June 11, 1929. A. G. DAWSON 1,716,625

PARTITION CONSTRUCTION

Filed Sept. 27, 1927

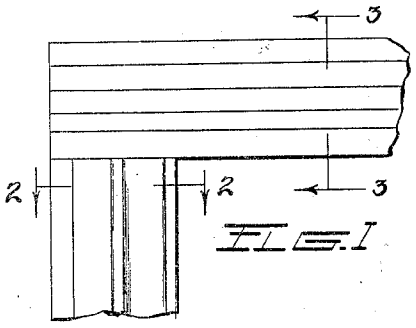

FIG. 1

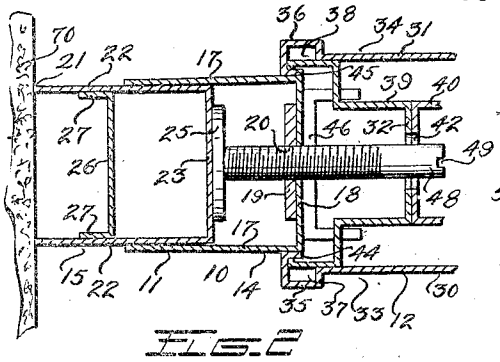

FIG. 2

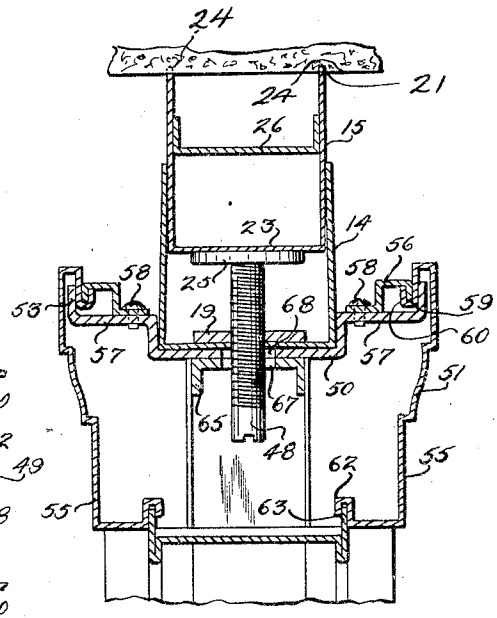

FIG. 3

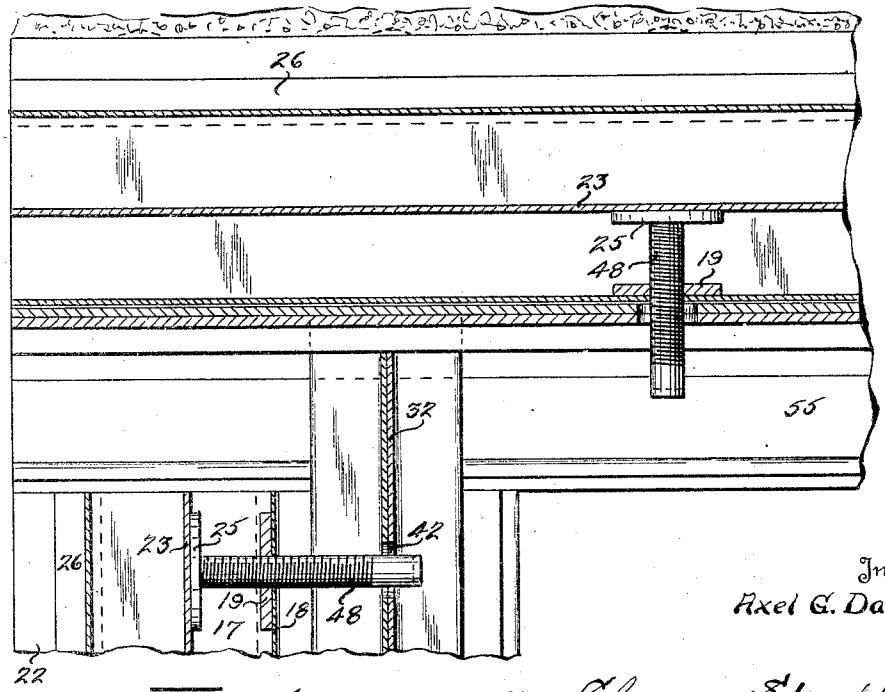

FIG. 4

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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PARTITION CONSTRUCTION.

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This invention relates to an improvement in partition construction and more particularly to that part of the partition which directly adjoins walls and ceilings.

In its preferred embodiment this invention forms a part of a partition and comprises adjustable sliding members which are adaptable to adjustment to increase or decrease the length or height of a partition where it joins a wall or ceiling.

In order to more fully explain the variations of this invention it is necessary to refer briefly to the construction of the present day partition. Varying styles and kinds of partitions have been in use for some time and, although much improvement in their recent construction may be noted, the fact that those now on the market do not meet all the requirements of the builder is well established. At present it is a prerequisite that partitions be built exactly to given dimensions in length and height. Any slight variance in a partition from its given dimensions necessitates a considerable amount of work which may be illustrated as follows: A given room is to be partitioned off and made into two rooms, the thickness of the partitions and the manner of support are immaterial but it is necessary to know the exact height and width thereof before construction can begin. As is often the case, the dimensions for the room may be slightly erroneous or the length and height of the partition may vary somewhat from the dimensions. When such variance occurs, it is not generally observed until the partition has been partially installed. If the error is in the room dimensions, i. e. the room being smaller than the partition, a portion of the end of the partition must in some way be removed. If such error happens to be in the height, a very considerable portion of the upper part of the partition must be removed. Such removal of portions of previously built up partitions is a costly operation as well as being detrimental to the strength and beauty thereof. If the partition is found to be slightly less than the width of the room or shorter than the ceiling height, much the same difficulty will be encountered. However, in this case the partition would need to be added to, to properly fill the given space. Regardless of the material used in constructing partitions, whether it be wood, metal or metal and glass, or wood and glass, such alteration as above described is very costly and found to be wholly unsatisfactory.

It is applicant's endeavor to so make partitions that they may be readily adaptable to overcome slight variations or errors in given dimensions or will readily take care of unforseen cornices, projections, etc.

An object of this invention is to provide a partition construction including an adjustable filler member which may be extended or retracted to adapt itself to a given wall or ceiling.

Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable filler member which may not only be adjusted to abut a wall or ceiling but may be firmly held thereagainst by means contained and secured to the filler member.

A further object of this invention is to provide an adjustable filler member which having been in place with a partition may be readily removed from said partition and again be capable of repeatedly being adapted to other room dimensions.

Other objects of this invention will appear from a consideration of the following specification taken in connection with the accompanying drawing and in which

Fig. 1 is a fragmentary view of a partition including a portion of the wall and ceiling;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1 and illustrates the manner in which the filler member is moved to engage a given wall;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view taken on the lines 3—3 of Fig. 1 and illustrates the manner of engaging the filler member with the ceiling; and

Fig. 4 is an enlarged vertical sectional view and illustrates generally the relative position of the side wall filler member to that of the ceiling filler member.

Referring to the drawing and more particularly to Fig. 2, this invention is generally indicated by the reference numeral 10, and comprises an adjustable filler member 11, and pilaster 12. The filler member 11 comprises a fixed portion 14 and a movable portion 15 which are adapted to engage each other in a telescopic manner. The fixed portion 14 of the filler member is channular in shape having side walls 17 and an inner or base wall 18. Suitably secured, as by welding, to the inner face of the wall 18 is a plate 19. An opening 20 is formed through both the plate

19 and the wall 18, the purpose of which will later be described. The movable portion 15 of the filler member is similar in shape to the fixed member 14 but slightly smaller and adapted to be slidably engaged within the walls 17 of the fixed member 14. The member 15 comprises side walls 22 and an inner or base wall 23. The walls 22 along their edges 21 have small projecting prongs 24 which are adapted to assist in holding the walls 22 of the filler member 11 in fixed relation to a given wall. Secured to the outer face of the wall 23, in any suitable manner as by welding, is a plate 25 which corresponds in size and relative position to the plate 19 secured to the wall 18. Between the walls 22 a bracket 26 is positioned, being secured along its flanges 27 to the walls 22. This bracket gives rigidity to the movable member and also prevents it from collapsing. The inner end of the fixed portion 14 of the adjustable filler member is secured within or to a suitable post or pilaster. In the present instance a pilaster adapted to receive the member 14 within it is shown but it is obvious that other types of pilaster may be used to accommodate this member.

The pilaster 12 comprises two opposite fixed members 30 and 31 held in fixed position relative to each other by means of a reinforcing member 32. The members 30 and 31 are centrally and vertically indented at 33 and 34 respectively, and terminate in vertical flanged portions 35 and 36. The flanged portions 35 and 36 form pockets 37 and 38. The member 32 comprises two abutting channular elements 39 and 40 which are adapted to engage the pockets 37 and 38 in the members 30 and 31. The element 39 only is shown in engagement with pockets 37 and 38. The abutting faces of the elements 39 and 40 are secured to each other by welding or other suitable means and have an opening 42 therethrough.

The flanged portions 35 and 36 terminate in inwardly projecting flanges 44 and 45 and it is within the space between these last named flanges that the fixed portion 14 of the filler member is adapted to rest. A spacer 46 prevents the portion 14 of the filler member from being forced into too close engagement with the pilaster 12. Inasmuch as there are several spacers in an ordinary height partition, there is no danger of the filler member being forced into such engagement with the pilaster that it may not readily be removed.

An adjusting screw 48 having a slotted head 49 is positioned within the pilaster 12 and threadably engages the wall 18 and the plate 19 which form part of the fixed member 14. The screw 48 terminates at its outer end in a smooth or rounded over portion which abuts the plate 25 forming part of the movable portion 15 of the filler member.

Referring to Fig. 3 in which is shown an adjustable filler member positioned with relation to the ceiling, it will be noted that this filler member is identical in construction with that shown in Fig. 2 and therefore the description of it will not be in detail, inasmuch as like reference numerals refer to similar parts. The fixed portion 14 of the filler member when in position to engage the ceiling is seated within and upon a channular plate 50 which forms a part of the cornice 51. The outer edges of the plate 50 terminate in upturned flanges 53 which are adapted to engage and support the trim portion 55 of the cornice 51. An angle bracket 56, secured to the face 57 of the plate 50 by means of screws 58, engages the pocket 59 formed by an upturned flange 60 in the trim portion 55. The lower edge of the trim 55 terminates in a double flanged portion 62 which engages a rail 63 formed along the upper edge of the partition and directly beneath the cornice 51. The plate 50 is rigidly and permanently secured to a downwardly extending channel member 65. The channel member 65 extends throughout the length of the partition, aligning and strengthening the entire partition construction and is rigidly secured to each pilaster.

An opening 67 is cut through the channel member 65 and a corresponding opening 68 is cut through the plate 50. These openings are of a diameter considerably larger than the diameter of the adjusting screw 48 which extends therethrough.

When the adjustable filler member is used to provide ceiling height adjustment, the screws which control such adjustment must of necessity be readily accessible. For this reason the trim 55 which forms a part of the cornice is readily removable by loosening the screws 58 and removing the brackets 56. In the construction shown in Figs. 2 and 3 the adjusting screws are all readily accessible at any and all times and in the event that the adjustable filler member has not been made to firmly abut either the wall or ceiling, proper adjustment can be made without difficulty. Furthermore, if it is desired to remove the partition the filler members may be withdrawn from the wall or ceiling and the partition may be moved to a different location.

In order to insure a snug and close fit at all times between the fixed portion 14 and the movable portion 15, the walls 17 of the fixed portion 14 are directed inwardly to a slight degree. The base wall 18 and the plate 19 secured thereto are bent inwardly as is shown in Figs. 2 and 3 in order that, when the screw 48 is rotated to act upon and extend the movable portion 15, the pressure of said screw will tend to straighten the wall 18 and plate 19. Any change in the wall 18 towards straightening will directly communicate that change to the walls 17 and bring them into closer engagement with the walls 22 of the movable member 15. It is necessary that the

walls 17 closely engage the walls 22 not only to provide a pleasing finish where the two portions of the filler member overlap, but to preclude any possibility of the movable portion 15 from becoming loose within the fixed portion 14.

When it is desired to use this adjustable filler member with partitions very little work is required. Referring to the use of the filler member as is shown in Fig. 2, the partition is set up and the adjustable filler member is brought into engagement with the post or pilaster nearest to the wall. The adjusting screw 48 is inserted through the opening 42 in the pilaster and threaded into the wall 18 and plate 19 until it reaches and abuts the plate 25 secured to the movable portion of the filler member. When the screw 48 has engaged the plate 25 any further movement of said screw in a clock-wise direction will force the movable portion 15 of the filler member farther out of engagement with the fixed portion 14 and since the force of the screw acts equally on both portions 14 and 15, the fixed portion will tend to seat more firmly within the pilaster and against the spacers 46. When the point is reached where the screw 48 can be turned no further, the outer ends of the walls 22 forming part of the movable portion 15 will be found to abut the wall 70, and due to the pressure of the screw 48 the walls 22 will so closely engage the wall 70 that without the use of any trim or molding at this joining point, the adjustable member will have the appearance of being built into the wall 70.

If the adjustable filler member is used along the ceiling portion of a partition substantially the same method of positioning is followed. The fixed portion 14 is located upon the member 50 and when the adjusting screws 48 are turned the adjustable portion 15 moves upward and out of engagement with the portion 14 until it strikes the ceiling. When sufficient pressure is applied to the movable portion 15 by means of the screws the projecting prongs 24 will indent themselves into the ceiling and rigidly hold the partition in vertical alignment.

Attention is directed to the fact that by the use of adjustable filler members along the ceiling and the wall portions of a partition, such partitions may be firmly held in engagement with the walls and ceiling without any other securing means. In other words, it is only necessary to secure the base portion of the partitions to the floor and the other contacting edges of the partition, i. e. along the walls and ceiling, will be held in place by means of the expanding pressure brought to bear through the use of the adjustable filler members. It may be readily seen that by the use of filler members of this kind all unnecessary defacing of the walls and ceiling is eliminated since there need be no brackets or posts of any kind secured to the walls or the ceiling whereby to hold the partitions in place. When a partition making use of adjustable filler members as disclosed in this invention is removed, the walls and ceiling will show no defacement whatsoever and, in fact, it will be almost impossible to tell that a partition had been in place.

While applicant has shown and described only one form of this invention, it is obvious that other modifications and adaptations may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention as set forth in the following claims.

Having thus set forth my invention what I claim as new and for which I desire protection by Letters Patent is:

1. In a removable partition for buildings, an adjustable filler member and pilaster, said filler member comprising a fixed channular portion and a movable channular portion, said movable portion being adapted to slidably engage said fixed portion, said pilaster being open along one of its vertical walls to receive said fixed portion, spacers secured within and to said pilaster to position said fixed portion within said pilaster, and an adjusting screw located within said pilaster and said fixed portion, said screw being in threaded engagement with said fixed channular portion and adapted to abut and act upon said movable channular portion.

2. In a removable partition for buildings, an adjustable filler member and pilaster, said filler member comprising a fixed channular portion and a movable channular portion, said movable portion being adapted to slidably engage said fixed portion, said pilaster being open along one of its vertical walls to receive said fixed portion, and spacers secured within and to said pilaster to removably engage said fixed portion whereby the position of said movable portion may be altered with relation to that of said fixed portion.

3. In a removable partition for buildings, an adjustable filler member and pilaster, said filler member comprising fixed and movable portions adapted to slidably engage each other, said pilaster being open along one vertical wall to removably receive and position said fixed portion, and an adjusting screw supported by said fixed portion, said screw being in threaded engagement with said fixed portion and adapted to abut and act upon said movable portion.

4. In a removable partition for buildings, an adjustable filler member and pilaster, said filler member comprising fixed and movable portions adapted to telescopically engage each other, said pilaster being open along one vertical wall to receive the fixed portion of said filler member and means supported by said fixed portion to alter the relative position of said movable portion with said fixed portion.

5. In a removable partition for buildings having pilasters, a channel member mounted upon and interlocked with said pilasters, a channular plate secured to said channel member, said plate being provided with a longitudinal recess, a filler member having fixed and movable elements, said fixed element being supported within said longitudinal recess, means supporting and adapted to extend said movable element whereby to bridge the gap between the cornice of the partition and the ceiling.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature.

AXEL G. DAWSON.