(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

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S. S. JOHNSON, Administrator.

BOOK REST FOR CHAIRS.

No. 331,149. Patented Nov. 24, 1885.

Fig 1.

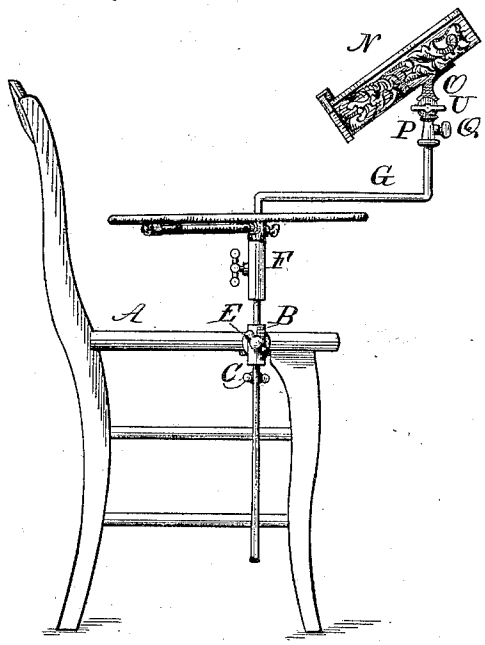


Fig 2.

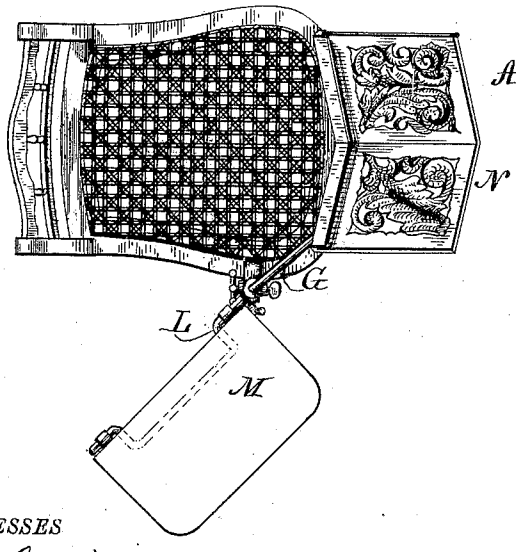
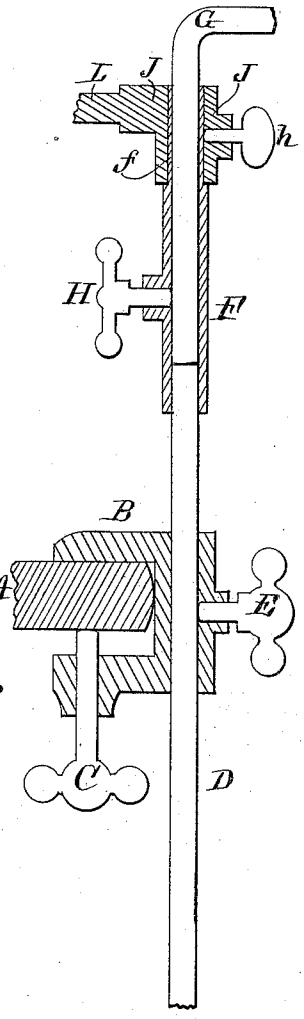


Fig 3.



WITNESSES

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Fig 4.

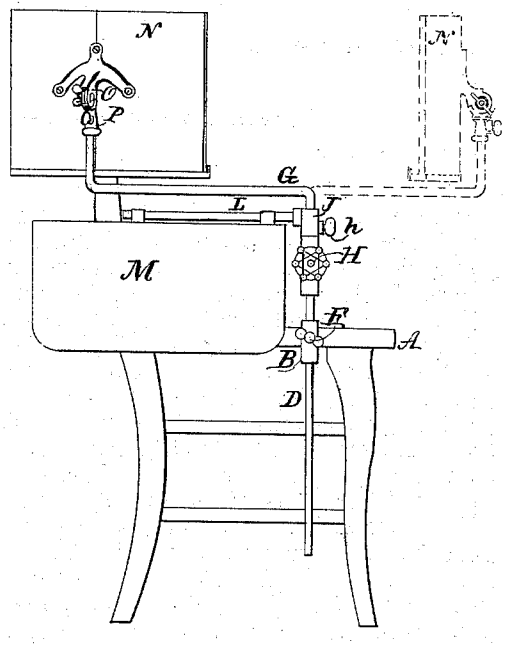


Fig 5.

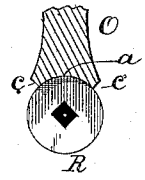


Fig 8.

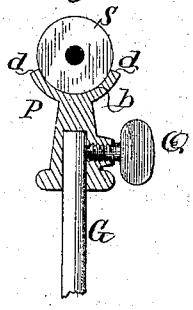


Fig 7.

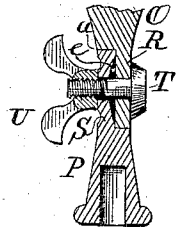
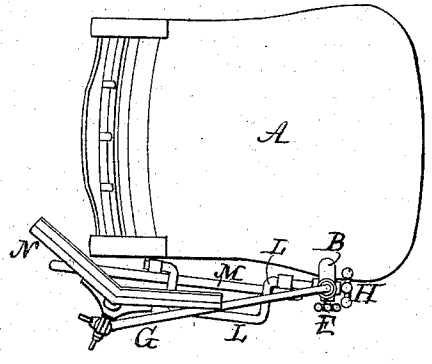


Fig 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BOOK-REST FOR CHAIRS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 331,149, dated November 24, 1885.

Application filed July 9, 1885. Serial No. 171,071. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE D. McCLURE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jeffersonville, in the county of Clark and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Book-Rests for Chairs; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to that class of book-rests which are designed to be attached to chairs; and its object is, first, to hold a book in a convenient position to be read by a person sitting in the chair to which it is attached; second, to hold a copy book or paper in such relation to the first-named book that the copy-book may be convenient to be written upon, while the other is convenient for reference or comparison; third, to so adapt the parts of the device that invalids and others who are not strong may be enabled to operate and use the device.

To this end my invention consists in the construction and combination of parts forming a book-rest, hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a chair with my invention attached. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical section of the attachments of the main standard. Fig. 4 is a side elevation showing the rest in a different position. Fig. 6 is a plan of the same. Figs. 5, 7, and 8 are detail views of a hinge-support for one shelf of the rest.

A represents a chair, which may be of any usual construction. B is the standard-holder, securable to the chair by means of clamp-screw, C, and vertically perforated to receive the standard D, which is a straight rod of round iron having a socket, F, firmly secured to its top end. The piece F is bored completely through its length, and the principal portion of its body extends above the standard, serving as a socket to receive one vertical portion of the arm G. Upon the other vertical portion of this arm one shelf, N, of my book-rest is mounted by means of a peculiar joint and socket. The portion O of this joint is provided with three arms, which are screwed to the back of the shelf N, and the portion P thereof is provided with a socket to receive and rest upon the arm G, on which it may revolve to face the shelf to any point of the compass, and to which it may be secured at any point by a set-screw, Q. The joint consists of two circular plates, R and S, centrally perforated, meeting face to face and secured together by a pivot-bolt, T, and thumb-nut U. The perforation in the plate R is square, and the bolt T is squared under its head to fit therein, to be held while the nut is turned on it. The plate R joins at one edge the portion O, which has a counterbored shoulder, *a*, corresponding to the circle of the plate. Against this shoulder the circular edge of the plate S fits with a revolving bearing. The portion P has a similar counterbored shoulder, *b*, against which the circular edge of the plate R has a revolving bearing. By this means the bolt T is very little depended on to support any weight, whereby it accommodates itself readily to the thumb-nut, rendering the latter more easy to be turned. The counterbored shoulders *a* and *b* terminate at the ends of their arcs in radial shoulders *c* and *d*, adapted to meet each other when the portion O is moved to either extremity of its arc, thereby serving as rigid stops to hold the shelf when not in use. The shelf is shown in one such position in dotted lines, Fig. 4. To further enable this joint to resist being turned by a heavy book on the shelf, I have adapted it to bear at the circumference only by making one plate of the joint dishing, as shown at *e*, Fig. 7. This circumferential bearing gives the necessary resistance against turning with the least practicable pressure on the thumb-nut, leaving the latter to be easily set as tightly as required for service.

The arm G is a crank whose axis and wrist are vertical, whereby the shelf N may be swung upon the axis close in front of the reader, or to one side, as he may desire, and in any of these positions the shelf-socket P may be revolved upon the crank-wrist to

place the book squarely with the line of sight or at any angle desired. The joint at the pivot-bolt T enables the shelf to be inclined at any angle desired.

By means of the crank-arm and the joint at T the shelf N may first be set vertical, as shown in dotted lines, Fig. 4, and then it may be swung around against the side of the chair-back and be there set at any point of the compass on the wrist to put it out of the way of general use of the chair. The set-screws H and Q and the nut U may fix the said parts to hold the shelf securely in any of the positions described.

The shelf or table M is hinged upon a horizontal rod, L, which has an offset upon which the table may rest, or the table may be turned over the rod as a hinge-pin to hang down when not needed. This table and bent hinge-rod are the subject of a former patent to myself, and are not here claimed; but the manner of attaching the hinge-rod to the supporting-standard as here shown is thought to be new. The socket F on the standard D is reduced in diameter at its upper end, forming a cylindrical bearing, *f*, on which a socket, J, is fitted to revolve. In this socket-piece the rod L is rigidly fixed, and a set-screw, *h*, to engage the bearing *f*, may fix the socket J and the rod and table thereby supported at any point of the compass. The standard D is adjustable as to height only. By this means the two shelves are both together raised or lowered, and by the set-screw E are fixed at the height desired. The arm G may be turned in the socket F to set the shelf N at the desired point, and the arm L may be turned upon the socket, bringing the table M in such relation to the shelf N that it may hold a copy-book and the shelf M serve as a writing-table, whereby the operator sitting in his chair may have both his reading-book and memorandum-sheet held in such relation to each other and to himself that he may conveniently use both at once.

In this device either shelf may be turned and fixed at any desired angle without disturbing the other, and both may be folded back at the side of the chair, as in Figs. 4 and 6, when not in use, whereby the chair is open for general use, and is not so likely to be tipped over by the weight of the shelves as when they project from the corner thereof in position for service.

I am aware that a book-rest and an arm-support or memorandum-shelf have both been attached to a vertically-adjustable standard, and that a book-rest has been mounted on such a standard to revolve horizontally without descending of its own weight; but such a book-rest and such an arm-support have not both been provided with shouldered or floored bearings, which would prevent them from descending, and yet permit them to revolve horizontally, as mine have.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of a clamp shaped to be attached to a chair and having a perforation vertically through it, a set-screw extending to the said perforation, a standard fitted into the said perforation and provided with a socket fixed to its upper end for the reception of a book-rest, the said socket reduced circumferentially to a bearing having a shoulder at the lower end thereof, and a memorandum-shelf or arm-rest provided with a supporting-arm having a head perforated to fit upon the said bearing and shoulder and provided with a set-screw, substantially as shown and described, whereby the arm, when loosened, will revolve horizontally upon the socket without descending.

2. The combination of a clamp shaped to be attached to a chair and having a perforation vertically through it, a set-screw extending into the said perforation, a standard fitted into the said perforation and provided at its upper end with a fixed socket opening upward and having an interior bottom, the said socket reduced circumferentially to a bearing having a shoulder at its lower end, a memorandum-shelf or arm-rest provided with a supporting-arm having a head perforated to fit upon the said bearing and shoulder and a set-screw to bind on the bearing, and a book-rest provided with a crank-shaped arm fitted at its lower end within the said socket to rest on the bottom thereof, and a set-screw in the socket, substantially as shown and described, whereby the shelf and the book-rest may both be held in any desired position in relation to each other, or either may be loosened and revolved to change its position horizontally without descending and without disturbing the other, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JESSE D. McCLURE.

Witnesses:
E. FRAZER,
HERMAN PRUFER.