H. J. WILLIAMS.

DESK.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1916.

1,218,821.

Patented Mar. 13, 1917.

Fig. 1.

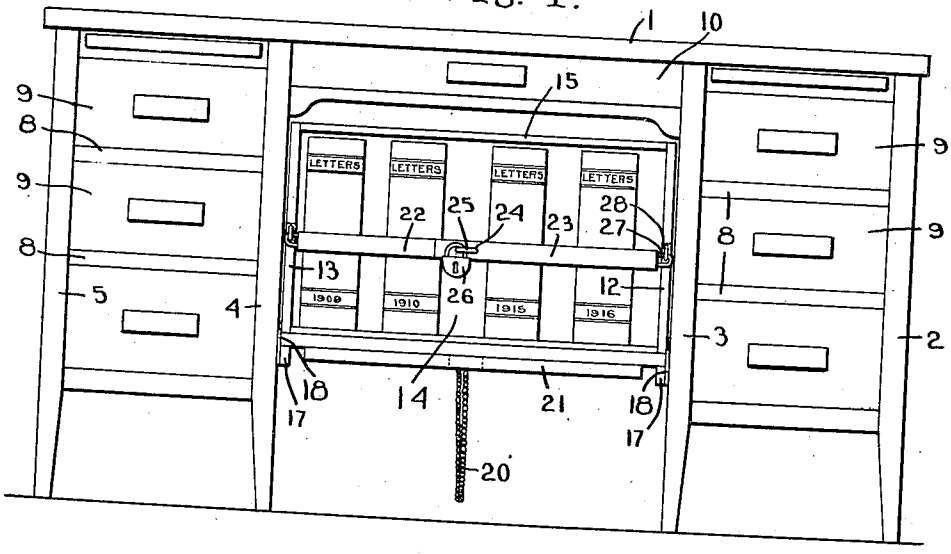


Fig. 2.

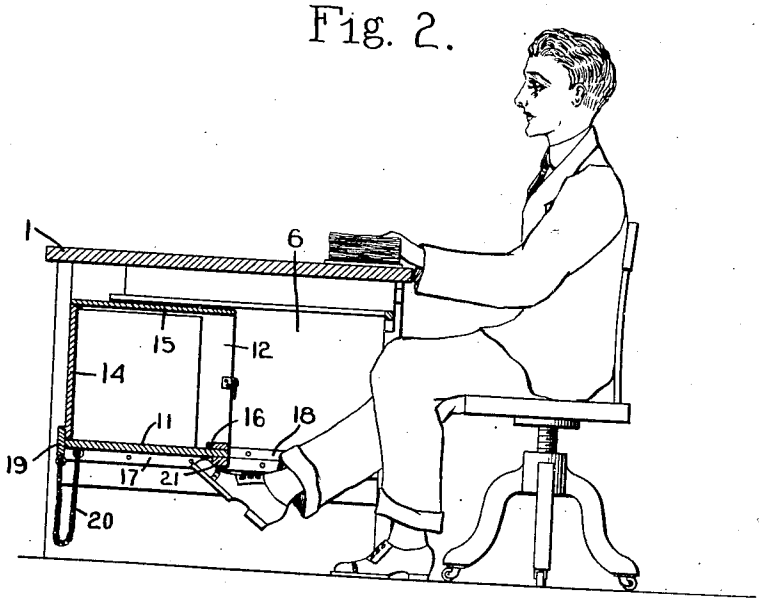
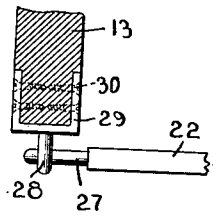


Fig. 3.



Inventor.
Henry J. Williams.
by Heard Smith & Tennant.
Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY J. WILLIAMS, OF BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS.

DESK.

1,218,821. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Mar. 13, 1917.

Application filed January 26, 1916. Serial No. 74,499.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY J. WILLIAMS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brookline, county of Norfolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Desks, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawing, is a specification, like characters on the drawing representing like parts.

This invention relates to improvements in desks and the principal object thereof is to provide a means, such as a filing case or other receptacle, for utilizing a material portion of the space beneath the desk and beyond the reach of the knees of the user, which may conveniently be drawn forward by the foot to render its contents easily accessible.

Another object of the invention is to provide adjustable means to limit the forward movement of the receptacle with means to prevent the contents thereof from being thrown out.

Another object of the invention is to provide a filing case having an open front, and located in the manner above described with means for securing the files from removal which when unlocked will automatically be removed from interference with the free withdrawal of any of the files from said file case.

Other objects of the invention will more fully appear from the following description, the accompanying drawing and will be pointed out in the annexed claims.

A preferred embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawing in which,

Figure 1 is a front view of a desk embodying my invention.

Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse median section of the same illustrating the user of the desk about to withdraw the filing case from its normal position, and

Fig. 3 is a detail view partly in section showing the means for connecting one end of the locking device to the wall of the file case.

The usual type of office desk, such as that illustrated in the drawing comprises a top 1 having a plurality of end supports consisting of forward legs 2, 3, and 4, 5, and corresponding rear legs, the forward legs being connected to the rear legs by similar vertical panels 6, suitable cross pieces 8 connecting adjacent end legs and guideways being provided to support the usual banks of drawers 9. An intermediate drawer 10 is sometimes provided to occupy a portion of the space between the banks of drawers 9, which is necessarily left free to accommodate the knees of the user.

Heretofore the remainder of this central space has usually been utilized only for waste baskets or for stacks of unused books, etc., the difficulty of access to articles stored beneath the desk preventing the occupation of this space by active files or other records.

In the present usual crowded conditions of offices, particularly where "sanitary desks" are used, in which considerable drawer space is lost by reason of the space between the lower drawers and the floor, the convenient utilization of a considerable portion of the space beneath the central portion of the desk is of very material value.

The present invention contemplates the occupation of a very material portion of this otherwise wasted space by a receptacle, such as a filing cabinet, so supported and designed that it will normally be beyond the reach of the knees of the user of the desk, but may be readily drawn forward or pushed back by the foot of the user, without requiring the use of his hands, thus saving time which otherwise would be required in rising from the desk and taking the files from a shelf or other repository.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention illustrated herein the movable receptable is in the form of a rectangular cabinet having a bottom 11, ends 12, 13, a back 14, and a top 15, the front presenting an opening extending the full width of the cabinet.

The height of the cabinet is preferably slightly greater than the height of standard letter files so that the latter may be readily slipped into the cabinet.

A stop, preferably in the form of a cleat 16 extending across the bottom 11 of the

cabinet is provided to prevent the files from being thrown out of the open front of the cabinet if the same is suddenly arrested as it is being drawn out. In such case the top 15 will prevent the overturning of the file as will be readily understood.

The bottom of the cabinet preferably is supported upon horizontal rails or guideways 17 secured to the front and back posts and to the panels connecting the same, a thin strap of metal 18 such as brass, being interposed between the back of the rails and panels to prevent the sides of the cabinet from scratching the finished surfaces of the panels, as they slide.

A transverse bar 19, secured to the ends of the rails or to the legs in front of the vertical plane of the back of the desk desirably is provided to prevent the cabinet from being pushed out of the rear side of the desk and a chain strap or other flexible member 20 may be adjustably connected to the bar 19 and to the cabinet to limit the forward movement thereof so that it cannot accidentally be entirely withdrawn from the desk or to such an extent as to strike the knees of the user.

A cleat 21 or other projecting device desirably is attached to the under side of the cabinet to provide means whereby the cabinet may be drawn forward by the foot of the user. This cleat may if desired be covered with or composed of relatively soft material which will not injure the surface of the shoe of the user.

It is desirable that such a compartment although open in front be provided with means for preventing the removal of files by unauthorized persons and further that this device be so constructed that when released it will not obstruct the open front of the cabinet. A convenient locking means is illustrated herein which comprises two bars preferably of metal 22, 23, one being provided with a slot 24 and the other with a staple 25 to form a hasp adapted to be secured by a padlock 26 or other suitable locking device. The bars 22 and 23 are secured to the forward edges of the ends 12, 13 of the cabinet by a pivotal connection, a convenient form which is illustrated herein comprising a U-shaped extension 27 upon the end of each pair adapted to engage a U-shaped member 28 which desirably may project from a metallic channel shaped binding member 29 embracing the edges of the end wall 12, 13, the binding member 29 being secured thereto by screws 30, rivets or other suitable fastenings.

It will be obvious that other pivotal connections may readily be provided, the essential feature being that the bars 22, and 23 are so supported that when released from locking engagement they will hang down vertically from the end of the cabinet so as not to interfere with the removal of the files.

It will be understood that the specific embodiment of the invention illustrated herein is illustrative and not restrictive and that various modifications may be made within the spirit and scope of the following claims.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is;

1. In a desk comprising a top and end supports therefor, a cabinet materially narrower than the width of the desk slidably mounted beneath the top of said desk and normally positioned beyond the reach of the hand of the user, the bottom of said cabinet being supported a sufficient distance from the floor to permit the insertion of the foot of the user therebeneath, means depending from the bottom of the cabinet having a surface which will not injure the surface of the shoe of the user, adapted to be engaged by the toe of the shoe whereby the cabinet may be drawn forward by the foot to render its contents easily accessible.

2. In a desk comprising a top and end supports therefor, a file case materially narrower than the width of the desk slidably mounted beneath the top of said desk and normally positioned beyond the reach of the hand of the user, the bottom of said file case being supported a sufficient distance from the floor to permit the insertion of the foot of the user therebeneath, means depending from the bottom of the file case having a surface which will not injure the surface of the shoe of the user, adapted to be engaged by the toe of the shoe whereby the file case may be drawn forward by the foot to render its contents easily accessible, means for limiting the forward movement of the file case and means adapted to engage the files in said file case and prevent the same from being thrown out when the file case is arrested.

3. In a desk comprising a top and end supports therefor, a file case materially narrower than the width of the top slidable at its bottom upon guideways located upon said supports at a distance from the floor sufficient to permit the insertion of the foot of the user beneath the file case, to withdraw the same for easy access to its contents, a cross piece at the rear ends of said guideways, a chain connecting said cross piece to said file case adapted to limit the forward movement of said file case and means for locking the files in said file case adapted when unlocked automatically to permit free access to the contents of said file case.

4. In a desk comprising a top and end supports therefor, a rectangular file case ma-

terially narrower than the width of said top and having an open front slidably mounted beneath said top and between said supports, means adapted to be engaged by the foot of the user for withdrawing said file case and means for securing the files in said file case comprising coöperating bars pivotally connected to the ends of said file case, and means for locking together the adjacent ends of said bars.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification.

HENRY J. WILLIAMS.