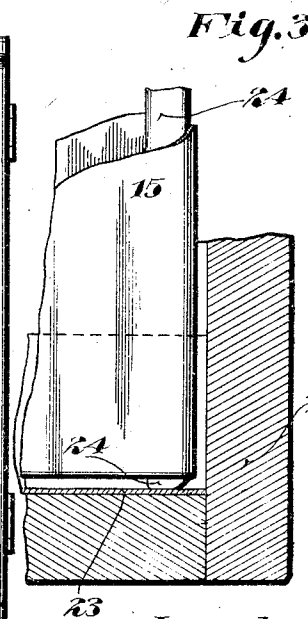
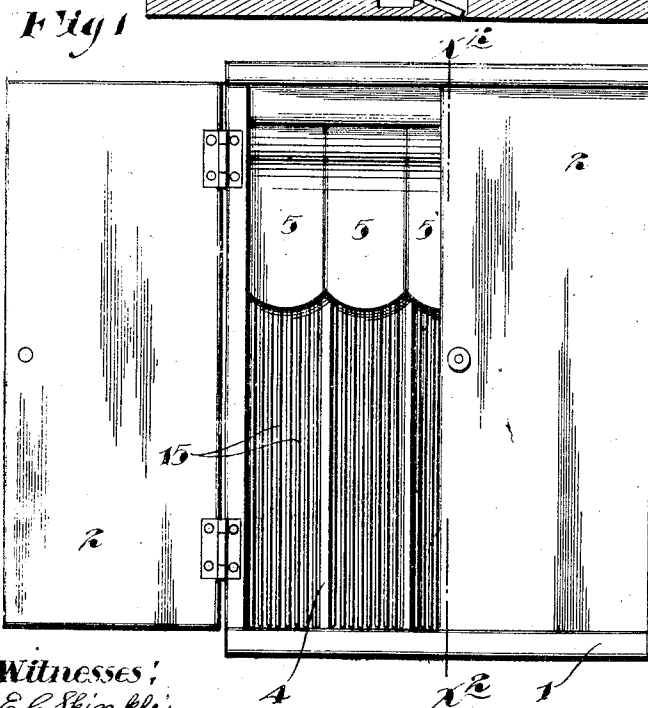
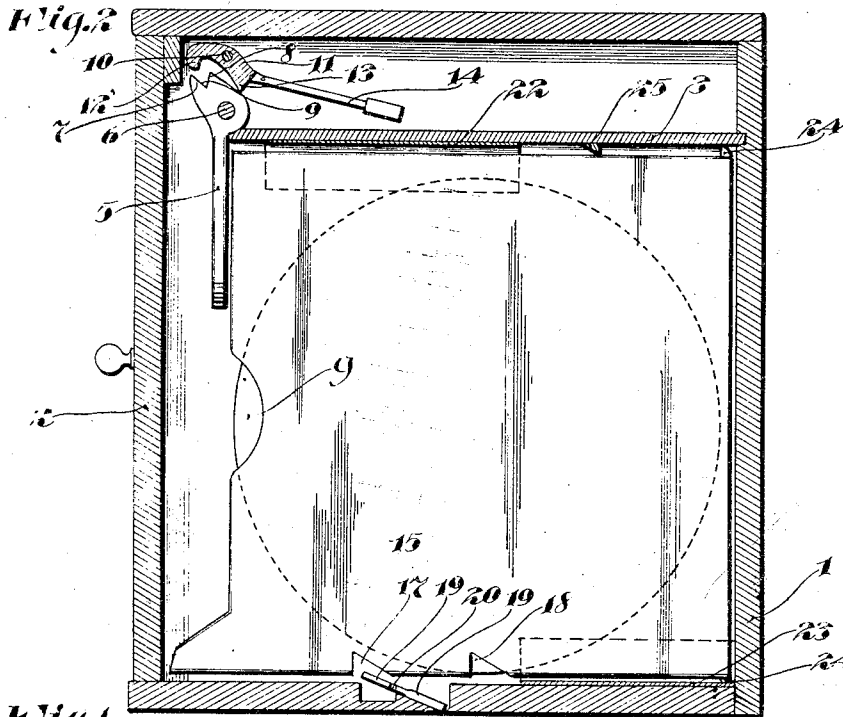


G. ROBBINS.
MULTICOMPARTMENT CABINET.
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Patented Mar. 25, 1913.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4

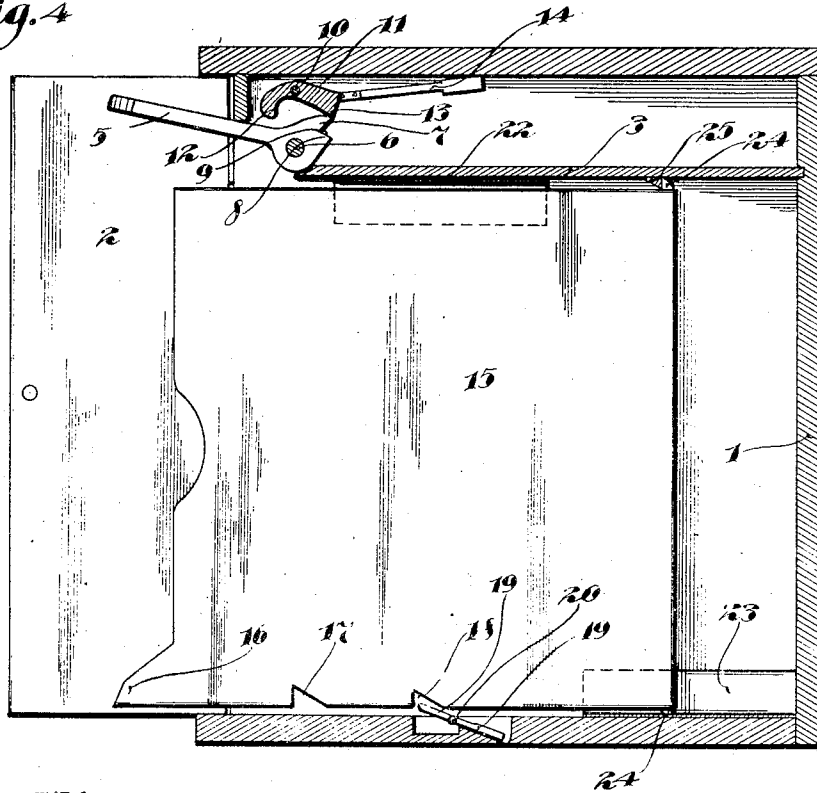


Fig. 5

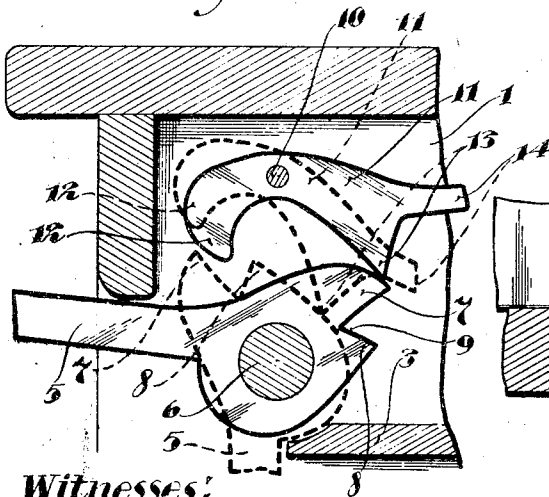
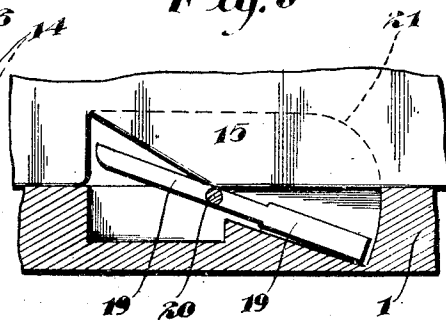


Fig. 6



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 7

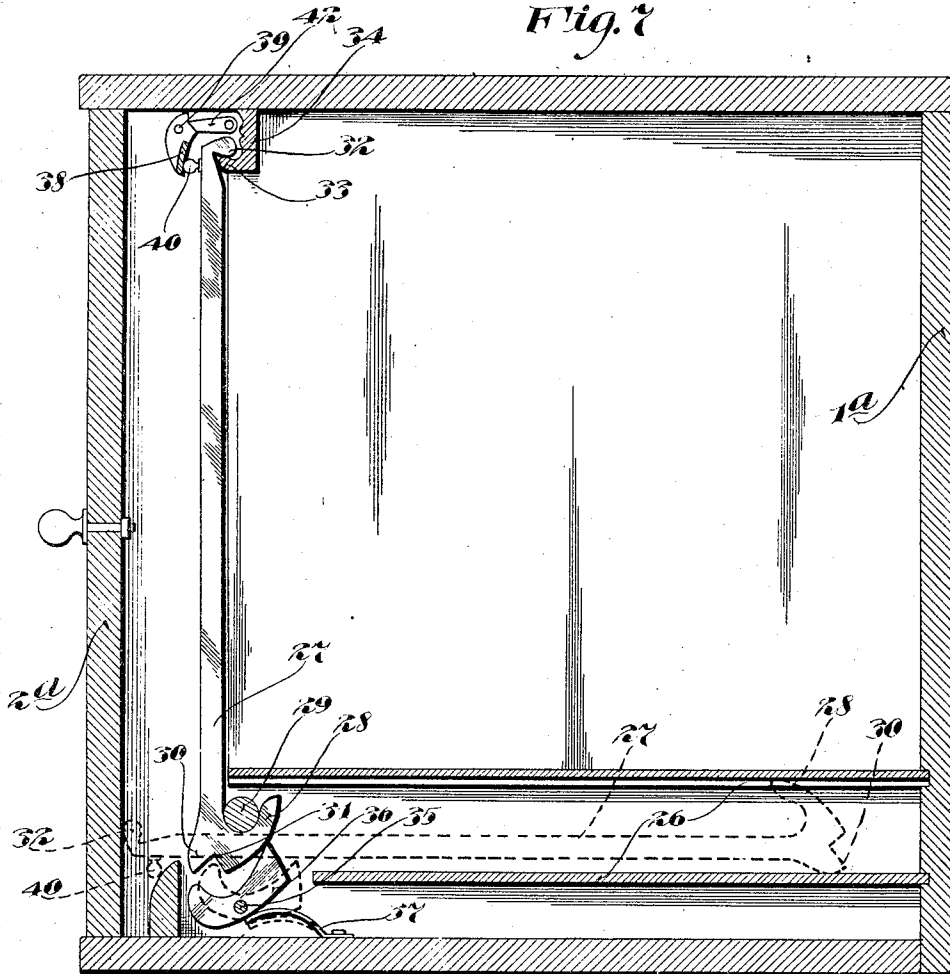
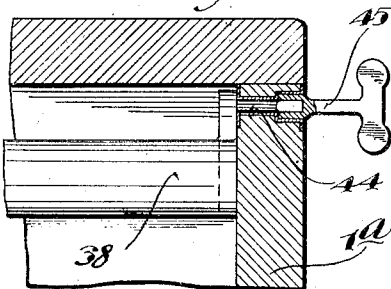


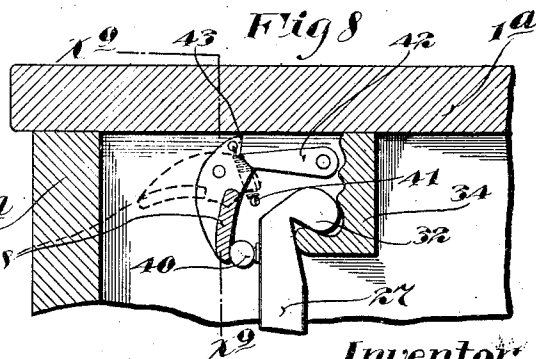
Fig. 9



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MULTICOMPARTMENT CABINET.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE ROBBINS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Multicompartment Cabinets; 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.

My invention has for its object to provide an extremely simple and efficient multicompartment cabinet, and to such ends, generally stated, the invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation showing a multicompartment cabinet embodying my invention, and especially designed to contain phonographic records of the disk type contained in heavy filing envelopes; Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken on the line x^2-x^2 on Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail in vertical section taken on the same line as Fig. 2, but showing the parts on an enlarged scale; Fig. 4 is a view corresponding in the line of its section to Fig. 2, but illustrating different positions of the parts; Figs. 5 and 6 are fragmentary views in section on an enlarged scale, the line of section thereof being taken on the same line as Figs. 2 and 4; Fig. 7 is a vertical section taken from front to rear through a modified form of the multicompartment cabinet; Fig. 8 is an enlarged fragmentary section taken on the same line as Fig. 7; and Fig. 9 is a section taken on the line x^9-x^9 on Fig. 8, some parts being broken away.

Referring first to the construction illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive, the numeral 1 indicates the main case of the cabinet, the same, as shown, having a pair of hinged front doors 2. Below its top, the main case 1 is shown as provided with a horizontal subtop 3 and the space below this subtop is divided into a multiplicity of compartments by vertical partitions 4. In each compartment, there is a so-called compartment gate or closure which may take various different forms according to the nature of the article

to be held in the compartment. Sometimes the compartment gate will be arranged to completely close the open portion of the compartment, but in other instances, it will be necessary only to have the said gate arranged to partly close the compartment. For instance, to prevent the removal of phonographic records of the disk type, short compartment gates 5, such as employed in the construction illustrated in Figs. 1 to 6 inclusive, will answer the purpose. In this preferred arrangement, these compartment gates 5 are hinged or pivoted at their upper ends on a transverse rod 6 extended just above the front edge of the subtop 3 and having its ends rigidly secured to the sides of the case 1. The compartment gates 5 are formed with cam lugs 7 and 8, and between these cam lugs with a releasing notch 9.

Pivoted on a rod 10 secured at its ends to the sides of the case 1, is a long gravity-held lock bar 11 having at its front edge a depending lock flange 12 and having at its rear or inner edge a depending cam flange 13. The rear edge of the pivoted lock bar 11 is, as shown, yieldingly pressed downward by a weighted arm 14, but this as is obvious, might also be accomplished by a spring. The normal position of the parts just described is indicated in Figs. 1 and 2 wherein the several compartment gates are turned downward, so as to close to the desired extent for the purpose had in view, all of the compartments of the cabinet. Normally, not one of the gates 5 is locked against movement into an open position, and any one or several thereof may be simultaneously moved from a closed into an open position shown in Fig. 4. The said gates cannot, however, be moved successively from closed into open position without first returning to normal or closed positions the previously opened gate or gates. The reason for this is as follows: When a gate, or two or more thereof, are simultaneously moved from closed into open position shown in Fig. 4, the cam lug 8 first engages the cam flange 13 of the common lock bar 11 and forces the lock flange 12 of the said bar downward into the notches 9 of all of the gates that remain in their closed positions. As the opened gate is moved farther toward its extreme open position, its cam lug 7 engages the cam flange 13 of the lock bar 11 and further forces the lock flange 12 downward into the lock notches 9 of the said gates 5 which remain in closed positions. This

positively locks in closed positions all of the gates which are left in closed positions when one or more gate is moved into an open position. Note for instance Fig. 5, wherein one gate 5 is shown by full lines as moved into an extreme open position and the lock flange 12 of the lock bar 11 is shown as forced downward into the lock groove or notch 9 of all of the gates remaining in closed positions. In the said view, Fig. 5, the gates which remain in closed positions are indicated by dotted lines, and it will be noted that if any attempt be made to move one of these lock gates into an open position, its lug 7 will engage against the lock flange 12 of the lock bar 11 and thus positively prevent opening of the said locked gate. Whenever the open gate or gates are returned to normal positions, their notches 9 are again aligned with the lock flange 12 of the lock bar 11 and then all of the gates 5 are again free to be moved into an open position.

The phonographic record disks γ are placed in heavy rectangular or square envelopes 15, preferably made of heavy stiff paper and opening at their front edges. One or more of these records γ may be placed in each envelop, but usually only one record will be placed in each envelop. At its lower front edge, each envelop 15 is provided with a projection 16 by means of which it may be pulled out of the compartment and on which index numerals or marks may be placed. Furthermore, each envelop is provided with a front notch 17 and a rear notch 18, for an important purpose which will presently appear. When the disk γ is in the envelop, its lower portion fits the gap formed by the rear notch 18.

Working in a suitable recess in the bottom of the case 1 is a so-called latch bar 19 intermediately pivoted to the said case bottom at 20, and yieldingly held by gravity or otherwise, in a normal position shown in Fig. 6. In this normal position, the said front edge of the said latch bar projects upward into the front notches 17 of all of those envelopes 15 which are in their normal positions shown in Figs. 2 and 6. All of the partitions 4 are provided with notches 21 (indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 6) so that they do not interfere with the operative movements of the said latch plate. Preferably, the several compartments of the case are provided with upper and lower guide channels 22 and 23 for the several envelopes contained therein. Also, the rear vertical edges of the envelopes are preferably reinforced by a rib or strip 24, the upper and lower ends of which project. The lower end of the said rib works as a wearing lug on the corresponding lower guide channel 23 and the projecting upper end of the said rib is arranged to engage with a stop lug 25 secured on the subtop 3 and

prevent the envelop from being drawn outward further than to the position shown in Fig. 4. The manner in which the compartment gates 5 and cooperating lock devices operate has already been stated. Assuming that one of the gates 5 is moved into an open position, it is then possible to draw on one envelop 15 or to simultaneously draw several thereof forward into the position shown in Fig. 4. We will assume, however, that but one envelop is drawn forward into the position shown in Fig. 4, and that the disk which is normally contained therein has been removed. The removal of the disk from the envelop drawn forward, as stated, permits the front edge of the latch plate 19 to move upward into the lock notch 18 in the said forwardly drawn envelop, so as to thereby lock the said envelop so that it cannot be pushed backward to normal position. Any desired number of envelopes contained in the opened compartment may, in succession, or otherwise, be drawn forward, and the disks thereof removed from the envelopes, and all of these forwardly drawn envelopes will be located in a position shown in Fig. 4, by the latch plate 19. By thus locking the envelopes in their forwardly drawn positions, unintentional return of the envelopes to their normal positions without their respective disks, is prevented. When it is desired to return one of the envelopes to its normal position, the disk is placed therein and the disk thus placed in the envelop, presses downward at the forward edge of the latch plate 19 and thus releases the latter and permits the envelop to be freely returned to normal position.

Sometimes it may be desirable to return the empty envelopes to their normal positions and to close the doors of the case. This may be accomplished without returning the disks to the respective compartments, simply by drawing one envelop from its normal position about half way forward toward the position shown in Fig. 4, and this will cause the lower edge of the envelop to press the front edge of the latch bar 19 downward and release the same. Also, an envelop containing the disk may be pulled forward to the position shown in Fig. 4 to thereby release the said latch bar and then all of the forwardly drawn envelopes may be simultaneously forced backward to their normal position.

The modified form of the multi-compartment cabinet shown in Fig. 7, while capable of different uses, is especially designed for the filing of letters and similar articles and provides a gate that entirely closes the compartment. In this construction, the case 1^a, which is very similar to the case 1, is provided in a similar manner with hinged front doors 2^a, but instead of being provided with

a subtop, it is provided with vertically spaced sub-base or horizontal partitions 26. In this construction, the so-called compartment gates 27 are in the form of long bars 5 provided at their lower ends with hook portions 28 that are pivotally engaged to a transverse pivot rod 29, rigidly secured at its ends to the sides of the case 1^a. The hooked ends 28 are also formed with lock 10 lugs 30 and releasing notches 31. At their upper ends, the gates 27 are formed with rounded lugs or heads 32 that are adapted to engage a latch flange 33 of a transverse bar 34 rigidly secured to the top of the case 1^a.

Intermediately pivoted to the case 1^a at 35 is a lock bar 36, the rear or inner edge of which is yieldingly pressed upward by a spring 37, or other suitable means. Normally, the lock bar 36 is held in the position indicated by full lines in Fig. 7, so that any one of the gates 27, or several thereof at the same time, may be moved pivotally downward (assuming that the doors 2^a are open), 25 until they reach horizontal positions and then they may be slid endwise into the compartments formed between the upper and lower partitions 26. When one or more of the said gates 27 is moved pivotally downward and forced inward, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 7, it engages the inner edge of the lock bar 36 and forces the front edge thereof upward into the lock notches 31 of all of those gates 27 that are left in their 30 normal or closed positions, hence, with this arrangement, no one or more of the gates 27 may be opened while one or more thereof is in an opened position shown by dotted lines in said Fig. 7.

It may be sometimes desirable to lock all of the gates 27 in their normal or closed positions, and for this purpose I have shown a so-called secondary lock bar 38 having end lugs pivoted at 39 to the sides of the case 1^a. 45 The transverse portion of this lock bar 38 when turned downward engages knobs 40 on the free ends of all of the gates 27 and holds the same in their normal positions. A light spring 41 (see Fig. 8) tends to hold 50 the secondary lock bar 38 in a retracted position shown by dotted lines in Fig. 8. To hold the said lock bar in an operative position shown by full lines in Figs. 7 and 8, I have provided a lock arm 42 that is, engageable with a shoulder 43 of one of the end lugs of the said lock bar 38. The lock arm 42 is provided with a stem 44 that affords a pivot therefor and the end of which is made square or angular, so that it is 60 adapted to be engaged and operated by a key 45 having a square or angular socket. The key 45 is removable, and without the key it is not an easy matter to move the lock arm 42.

Multi-compartment cases and cabinets of

the character above described are capable of a very large number of different uses, not necessary or possible to state in full. The several uses stated illustrate the utility of the device. The construction described is 70 simple and enables the cabinet to be made at small cost, and furthermore, as has been demonstrated in actual practice, the cabinet is highly efficient as a means for filing and keeping track of phonograph records and other articles which are very liable to be 75 mixed and misplaced, where there is no check or no means for preventing the same from being taken from and replaced in the cabinet.

In the specification and in the claims, the term "gate" is used in a broad sense to include any kind of a closure or stop device for a cabinet; and the term "envelop" is 80 also used in a broad sense to include any kind of a casing or holder insertible into a compartment adapted to contain a disk or other article.

What I claim is:

1. A cabinet having a plurality of independent movable gates normally free for open movements and a common pivoted lock bar operative when one of the gates is moved into an open position to lock all of the other gates in closed position. 90

2. A multi-compartment cabinet having gates for its several compartments, said gates having releasing notches and lock levers, and a yieldingly held common lock bar having a lock flange for coöperation with the lock lugs of said gates, the said lock bar normally releasing said gates, and the lock lugs of a moved gate being operative on said lock bar to force the same into a position in which its lock flange will lock all of the gates remaining in normal position. 95

3. A multi-compartment cabinet having pivoted endwise movable gates for its several compartments, and a common lock bar normally in position to release all of said gates, but arranged to be moved into an operative position by pivotal and endwise movement of one or more of said gates and serving in its operative position to lock all of the gates left in normal position. 100

4. In a multi-compartment cabinet, the combination with gates for the several compartments, of means for locking all of the gates in their normal or closed position, comprising a pivoted lock bar and a pivoted lock arm engageable with the shoulder of the latter to hold the same in operative position. 105

5. A multi-compartment cabinet having a pivot rod extended in the vicinity of one extremity of the open ends of the compartments thereof, of gates for the several compartments mounted to pivot on and to slide in respect to said pivot rod and having at their pivotal end releasing notches and lock 120

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lugs, and a common pivoted lock bar normally releasing all of the gates, the movement of one or more gates into an open position serving to move said lock bar into an operative position in which it enters the releasing notches and is engageable with the lock lugs of gates remaining in closed position, thereby locking the latter.

6. In a multi-compartment cabinet, the combination with gates for the several compartments, which gates are normally free for movements into open positions, of a gate locking mechanism operated by an open gate, or gates, to lock the other gates in their closed positions.

7. In a multi-compartment cabinet, the combination with gates for the several compartments and envelopes in said compartments, of a lock mechanism operative when one or more gates are open, to lock the other gates in closed positions, and the said envelopes, when partly withdrawn, serving to prevent the corresponding gate from being returned to a closed position, and latch devices engaging with the envelopes to prevent the return movements of empty envelopes and which latch devices are arranged to be released by articles placed in said envelopes.

8. In a multi-compartment cabinet, the combination with independent movable gates for the several compartments and a plurality of envelopes for each compartment, said gates being normally free for opening movements, of lock mechanism operative when one or more gates are open to lock the other gates in closed positions, the said envelopes, when partly withdrawn, serving to prevent the corresponding gate from being returned to a closed position, and a latch device operative to hold empty envelopes from return movements after they have been drawn outward in said compartment, but which latch is released by an article contained in a partly withdrawn envelop, whereby, when an article is entirely removed from an envelop partly withdrawn from one compartment, such envelop may be released by drawing outward from the same compartment a second envelop having an article contained therein.

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

GEORGE ROBBINS.

Witnesses:

HARRY D. KILGORE,
F. D. MERCHANT.