H. KLEIN.

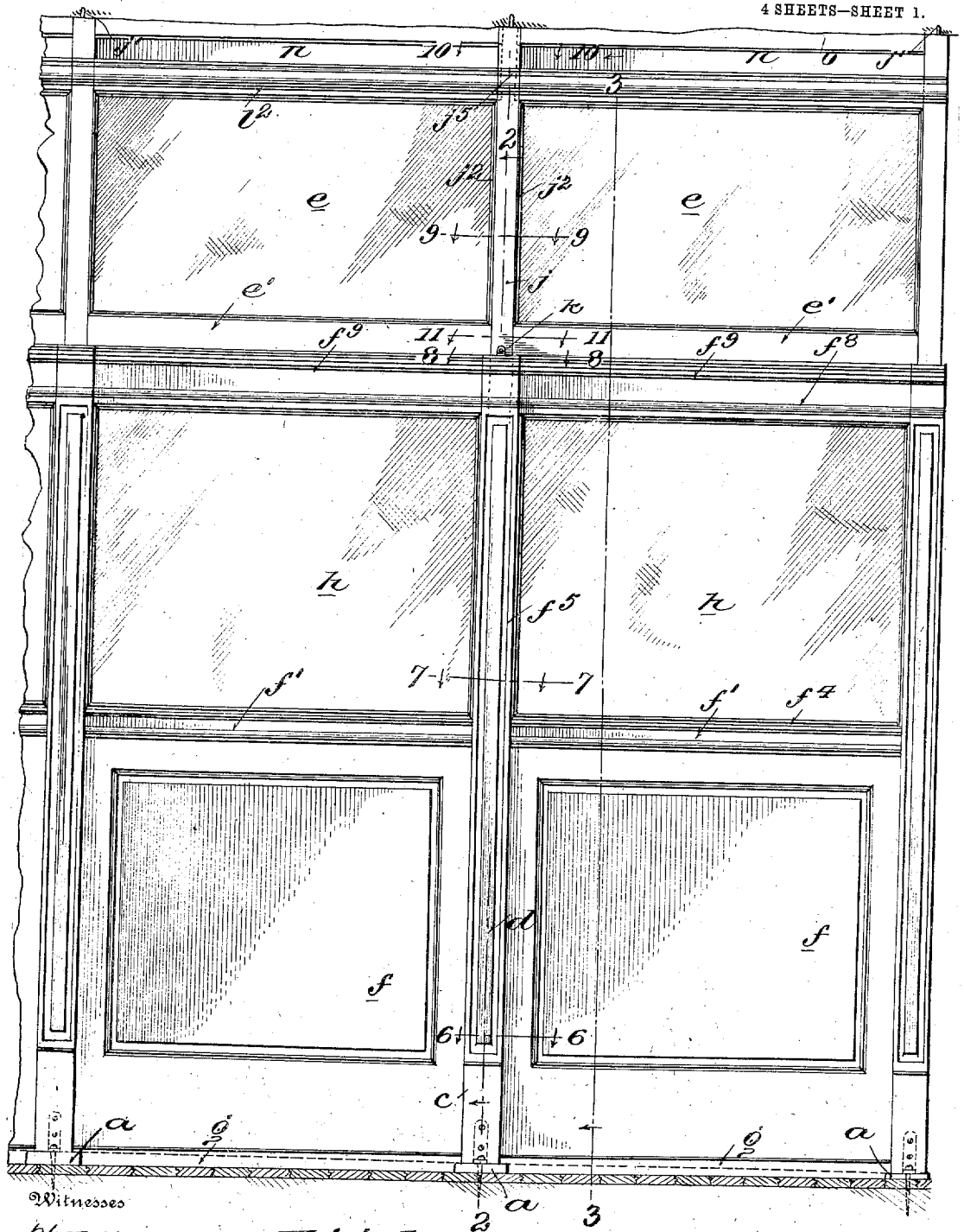
OFFICE PARTITION AND THE LIKE.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 27, 1909.

956,642.

Patented May 3, 1910.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses

W. A. Williams

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Fig. 1.

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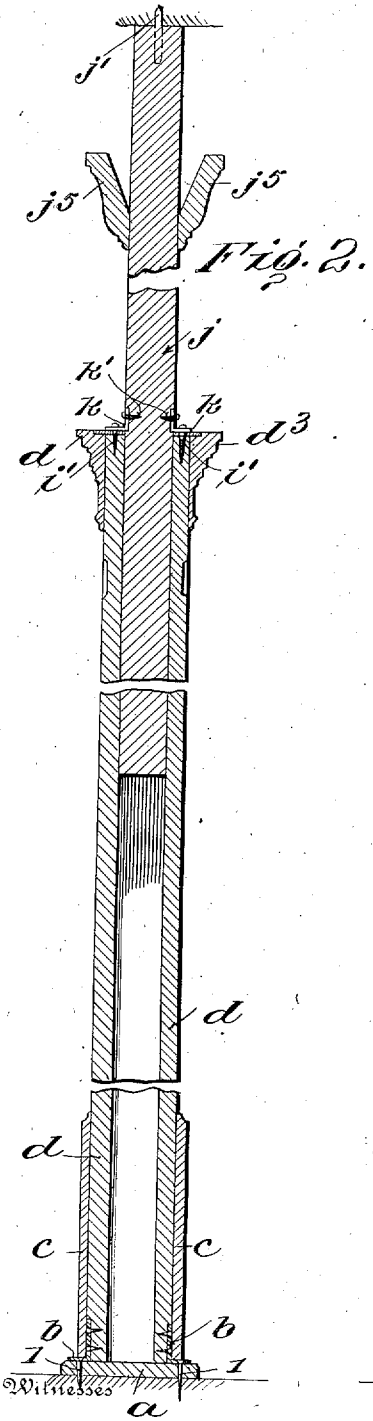


Fig. 2.

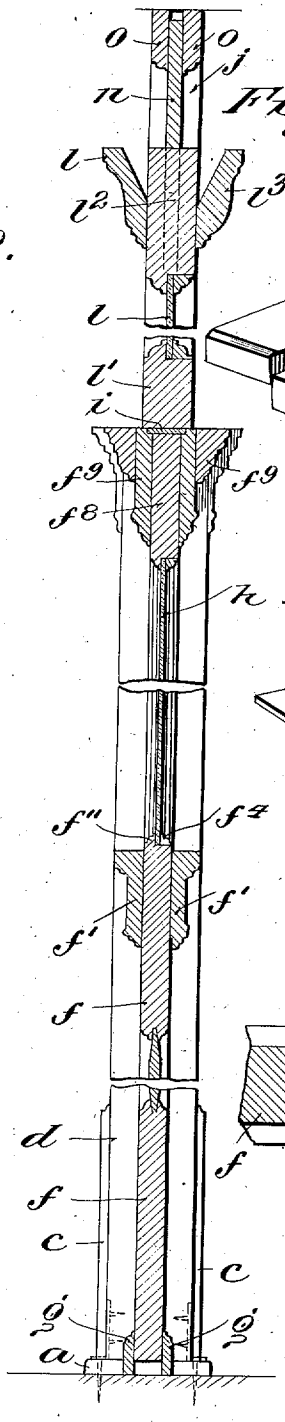


Fig. 3.

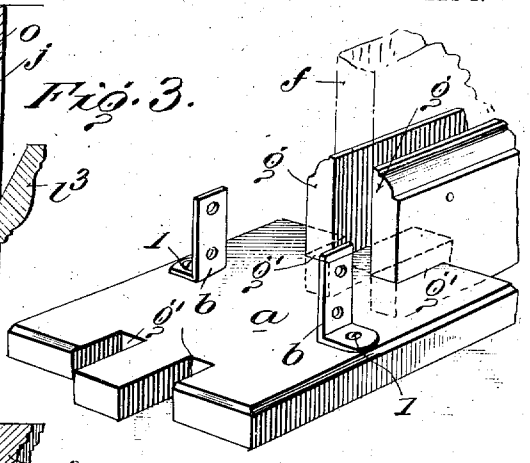


Fig. 4.

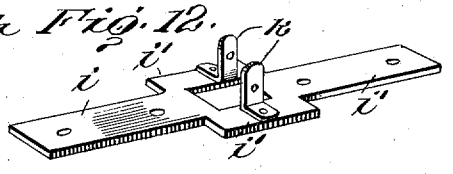
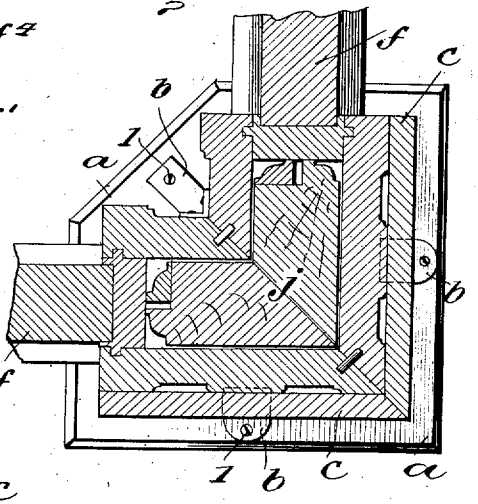


Fig. 12.

Fig. 5.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 6.

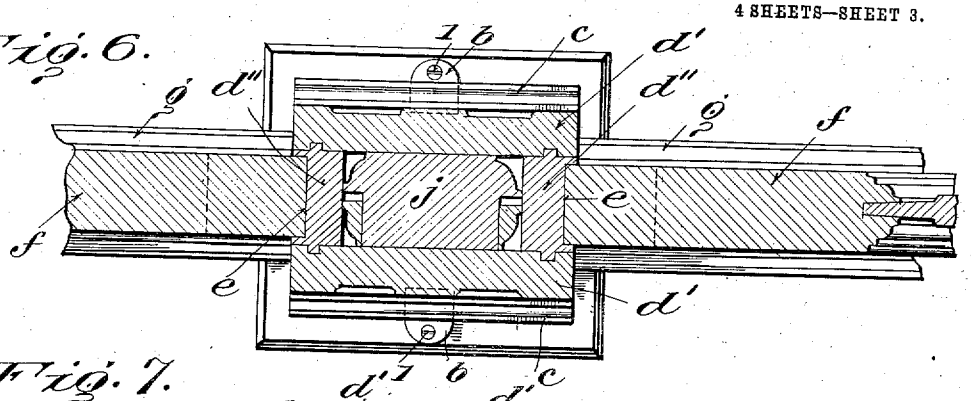


Fig. 7.

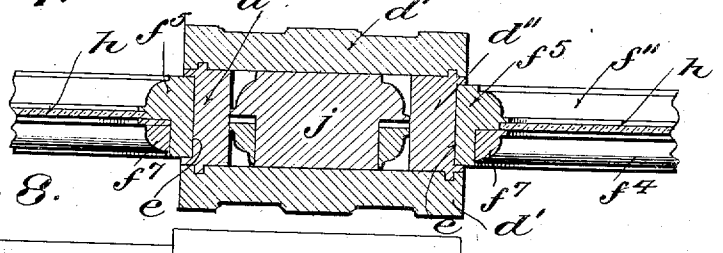


Fig. 8.

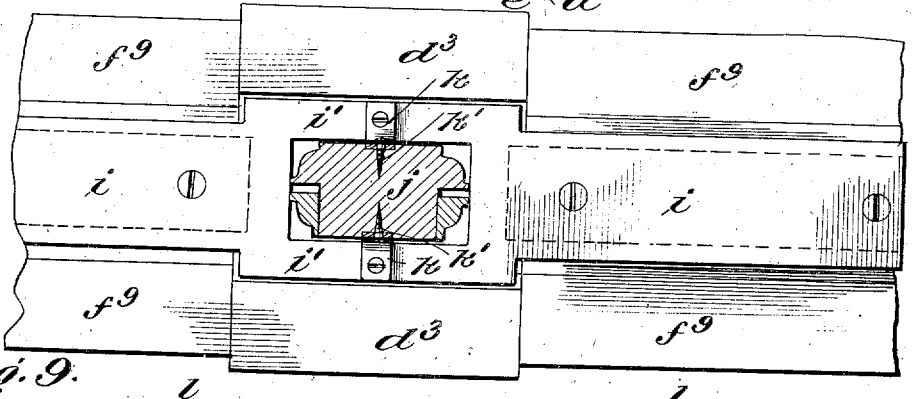


Fig. 9.

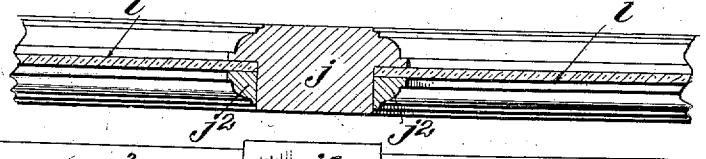
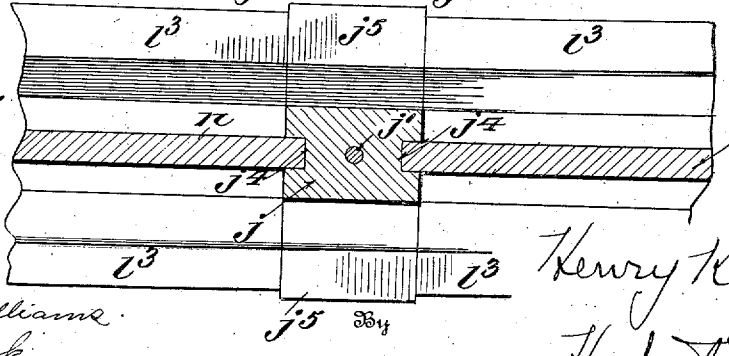


Fig. 10.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 11.

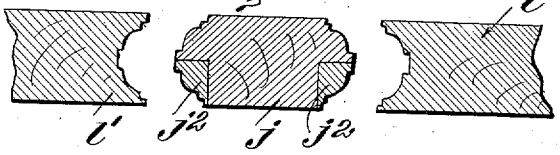


Fig. 16.

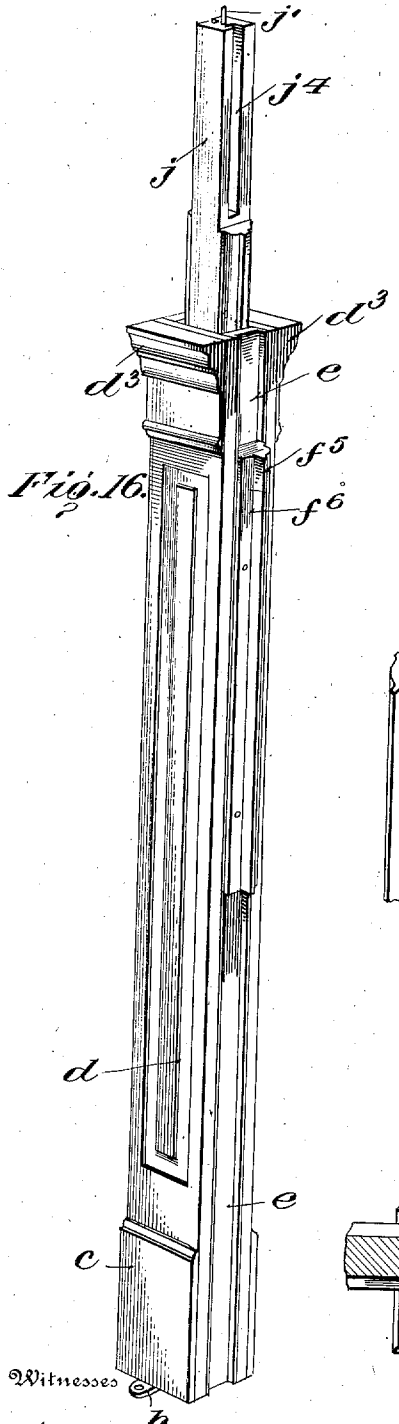


Fig. 17.

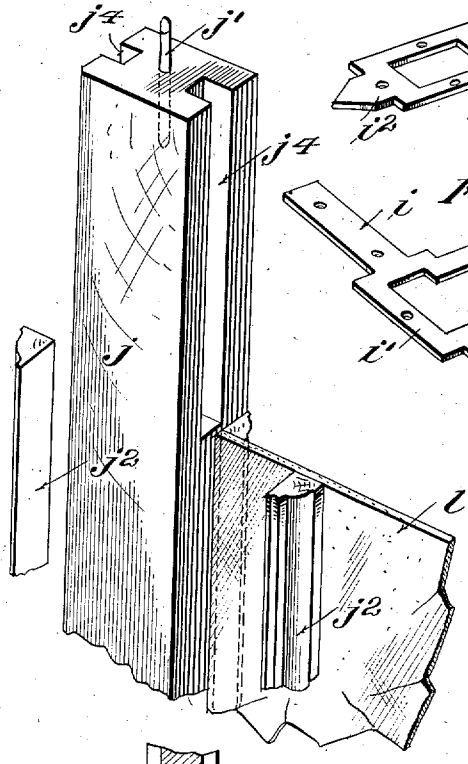


Fig. 13.

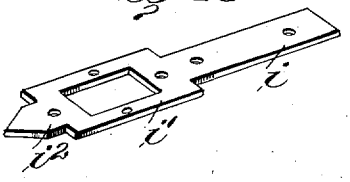


Fig. 14.

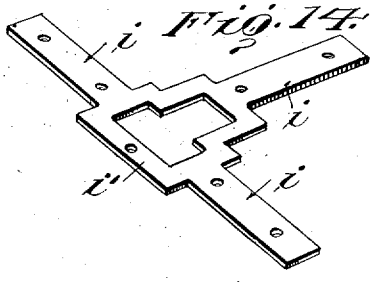
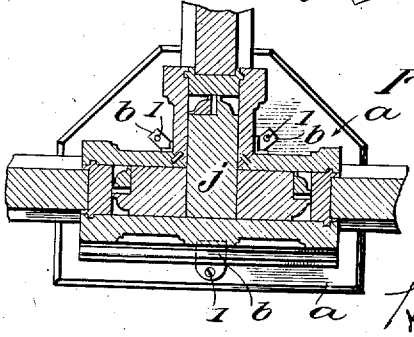


Fig. 15.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY KLEIN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

OFFICE-PARTITION AND THE LIKE.

956,642. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented May 3, 1910.

Application filed April 27, 1909. Serial No. 492,491.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY KLEIN, a subject of the Emperor of Germany, and resident of New York city, county of New York, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Office-Partitions and the Like; 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.

This invention relates to certain improvements in partitions for offices or other rooms or the like; and the objects and nature of the invention will be readily understood by those skilled in the art in the light of the following description of the accompanying drawings illustrating what I now consider my preferred embodiment from among other formations and arrangements within the spirit and scope of my invention.

A particular object of the invention is to reduce the cost of supplying and setting up, and also of moving or changing partitions, in offices and other rooms, and to this end, to provide a partition structure of such formation that the parts thereof can be kept in stock and can be readily and economically assembled and set up and adjusted to ceilings of various heights with a minimum amount of fitting, and which can be readily taken down, changed or moved without serious injury to parts thereof.

A further object of the invention is to provide a removable partition embodying extensible pilasters forming supports for removable panels of wood, glass or the like, whereby the pilasters can be kept in stock and can be readily extended to ceilings of various heights when the partitions are being set up.

A further object of the invention is to provide certain improvements in fittings, details, and arrangements and constructions of parts, whereby a highly efficient and improved partition construction will be produced for office or other rooms and which can be readily assembled and set up and can be easily taken down and moved to other rooms or locations and there set up.

The invention consists in certain novel features in construction and in combinations and arrangements of parts as more fully and particularly set forth and pointed out hereinafter.

Referring to the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1, is an elevation of a portion of a partition constructed in accordance with my invention and extending from the floor to the ceiling, the floor and ceiling being partially shown in section. Fig. 2, is a vertical section on the line 2—2, Fig. 1. Fig. 3, is a vertical section on the line 3—3, Fig. 1. Fig. 4, is a detail perspective view of one of the leveling or floor blocks on which the posts or pilasters rest, also showing portions of two of the bottom or floor moldings fitted to said block. Fig. 5, is a horizontal cross section through a corner post or pilaster and portions of the partition panels fitted thereto. Fig. 6, is a cross section on the line 6—6, Fig. 1. Fig. 7, is a cross section on the line 7—7, Fig. 1. Fig. 8, is a cross section on the line 8—8, Fig. 1. Fig. 9, is a cross section on the line 9—9, Fig. 1. Fig. 10, is a cross section on the line 10—10, Fig. 1. Fig. 11, is a cross section on the line 11—11, Fig. 1. Figs. 12, 13, and 14, are detail perspective views of various forms of coupling irons for intermediate end and three-way pilasters. Fig. 15, is a cross sectional view similar to Fig. 5, but showing a three-way post or pilaster and portions of the partitions secured and connected thereby. Fig. 16, is a detail perspective view of a post or pilaster as made up in the shop and kept in stock, the inner extension being partially withdrawn to show the formation of the upper portion thereof. Fig. 17, is a detail perspective view of the upper end of a pilaster extension or inner section and portion of a glass or other panel fitted thereto, portions of the panel securing heads being shown separated from the pilaster section.

The partition of this invention comprises series of spaced vertical posts or pilasters extending from the floor to the ceiling and secured at their opposite ends to both the floor and ceiling, and intervening sections or filling material or elements to close the spaces between the pilasters and from the floor to the ceiling, said sections being secured to the pilasters and comprising solid or closed panels of wood, glass or other suitable material. As it is necessary and desirable that the partition be set up accurately along level or horizontal lines, irrespective of floor irregularities, unevenness or inclination, I usually set or fix the pilasters on floor or leveling blocks *a*, which can vary in thickness according to the inclination or unevenness of the floor to bring the lower ends or

bases of the pilasters in the same horizontal plane. Each block *a*, rests horizontally on the floor and is usually rectangular and of greater length and breadth than the cross sectional dimensions of the pilaster so that the lower end of the pilaster can rest on the center of its block and the pilaster can be rigidly secured to its block and to the floor by screws 1, passed down through the horizontal ears of angle brackets *b*, rigid with the pilaster, and through the blocks and into the floor. These angle brackets are arranged at the inner and outer vertical side faces of the pilaster and their vertical portions are rigidly secured thereto, and are then covered by facing strips or pieces *c*, facing and secured to the lower or base portions of the vertical side faces of the pilaster.

The pilasters *d*, at their vertical edges are formed with longitudinal grooves or sockets *e*, extending from their lower ends upwardly for a suitable distance to receive the vertical end edges of the lower panel or closing sections *f*, extending between the pilasters. The panel sections *f*, are preferably all of the same dimensions, and each is of a length to extend the distance between two pilasters and snugly fit and be held by the grooves *e*, of such pilasters. Each panel section *f*, rests on and is leveled by the floor blocks *a*, *a*, of the two pilasters receiving said panel so that the upper and lower edges and intermediate lines of the panel parallel with said edges, will be maintained horizontal irrespective of any possible inclination or unevenness of the floor surface. The horizontal lower edges of the panel sections *f*, will be held above the floor surface inasmuch as the end portions of said edges rest on the top faces of the floor blocks which extend laterally beyond the edges of the pilasters, and hence to close up both sides of the spaces between the floor and said panel section edges and to provide a finish, I arrange moldings *g*, on edge at and extending upwardly along the opposite side faces of the panel sections *f*, and extending from floor block to floor block and at their lower edges resting on and if necessary cut or finished to conform to floor inclinations or irregularities. The ends of said finishing strips or moldings *g*, are fitted into mortises or slots *g'*, cut in the floor blocks *a*, (see Fig. 4) leaving the intermediate portions of the floor block ends on which the panel sections *f*, rest. These finishing strips are thus held in place and secured by having their ends fitted in the mortises in the floor blocks so that the strips extend to the edges of the pilasters as shown in Fig. 1, and form the finished bottom or lower edge of the partition from pilaster to pilaster.

If so desired, the upper side faces of each panel section *f*, can be finished by moldings *f'*, at their ends fitting the edges of the pilasters at opposite sides of or beyond the grooves *e*, as shown by Figs. 1 and 3, although I do not wish to limit my invention to the moldings *f'*. I preferably finish the longitudinal top edge of each panel section as a molding *f''*, rabbeted along one side to receive the lower longitudinal edge of a glass or other panel, as hereinafter described, and to receive bead f^4, for securing such panel, in a manner well understood by those skilled in the art. The main portion or body of each pilaster is preferably tubular or hollow throughout its length, and if so desired, can be composed of two spaced parallel strips, boards or moldings *d'*, to form the ornamental opposite longitudinal side faces of the pilaster, and the two longitudinal parallel spaced strips or moldings *d''*, arranged between parts *d'*, and at their edges suitably secured and fixed thereto and in connection with the edges of said parts forming the opposite edges of the pilaster. The outer faces of moldings *d''*, are longitudinally grooved throughout their lengths to form the sockets *e*, for the panel sections *f*, as hereinbefore described.

The spaces between the pilasters and immediately above panel sections *f*, are filled in by sections forming upward continuations of sections *f*, and secured thereto, and if so desired can be made as part thereof and thus kept in stock to be fitted to the pilasters as one piece, as the partition is set up. However, in the specific example illustrated, the said sections extending up from sections *f*, are glazed, although I do not wish to so limit my invention, and as shown, each such section comprises a glass panel or pane *h*, throughout its lower longitudinal edge fitted in the aforementioned rabbeted portion of the top edge of panel section *f*, and secured therein by bead f^4, while the vertical edges of the glass panel are fitted in the longitudinal rabbeted portions of vertical moldings f^5, fitted in the grooves *e*, of the pilasters and arranged longitudinally thereof and projecting laterally therefrom to form the vertical rails of the sash or frame for the glass. The moldings f^5, are rabbeted (see f^6, Fig. 16,) longitudinally in a manner similar to and on the same side as the moldings *f''* and are provided with separate beads f^7, to secure the glass in said rabbeted portions, see Fig. 7. The lower ends of the moldings f^5 and the ends of the moldings *f'*, are preferably beveled to fit together and form miter joints, see Fig. 1.

The vertical end edges of the top or horizontal rail or bar f^8, of the sash or frame for the glass *h*, fit in the upper portions of the grooves *e*, in the edges of the pilasters and the ends of said bars f^8, rest on the upper ends of the vertical moldings f^5 and the upper ends of moldings f^5 and the ends of the lower edge portions of the

bars f^8, are preferably beveled to meet and form miter joints as shown by Fig. 1. The lower longitudinal edge portion of each bar f^8 is preferably longitudinally rabbeted on one side, the same as bars f^5, f'', to receive the upper longitudinal edge of glass h, which is secured therein by a separate bead similar to the beads f^4, f'. The bars f^8 constitute the top bars of the main or body portion of the partition and connect the upper ends of the main or body portions of the pilasters and if so desired can be provided above their side faces with longitudinal projecting cornices or comparatively heavy moldings f^9, at their ends abutting the edges of the pilasters and forming a finish. Also, the side faces of the upper ends of the body portions of the pilasters can be provided with cornice sections d^3, arranged between the ends of the cornices f^9.

I usually provide coupling irons whereby the upper end of each pilaster body can be rigidly secured to the top bars f^8, fitted thereto and the partition thereby braced and strengthened. In the specific example illustrated, each coupling consists of an elongated iron bar i, extending transversely across the upper end of the pilaster body and arranged longitudinally on the top edges of the top bars f^8, fitting said body by removable vertical screws or the like, see Figs. 2, 3, 8, and 12, whereby the top bars are tied together across and to the pilaster. The central portion of the coupling is formed with a central opening or as an open loop i', so as not to close or obstruct the open upper end of the hollow pilaster body.

The parts of the partition as thus far described, can each be made of fixed uniform interchangeable sizes, and kept in stock. Standard sizes can be made say, to form a partition about seven feet high more or less, that is shorter than the usual height of ceilings, and the pilasters will all be alike and interchangeable, and the same fact applies to the various panel sections and other parts. The pilaster bodies can be made up in the shop and kept in stock, as shown in Fig. 16, with the vertical bars f^5, secured at the proper locations in the pilaster body edge grooves to leave the grooves open below said bars to receive the panel sections f, and to cause proper meeting and fitting between the lower ends of bars f^5, and of the sections f, and between the upper ends of said bars and the top bars and leave the upper parts of grooves e, open to receive the top bars.

The strips g, panel sections f, top bars f^8, can all be cut and formed alike so as to be interchangeable and kept in stock so that parts can be always kept in stock to set up a partition as shown in Fig. 1, and so far described, without requiring and waiting for mill or shop work for each particular order or partition and without requiring cutting and cabinet work when setting up. The floor blocks a, can all be made alike and kept in stock, and when setting up a partition each block can be planed off, where required, by floor inclinations or irregularities, to properly level the partition or said blocks can be kept in stock of different thicknesses. In starting to set up a partition of my invention from a wall, a pilaster is usually secured at the wall and against a strip cut to conform to the wall and the wash board or the like, and if so desired, a coupling iron i, such as shown in Fig. 13, can be employed to secure the pilaster body to the top bar fitted thereto, and at its opposite end having a spur i^2, to be driven into the wall to secure the upper end of the pilaster body thereto. At corners in the partitions, corner pilasters can be provided as shown by Fig. 5, the construction being practically the same as that herein before described, with the exception that the hollow body is formed angular in cross section and the parts d', are duplicated and angularly joined at their edges. Also, wherever it is necessary to extend a partition laterally at right angles from an intermediate part of another partition, a three way pilaster can be provided as shown by Fig. 15, embodying the construction practically as hereinbefore described. Ceilings in different rooms or apartments vary in height, and where it is desired to extend a partition from the top bars f^8 to the ceiling, I provide extension means and filling members or panels whereby the space between top bars f^8 and the ceiling can be closed economically and with a minimum of labor in setting up and practically in all cases from stock sizes even though in different instances the distances between the top bars f^8 and the ceiling vary considerably between a few inches and several feet. To this end, I render each post or pilaster upwardly extensible, or in other words, I provide each pilaster body with an auxiliary or supplemental member which is vertically adjustable with respect to the body to extend a greater or lesser distance upwardly beyond the same according to the height of the ceiling.

In the particular example illustrated, each tubular or hollow pilaster body, contains an elongated post or pilaster section j, telescoped therein to and arranged parallel therewith and adapted to slide longitudinally thereof to project its upper end the desired distance upwardly therefrom, see Figs. 1, 2, and 16. This extension member or section j, slidably fits within the pilaster body and in cross section can generally conform to the cross sectional form of the interior of said body, and is usually formed by a solid elongated bar of the desired material, and at its upper end is usually armed with an upwardly projecting pin or dowel

j', to be forced into the ceiling when the extension member is moved upwardly from the pilaster body into engagement with the ceiling. The pin j', when thus forced into the ceiling will brace and steady the extension member and the partition against lateral deflection. When the pilaster body is fixed in place and its extension member has been forced to place against the ceiling, the member can be locked or secured in its vertical adjustment by any suitable means or in any suitable manner. For instance, in the specific example illustrated, I show angle brackets k, having their vertical portions arranged at the opposite side faces of each member j, and their horizontal portions fixed on the upper ends of the pilaster bodies where said members extend upwardly through the openings or yokes i', of the coupling irons i. Each extension member can thus be fixed and secured in the desired vertical adjustment by screw k', passed horizontally and removably into the opposite side faces of the member and through the vertical portions of said brackets, see Fig. 2, thereby rigidly and securely fastening the member to the body and completing the pilaster from the floor to the ceiling. The spaces between the extension members can be filled in with suitable sashes or other panel sections and to this end I show each extension member throughout its opposite longitudinal edges (extending the upper end portions thereof) cut or formed of molding or ogee shape and each rabbeted longitudinally on one side, and provided with a separate or removable longitudinal bead j^2, as described in connection with the rails f^5 and other edges of the frames receiving glass panels h. The vertical end edges of the glass or other panels l, extending between the members j, are fitted in the rabbeted portions thereof and are secured by the beads j^2.

The lower longitudinal edges of the panels l, are secured by beads, such as heretofore described, in longitudinal rabbeted portions in the top edges of horizontal rails or bars l', resting longitudinally on the top edges of the top bars f^8, of the main partition and on the top ends of the pilaster bodies. Each rail l', extends the distance between two extensions j and at its opposite ends is vertically cut or recessed to fit and receive the edges of said extensions as shown by Fig. 11, so that the rails l', are held against lateral displacement. The top longitudinal edges of the panels l, are secured in longitudinal rabbeted portions in the lower edges of horizontal bars or rails 12, by removable beads in the same manner as the means for fastening the vertical edges of said panels l. Each bar l^2, extends the distance between two adjacent extension members and at its ends is fitted to the edges of said members. For instance in the particular example illustrated, I show the upper end portion of each extension member j formed with vertical edge grooves j^4, extending down to the upper ends of the moldings which comprise beads j^2 and which receive panels l. The ends of bars l^2 can be formed with tenons or tongues to fit in said grooves j^4, and rest at the closed lower ends thereof. The bars l^2 at both sides can be provided with the projecting cornices l^3 arranged longitudinally thereof corresponding cornice pieces j^5, can also be secured to the side faces of the extension members, see Figs. 1, 2 and 10.

The spaces between the top edges of bars l^2, and the ceiling can be filled in by strips or filling pieces n, at their lower edges resting longitudinally on the upper edges of bars l^2, and at their ends fitting grooves j^4, and if so desired, moldings o, can be arranged at opposite faces of the strips n, and extending along and fitted to the ceiling to conceal the upper edges of said strips and to provide for irregularities and inclination of the ceiling, inasmuch as the strips n, will be maintained horizontal or level irrespective of ceiling irregularities.

The construction of the extension portions of the partition is such that the extension members j, can be all of the same dimension and hence can be made up and kept in stock, and the same is true of the bars l' and l^2, and strips n, so that said parts can be built up from the main partition in practically all instances notwithstanding the variations in the heights of ceilings in different rooms or buildings. In any instance, the extension members are forced up the required distance to engage the ceiling, and whatever the distance said members project above the pilaster bodies, the bars l', will rest on the pilaster bodies and bars f^8, fit the edges of the extension members, and whatever distance said members may be projected upwardly, the bars l^2, and strips n, will enter the grooves j^4, so that variations in the distances between the bars l' and l^2, in different partitions, can be accommodated or taken up by the glass panels l, and if so desired also by the strips n, which can be easily supplied in each instance, of the desired vertical width.

The panels l, are usually of glass and are not put in until after the partition is set up, so that when any partition is set up measurements are taken for glass panels and the glass is then cut to the required size and fitted in and fastened by the removable beads, or in any other desirable manner as I do not wish to limit myself to any particular fastening means for the glass panels, and furthermore glass or panels of other material can be employed where desired in my partition and doors can be provided where desired in the place of panels f and h. It will also be noted that partitions of my in-

vention can be taken down for moving to other rooms or locations, without damage to the partition and at a minimum expense, inasmuch as the panel sections *f* and *h*, removably fit the pilasters, and the same is true of the parts f^6, l', l^2, etc. and the panels can also be removed from their frames where necessary by removing the beads.

It is evident that various changes and modifications might be resorted to in the forms, constructions and arrangements of the parts described without departing from the spirit and scope of my invention and hence I do not wish to limit myself to the exact construction.

What I claim is:—

1. A partition comprising longitudinally extensible pilasters, in combination with means for securing said pilasters to the floor and to the ceiling, and interchangeable panels between and fitted to the edges of said pilasters, substantially as described.

2. A partition comprising pilasters provided with extension members, in combination with top panels between and fixed to said members, and panels fitted to the edges of the pilasters below said top panels, substantially as described.

3. A partition comprising pilasters composed of slidably telescoped sections, whereby each pilaster is rendered extensible, the upper ends of said pilasters having means for fixing the same to the ceiling, the lower ends thereof having means for fixing the same to the floor, means for fixing the sections of each pilaster together in the desired adjustment, the longitudinal edges of said pilaster sections being formed to receive the partition panels, and partition panels, substantially as described.

4. A partition comprising pilasters, each composed of parallel longitudinally adjustable sections, whereby the pilasters are rendered extensible, the side edges of each section of a pilaster longitudinally formed to receive the partition panels, and means whereby the sections can be fixed together in the desired adjustment.

5. As an article of manufacture, an extensible pilaster for partitions, having its side edges longitudinally formed to receive the adjacent sections of a partition, substantially as described.

6. As an article of manufacture, a pilaster body provided with a longitudinally adjustable extension member adapted to form an upward extension of said body of the desired length and means for fixing said member to said body in the desired adjustment said body formed to receive partition sections, and the longitudinal side edges of said extension member formed to receive top extension sections of a partition.

7. As an article of manufacture, a partition pilaster composed of two longitudinal sections telescoped together and adjustable longitudinally to extend the length of the pilaster according to the height of the particular ceiling the side edges of both sections being longitudinally socketed to receive the adjacent partition sections.

8. As an article of manufacture, a partition pilaster composed of a longitudinally hollow body at its longitudinal edges formed to receive adjacent panel sections of the partition, and an elongated extension member arranged longitudinally within said body and adapted to be moved longitudinally therein to project the desired distance upwardly therefrom and to be then fixed thereto in the desired adjustment, the longitudinal edges of said member formed to receive adjacent filling sections of the top extension of the partition.

9. As an article of manufacture, a partition pilaster comprising a body at its longitudinal edges formed to receive and hold the adjacent partition sections, an elongated extension member arranged parallel with and fitted longitudinally of said body and adjustable upwardly to project the required distance above the body, said member longitudinally formed at its edges to receive and hold partition extension sections, and means for fixing said member to said body in the desired adjustment.

10. A partition pilaster composed of longitudinal opposite spaced side-face pieces and intervening spaced longitudinal molding between said pieces and fixed thereto, said moldings longitudinally grooved at their outer faces and forming the partition-section receiving longitudinal edges of the pilaster, and a coupling iron adapted to be fixed to and extend across the upper end of said pilaster and onto and be fixed to the adjacent partition sections.

11. As an article of manufacture, an extensible partition-pilaster comprising a longitudinally hollow pilaster body formed to receive and hold the main sections of the partition, and an elongated extension member arranged longitudinally and slidably within said body and adapted to be adjusted upwardly therefrom to the ceiling and to be then fixed thereto.

12. A partition comprising interchangeable extensible pilasters, interchangeable partition sections arranged between and fitted to said pilasters, and leveling floor blocks on which said pilasters are fixed.

13. A partition comprising pilasters, leveling floor blocks for said pilasters, partition sections between and adapted to be fitted to said pilasters and to rest on said blocks, and finishing moldings adapted to extend between and at their ends fit in said floor blocks and to close the spaces between the floor and said sections.

14. In a partition, in combination, pilaster

leveling floor blocks on which said pilasters are adapted to seat and be secured, said blocks being mortised at the ends to receive finishing moldings between adjacent blocks and for the lower edges of the partition sections, said blocks having end portions adapted to receive and level the lower partition sections fitted to and extending between said pilasters.

15. A partition comprising pilasters having bottom securing brackets, floor blocks on which said pilasters seat and are secured by fastenings passed through said brackets and blocks and into the floor, and partition sections extending between and fitted to the pilasters and leveled by said floor blocks.

16. A partition comprising interchangeable pilasters having partition-section receiving-and-holding longitudinal edges, floor blocks on which said pilasters are seated, and partition sections extending between and fitted to said edges of the pilasters and seated on and leveled by said blocks.

17. A partition comprising interchangeable pilasters, interchangeable partition sections between and removably fitted to said pilasters, top extension panels from said partition sections and the upper ends of said pilasters to the ceiling, and coupling irons bridging the upper ends of the pilasters and secured longitudinally on the upper edges of the adjacent partition sections, substantially as described.

18. A partition comprising pilasters provided with extension members arranged longitudinally thereof and adapted to be projected upwardly therefrom to the ceiling and at their upper ends having means for securing the same to the ceiling, means for fixing said members to the pilasters in the desired adjustment, and partition sections to close in the spaces between said pilasters and their said members.

19. A partition comprising hollow pilasters, extension members therein and movable upwardly through the upper ends thereof to fit the ceiling, partition sections between the pilasters and said members, coupling irons secured to certain partition sections and bridging the pilasters and passing around said members, and means at the upper ends of said pilasters for removably fixing said members thereto and against vertical movement when adjusted to the ceiling.

20. As an article of manufacture, a partition pilaster at its edges having grooves to removably receive adjacent partition sections and at said edges having longitudinal rabbeted moldings and removable beads to receive and secure adjacent partition panels, and a top extension member adjustable longitudinally of the pilaster and at its edges formed to receive and hold partition top extensions to the ceiling.

21. A partition pilaster having a longitudinally adjustable top extension member having longitudinally rabbeted edges to receive partition top-extension sections and removable beads for securing the same and at its upper end having longitudinal edge grooves to receive top bars between the upper ends of adjacent members.

22. A partition comprising interchangeable pilasters having top extension members arranged longitudinally thereof said partition pilasters and members formed longitudinally at their edges to removably receive and hold partition sections, said sections comprising interchangeable lower panel sections, interchangeable top bars, interchangeable partition top-extension panel bars, substantially as described.

23. A partition comprising, in combination, interchangeable pilasters formed at their side edges to receive and hold partition sections, means to secure the lower ends of said pilasters to the floor, interchangeable partition sections, and interchangeable partition top extensions having vertical bars secured to the upper ends of said pilasters and extending to the ceiling, substantially as described.

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

HENRY KLEIN.

Witnesses:
O. M. KOHN,
SEYMOUR SYLVESTER.