, a plurality of trays detachably carried on each tray slide, the fronts of which trays normally close the open front of their slide, the front face of each tray being without a handle, a telescoping handle mounted on the inner front wall of the tray, latching means mounted on each slide, and a catch on a side of each of said plurality of trays for engaging said latching means whereby said tray cannot be removed from the slide while it is within the cabinet, but can be detached from the tray slide after the slide is partially withdrawn from the cabinet.

2. In a structure of the class described, a cabinet open at its front, a plurality of open front tray slides mounted in spaced relation for movement into and withdrawal from said cabinet, latch mechanism individual to each slide for locking the same in the cabinet, a handle for each slide, latch mechanism releasing means adjacent each handle, a plurality of trays detachably carried on each tray slide, the fronts of which trays normally close the open front of their slide, the front face of each tray being without a handle, a telescoping handle mounted just to the rear of the front wall of the tray, latching means mounted on each slide, and a catch on a side of each of said plurality of trays for engaging said latching means whereby said tray cannot be removed from the slide while it is within the cabinet, but can be detached from the tray slide after the slide is partially withdrawn from the cabinet.

3. In a structure of the class described, a cabinet open at its front, a plurality of open front tray slides mounted in spaced relation for movement into and withdrawal from said cabinet, latch mechanism releasing means on each slide adjacent its handle and in horizontal alignment therewith, a plurality of trays detachably carried by each tray slide, the fronts of which trays normally close the open front of their slide, a concealed handle at the rear of each tray front whereby said fronts are free from normally exposed handles, latching means mounted on each slide, and a catch on each of said plurality of trays for engaging said latching means whereby said trays cannot be removed from the tray slide until after it is partially withdrawn from the cabinet.

4. In a structure of the class described, a cabinet open at its front, a tray slide mounted for movement into and withdrawal from said cabinet, a latch mechanism for locking the slide in the cabinet, a handle on said slide, latch mechanism releasing means on the slide adjacent said handle, a plurality of trays detachably carried by the tray slide with adjacent side walls of the trays in spaced relation, the fronts of the trays normally closing the open front of the slide, a resilient latch mounted on said slide in the space between adjacent sidewalls of the trays, a catch projecting from the side of each tray adjacent said resilient latch for engagement therewith, whereby said trays cannot be removed from the tray slide until it is partially withdrawn from the cabinet.

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