

(No Model.)

C. P. HARRIS.
BOOK HOLDER.

No. 547,720.

Patented Oct. 8, 1895.

Fig. 2.

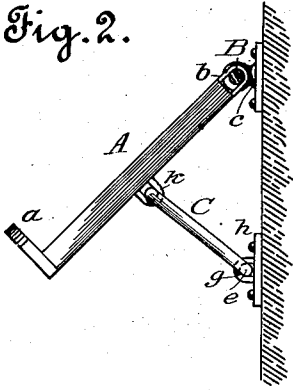


Fig. 1.

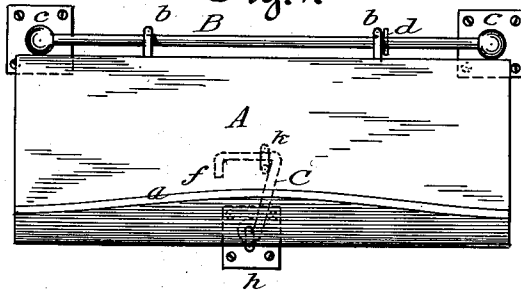


Fig. 4.

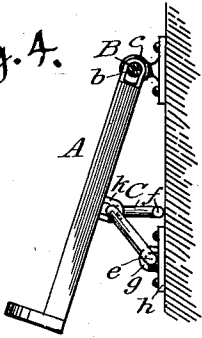


Fig. 3.

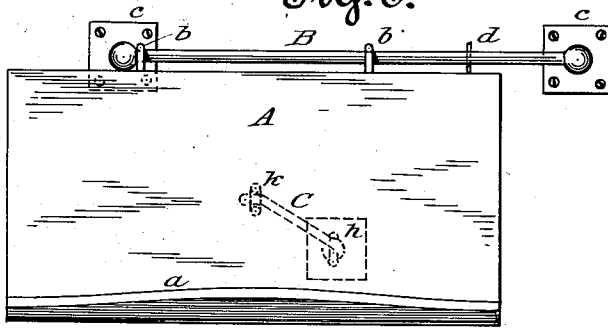


Fig. 6.

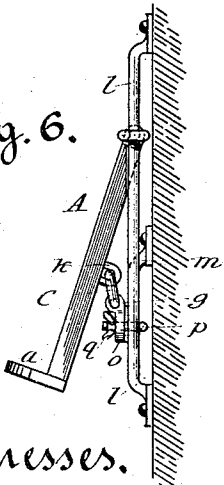
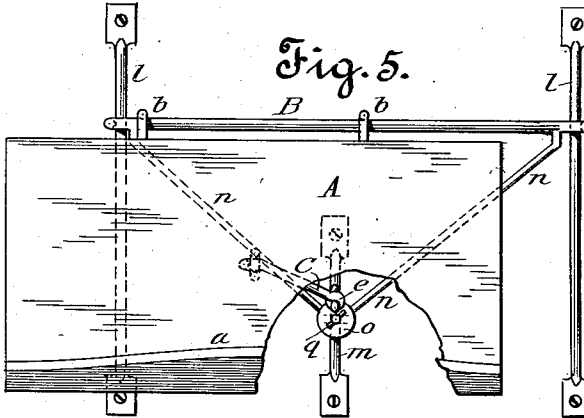


Fig. 5.

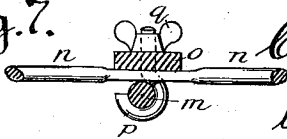


Witnesses.

H. Monteverde,

W. N. Cobb

Fig. 7.



Inventor.

Charles P. Harris.

by Spear & Sely
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES PARSONS HARRIS, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

BOOK-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 547,720, dated October 8, 1895.

Application filed May 7, 1895. Serial No. 548,429. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES PARSONS HARRIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Book-Holders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to a support for books, such as dictionaries and other heavy volumes of reference.

The object of the invention is to furnish a cheap book-support of simple but effective construction for use especially in places where economy of space is desirable—as, for example, in a school-room. I provide a movable support which can retain the book at all times, either when the latter is open or when it is closed, which support with the book can be dropped to a nearly-vertical position against the wall or other place of attachment or can be raised and held at the most convenient angle for examining the book. The support is easily moved and is automatically held in either position without the use of spring catches or bolts, racks, or other devices of such a character.

Another object of my invention is to provide simple means for adjusting the position of the book-support vertically, so that it can be set at a convenient point for reference by persons of any average height. This feature applies more especially to schools where a dictionary is provided for the pupils in each grade.

My invention in all its details will be fully hereinafter described in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the book-support in elevated position. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same. Fig. 3 is a similar elevation with the support dropped down to be out of the way. Fig. 4 is an end view of the same. Fig. 5 is a front view, partly broken away, showing the means for adjusting the book-support vertically. Fig. 6 is an end view of the same. Fig. 7 is a detail section of the lock for holding the whole device when vertically adjusted.

In the drawings I will assume that the

book-support is attached to the wall of a room.

A represents the board which forms the support, having a ledge *a* of sufficient depth to hold the book when the board is nearly vertical, as in Fig. 4. The board is provided with eyes or staples *b*, by which it is suspended from a transverse horizontal rod B, secured to the wall in any suitable manner, as by the small plates and studs *c*. The board is thus capable of sliding upon the rod and also of swinging upon it toward or from the wall. A stop *d* is preferably secured to the rod B to limit the sliding motion in one direction. The board A is connected to the wall or other rigid support by an arm C. This arm is preferably formed from stiff wire bent into a shape resembling the figure 7, and having at one end an eye *e* and at the other a projection *f* at right angles to the top of the 7. The eye is loosely secured in a staple *g* or other opening in a plate *h*, secured to the wall, while the part which I have termed the “top of the 7” plays in an eye or staple *k* on the lower side of the board. The angle of the board when drawn out, as in Fig. 2, depends upon the length of the stem of the 7, which will then be approximately perpendicular to the plane of the board and will support the latter firmly. By sliding the board to the left along the rod from which it hangs the bottom of the bent arm C will commence to turn in the staple *g*. As the movement continues, the arm will swing toward the position shown in Fig. 3, losing its power of resisting the weight of the board and book, and gradually turning inward until its free end rests against the wall, Fig. 4, when the book-support is at its lowest position. Moving the book-board to the right will cause the arm to swing back to its first position, and the stop *d* is so placed on the rod B as to limit the motion at the time when the arm is in the most favorable position for supporting the weight of the board and book. It is not necessary to lift or pull on the book-board, since the sliding motion on the rod causes the bent supporting-arm to assume its proper position either to hold the book-board or let it down.

As thus far described, the book-holder is complete for general use, since it will of course

be placed at such a height on a wall as will make it convenient for use by people of average height. For use in schools, among pupils in different grades, I prefer to provide means for adjusting the height of the whole attachment. This device is shown in Figs. 5, 6, and 7, and it will be understood that no change is made in the construction or mode of operation of the book-supporting device, the changes relating to the manner of connecting it to the wall.

Instead of fixing the rod B, as before described, such rod has a sliding adjustment on parallel guides *l l*, secured to the wall, as shown. An intermediate guide *m* is also secured to the wall. To the rod B are secured converging rods *n n*, which at their angle are in proximity to the guide *m*. A plate *o* has the eye or staple *g* formed in it to receive the end of the arm C, as before described. A hook-bolt *p* secures rigidly but adjustably together the guide *m*, rods *n n*, and plate *c* by means of a nut *q*. By loosening this nut the whole book-board and its supporting-rod can be raised or lowered on the guides *l l*, the hooked bolt sliding on the guide *m*. Of course this adjustment does not alter or change in any way the operation of the book-support, since the plate *o* performs exactly the same function as a support for the arm C as does the rigidly-attached plate in Figs. 1 and 2. It is not supposed that the vertical adjustment will be frequently used, and, as before stated, it is not necessary to use it at all, except that in schools where the reference-books are to be used in different grades it will be found a desirable feature of the device, since initial adjustments of the proper height can be made in each grade. Of course such adjustments can be changed as often as may be found necessary. It should also be stated that while I prefer to make the arm which connects the wall and the book-board of angular form, or bent into the shape of a figure 7, as before described, yet the shape is not essential, since a straight arm provided with a hook or eye at each end may be connected to the wall and the board and will operate in the same manner.

What I claim is—

1. A book board or holder having a sliding

motion and a swinging motion in combination with a self adjusting arm, connected to said book board, and to a rigid support, such as a wall, substantially as described.

2. A book board or holder, suspended from a rod, and having a sliding motion and a swinging motion on such rod, in combination with an arm pivoted at one end to a wall or other rigid support, and passing through an eye or staple on the said board, substantially as described.

3. In a book holder and in combination, a fixed rod secured to a wall or other rigid support, a board suspended therefrom so as to have both a sliding and a swinging movement a plate connected to said rigid support and having an eye, an eye on the lower surface of the board, and a swinging arm loosely connected to both of said eyes, and adapted to swing as the board slides on said rod, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a book holder, vertical guides, a transverse rod adjustable on said guides, a book board suspended from said rod and capable of sliding thereon, and a self adjusting arm connected to said book board and to an independent support, substantially as described.

5. In a book holder and in combination, the book board, connected rods B *n*, vertical guides, a plate adjustably secured to one of said guides, and an angular arm loosely connected to said plate, and to said book board, substantially as described.

6. In a book holder and in combination with the suspended book board, a vertically adjustable rod B, a vertically movable plate to which said rod is connected, a guide *m*, a bolt for securing said plate to said guide, and for permitting it to move upon said guide, and a swinging arm connected loosely to said plate and to said book board, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 26th day of April, 1895.

CHARLES PARSONS HARRIS.

Witnesses:

H. D. HAWKS,

R. L. AULD.