V. M. HILLYER.

EDUCATIONAL DEVICE FOR TEACHING READING.

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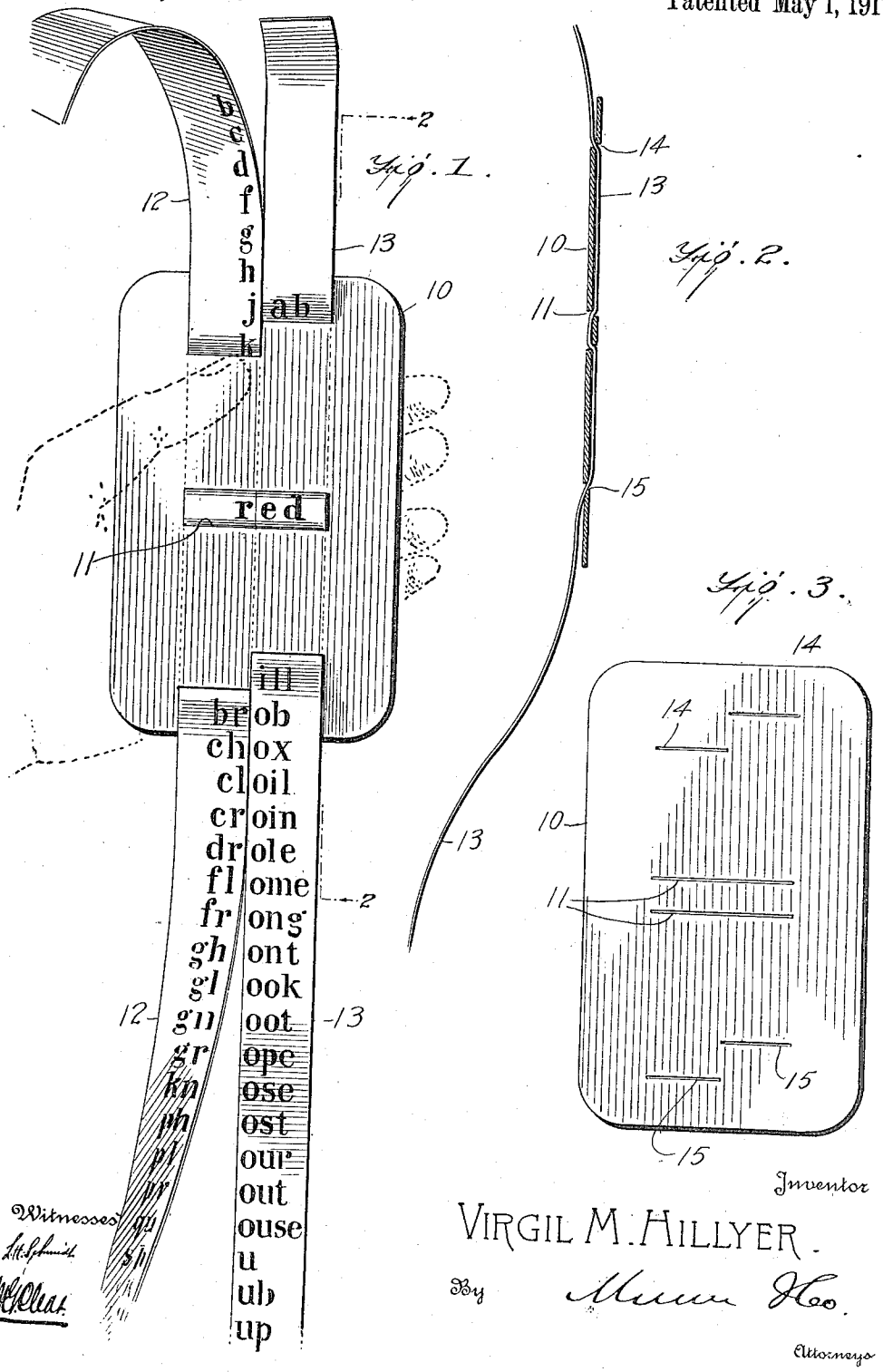


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EDUCATIONAL DEVICE FOR TEACHING READING.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, VIRGIL M. HILLYER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Educational Devices for Teaching Reading, of which the following is a specification.

My present invention relates generally to educational devices, and more particularly to devices of this nature for teaching reading, my object being to provide an improved device, extremely simple in construction and operation, to teach reading by sound, to train a child to recognize automatically the sounds of combinations of letters, called phonograms, that form the elements of all words, and thus to give him the key to reading and enable him in the shortest time to read new matter independently and easily.

A further and more specific object is to provide an improved simple and inexpensive device, consisting of a card or holder, oblong or otherwise in shape, and capable of being readily handled by children, together with parallel longitudinal shiftable tapes printed with initial letters and phonograms, the tapes being relatively adjustable in slits in the card or holder, with respect also to means forming a sight opening in the card, through which the printed characters may be juxtaposed without an intervening part or space, and the slits forming guides for the tapes, being of the width of a single tape, with the slits on each side of the sight opening offset from one another in the direction of the length of the tapes, whereby the latter, though touching at their edges in the sight opening, are prevented from slipping over or beneath one another, all in the manner which will be presently made plain.

In the accompanying drawing which illustrates my invention and forms a part of this specification:

Figure 1 is an elevation, illustrating the practical use of my invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken substantially on line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and

Fig. 3 is an elevation of the card or holder with the tapes removed.

Thus, with reference to these figures, my invention contemplates the provision of a card or holder 10 formed of any suitable relatively stiff material, capable of sustaining its shape and resisting too ready bending or breaking, and the particular shape of which may be varied, the card or holder 10 as shown, being rectangular in shape with the corners rounded, in order to obviate all relatively sharp projections.

This card or holder 10 is provided with spaced parallel slits 11, forming a continuous sight opening for both tapes, and located at a substantially central point in order that the obverse faces of the tapes 12 and 13, extending along the rear face of the card or holder 10 at intermediate points, may be viewed, each of these tapes being threaded through guide slits 14 and 15 adjacent relatively opposite ends of the card or holder 10, so as to maintain the same substantially in parallelism, and admit of their independent shifting movement to bring their different characters into registry with the sight opening.

It will be noted by reference to Fig. 3 in particular that the guide slits 14 and 15 of the tape 12 are independent of those of the tape 13, and laterally offset with respect to the line of movement of the tape to bring the edges of the tape into close contact with one another at the sight opening, in order that there may be no obvious space or part between the tapes at this point, and a complete word may be read without undesirable intervening space or part between the letters thereof, the slits 14 at one side of the opening 11 and the slits 15 at the opposite side thereof, being however offset with respect to one another in the direction of the length of the tapes, so that, though closely adjacent one another at their edges within the sight opening in order that the spelled word may appear without a break, the tapes are, at the same time, independently held and guided so as to prevent them from slipping over or beneath one another.

It is obvious that, with the obverse faces of the tapes provided with suitable characters, as for instance initial letters upon the left hand tape, and phonograms upon the right hand tape, great numbers of words may be formed within the sight opening 11 by the relative shifting of the tapes, enabling the parent or teacher to pass rapidly in review the initial letters which, taken with a phonogram such as "at" form numbers of different words, such as "bat," "cat," "rat," "hat," "mat," "fat," "pat."

It is further obvious that by the particular construction and guiding of the tapes, the words formed may be rendered practi-

cally continuous, without obvious division, and without intervening parts or spaces, and the tapes are at the same time prevented from slipping or lapping over or beneath one another.

It is furthermore obvious that the device shown and described will, in addition to its effectiveness and efficiency in the manner before described, be simple in its nature, capable of ready operation and handling by young children, and at the same time durable and inexpensive, and that the particular manner of forming the sight opening prevents the tapes from falling away from the card or holder between the guide slits 14 and 15.

I claim:—

1. An educational device of the character described, comprising a card or holder having an intermediate pair of slits forming a sight opening, and having pairs of guide slits upon opposite sides of the sight opening, and the slits of each pair of which are offset laterally, character tapes threaded through the said guide slits with their obverse faces appearing in the sight opening, and extending parallel with one another with their adjacent edges in close proximity between the guide slits and within the sight opening, said guide slits of each pair being offset from one another in the direction of the length and movement of the tapes, whereby to independently guide each tape and prevent the tapes from slipping over or beneath one another in use.

2. An educational device of the character described, comprising a card having guide slits, and character tapes extending through the guide slits and partially exposed at the center of the card, the slits of each tape being independent of the slits of the other tape and offset longitudinally therefrom for the purpose described.

3. An educational device of the character described, comprising a card having guide slits, character tapes extending through said guide slits, said guide slits being independent of one another for each tape and offset from one another laterally and longitudinally of the tapes, and said card having intermediate slits through which the tapes pass, forming a continuously framed sight opening common to the tapes.

VIRGIL MORES HILLYER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents. Washington, D. C."