G. B. MELENEY.

CARD CABINET.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 15, 1907.

926,204. **Patented June 29, 1909.**

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

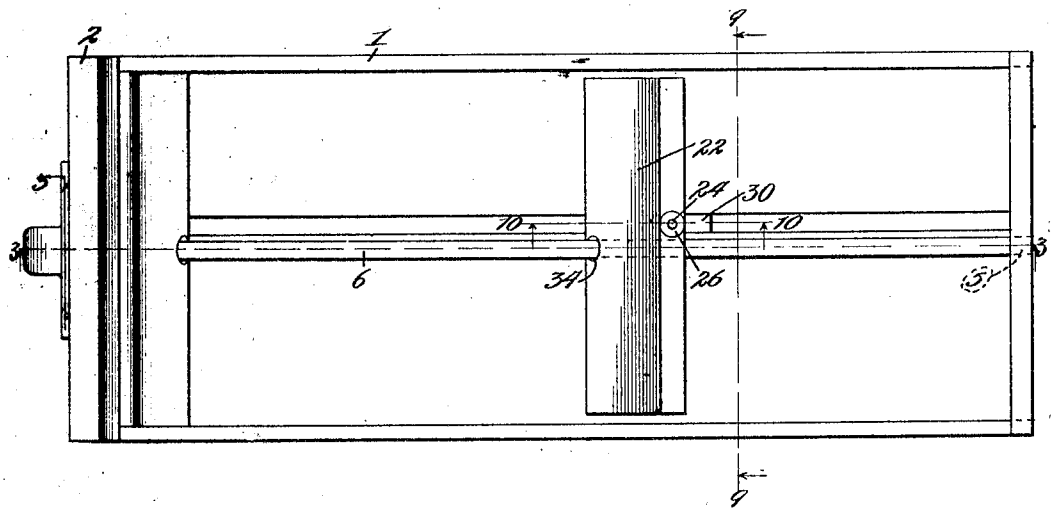


Fig. 8.

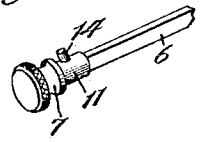
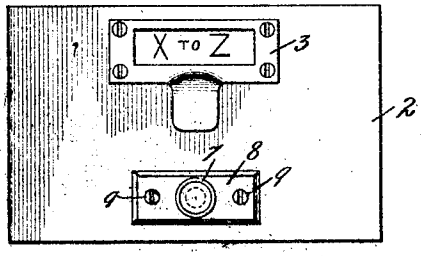


Fig. 2.

Fig. 9.



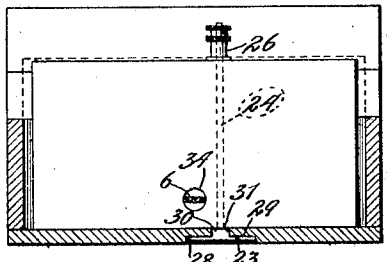
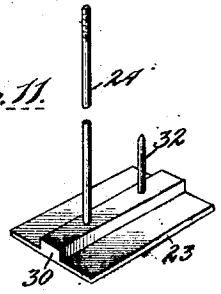


Fig. 11.



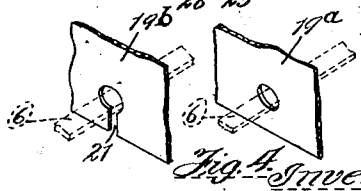


Fig. 4.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

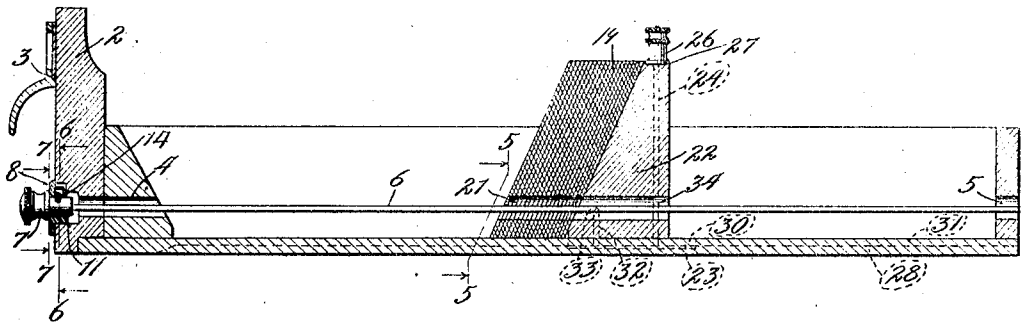


Fig. 6.

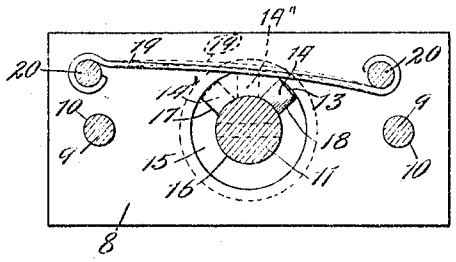


Fig. 10.

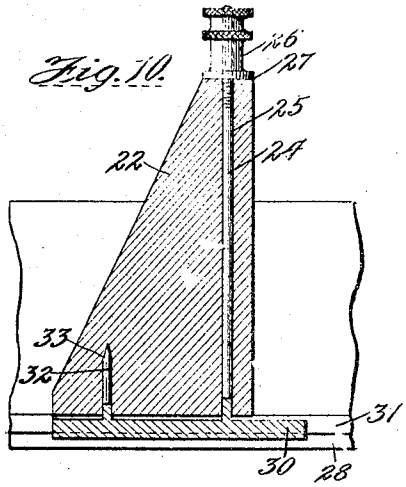


Fig. 7.

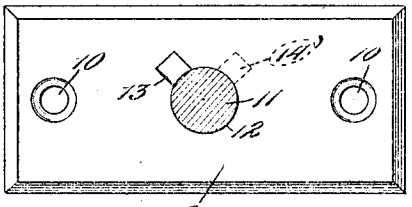


Fig. 5.

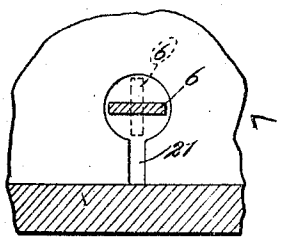
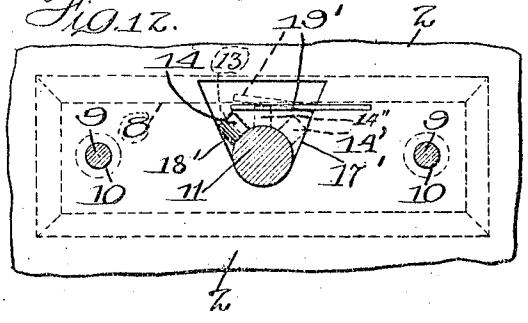


Fig. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE B. MELENEY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

CARD-CABINET.

No. 926,204. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented June 29, 1909.

Application filed August 15, 1907. Serial No. 388,725.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE B. MELENEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Card-Cabinets, of which the following is a full, clear, concise, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the construction of card cabinets, and has for its objects, first, a novel form of card-locking rod adjustably mounted so as to permit the use of different kinds of cards,—as, for instance, cards which are not to be taken from the cabinet without the withdrawal of the rod, and cards which may readily be removed by a slight manipulation of the rod; second, a novel form of locking arrangement for the rod; and, third, a new clamping means for the slide or follower, whereby the latter may be easily clamped in any desired position in the drawer.

In the drawings which form part of this specification, Figure 1 is a top plan view of my improved card cabinet; Fig. 2 is a front view thereof; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4 represents two views in perspective, showing how different kinds of cards may be locked in place by my improved rod; Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3, showing the rod in its horizontal or card-locking position in full lines, and in its vertical or card-releasing position in dotted lines; Fig. 6 is a cross section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 3, (looking in the direction of the arrows), showing the locking arrangement between the rod and the drawer; Fig. 7 is a view on line 7—7 of Fig. 3, showing the position of the lug on the rod with respect to the slot when the rod is in its locked position; Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the front portion of the rod; Fig. 9 is a view on the line 9—9 of Fig. 1, showing the follower with my improved clamping means for securing the follower against movement; Fig. 10 is a cross sectional view of the follower taken on line 10—10 of Fig. 1; Fig. 11 is a detail view in perspective of my improved clamping means for the follower; and, Fig. 12 is a front detail view showing a modified form of locking arrangement between the rod and the drawer; the plate 8 being indicated in dotted lines.

Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals indicate like parts throughout the several views, the drawer or cabinet 1, whose front 2 may carry the usual label or index-card holder 3, is provided with openings 4 and 5 in the front and back, respectively. A flat card-locking rod 6 is adapted to be passed through the front opening 4 until the head or knob 7 of the rod abuts against the plate 8 (as shown in Fig. 3), at which time the other extremity of the rod will preferably, though not necessarily, rest in the opening 5. The plate 8 is conveniently secured to the front of the drawer, as by means of screws 9 passing through holes 10 in the plate. As most clearly shown in Fig. 8, the rod 6 has a rounded portion 11 which fits snugly in the central opening 12 in the plate 8 when the rod is operatively mounted on the drawer, as illustrated in Fig. 3. It will be observed that the opening 12 is slotted at 13, and that the rounded portion 11 of the rod carries a lug 14 of a shape to enable it to pass freely through the slot 13. It will now be apparent that when it is desired either to insert the rod in place on the drawer or to withdraw the rod from the drawer, according to circumstances, it is only necessary to turn the rod until the lug 14 registers with the opening 13. With the parts in this position, the rod is free to be moved longitudinally one way or the other, either for mounting on the drawer or for removal therefrom.

It is readily seen from a mere inspection of Figs. 6 and 7, that in order to lock the rod to the drawer after placing the same in position on the drawer, as just described, one need but turn the rod to move the lug 14 from its position of alinement with the slot 13, as shown in full lines in Figs. 6 and 12, to a position out of alinement with said slot, as indicated in dotted lines at 14′ in Figs. 6, 7 and 12. In order to limit the angle of movement of the lug, and therefore of the rod, when the parts are assembled, as shown in Fig. 1, I provide the plate 8 on the inside with a cylindrical boss 15, as shown in Fig. 6, having an opening 16 which coincides with and forms, in effect, a continuation of the opening 12 in the plate 8. A sectoral portion of the upper half of this boss is cut away, leaving radial sides 17 and 18. As may be seen from Fig. 6, the side 18 coincides with the lower edge of the slot 13. When the rod is locked to the drawer the lug 14 rests against the side 17, and in case I use a

flat rod, substantially as shown, the latter will rest in a horizontal position, as indicated in Figs. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. When the rod is rotated to its unlocked position, in which it is ready for removal from the drawer, the lug 14 rests against the side 18 of the boss 15. In this unlocked position the rod is vertical,—that is to say, in case I use a flat rod. In order to hold the rod in either of these positions, so as to prevent accidental turning of the same from one position to another, I employ a resilient blade 19 secured to the lugs 20 on the plate 8 in any suitable manner, as by coiling the ends of the blade a sufficient distance around the lugs. When the rod is rotated from one position to another, the lug 14 will, during its travel about mid-way between the sides or stops 17 and 18 (as indicated at 14″ in Figs. 6 and 12), engage the blade and slightly force it outward, as indicated in dotted lines in said figures. Upon further rotation of the rod, the pressure against the blade by the lug will gradually relax; at the same time the lug will be forced to one side or the other until it rests in one or the other of its positions. By this simple expedient I am enabled to prevent accidental rotation of the rod by holding it either in its locked or unlocked position, without interfering with the easy and ready manipulation of the rod when it is desired to lock it to, or unlock it from, the drawer.

By employing a flat rod, that is one having a cross section substantially as shown, and mounting the rod on the drawer to permit rotation of the rod, I obtain this advantage over card-cabinets as heretofore constructed; it is sometimes desirable to use in a cabinet different kinds of cards,—to wit, cards intended to be permanently locked in the drawer, and cards designed to be readily removed from the drawer. By the first kind of cards I mean cards which cannot be taken from the drawer (that is to say, of course, without mutilation) unless the rod is bodily withdrawn. At the right of Fig. 4 I have shown such a card 19^a having a hole punched near the bottom. It will be apparent that cards of this kind can be released from locking engagement with the rod only by withdrawing the rod out of the hole in the card. But cards 19^b provided each with a slotted hole 21, as shown to the left of Fig. 4, can be readily removed from the cabinet when my improved rod is employed in connection therewith, merely by rotating the rod to its unlocked or vertical position, as above described, and as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 5. With the rod in this position, the cards having slotted holes can be easily withdrawn from the cabinet. It will be observed that when the rod is in its locked position with respect to the drawer, the cards with slotted holes are in a locked position with respect to the rod; and that when the rod is in its unlocked position with respect to the drawer, the cards with slotted holes are in an unlocked position with respect to the rod.

A modified and somewhat simplified locking arrangement is shown in Fig. 12. Instead of securing the spring 19, as shown in Fig. 6 to the plate 8, in this instance I insert the spring-blade 19′ in a slot in the front 2 of the drawer. It is readily apparent from a mere inspection of Fig. 12 that the effect of the blade 19′ and the coöperation between said blade and lug 14, are substantially identical with the effect and coöperation produced in the form shown in Fig. 6. The configuration of the opening or recess in the front 2 of the drawer is for convenience illustrated as triangular in Fig. 12, the shoulders 17′ and 18′ serving to limit the rotary movement of the rod. By enumerating but two forms of my novel locking arrangement, I do not wish to be understood as confining myself to such two forms only, in certain of the claims hereinafter set forth; I intend that such claims shall include any other variations and modifications of my locking arrangement that mechanical skill may bring about.

Of course, it is not necessary to the use of my invention as hereinafter set forth in certain of the claims, that my improved form of rod, which permits the use of different kinds of cards, be employed in conjunction with my improved locking arrangement between the rod and the drawer. For it is quite evident that all the advantages residing in the use of the flat rod mounted on the drawer so as to be rotated to different positions, may be fully realized without the use of such locking arrangement, or of any other locking arrangement between the rod and the drawer. Likewise, my improved locking device does not depend for its operativeness or novelty or utility upon the particular form of rod shown. Any form of rod, as for instance, the ordinary round rod may be used in connection with my improved locking arrangement.

I come now to the third object of my invention,—to wit, a new and improved clamping means between the follower and the drawer. Heretofore it has been the custom to arrest the follower against movement by clamping it to the card-locking rod. Naturally, such clamping devices cannot be employed in connection with drawers intended to be used without a rod. I obviate this difficulty as follows: The slide or follower 22 carries a plate 23 secured to the lower end of the rod 24 which passes through a vertical bore 25 in the follower. Any suitable means may be employed to produce vertical movement of the rod,—as, for instance, a nut 26 engaging the screw-threaded end of the rod. A washer 27 may be interposed between the nut and the top of the follower. With the parts in the assembled relation shown in Fig.

9, the plate 23 rests in a groove 28 in the bottom of the drawer, the upper surface of said plate being drawn tightly against the horizontal surface 29 of the groove 28. To impart greater mechanical rigidity to the clamping device, as well as to provide additional centering means when the parts are being put together, the plate 23 may have a ridge 30 adapted to slide in the slot 31 in the bottom of the drawer when the follower is adjusted from one position to another. Undue movement or possible rotation of the clamping plate 23 relative to the follower is obviated by providing a projection 32 on the plate 23, which projection enters a recess 33 in the follower when the clamping device is being attached to the follower.

The operation of my improved clamping means will now be readily understood. By rotation of the nut 26, the rod 24, and with it the clamping plate 23, is vertically adjusted one way or the other, either to draw the plate and the follower against the drawer to prevent movement of the follower, or to separate the plate from the drawer sufficiently to permit of easy movement of the follower to any desired position in the drawer. In the event that it is desired to use a follower having my improved clamping mechanism in connection with a drawer having a rod, it is only necessary to provide a suitable opening in the follower to accommodate the rod, as shown at 34 in Figs. 1, 3 and 9.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. In a device of the kind described, the combination with a drawer provided with an opening at one end, having a bearing portion and an enlarged portion, situated both in the path of a single plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of the drawer, of a rod rotatably journaled in said bearing portion, a lug on said rod traveling in said enlarged portion and engaging the ends of the same to limit the rotary movement of the rod, and yieldable means in the path of said lug to prevent accidental rotation of the rod from one extreme position to the other.

2. In a device of the kind described, the combination with a drawer provided with an opening at one end, having a bearing portion and an enlarged portion, situated both in the path of a single plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of the drawer, of a rod rotatably journaled in said bearing portion, a lug on said rod traveling in said enlarged portion and engaging against the ends of the same to limit the rotary movement of the rod, and a spring blade in the path of said lug to prevent accidental rotation of the rod from one extreme position to the other.

3. In a device of the kind described, in combination, a drawer provided with a slot, a rod having a lug coöperating with said slot to permit the mounting of the rod on the drawer, said rod being adapted for rotation on said drawer to a locked position, and means to coöperate with said lug for preventing free rotation of the rod from such locked position.

4. In a device of the kind described, in combination, a drawer provided with a slot, a rod having a lug coöperating with said slot to permit mounting of the rod on the drawer, said rod being adapted for rotation on said drawer to a locked position, and a spring-blade to coöperate with said lug for holding the rod in such locked position.

5. The combination with a drawer having a longitudinal slot in the bottom thereof to one side of the center, of a follower movable in said drawer, a card-locking rod passing centrally through said drawer and follower, and adjustable clamping mechanism carried by said follower and extending through said slot to hold the follower against movement.

6. In a device of the kind described, in combination, a drawer, a flat rod oscillatably and detachably mounted in said drawer, and means for preventing oscillation of the rod beyond a certain point.

7. The combination with a drawer provided with a longitudinal groove and slot in the bottom thereof to one side of the center, of a follower movable in said drawer, a card-locking rod passing centrally through said drawer and follower, a rod carried by said follower and extending into said slot, a plate secured to the lower end of said rod and arranged to slide in said groove to center the movement of the follower, and means for vertically adjusting said rod whereby the plate is either firmly clamped in the groove to lock the follower against movement, or is released to permit ready movement of the follower.

8. The combination with a drawer, provided with a slot in the bottom thereof, of a follower movable in said drawer and having a recess extending upward from the lower surface thereof, a rod carried by said follower and extending into said slot, a plate secured to the lower end of said rod, said plate being provided with a projection capable of passing through said slot and entering the recess of the follower, and means for vertically adjusting said rod, whereby the plate is either firmly clamped against the bottom of the drawer to lock the follower against movement, or is released to permit ready movement of the follower.

9. In a device of the kind described, the combination of a drawer, a flat rod within said drawer, and means for normally locking said rod against withdrawal and arranged to permit said rod to oscillate and to be withdrawn when oscillated to a determined position.

10. In a device of the kind described, the

combination of a drawer, a flat rod within said drawer, means for normally locking said rod against withdrawal and arranged to permit said rod to oscillate and to be withdrawn when oscillated to a determined position, a card having a closed aperture for receiving said rod, and a card having a recess for said rod, said recess having a restricted portion adjacent the edge of the card, said restricted portion being of such width as to admit said rod edgewise and not flatwise.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE B. MELENEY.

Witnesses:
M. R. ROCHFORD,
A. A. THOMAS.