No. 681,305. Patented Aug. 27, 1901.

S. FORRESTER.

PEN OR PENCIL HOLDER.

(Application filed June 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

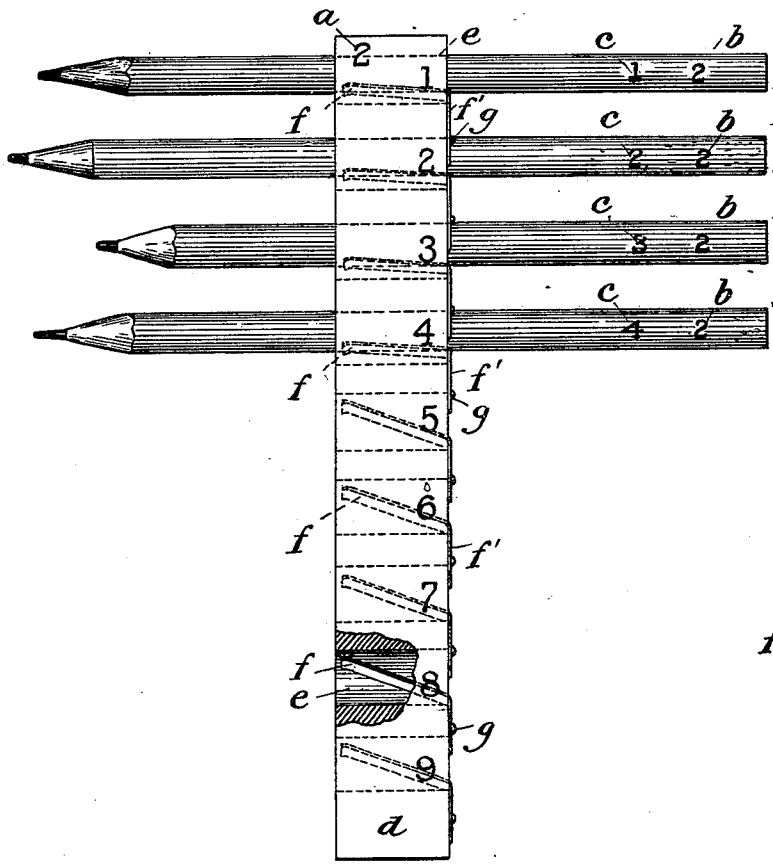


Fig. 2.

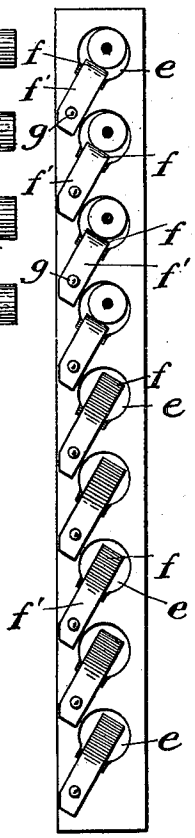
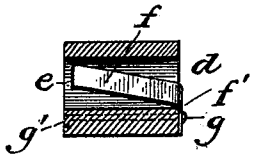


Fig. 3



WITNESSES

INVENTOR

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THE NORRIS PETERS CO. PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL FORRESTER, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

PEN OR PENCIL HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 681,305, dated August 27, 1901.

Application filed June 8, 1900. Serial No. 19,538. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL FORRESTER, of Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Pencil or Pen Holders, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 shows in plan view one of my improved pencil-holders with some of its pencils. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section on the line III III of Figs. 1 and 2. The same devices may be used for penholders.

It is the practice in many of the public schools to supply lead-pencils to the pupils and at the end of the school-hours to gather up the pencils in a box, from which they are again distributed on the following morning. There is no assurance, however, that any pupil will receive the same pencil on two successive days, and the habit which many children have of biting their pencils renders this school practice a means by which the germs of disease can be communicated from one pupil to another. It is the purpose of my invention to prevent this possibility and to provide a convenient, cleanly, and simple apparatus by which the distribution of pencils to the proper persons can be effected. Simplicity of the device and its strength are characteristics of importance, because the devices are handled generally by children, and unless the device is strong and simple to manipulate it would soon be destroyed or put out of order.

I employ a series of pencil-holding bars or racks adapted to contain a number of pencils—say nine—and I employ one of these bars for each of the groups of pupils into which the school is divided by place of sitting or otherwise. In the drawings I show a pencil-holder intended for Group 2, and it is therefore marked with the numeral "2," as shown at *a* in Fig. 1, or by some other appropriate letter or symbol. Each of the pencils which is placed in the holder is also marked with a number at *b*, indicating the group to which the pencil belongs, and a second number at *c*, indicating the number of the pencils in the group, the latter numbers extending from "1" to "9." When the pencils are distributed in the morning, each pupil receives a pencil having a certain number corresponding to the number and group to which he belongs, and at the end of the school-hours, when the pencils are again collected, each pencil is placed by the person collecting them in the proper socket of the proper holder, the socket being indicated by the number on the pencil and on the holder. In this way each pupil receives the same pencil every day, and all of the objections which I have mentioned above and which are incident to the indiscriminate system of distribution common at present are avoided.

In the drawings, *d* represents the holder which I deem to be of the preferable construction, made of a bar of wood or other suitable material, having a series of holes *e* extending through it from side to side and constituting sockets for the pencils. These holes are made larger than the diameter of the pencils, and in order to hold the pencils therein I employ friction-pieces constituted, preferably, by spring-tongues made of strips of spring metal bent into angular form, a portion *f'* fitting against the side of the bar *d*, preferably in a slightly-countersunk seat, and the portions *f* thereof extending at an inclination within the hole. The part *f'* is held to the bar by a pin *g*, which extends through the bar and may be upset at the other end *g'*. The free end of this friction device being contained within the hole or socket *e* is concealed or covered, so that it is not apt to be broken accidentally or to be tampered with. When the pencil is pushed into the socket, the friction-piece yields and presses frictionally against the pencil, holding it with all needed security.

Within the scope of my invention as defined in the claim changes may be made in the form and construction of the parts of my improved device, since

What I claim is—

A pencil or pen holder consisting of a bar having a series of sockets and a spring-tongue extending in each of said sockets, said spring-tongue being fixed to the bar and having free ends extending within the sockets; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

SAMUEL FORRESTER.

Witnesses:
H. M. CORWIN,
T. M. REDMAN.