(No Model.)

E. W. THOMPSON.

BOOK SUPPORT.

No. 305,863. Patented Sept. 30, 1884.

Fig. 1.

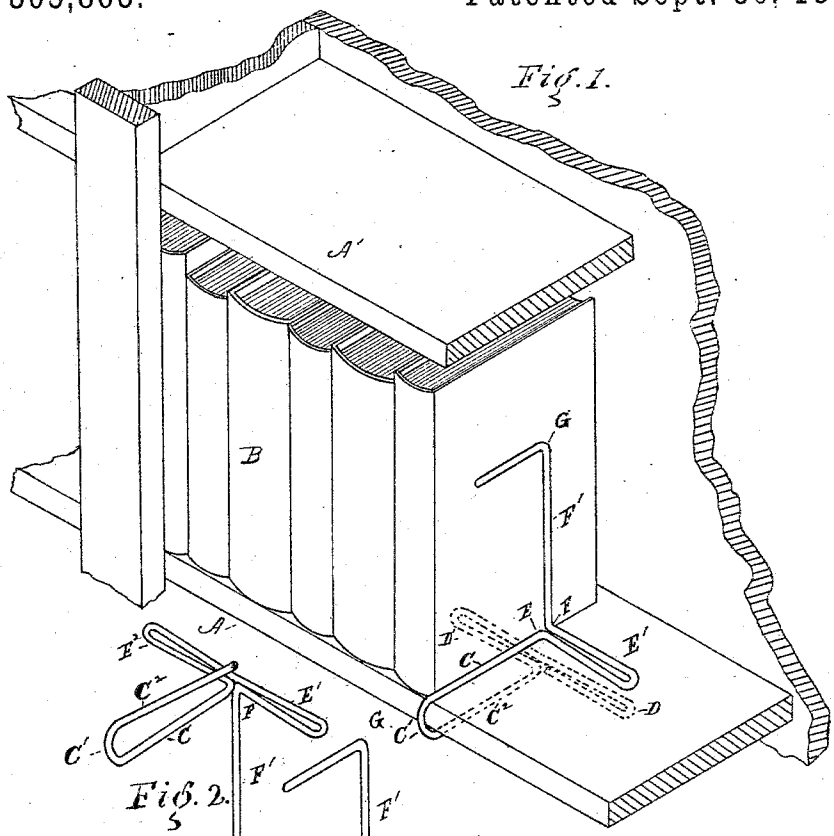


Fig. 2.

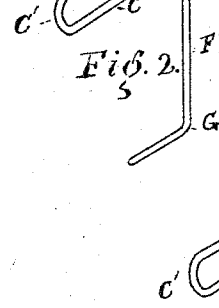
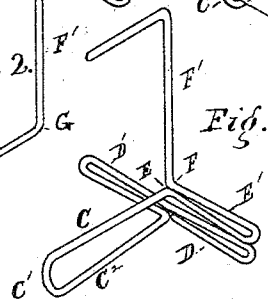


Fig. 3.



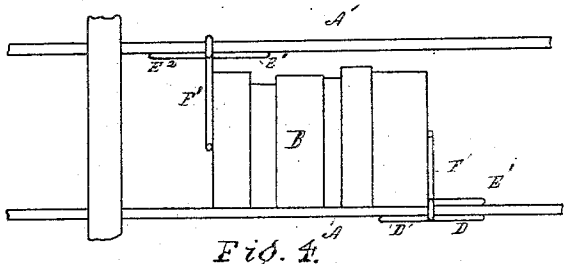


Fig. 4.

Witnesses—
H. W. Foster.
G. W. Hilton

Inventor—
Edward W. Thompson,
By Albert M. Moore,
His Attorney.

N. PETERS. Photo-Lithographer. Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD W. THOMPSON, OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO FREDERICK TAYLOR, OF SAME PLACE.

BOOK-SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 305,863, dated September 30, 1884.

Application filed December 1, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD W. THOMPSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lowell, in the county of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Book-Supports, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to means of holding books upright on the shelves of a book-case when the shelves are not filled with books, and to means of supporting books on a shelf, or on the shelf next below, at pleasure.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an isometric view of two book-shelves and books thereon with my invention attached. Figs. 2 and 3 are oblique views of different forms of my invention. Fig. 4 is a front elevation of two book-shelves with books thereon and my invention attached to both the upper and lower shelves.

A A′ are shelves of a book-case, a row of books, B, on the lower shelf being supported by my invention.

For a long time librarians of public libraries and persons having private collections of books have felt the need of a suitable device for holding upright books remaining upon the shelves where volumes are frequently removed, and where, owing to their different heights and thicknesses, the books are liable to fall over when one or more of them are removed, thereby straining the bindings and rendering their titles difficult to distinguish. Such a device should be simple, inexpensive, and easily applied, capable of being moved readily upon the shelf by one hand of the operator without marring or scratching said shelf, and capable of retaining its position upon the shelf. To meet this want I provide my book-support. The spring-wire C is bent at C′ to form a spring-clamp, which engages the shelf, and the lower portion, C^2, of the clamp terminates in lateral arms or extensions D D′, to give it a firm support upon the under side of the shelf. The upper portion of the clamp C is bent at E to form another lateral extension, E′, and the wire is again bent at F to form the upright arm F′, which has its upper part bent at about right angles at G, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

In case of lower shelves of book-cases that have drawers or other solid foundation beneath them, so that my support cannot engage with the lower shelf, I use the form of support shown in Fig. 2, which differs from Fig. 3 in having the lower portion of the clamp C^2 formed without lateral extensions, and in having the upper portion of the clamp C provided with two lateral extensions, E′ and E^2, instead of one, as shown in Fig. 3.

By forming the lower portion of the spring-clamp C^2 without the lateral extensions, I am enabled to apply my support to the shelf above the one upon which the books are to be supported, even though the said shelf be filled with books, since the portion of the spring-clamp C^2, being formed of wire, and its end being flattened, can be readily inserted between or beneath the books on the shelf without injury to them. This form can be used to support books on the shelf above by simply reversing the position of the support.

Both forms of my support are shown in position in Fig. 4.

I claim as my invention—

1. A book-support consisting of a vertical part, an arm extending laterally from the base of the vertical part, and a U-shaped spring connected at one of its ends to the base of the support, substantially as described, and for the purpose specified.

2. A book-support consisting of a vertical part, a clamp to engage the book-shelf, comprising an upper jaw extending laterally to one side of the vertical part, a lower jaw extending laterally on both sides, and a bow-spring connecting the two jaws, as and for the purpose specified.

EDWARD W. THOMPSON.

Witnesses:
ALBERT M. MOORE,
WILLIAM RALERT.