Nov. 16, 1926. 1,606,857

M. C. WHITMORE

FILING CABINET

Filed Nov. 14, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

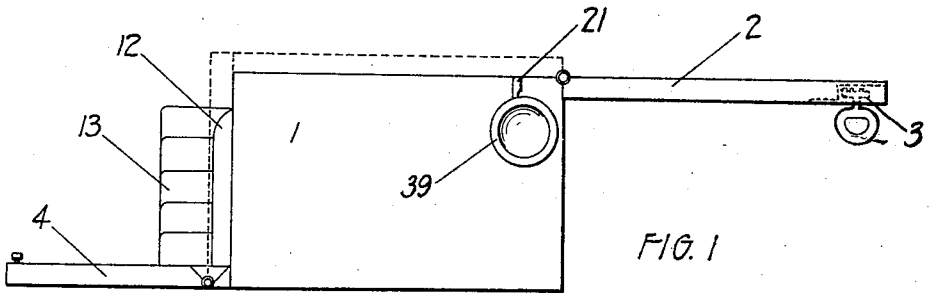


FIG. 1

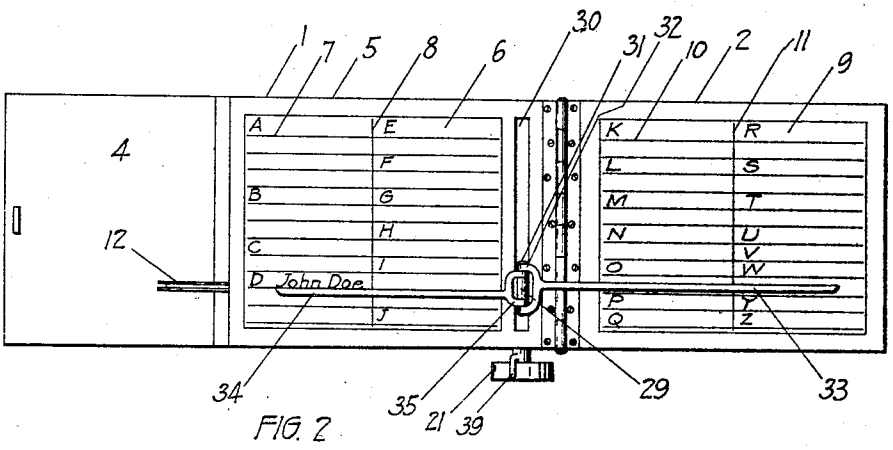


FIG. 2

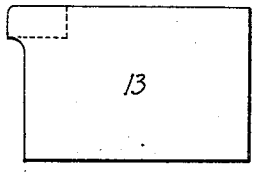


FIG. 3

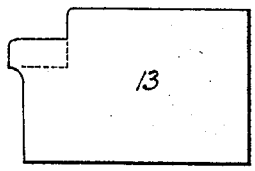


FIG. 4

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Nov. 16, 1926. **1,606,857**

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FILING CABINET

Filed Nov. 14, 1922 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

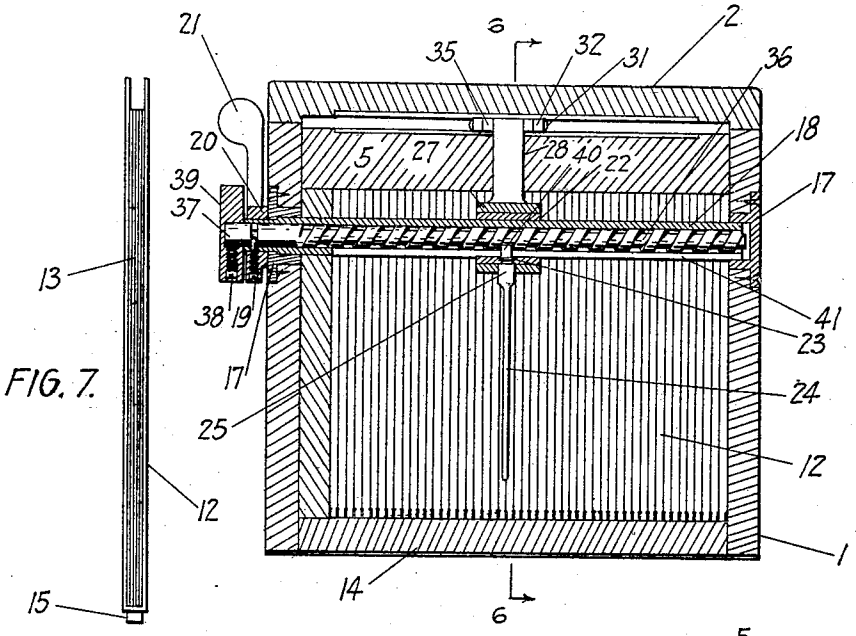


FIG. 7.

FIG. 5

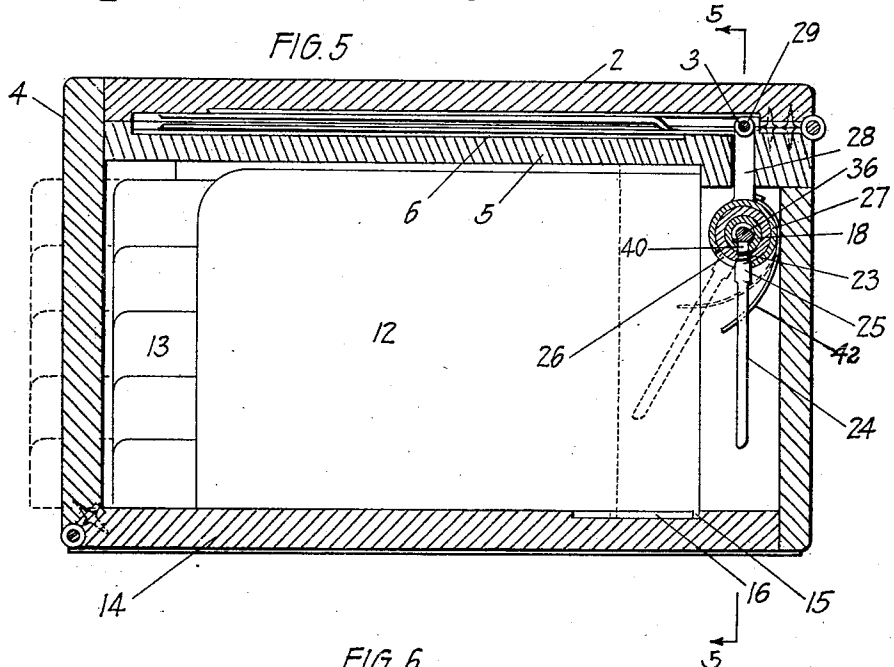


FIG. 6

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Patented Nov. 16, 1926. 1,606,857

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FILING CABINET.

Application filed November 14, 1922. Serial No. 600,830.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in filing cabinets, and has particular reference to an indicating index for them.

Card indexes for filing cabinets are often very unsatisfactory in that they do not expose quickly to view the names and subject matter indexed. Nor is it possible to easily grasp and extract a card from a large number of them tightly compressed in a separate pocket.

My invention obviates the above difficulties by providing for filing cabinets, an indicating index which is simple in construction and efficient in operation. This index contemplates the provision of a ruled pad or sheet which contains names or subjects in alphabetical order that are traversed by an indicating arm. This arm may be easily moved into exact registry with a line above which the name or subject desired is placed, whereupon, by the subsequent operation of other means, a pocket will be pushed forward to present for ready withdrawal from it, a card corresponding to the name or subject selected.

Other important and incidental objects will be pointed out in the following specification, and particularly set forth in the subjoined claims.

One convenient form of embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompany drawings, of which Figure 1 is a side view of the cabinet after it has been opened, showing one of the pockets in its advanced position. Figure 2 is a top plan view of the same. Figure 3 is a side view of one of notched index cards. Figure 4 is a side view of another one of the index cards, whose notch is deeper than the first. Figure 5 is a cross sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Figure 6. Figure 6 is a longitudinal sectional view taken on the line 6—6 of Figure 5. And Figure 7 is an end view of one of the card-containing pockets, with the index cards therein.

Throughout the specification and drawings, similar reference characters denote corresponding parts.

Referring to the accompanying drawings for a detailed description of the form of embodiment of my invention illustrated therein, the numeral 1 designates a filing cabinet to the upper rear end of which there is hingedly secured a cover 2. The latter is adapted to be connected by a lock 3 to the front end 4 of the cabinet, said end being hingedly secured to the front bottom portion of the latter so that it may be opened downward as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Suitably secured to the top wall 5 of the cabinet is a sheet 6 of paper or other suitable material which contains a series of straight lines 7 which extend from one end of the top board to its other and which are intersected by a central line 8 at right angles to them, to provide a number of name or subject containing spaces. Any greater or less number of lines may be placed upon the sheet to provide the number of indexing spaces desired. (See Figure 2).

Suitably secured upon the inside surface of the cover 2 is a sheet 9 of paper or other suitable material containing a series of straight lines 10 that extend from one end of the cover to the other, and which are intersected by a central line 11 at right angles to them to provide a number of name or subject containing spaces. Any greater or less number of these lines may be placed upon the sheet 9 to provide the number of indexing spaces desired. Upon either sheet 6 or 9 any number of spaces may be apportioned to a letter of the alphabet to receive the names or subjects beginning with that letter. (See Figure 2).

Longitudinally disposed within the cabinet 1 is a series of pockets 12, each one of which preferably comprises a sheet of metal that is bent upon itself to include between its sides a number of index cards 13. (See Figures 5, 6 and 7). These pockets are mounted side by side upon the bottom board 14 of the cabinet, and are adapted to be moved outwardly by means hereinafter to be described to project their front ends beyond the side walls of the cabinet when its front end 4 is lowered. The front ends of the cards 13 in each pocket project a sufficient distance beyond it to display the name or subject placed on the front end of the card. When the pocket has been moved a sufficient distance outwardly to disclose to view the front ends of its cards, its further outward movement will be resisted by the engagement of a stop 15 on its rear bottom end with the outer end of a countersunk portion 16 of the bottom board 14 in which said stop is movable. (See Figures 6 and

7). The front ends of the cards are notched in a stepped manner so that one card will not obstruct the view of the matter contained on the front ends of the other cards within the pocket.

For the purpose of moving to a displaying position, a pocket 12 which contains a card containing matter relating to a name or subject selected, the following means are provided. Journaled in end bearings 17, 17 firmly secured in the side walls of the cabinet 1 near its rear end, is a sleeve 18 one end of which projects a short distance beyond one side of the cabinet. To this outwardly projecting end of the sleeve there is firmly secured, by means of a screw 19, the enlarged tubular end 20 of a lever 21. (See Figures 1 and 5). By means of this lever the sleeve 18, which is located behind the pockets 12, may be turned to push or kick outwardly a selected pocket by the means now to be described.

Referring to Figures 5 and 6, there is mounted on the sleeve 18, for a free longitudinal movement thereon, a cylindrical slide 22, into a threaded hole in which there is secured the threaded portion 23 of the inner end of the pusher arm 24. The latter has a squared portion 25 just below its threaded end, which is freely movable through a peripheral slot 26 in the sleeve end 27 of a connecting member 28, which loosely surrounds the slide 22.

At its upper end the connecting member 28 is freely movable through a slot 30 which extends from one side of the cabinet to the other in the top board 5 of the latter and terminates in a rounded portion 29. This rounded portion of the member 28 contains a lateral bore which receives a pin 31 for pivotally connecting the wide forked end 32 of an indicator arm 33 to the member 28, said arm projecting over the ruled sheet 9. A similar arm 34, which projects over the ruled sheet 6, has an inner forked end 35 which is also pivotally connected to the member 28 by the pin 31. (See Figures 2 and 6).

The indicating arms 33 and 34 are adapted to be moved over their respective ruled sheets by the following means. Referring to Figures 5 and 6, the numeral 36 designates a worm which is journaled for rotation within the sleeve 18 and which has an end 37 that projects beyond the end of the sleeve to which the lever 21 is secured. Firmly attached by a screw 38 to the end 37 of the worm is a knob 39 by means of which said worm may be turned by the hand.

The threaded portion of the pusher arm 24 terminates at its inner end in a cylindrical portion 40 which is freely movable through an elongated slot 41 in the sleeve 18 and which projects beyond said slot into engagement with the worm 36. Now, when the worm is turned by the knob 39, the pusher arm 24 will be moved laterally, drawing with it the slide 22 and the sleeve end of the connecting member 28 to move the indicator arms 33 and 34 over their respective ruled sheets.

It is thus possible by turning the knob 39, to move one of the indicator arms over its respective sheet into exact registry with a horizontal line above which is written the name or subject desired. For example, in Figure 2 the knob 39 has been turned to bring the indicator arm 34 into registry with a horizontal line 7 on which the name "John Doe" is written. When said arm 34 is moved to this position by the worm 36, the pusher arm 24 will also be shifted by the latter to a position directly behind the pocket 12 which contains the card bearing the name "John Doe" on its front end. Now, as stated before, the pusher arm has a free movement through the peripheral slot 26 in the sleeve end of the connecting member 28, so that the latter will remain stationary when the sleeve 18 is rotated. Therefore, after the arm 34 has been brought into registry with the "John Doe" line, the lever 21 may be operated to turn the sleeve 18, which will move the lower end of the pusher arm 24 a sufficient distance to thrust the pocket in front of it to a position which will permit the "John Doe" card to be readily withdrawn therefrom. Passing obliquely through the middle portion of the pusher arm 24 is one end of a curved spring 42, the other end of which is secured to the connecting member 28. This spring assists in returning the pusher arm to its normal position after a pocket has been thrust out by it.

After the desired information has been obtained from the face of the card, or entries have been made upon it, the card may be easily reinserted in the pocket and the latter pushed back into the cabinet. The front end 4 of the latter may then be turned up, and its cover 2 brought to a closing position, so that these two members may be connected by the lock 3 to safely lock the entire contents of the cabinet.

The horizontal lines are so arranged on each one of the sheets 6 and 9, that when the indicating arm for one sheet is brought into registry with a line thereon, the other indicating arm will not register with any line on its sheet. (See Figure 2).

It will now be seen that I have provided a filing cabinet in which an indicating arm may be easily moved over a sheet or pad to a line upon which a name or subject is placed, after which, by the rotation of a sleeve, a pusher arm attached thereto will thrust forward a pocket containing a card bearing the name or subject selected by the indicating arm. This card may then be

readily gripped and withdrawn from the pocket for the use which the operator desires to make of it.

I do not wish to be limited to the details of construction and arrangement herein shown and described, and any changes or modifications may be made therein within the scope of the subjoined claims.

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. In a filing cabinet having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a laterally movable device behind said pockets, an arm projecting from said device to engage a selected pocket and push it a desired distance out of the front end of the cabinet, a flat index medium on the top wall of the cabinet, said wall having a slot in its rear end above the laterally movable device, a member projecting upwardly from the latter through the slot, an indicating arm secured to said member for movement thereby over the index medium to a desired position thereon, and means for actuating the pusher arm on the laterally movable device to thrust outwardly the pocket in front of it when the indicating arm has been moved to a selected position on the index medium.

2. In a filing cabinet having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a rotatable tubular member behind said pockets, a slide movable along said tubular member, a flat index medium on the top wall of the cabinet, said wall having a slot above the slide, a member projecting upwardly from the latter through the slot, an indicating arm secured to said member for movement thereby over the index medium to a desired position thereon when the slide is shifted along the tubular member, a pusher arm projecting from the slide to engage a selected pocket and push it a desired distance out of the front end of the cabinet, and means for turning the tubular member to rotate the pusher arm for the purpose of thrusting outwardly the pocket in front of it when the indicating arm has been moved to a selected position on the indicating medium.

3. In a filing cabinet, having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a rotatable tubular member behind said pockets, a slide movable along said tubular member, a flat index medium on the top wall of the cabinet, said wall having a slot above the slide, a member projecting upwardly from the latter through the slot, an indicating arm secured to said member for movement thereby over the index medium to a desired position thereon, a worm rotatable within the tubular member, said tubular member having an elongated slot therein, a pusher arm secured to said slide, one end of said pusher arm passing through the slot in the tubular member for engagement with said worm, the other end of said pusher arm projecting in the opposite direction from said slide to engage a selected pocket and thrust it a desired distance out of the front end of the cabinet when the tubular member is rotated, means for rotating said worm to shift the slide to a position selected by the indicating arm, and means for rotating the tubular member after said position has been taken by the slide to force the lower end of the pusher arm into engagement with the pocket in front of it for the purpose specified.

4. In a filing cabinet, having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a rotatable tubular member behind said pockets, a cylindrical slide movable over said tubular member, a flat index medium on the top wall of said cabinet, said wall having a slot above the slide, a member projecting upwardly through said slot and having a lower cylindrical end surrounding the slide, an indicating arm secured to said member for movement thereby over the index medium to a desired position thereon, the lower cylindrical end of said member having a peripheral slot, a worm rotatable within the tubular member, said tubular member having an elongated slot therein, a pusher arm secured to said slide, one end of the pusher arm passing through the slot in the tubular member for engagement with said worm, the other end of said pusher arm projecting in the opposite direction from said slide, through the peripheral slot in the cylindrical end of the upright member, to engage a selected pocket and thrust it a desired distance out of the front end of the cabinet when the tubular member is rotated, hand-operated means outside the cabinet for rotating the worm to shift the slide to a position selected by the indicating arm, and means also outside the cabinet and independent of the first means, for rotating the tubular member after the slide has been moved to its selected position, to force the lower end of the pusher arm into engagement with the pocket in front of it for the purpose specified.

5. In a filing cabinet having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a laterally movable device behind said pockets to push a selected one of them out of the front end of the cabinet, an index medium on the top wall of said cabinet, said wall being provided with an opening along the end of said medium, a connecting member projecting upwardly through said opening from the laterally movable device, and an indicating arm secured to said member

for movement over the index medium to indicate when the laterally movable device has been shifted to the proper position to force a desired pocket out of the cabinet.

6. In a filing cabinet having its front face open, the combination with a plurality of pockets vertically disposed side by side therein, of a laterally movable device behind said pockets to push a selected one of them out of the front end of the cabinet, a hinged cover for the cabinet adapted to be turned to a horizontal position back of it, an index medium on the interior face of said cover, the top wall of the cabinet having an opening therein, an index medium on the top wall of said cabinet in front of said opening, a connecting member projecting upwardly through said opening from the laterally movable device, and a pair of indicating arms pivotally secured to said member, one for movement over the index medium on the top wall of the cabinet and the other for movement over the index medium on the cover to indicate when the laterally movable device has been shifted to the proper position to force a desired pocket out of the cabinet.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of November, 1922.

MAX C. WHITMORE.