Dec. 2, 1930. S. E. CROWELL ET AL 1,783,703

BOOKCASE

Filed May 29, 1929

Fig. 1.

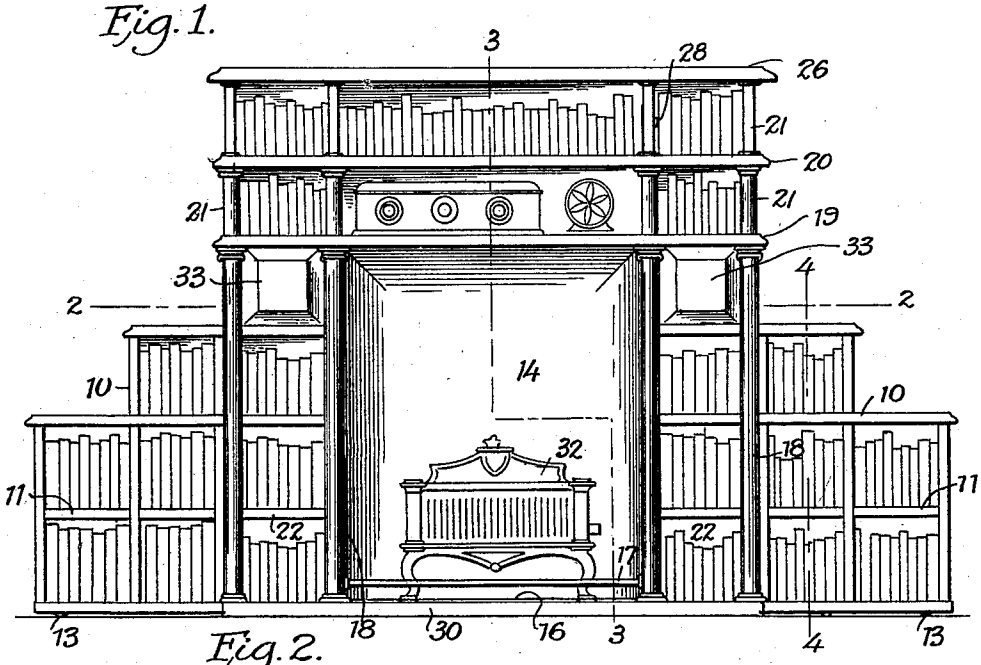


Fig. 2.

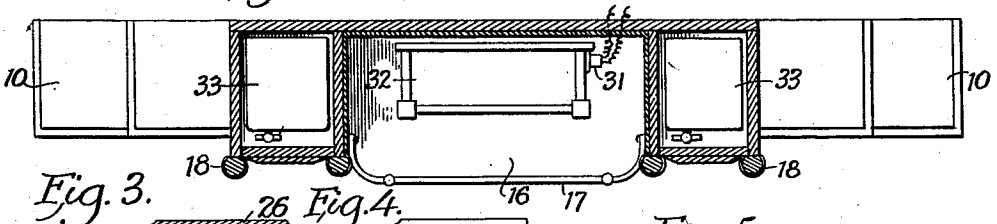


Fig. 3.

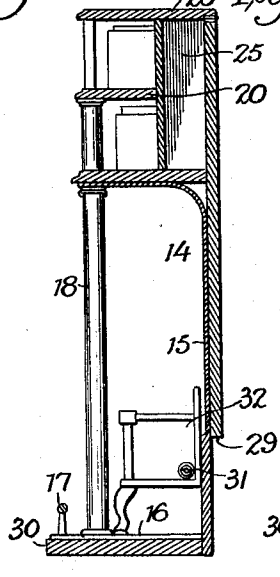


Fig. 4.

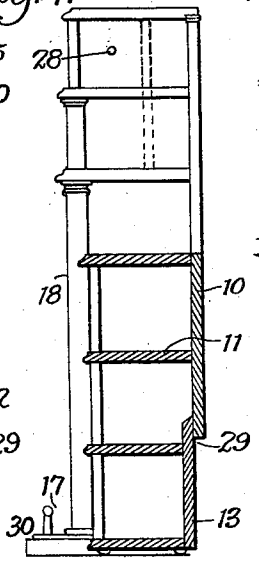


Fig. 5.

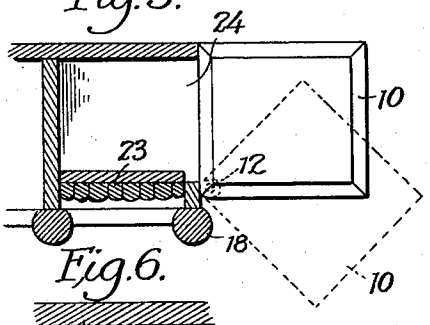
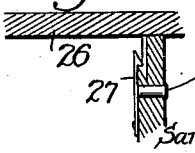


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

SARAH E. CROWELL AND GEORGE H. BLAKE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

BOOKCASE

Application filed May 29, 1929. Serial No. 366,987.

This invention relates to book cases and more especially to portable furniture for holding and exhibiting books or similar articles and embracing a fire-place for an electric or gas stove and a mantelpiece.

The object of the invention is to supply a want often felt in modern apartments where steam or hot water heat is supplied from a common source and the old-style mantel and fire-place is eliminated, but which affords an ornamental and comfortable feature in the eyes of many and for this reason is adapted to provide the mantel and fire-place as a portable device in connection with a book case which may be readily removed and carried to other quarters when desired.

The heating means may be easily connected with the gas service or the electric system of the building, according to the nature of the stove and the whole simulate the usual mantel and fire-place common in dwellings.

These and other objects and details of the invention are more fully described in the following specification, set forth in the appended claims and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved book case showing the fire-place and mantel.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a vertical sectional view on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a detail sectional view showing a secret compartment.

Fig. 6 is a view of a latch for a cover.

The book case is adapted to be located against a bare wall and may have side wings 10 comprising shelves 11 and which may be integral and rigidly connected with the main body or hinged as shown at 12 in Fig. 5 and provided with casters 13 to support them when swung around.

In the center of the main portion of the book case is a recess 14 having a fire-proof insulating lining 15, and a hearth 16 with a foot rail 17, while at each side of the recess are columns 18 which support a mantel 19 that carries additional book or ornament shelf 20 by means of the small posts 21.

Between the columns at each side of the recess 14 are short shelves 22 and in Fig. 5 is shown a compartment whose front wall is a row of dummy books 23 with an opening 24 at the side that is closed by the hinged wing 10 which when swung around, as indicated by the dotted lines, affords access to the compartment. In this compartment may be stored articles of common use which would be unsightly if left in the open.

In Fig. 3 will be seen a partition running the length of the shelf 20 and forming a compartment 25 at the back of the book case for the reception of valuables and which is closed by the hinged cover 26. The lid or cover 26 may be secured by the spring catch 27 shown in Fig. 6 and released by the plunger 28 that may be hidden in the side of the adjoining compartment and covered by the books therein.

In order to secure a close fitting of the book case against the wall of the room the back of same is offset from the base as at 29 in Figs. 3 and 4 to avoid the base board surrounding the room while the backing of the book case may fit snugly against the plaster.

The base 30 may be a board of greater thickness than the shelves and partitions to give the structure greater solidity and it is also extended outward beyond the line of the book case to prevent its falling outward if the outer edges of the shelves are unduly loaded.

When the book case is desirably located in the room the electric service may be connected by means of a plug inserted in the socket 31 of the electric heater 32, and it is obvious that a gas stove may take the place of the heater 32 and appropriate gas piping be provided.

The fire-proof lining 15 may be shaped as a deflector for the heated air and its surface may be of polished metal to reflect the light from the heater into the room.

The compartments 33 have panels at their front that are doors which enclose safes 34 (Fig. 2) and these doors are secured by spring catches such as shown in Fig. 5, the outer appearance giving no intimation of their nature or of their contents.

As the wings 10 are detachable it is evident that the appearance of the book case may be altered by their removal, or if there is not a sufficient supply of books on hand to fill them. Likewise, when the book case is removed to another apartment or shipped to some new destination, it may be found necessary for convenience of handling to remove the wings.

It is obvious that the book case may be otherwise arranged or modified without departing from the essential features above described, or from the scope of the appended claims.

What we claim as new is:

1. In portable bookcases, the combination of a base adapted to support a stove, bookshelves at the ends of the base, a mantel above the base, shelves above the mantel, and wing shelving hinged to the shelves at the ends of the base and supported at their outer ends by rollers.

2. In portable bookcases, the combination of shelving at each side of a recess adapted to contain a heater, fireproof backing for the recess, front walls for the shelving and comprising compartments open at the side, hinged wings at the outer sides of the shelving and adapted to fit against the open sides of said shelving, rollers supporting the wings, a mantel above the shelving, shelves above the mantel and comprising compartments, a hinged lid to the compartments, and locking means for said lid.

3. In portable book cases, the combination of shelving at each side of a recess adapted to contain a heating stove, front walls for compartments open at the sides, wing shelving sections adapted to close the openings, doors simulating a row of books, a mantel above the recess, a shelf above the mantel, a partition on the shelf, a hinged lid above said shelf and partition and spring catches for said lid and doors.

In testimony whereof we hereunto affix our signatures.

SARAH E. CROWELL.
GEORGE H. BLAKE.