No. 628,229. Patented July 4, 1899.

# P. J. O'CONNOR.

## CONFESSIONAL REGISTER.

(Application filed Jan. 4, 1899.)

No Model.)

Fig. 1

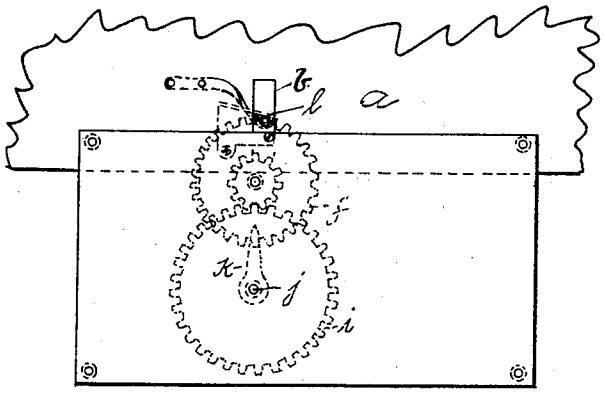



Fig. 2

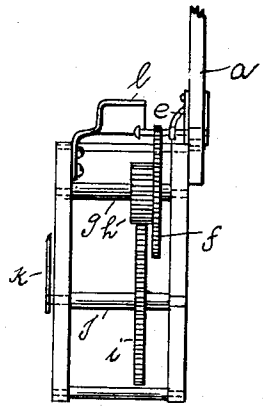
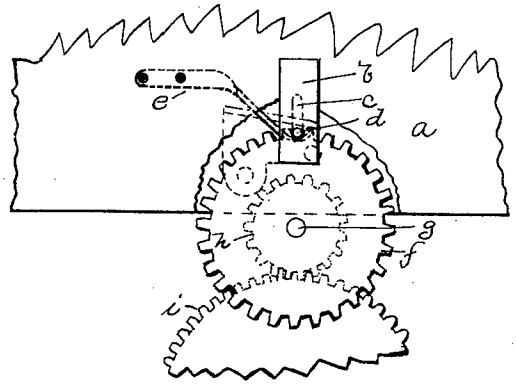



Fig. 3

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PATRICK J. O'CONNOR, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

## CONFESSIONAL-REGISTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 628,229, dated July 4, 1899.

Application filed January 4, 1899. Serial No. 701,110. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PATRICK J. O'CONNOR, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Confessional-Registers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 indicates an elevation of the rear side of a frame and slide with my improved register applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a slide broken away, partly to show attachment thereto for operating the register.

My invention relates to devices adapted to register on a dial or face plate at every operation of the device in a given direction; and to this purpose my improvement consists in the novel construction and arrangement of parts hereinafter described, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, in which like reference characters indicate like parts wherever they occur throughout the several views.

It is customary for many of the Catholic clergymen to keep account of the number of confessions heard by them, and for this purpose a register, operated by hand, is usually employed.

The object of my invention is to produce a device adapted to automatically register the number of times the confessional-slide was opened only and by a parity of reasoning the number of confessions heard.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, *a* is a sliding latticed window communicating between the middle portion of the confessional booth or box occupied by the confessor and the compartments on either side the same occupied by the penitents. A plate *b* is suitably secured to said sliding window and is provided with a slot *c*, in which an outwardly-projecting pin *d* is seated and adapted to move vertically therein. A blade-spring *e*, secured to the slides, engages the under side of said pin for the purpose hereinafter stated. A registering device comprises the cog-wheel *f*, mounted on the shaft *g*, and the smaller cog-wheel *h*, mounted on said shaft *g* and adapted to engage the large cog-wheel *i* on the shaft *j*, on which is secured the finger or pointer *k*. The front of said registering device is provided with a dial having numerals marked thereon. An inclined plate *l* is secured to the upper side of the registering device immediately over the projecting pin *d*, so as to limit the upward movement of the same and to keep the pin in engagement with the teeth of the wheel *f*.

The operation of my device is as follows, viz: Given that Fig. 1 shows the slide closed and the pin in engagement with the teeth of the cog-wheel *f*, a movement to the right, opening the slide, causes the wheel *f* to rotate the distance of one notch, the movement being communicated to the wheel *i* through the small cog-wheel *h*, which meshes with it, thereby moving the pointer one notch and automatically registering the number of times the slide was opened and by a parity of reasoning the number of confessions heard. As the slide is opened the distance between the top of wheel *f* and the under side of the incline is increased, enabling the upward movement of the spring, the pressure of which is constant in the lower edge of the pin, to elevate the pin and throw the same out of engagement with the cog-wheel *f*. On closing the slide the pin, which is held in contact with the inclined plate by the spring, is forced into engagement with the cog-wheel again by the gradually-contracting space between the plate and wheel. When the slide is again opened, as heretofore stated, the registering device is again operated.

It is obvious that modifications of my improvement may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having described my improvements, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a registering device substantially as set forth, the combination of the slide, a slotted plate secured thereto carrying a pin, a spring adapted to engage beneath said pin, and a

registering device comprising the wheels *f* and *i*, the wheel *f* adapted to be engaged and operated by said pin by the movement of the slide in one direction and to be disengaged when the slide is moved in an opposite direction.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PATRICK J. O'CONNOR.

Witnesses:
C. A. WILLIAMS,
JNO. H. RONEY.