Dec. 11, 1928. 1,694,690

W. J. REINHOLD

SECTIONAL PARTITION

Filed June 27, 1927 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

FIG. 1.

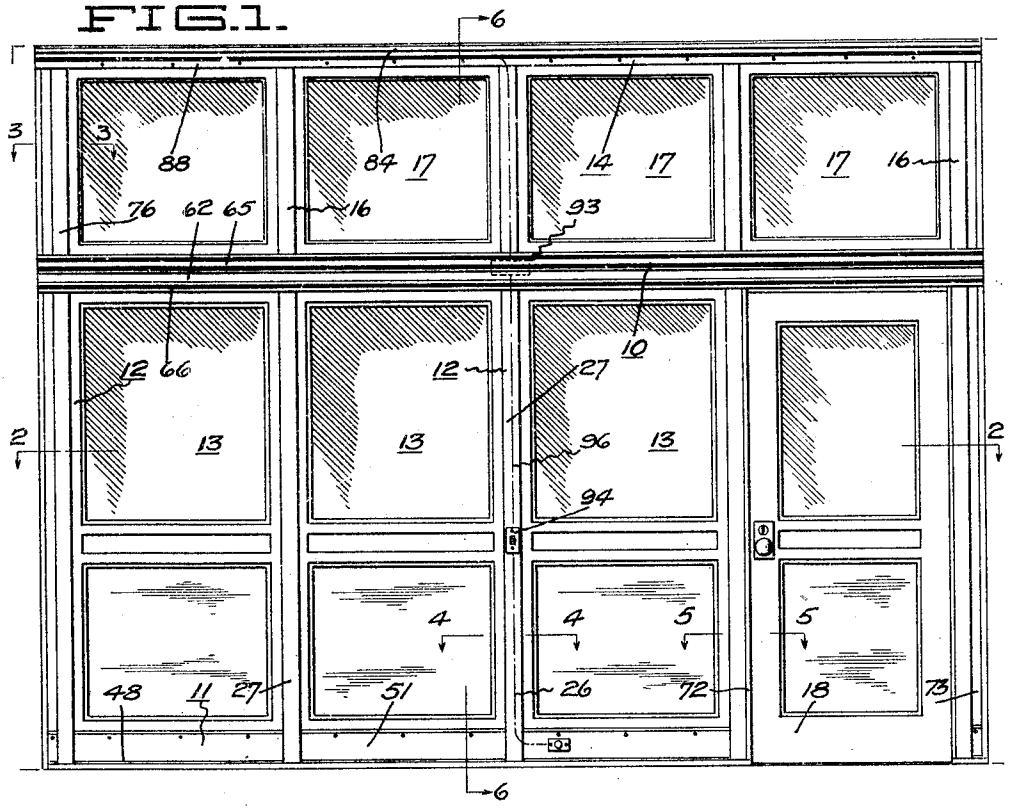


FIG. 2.

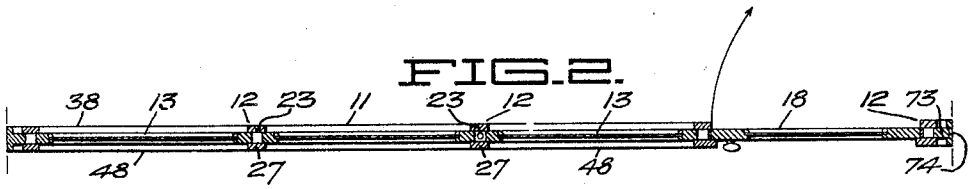
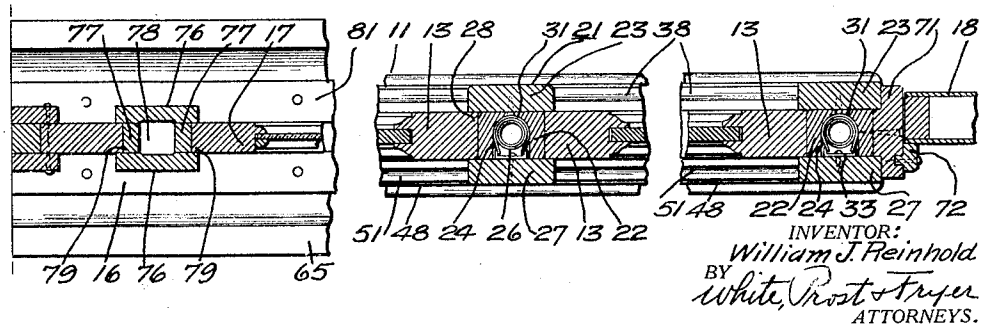


FIG. 3. FIG. 4. FIG. 5.



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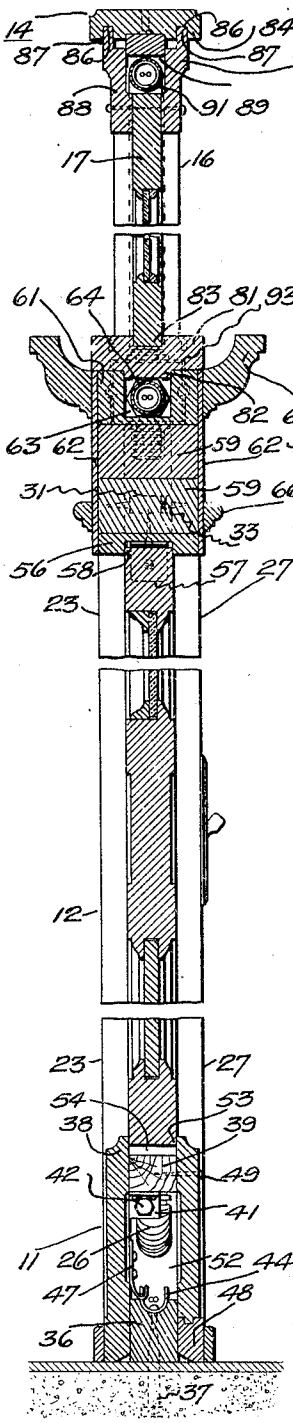


FIG. 6.

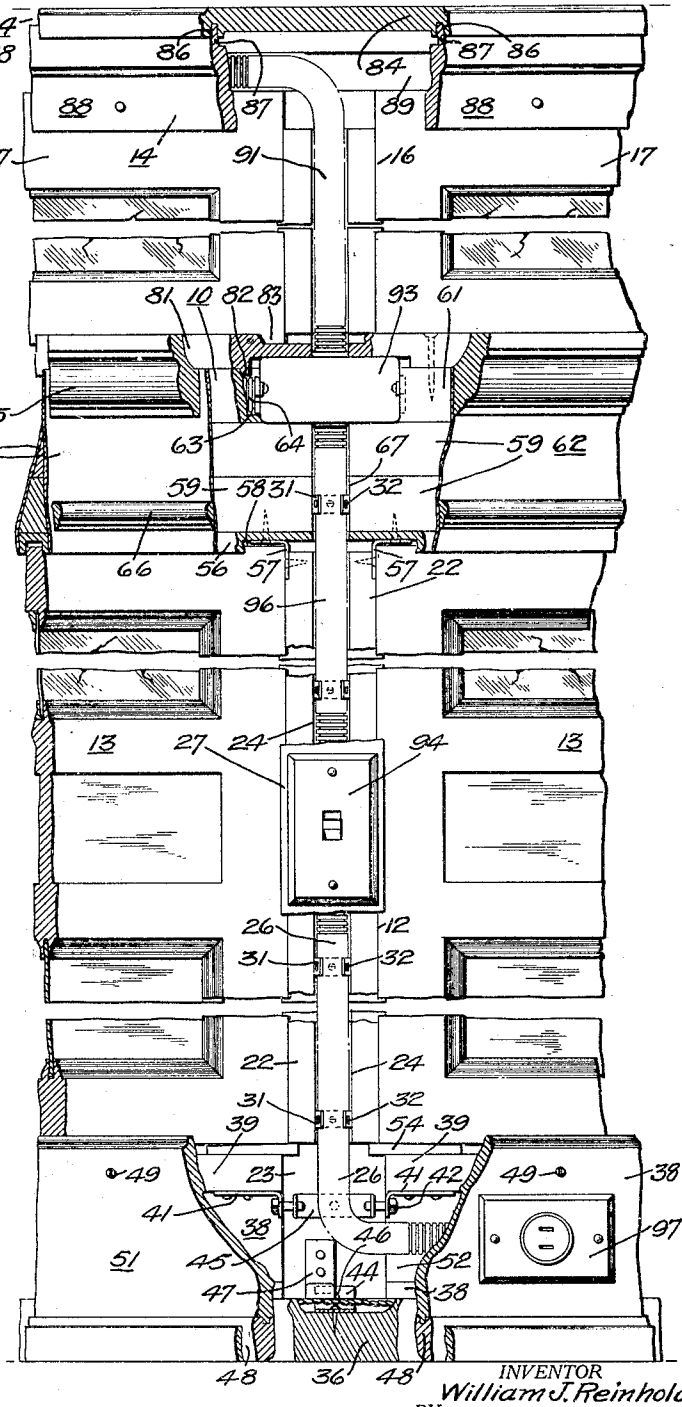


FIG. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SECTIONAL PARTITION.

Application filed June 27, 1927. Serial No. 201,612.

This invention relates generally to partitions which are manufactured in the form of a number of interchangeable parts capable of being readily assembled to form a wall. Structures of this kind are commonly known as sectional partitions.

It is an object of this invention to devise a sectional partition which will be so constructed as to facilitate installation of electrical wiring conduit, where it is desired to provide outlet terminals, switches or other electrical devices in the partition.

It is a further object of this invention to devise a sectional partition having vertical pilasters provided with passages for electrical wiring conduit and to so construct the pilasters that the passages are readily accessible for installing such conduit after the partition has been assembled.

It is a further object of this invention to devise a sectional partition which may be readily assembled and will have a neat appearance.

Further objects of this invention will appear from the following description in which I have set forth the preferred embodiment of my invention. It is to be understood that the appended claims are to be accorded a range of equivalents consistent with the state of the prior art.

Referring to the drawing:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a sectional partition constructed in accordance with this invention.

Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a detail taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a cross sectional detail taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a cross sectional view taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 6 is an enlarged cross sectional detail taken along the line 6—6 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail illustrating one of the vertical pilasters showing the manner in which wiring conduit is installed.

The particular partition which we have illustrated in the drawing comprising upper and lower horizontal rails 10 and 11 interconnected by a plurality of vertical stiles or pilasters 12. Disposed between these rails and pilasters are the main panel sections 13 which are usually made in standard sizes and are interchangeable. Where the partition is extended to the ceiling of a room, there may be provided a top rail 14 connected with the rest of the partition by a plurality of auxiliary vertical pilasters 16, the rail 14 and pilaster 16 serving to position a plurality of auxiliary panels 17. Both the panel sections 13 and the auxiliary panels 17 may be made of opaque material such as wood, or may be made of glass for passage of light. A door 18 may also be disposed between any two of the vertical stiles 12, and this door is made substantially the same size as the panel sections 13 so as to be interchangeable with the same.

The construction of each of the vertical pilasters has been shown in detail in Fig. 4 and preferably comprises a vertical post 21 which may be formed of one piece of wood, but which for convenience is preferably constructed of an inner strip 22 and a finishing strip 23 permanently secured together. Formed in one side of strip 22, there is a groove 24 which is made sufficient in width and depth to receive a rigid or flexible metal wiring conduit 26 of standard diameter. To complete the pilaster, there is provided another finishing strip 27 which is adapted to be detachably secured to the inner strip 22 in a position to cover the groove 24. Both the detachable finishing strip 27 and the strip 23 are preferably of greater width than the inner strip 22, so as to form side grooves 28 to receive the edges of panel sections as shown.

For detachably retaining the finishing strips 27 to the vertical stiles, I preferably employ spring clips which are arranged at spaced points within the grooves 24. These clips for example may each be formed of a strip of metal 31 bent U-shaped and secured to the strip 22 within the groove 24 as shown. The free ends of the strip are provided with slots 32 adapted to engage the ends of fingers 33 which are likewise secured to the inner face of the finishing strip 27. The ends of the strips 31 are so bent that when the finishing strip 27 is properly positioned, it may be merely pushed in place against the strip 22 to cause the fingers 23 to interlock with the ends of strips 31 thus retaining the finishing strip 27 in position sufficiently secure for all practical purposes. To remove the finishing strip for access to the groove 24 it is merely necessary to exert sufficient force in pulling the same outwardly from the strip 22.

The lower portion of each of the vertical pilasters is adapted to interlock with the bottom rail 11 as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. This bottom rail is preferably constructed of a floor strip 36 which is suitably secured to the floor as by means of anchor bolts 37. Secured to one side of the strip 36, are the base board sections 38, the ends of which are adapted to abut the edges of finishing strip 23. The base board sections 38 usually have secured thereto a filler strip 39, the ends of which are adapted to be detachably clamped to the vertical pilaster posts 21. Suitable clamping means for example may comprise L-brackets 41 secured to the ends of each filler strip 39. Bolts or screws 42 are inserted through these brackets and are threaded to another bracket 43 secured to the lower portion of strip 21 of each pilaster. The vertical post 21 of each pilaster and the floor strip 36 are also preferably interlocked by means which may be readily engaged when the partition is being assembled. In this instance there is shown a U-shaped metal member 44 which is secured to the upper edge of the floor strip 36, and which has slots 46 provided at its ends. One of these slots is adapted to be engaged by a metal hook 47 secured to the lower portion of finishing strip 23. Locking of the vertical post 21 with the floor strip 36 merely requires lateral movement of post 21 in a horizontal direction. After the hook 47 has become engaged with the slotted member 44, and the base boards 38 have been secured in position, it will be impossible to loosen this interlocking engagement. The double arrangement of slots in member 44 is provided so that the vertical stiles are reversible.

To complete the inside of the lower rail, or the side which faces the interior of the room enclosed, there is provided a molding strip 48 which may either be secured to the floor or to the side of the floor strip 36, and which extends the length of the partition. Detachably secured in position above the molding strip 48, as by means of screws 49, are the base board sections 51 which preferably have tongue and groove connection with the upper edge of the molding strip 48. Since the floor strip 36 and filler strip 39 are spaced apart vertically, the base boards 38 and 51 enclose a horizontal passageway 52 which is adequate to receive one or more electrical wiring conduits. This passageway in the lower rail communicates with the groove in the vertical stile 12, since the inner strip 22 of each pilaster terminates short of the floor strip 36. The upper edges of the base boards 38 and 51 preferably extend above the filler strips 39 so as to form grooves 53 for receiving the lower edges of the main panels 13. These panels may be more securely forced into position by means of wedges 54 inserted between the lower edges thereof and the upper face of the filler strips 39.

The upper or cornice rail 10 preferably includes a strip 56 which is secured to the central strip 22 of each vertical stile as by means of the metal L-brackets 57. This strip is provided with groove 58 so as to fit over the upper edges of the main panels, and thus serves as a means for strengthening the partition and for keeping the panels in assembled condition. Disposed above the groove strip 56 and secured to the same are one or more filler strips 59 and 61 which form the body of the upper rail, and to the sides of which are secured the finishing strips 62. The upper edge of filler strip 61 is preferably provided with a groove 63 which is adequate to receive additional metal wiring conduit 64. The appearance of this upper rail may be enhanced by the use of cornice molding 65 and other molding strips 66. Where the grooved strip 56 and filler strips 59 and 61 pass over each pilaster, they are cut away to provide a passageway 67 which communicates between the groove 63 in the upper rail, and the groove 24 in the pilaster.

Where a door is swung between two of the vertical pilasters as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, one of the panels 13 is omitted and a suitable door frame is secured to the inner edges of the vertical stiles, and to the bottom edge of the upper rail 10. For example as shown in Fig. 5 such a door frame may be constructed of jamb strips 71 secured to the inner edges of the adjacent vertical pilaster and having a strip 72 secured to the same to act as a door stop. By reversing the strip 71 at the swinging edge of the door, it is obvious that the door may be hung to swing in either direction.

Generally it is not practical to construct the panel sections so that the assembled partition will exactly fit between two walls of a room. For this reason a certain amount of space is left between the vertical pilasters at the end of the partitions, and the adjacent room walls and these spaces may be filled by means of filler panels 73 of the desired width. These filler panels for example may be retained in position by means of a grooved strip 74 secured to the wall of the room.

The auxiliary pilasters 16 are preferably alined with the main pilasters 12, and this construction is shown in detail in Fig. 3. They may comprise for example a pair of finishing strips 76 retained upon opposite edges of a pair of spaced filler strips 77. A vertical passageway 78 is thus formed which is alined with and communicating with the groove in the lower main pilaster. The grooves 79 formed between the edges of the finishing strips 76 serve as a means for engaging the edges of the auxiliary panel 17. Positioned upon the top of the upper rail 10, there is strip 81 having a lower tongue 82 adapted to engage in the groove 63, and having an upper groove 83 adapted to be en-

gaged by the lower edges of the auxiliary panel 17. The top edges of the auxiliary panels are retained together by the top rail 14 which includes a strip 84 suitably secured to the ceiling. This strip is provided with spaced grooves 86 adapted to engage tongues 87 on a pair of finishing strips 88 which are secured to opposite faces of the upper edges of auxiliary panels 17. The interior faces of horizontal strips 88 are preferably recessed to provide a passageway 89 for receiving metal wiring conduit 91. Passageway 89 of course communicates with all of the vertical passageways in the auxiliary pilasters 16.

Any time after or during the assembly of the partition, the electrical wiring conduit may be positioned within the same in any desired manner. For example I have shown the metal conduit 91 as extending horizontally in the passageway 89, the top rail of the partition and extending downwardly in one of the auxiliary pilasters 16 to a suitable metal terminal box 93 arranged within the upper rail 10 at the intersection of passages 63 and 88 of the upper auxiliary pilaster. From the metal box 93 I have shown the conduit 65 extending horizontally thru the passageway 63 of the upper rail 10, and another conduit 96 extending downwardly thru the groove 24 of one of the vertical pilasters 12. Any desired electrical device may be mounted upon the removable finishing strip 27 of a wired pilaster. For example I have shown a switch 94, the face plate of which is flush with the face of the removable finishing strip 27. The mechanism of this switch is mounted within a suitable metal switch box connecting with the conduits 26 and 96. When the electrician installs such a switch, it is a comparatively simple matter to cut away a recess in the inner strip 22 of one of the vertical pilasters, in order to provide room for receiving the outlet box. Leading from the switch 94, I have shown the metal conduit 26 extending downwardly thru the end of the pilaster into the passageway 52 of the lower rail 11. Mounted upon one of the removable base boards 51, there is shown a convenient outlet terminal 97 adapted to receive the plug connector of an electrical cord. It is of course obvious that any arrangement of electrical devices may be employed and that electrical switches, convenient outlets, or other electrical devices may be mounted at any point along the removable base boards 51 or on the removable finishing strips 27 of the vertical pilasters 12.

In assembling the partition it is preferable to first secure the strip 36 to the floor and then interlock the lower ends of the pilaster post 21 with the same. The outer base boards 38 together with the filler strips 39 are then clamped to the vertical pilaster posts by means of the screws 42, and these base boards are likewise secured to the floor strips 36. The main panel sections are then positioned between the pilaster posts and the grooved strip 56 of the upper rail 10 extended across the upper edges of the same. The wedges 56 are then inserted and the remainder of the partition parts assembled in any order which may be convenient. After assembling it is a simple matter for an electrician to insert electrical wiring conduit merely by removing the finishing strips 27 of the pilasters 12, and the inner base boards 51 from the bottom rail 11. The wires may be brought into the partition thru the floor, side walls or ceiling of the room.

I claim:

1. In a sectional partition, upper and lower horizontal rails, a vertical pilaster joining said rails, said pilaster comprising a post portion having a longitudinal groove formed within the same and a side strip adapted to be removably secured to the post to cover said groove, said lower rail having a removable side strip which covers a horizontal passage formed within the lower rail, said passage and groove being in communication whereby metal wiring conduit may be concealed within the same and extended in both horizontal and vertical directions.

2. In a sectional partition, upper and lower horizontal rails, a vertical pilaster joining said rails, said pilaster comprising a post portion having a longitudinal groove formed within the same and a side strip adapted to be removably secured to the post to cover said groove, said lower rail having a removable side strip which covers a horizontal passage formed within the lower rail, said upper rail having a horizontal passage formed within the same, said horizontal passages communicating with the upper and lower ends of the pilaster groove whereby metal conduit may be extended vertically thru the pilaster and horizontally thru said rails.

3. In a sectional partition, upper and lower horizontal rails, a vertical pilaster joining said rails, said pilaster comprising a post portion having a longitudinal groove, and a removable side strip adapted to cover said groove, a metal outlet box disposed within said post, metal wiring conduit disposed within said groove and communicating with said box, and an electrical instrument disposed within the box and projecting thru said side strip.

4. In a sectional partition, a base rail and a vertical pilaster member, said base rail member including a strip adapted to be secured to the floor of a room, and means for locking the lower end of the pilaster to said strip upon lateral movement of the pilaster relative to the strip.

5. In a sectional partition, a base rail and a vertical pilaster member, said base rail member including a strip adapted to be secured to the floor of a room, and means for

locking the lower end of the pilaster to said strip upon lateral movement of the pilaster relative to the strip, said means including a slotted element secured to one member and a hook secured to the other member.

6. In a sectional partition, a base rail, a pilaster adapted to rest upon a portion of said rail, means for detachably locking said pilaster to said rail, said base rail including a floor strip and a filler strip spaced vertically and disposed parallel to the base strip, a base board secured to one side of said strips, a molding strip secured to the other side of said floor strip, and another base board having a tongue and groove connection with said molding strip and adapted to be detachably secured to the other side of said floor and filler strips.

7. In a sectional partition, a base rail including a floor strip, a pilaster adapted to be detachably locked to said strip, said pilaster having a vertical passage therethrough, a filler strip parallel to said floor strip and spaced vertically from the same, said filler strip abutting the lower portion of the pilaster and adapted to be clamped to the same, and a base board secured to one side of said strips another base board detachably secured to the other side of said strips whereby the space between the strips is enclosed to form a passageway for metal wiring conduit.

8. In a sectional partition, a pilaster comprising a vertical post having a groove formed in one side thereof for receiving metal wiring conduit, and a finishing strip adapted to be detachably secured to said post to cover said groove.

9. In a sectional partition, a pilaster comprising a post having a groove formed in one side thereof for receiving metal wiring conduit, a finishing strip adapted to cover said groove, and spring clips for detachably retaining said strip upon the post.

10. In a sectional partition, a pilaster comprising a post having a groove formed in one side thereof for receiving metal wiring conduit, a finishing strip adapted to cover said groove, and spring clips disposed within the groove for retaining said strip upon the post, said strip being removable by forcing the same outwardly from the post.

11. In a sectional partition; a vertical stile comprising a post having a groove in one side thereof for metal wiring conduit, a finishing strip adapted to cover said groove, and metal clips for detachably retaining the finishing strip to the post; a base rail comprising a floor strip upon which the pilaster post is adapted to rest, a filler strip arranged in spaced relationship above the floor strip, said filler strip having one end abutting the lower end of the pilaster post and secured to the same, and base boards secured to opposite sides of said strips, one of said boards being removable to permit placing of metal wiring conduit in the passage formed between said strips; an upper rail extending across the top of said pilaster, said upper rail including a member having a groove in its upper side for receiving metal conduit; said passages in said rails communicating with the groove of said pilaster; and panel sections disposed between the rails and engaging the edge of the pilaster.

12. In a sectional wood partition, an interchangeable pilaster comprising a wood post having a longitudinal groove extending along one side thereof of sufficient size to receive metal wiring conduit, and a finishing strip removably secured to said post and serving to cover said groove, said structure forming an interchangeable unit which may be wired before or after assembly with the panels of a partition.

13. In a sectional wood partition, an interchangeable pilaster comprising a wood post having a longitudinal groove extending along one side thereof of sufficient size to receive metal wiring conduit, a finishing strip of greater width than the post removably secured to one side of said post and serving to cover said groove, another strip secured to the opposite side of the post of greater width than the post, said strips together with said post forming grooves along the edges of said pilaster for receiving partition panels.

14. In a sectional wood partition, a pilaster comprising a post having a longitudinal groove in one side thereof for receiving metal conduit, a finishing strip, spring clips disposed within said groove and secured to the post, and means for detachably engaging said clips within the groove for removably securing said strip to the post to cover said groove.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand.

WILLIAM J. REINHOLD.