

E. C. WADSWORTH.

Indicators.

No. 146,623

Patented Jan. 20, 1874.

Fig 1.

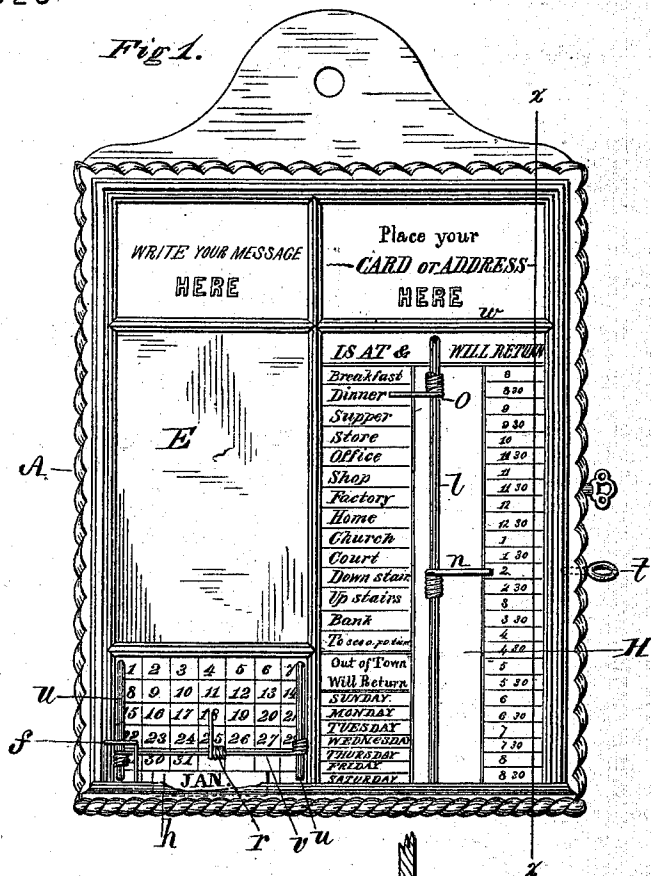
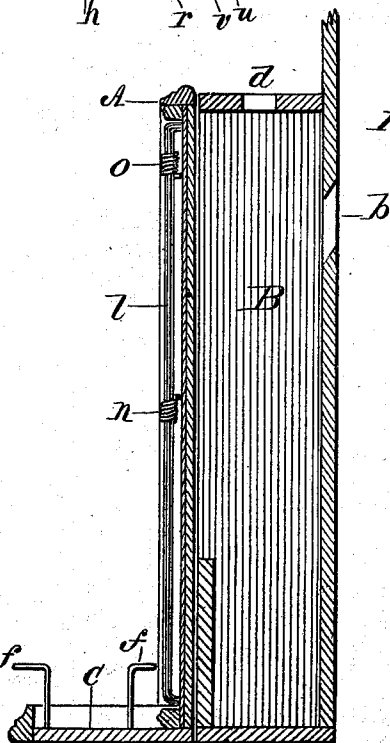


Fig 2.



Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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IMPROVEMENT IN INDICATORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **146,623**, dated January 20, 1874; application filed November 1, 1873

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD C. WADSWORTH, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Office-Bulletins, of which the following is a specification:

My invention consists of a bulletin-board, for use in and about offices or places of business, either with or without a letter-box combined therewith, the bulletin-board being so constructed with indexes and other appliances as to be the means of conveying a great variety of information, as hereinafter more fully explained.

Figure 1 is a front view, and Fig. 2 a central vertical section, of the same.

In constructing my apparatus, I provide a box, B, of suitable size, to answer as a letter-box, and to its front hinge the bulletin A in such a manner that it can be opened to get into the letter-box B, the latter being provided with openings *b* and *d*, as shown in Fig. 2, to drop letters through, the hole *d* being in the top to put in letters from the outside of the room, and the hole *b* in the back to admit letters from inside the room, the bulletin, as usual, being hung on the office-door, or the reverse, if hung inside. The door A, which constitutes the bulletin proper, is divided into five spaces or divisions, as shown in Fig. 1. On the left-hand side the space E is filled with a slate, upon which to write messages, as directed by the printed instructions in the space above it. This slate is composed of silicated paper, such as is now in common use; and I attach the molding which separates it from the space above by a screw, so that it can be removed to admit of replacing the slate when desired; or any other plan may be adopted for this purpose. Below the slate I arrange a card, on which are printed numerals corresponding to the number of days in a month, as shown in Fig. 1, and at the sides I fix two vertical rods or pieces of wire, *u*, they being secured by having their ends bent at a right angle and driven into the wood, like staples. I then arrange another piece of wire, *v*, transversely, with its ends coiled around the rods *u*, so that it can be slid up or down thereon; and on this transverse or horizontal wire *v* I secure a pointer or index, *r*, in such

a manner that it can be moved to and fro thereon, and can be turned up or down, at will. This pointer *r* is thus arranged so that it can be used to indicate the day of the month, it being moved laterally from day to day until it has traversed the first row of figures, when it is shoved back to the beginning of the next row, the transverse wire *v* being shoved down on the wires *u* to bring the end of the pointer down opposite the line. After it has been thus used for the two or three upper rows of figures the pointer is turned down, and the wire *v* is shoved up to the required height to bring the end of the pointer opposite the required row; and thus I provide the bulletin with a perpetual calendar.

At the bottom of the calendar I insert a small slip, *h*, on which is printed the name of the month, and, if required, the year also, this card being stuck in behind the molding at the bottom, which has a recess for that purpose, the molding being slightly broken away in Fig. 1 to illustrate this idea. The right-hand side of the front is divided into two parts, as shown in Fig. 1, the upper and smaller space being intended as a receptacle for the proprietor's business-card, as indicated by the directions lettered thereon, the card having its lower edge stuck in behind the molding *w* in the same manner as with the card showing the name of the month. The space underneath, marked H, has arranged vertically along its center a rod, *l*, on which are two loose sliding pointers, *o* and *n*, as represented in Fig. 1, these pointers both being arranged to both slide and turn on the rod *l*, so they can be used higher or lower, or on either side thereof, as may be desired. On the left-hand side of this space H, I arrange a series of names of places where the occupant of the room may have occasion to go, placing over this row the words "Is at," so that when the occupant leaves the room he has but to put the index or pointer *o* opposite the name of the place where he is going, and persons seeing it will be informed where he is. On the right-hand side of this space H, I arrange a column of figures indicating the hours of the day and fractions thereof to any extent desired, and over this place the words "Will return," so that by placing the other pointer *n* opposite

any one of these numbers, the person seeing it will be informed that the occupant will return at the time thus indicated. For instance, when the pointers *o* and *n* are arranged as shown in Fig. 1, the visitor will be informed that the proprietor is at dinner and will return at two o'clock.

In order to make the bulletin still more complete, as a means of conveying information, I arrange at the lower part of the left hand column on space H the names of the days of week, and over them place the words "Out of town—Will return," so that when the pointer *n* is turned so as to point to that side, and placed opposite the name of any one of the days, the observer will be thereby informed that the occupant is out of town and will return on the day thus indicated. In order to still further facilitate the conveying of information from the visitor to the proprietor of the bulletin, I provide a shelf, *c*, which, as shown in Fig. 2, projects from the front of the bulletin at its bottom; and on this, at one end, I locate a card-rack, composed of two bent wires, *f f*, for holding blank cards, so that a person desiring to leave any special message can take one of the cards, and by resting it on the shelf *c* can conveniently write thereon, and then place it in the letter-box—especially when the message is a private one, which it is desired not to write on the slate, the letter-box is preferred.

It is customary to tie a pencil fast to slates or bulletins by a string, but when so arranged it is inconvenient for use, and therefore I provide an eye or staple, *t*, as shown in Fig. 1,

into which the pencil can be slipped, so that when required for use it can be removed and be free.

It is obvious that the bulletin may be used with or without the letter-box, as preferred, and that any desired addition may be made to the list of names indicating places, and also to figures indicating hours, or fractions of hours; also, that an increased number of the sliding pointers and their rods, or either, may be used; but I prefer not to increase the number of the latter, as it would tend to create confusion and doubt.

By this plan of constructing an office-bulletin I provide one that is adapted to almost every conceivable condition, and that is ample for all the wants of nearly, if not quite, every business man in the community.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A bulletin, having the rod secured thereto, with the pointers *n* and *o* mounted thereon, substantially as described, whereby they can be moved to and fro, and also be turned to point in opposite directions, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A bulletin-board, provided with a calendar, having the adjustable rod *v* and the sliding and reversible index *r*, constructed and arranged to operate in connection therewith, as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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