

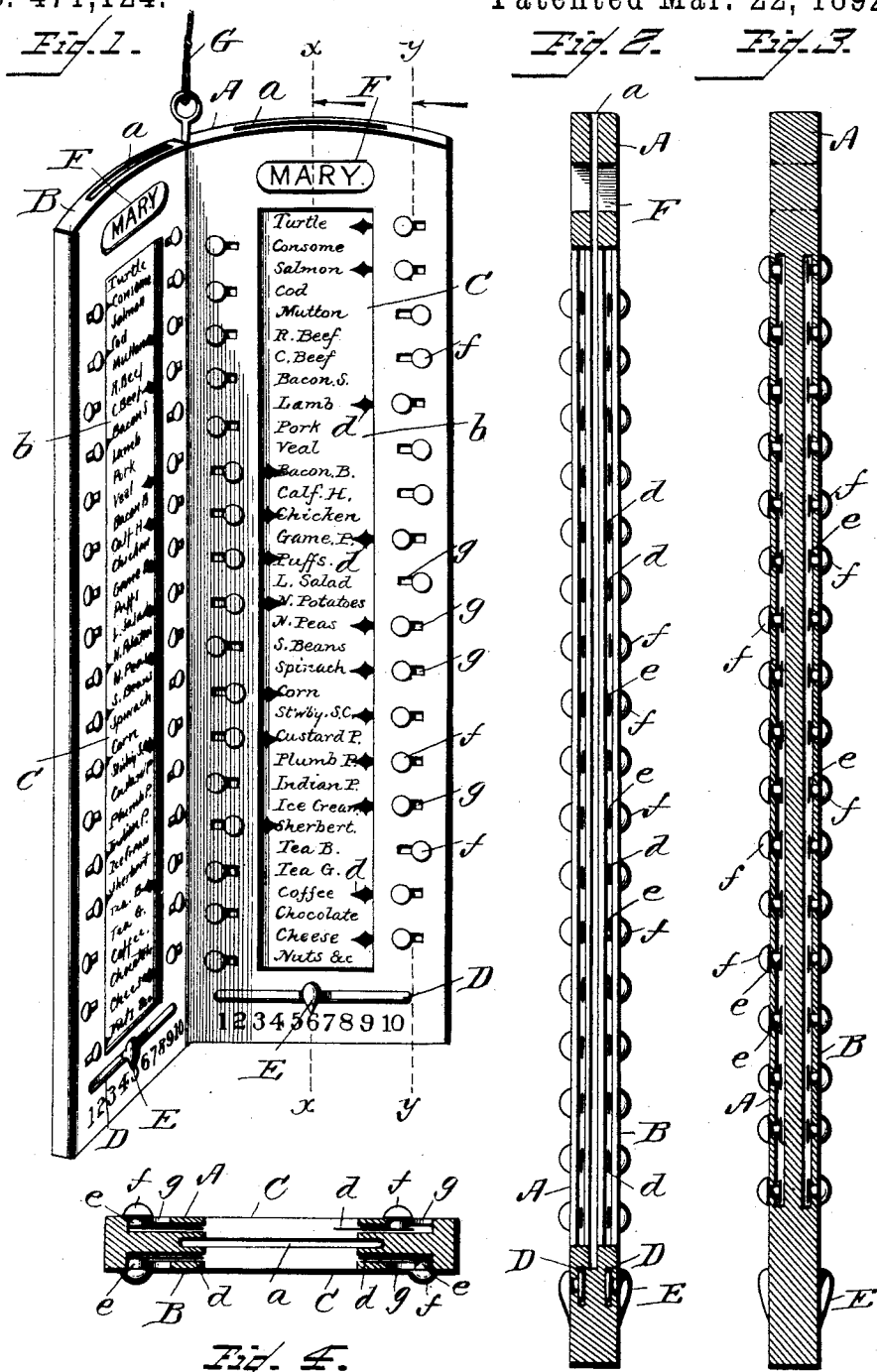
(No Model.)

C. KELLEY.

BILL OF FARE INDICATOR FOR WAITERS.

No. 471,124.

Patented Mar. 22, 1892.



Witnesses
A. L. Hough

Inventor
Charles Kelley
By his Attorney
Franklin H. Hough

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES KELLEY, OF TORONTO, CANADA.

BILL-OF-FARE INDICATOR FOR WAITERS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 471,124, dated March 22, 1892.

Application filed April 2, 1891. Serial No. 387,400. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES KELLEY, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Toronto, Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bill-of-Fare Indicators for Waiters; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in indicating devices for use in connection with bills of fare; and it has for its object to provide an indicating device for the use of table-waiters, by means of which the waiter may, by the simple manipulation of buttons controlling indicating-pointers, designate upon the face of a tablet, upon which is printed a list of the articles constituting the bill of fare, the particular articles which may be ordered by a guest.

The invention has for a further object to provide in folding or book form a series of these indicating-tablets or bills of fare, each of which is provided with a separate scale and indicating-pointer in connection with a series of numbers so arranged as to permit the pointer to be adjusted so as to indicate upon the scale a particular number corresponding with the number of the seat or chair at the table which may at the time be occupied by the guest whose order may be indicated upon the particular tablet to which the scale is appended. At the top of either one, or, if preferred, of each one of the tablets in the series, an opening is provided, through which the name of the waiter, which is printed upon a card or slip of paper, may be disclosed.

Finally, the invention has for its essential object to provide a simple and efficient means whereby it is rendered possible for a waiter to take at one time several table orders and fill them correctly without the possibility of mistake, thus avoiding the confusion and annoyance that is so frequently occasioned where several orders are taken at one time, and where the waiter depends entirely upon memory in filling them.

To these ends and to such others as the invention may pertain the same consists in the peculiar construction and in the novel combination, arrangement, and adaptation of parts, all as more fully hereinafter described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and then specifically defined in the appended claims.

The invention is clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings, which, with the letters of reference marked thereon, form a part of this specification, like letters of reference indicating the same parts throughout the several views, and in which drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bill-of-fare indicating device embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a section upon the line *x x* of Fig. 1, the same being shown upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 3 is a section upon line *y y* of Fig. 1, also upon an enlarged scale. Fig. 4 is a transverse section through one of the tablets.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A and B represent frames or cases, which are made of celluloid, or, if preferred, of metal, though upon account of cheapness of construction and general lightness and tasty appearance I prefer to construct the frames of celluloid. These frames are in all respects alike and are hinged together at their edges, as I have indicated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, merely as a matter of convenience, and hence a description of a single one of the tablets or indicators will suffice in this connection. Reference therefore being had to the tablet A, it will be observed that it is provided with a central compartment open at its upper end at the end of the frame, as shown at *a*. This compartment is intended to receive a slip of paper, upon which is printed a list of the articles constituting the bill of fare, as shown at *b*. The list is printed upon both faces of the slip and can be read through an opening C, formed for the purpose in the face of the tablet-frame, as shown.

Arranged at intervals along the sides of the opening C are movable indicators *d*, which correspond in number and relative position with the articles printed upon the slip *b*. These indicators or pointers are adapted when not in use to be moved back beneath the frame

of the tablet. They are each provided with a shank *e*, which is passed through a slot *g*, and at its outer end a button *f* is provided, by the movement of which the pointer may be moved out or back, as desired. The object and great advantage of the two rows of indicators arranged one on each side of the slip will be readily appreciated. The indicators on each side are to be placed as close together as is possible to be done to enable one to be moved without interference with or movement of its neighbor, and this is so far apart that sufficient space is left between the names of two articles of food for printing the name of another article. This space is utilized by the provision of the second set of indicators on the other side of the list having a location relative to the other, so that an indicator on one side comes opposite the space between two on the other. I am thus enabled to have an extensive list of articles and, which is highly desirable, without having the device of undue length and cumbersome and to have ample space for the manipulation of each indicator, so that there is no likelihood of touching or moving an immediately adjacent one. With but one row of indicators an awkward length is unavoidable or it is necessary to crowd the indicators so closely together as to cause interference with others in moving one. If excessive length is to be avoided and at the same time the indicators are to be properly separated, then it is at the expense of the completeness of the list of articles. With a given length and a suitable separation of the indicators, such as in the last instance, my arrangement just doubles the capacity of the indicator and avoids all the disadvantages which would accrue from the use of a single row.

Beneath the bill of fare a transverse slot or opening *D* is provided, through which slot a pointer or indicator *E* extends, the same being secured to a plate upon the inside of the frame of the tablet, and is thus capable of being readily moved and set to indicate any one of the several numbers which are printed upon the face of the tablet beneath the slot, as shown in the drawings.

Directly above the bill of fare the name of the waiter, which is printed upon a suitable slip, is displayed through an opening *F*.

The use of the device will be readily understood. It is adapted to be secured to the

belt worn by the waiter by means of the cord or chain *G*. The waiter in calling upon a guest for his order first moves the indicating-pointer *E*, so as to indicate the number of the chair or seat occupied by the person giving the order; and then as the articles selected from the bill of fare are named by the guest the waiter moves the corresponding pointers *d* out from beneath the casing, so that when the order has been taken the arrangement of the pointers will correctly indicate the articles named in the order. This is repeated with the next guest, using, of course, another of the several faces of the tablet and changing the position of the pointer *E* upon the tablet used, so as to correctly designate the number of the seat of the guest giving the order. When several orders have thus been indicated upon the tablet, the waiter repairs to the kitchen, where her orders are filled, as indicated upon the tablet, and when the guest has been served the pointers are pushed back within the case and the tablet is again in readiness for use.

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

1. In combination with a list of articles, the two rows of movable indicators arranged one on each side of said list, so that an indicator of one row is opposite the space between two of the other rows, each indicator of both rows being in line with an article on the list, substantially as shown.

2. In combination with a frame having a display-space, a slip whereon is a list of articles removably held in said frame, the two rows of indicators on both sides of the display-space arranged so that each indicator on one side will come opposite the space between two on the other, each indicator consisting of a pointer portion placed on the inner side of the frame adjacent to the display-space and adapted to be moved so as to be visible in said space and withdrawn therefrom, a shank extending outward through a slot in the frame, and a button or head on the shank, substantially as shown and described.

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

CHARLES KELLEY.

Witnesses:

A. L. HOUGH,
FRANKLIN H. HOUGH.