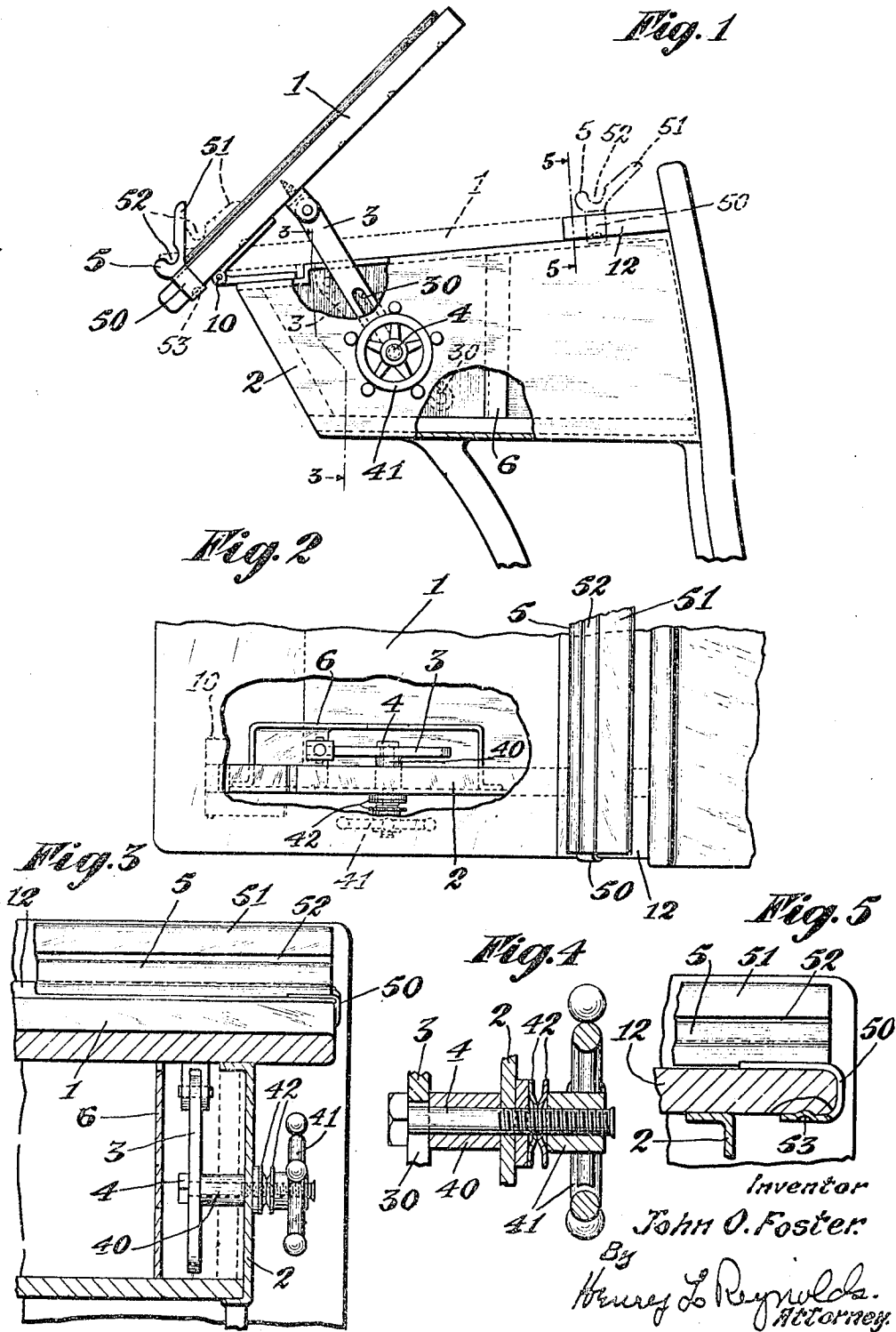


I. O. FOSTER.
SCHOOL DESK.
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JOHN O. FOSTER, OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

SCHOOL-DESK.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN O. FOSTER, a citizen of United States, and resident of Seattle, King county, Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in School-Desks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to school desks, and consists of certain improvements therein, whereby the top is cut in two so that a major part thereof may be swung upward at an angle and used as a support for books and other objects employed by the scholar.

The object of my invention is to provide means whereby the student may conveniently support his books in a plane which is perpendicular to the line of vision, thereby lessening the strain upon the eyes in reading. A further object is to provide, along with such construction, a movable and adjustable supporting bar which supports the lower edges of the books, and prevents their sliding off the raised top. Other objects of my invention may be seen by referring to the description hereof.

The novel features of my invention will be hereafter described, and then particularly pointed out in the claims. In the accompanying drawings I have shown a desk having my invention incorporated therein, in a construction of the type which is now most preferred by me.

Figure 1 is a side view of the desk, the top being shown in raised position by full lines, and in lowered position by dotted lines.

Fig. 2 is a top or plan view of one end of the desk with a part of the top broken away to better show the top adjusting and supporting mechanism.

Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1, with the top in lowered position.

Fig. 4 is a section through the pivot axis of the friction producing mechanism.

Fig. 5 is a section on the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

In the ordinary desk having a fixed top, books placed upon the top are at such an angle that the eyes must be focused differently for looking at top and bottom portions of the page. Rapid changing of focus as in looking over a book, map or other object, produces a certain amount of strain upon the eyes, which it is desirable should be eliminated. To do this I propose to make the top surface of the desk, or at least a major portion thereof, hinged toward the

rear edge thereof, that is the edge toward the scholar, so that it may be swung upward into a plane substantially perpendicular to his line of vision.

In Fig. 1 is shown the upper portion of a desk of common type of construction. The section 1 of this desk, extending from the rear edge to a point well toward the front edge, is hinged at 10 to the sides 2 of the desk frame. To maintain this in its raised position, I provide a mechanism consisting of a bar 3 and a friction producing means acting thereon to maintain it in adjusted position, and which will permit movement upon the application to the top of a sufficient amount of force. While this supporting means might be made positive in its adjustments, I prefer to employ friction operated means so that adjustment may be made at any point, and so that the top may be moved into any position by applying thereto a sufficient amount of force.

The bar or link 3 as herein shown is provided with a slot 30 which passes over a pin or bolt 4 mounted in the desk frame. A spacer 40 may be interposed between the link 3 and the frame 2 whenever this is needed. Upon the bolt 4 is placed a hand wheel or nut 41 and spring washers 42. By tightening the nut 41, the link 3 may be gripped between the head of the bolt and the spacer 40 to produce whatever resistance is required.

The book holding device herein employed consists of a bar 5 of sufficient length to extend from one side of the desk to the other and at its ends having secured there-to a spring clip 50, which extends over the edge of the desk top and has its end bent under and gripping the under surface of the desk top. This clip may be made to have sufficient frictional grip to hold the bar 5 in whatever position it may be placed, and yet permit it being moved freely back and forth upon the desk top. When not in use it may be slid to the upper or forward side of the desk, as is indicated in Fig. 1, in which position it is mounted upon the fixed section 12 of the desk top. When it is to be used as a book support while the hinged section 1 is raised, it is slid downward or toward the rear into the position desired before the top section 1 is raised.

The bar 5 has an upwardly and forwardly projecting web 51, which is adapted to extend over the lower edge of a book to hold

the book open. It also has a groove 52 which may be used for holding pencils or penholders when the desk top is down. The spring clip 50 may have slight projections 53 made by indenting the opposite side thereof, these projections being adapted to enter corresponding depressions made in the lower side of the desk top, whereby it may be more securely held at certain determined positions.

To protect the bar 3 against engagement by books or by the hands of the scholar, a guard 6 of sheet metal is placed so as to inclose the bar 3 in all its positions. With this construction of desk it is possible for the scholar to have his books held squarely perpendicular to the line of vision, thus reducing the eye strain. It is also a matter of great convenience and comfort to the scholars.

What I claim as my invention and desire to patent is:

1. A school desk having a top composed of a short fixed section and a long tiltable section, a hinge connecting the long tiltable section to the front edge of the desk, a slotted link pivoted to the under side of the long tiltable section, friction means engaging the slotted link to hold the long section in angular position when tilted on the hinge, a bar extending across the top and provided with clips which fit over the edges of the top sections, said bar being slidable over the

meeting edges of the top sections whereby when the long tiltable section is flush with the short fixed section the bar may be slid over the latter and out of the way, or may be slid forwardly over the long tiltable section and used as a book support, and means between the clips and the top sections to hold the bar in adjusted position.

2. A school desk having a top section composed of a short fixed section and a long tiltable section, a hinge connecting the long tiltable section to the front edge of the desk, a slotted link pivoted to the under side of the long tiltable section, a screw extending through the slot of the link and the outside of the desk, resilient washers on the screw outside the desk, a nut engaging the screw to hold the parts in adjusted position, whereby to provide friction means for holding the long tiltable section elevated, a slidable bar having clips at its ends to engage over the edges of the top, said bar being slidable over the meeting ends of the two top sections when the tiltable section is closed, whereby said bar may be slid out of the way and free of the tiltable section when the latter is not in use as a book rest, or may be slid forwardly to the outer end of the tiltable section to provide a book rest when said section is tilted upwardly.

Signed at Seattle, Washington, this 16th day of November, 1915.

JOHN O. FOSTER.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."