A. P. M. Jeffers,

Spelling Box.

No. 98,773. Patented Jan. 11. 1870.

Fig. 1.

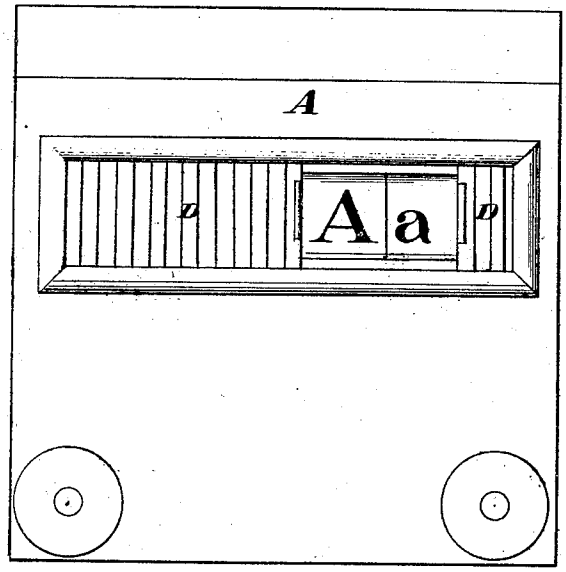
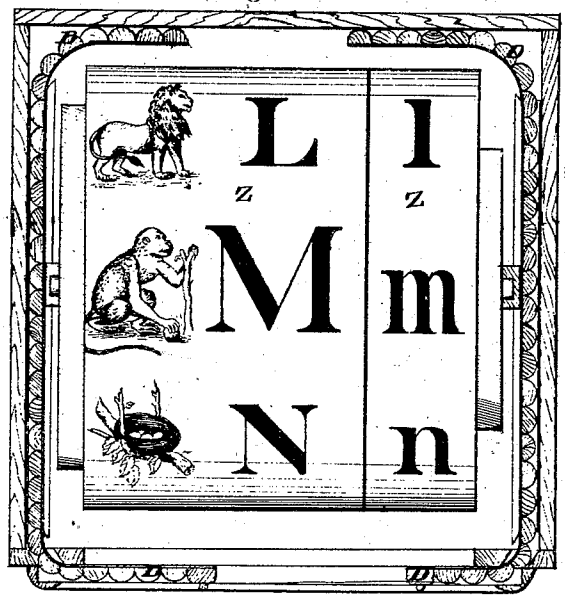


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.

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A. PERLEY M. JEFFERS, OF ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN.

Letters Patent No. 98,773, *dated January* 11, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN SPELLING-BOXES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, A. PERLEY M. JEFFERS, of Allegan, in the county of Allegan, and State of Michigan, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in School-Apparatus; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a front view of my invention.

Figure 2 is a horizontal section of the same.

My invention relates to means for arresting and controlling the attention of children of tender years, and imparting knowledge to them by means of object-lessons, and consists in the adaptation of flexible slides to the opening of the spelling-box patented November 13, 1860, by David F. Dunham, No. 30,622, and now in part owned by me, or to any other similar school-apparatus.

The letter A of the drawings designates the case or box, having a rectangular opening, through which the objects and letters depicted on the rollers Z Z are brought to the view of the children.

In order to arrange the object by the side of the letters which form its name, several rollers are necessary.

These are arranged side by side, and the rectangular opening is of sufficient length to exhibit a portion of all the rollers, extending from one side of the box to the other.

But to the mind of a very young child, an object must be presented singly, or the effect of the lesson will be lost, on account of the wavering attention or mental confusion arising from the attempt to understand what is being taught with regard to one object, while curiosity directs the eyes to another. Hence it was a matter of much importance to shut out from view all the rollers, except that on which was depicted the object or letter which formed the subject of the lesson.

In my spelling-box, already alluded to, this was accomplished by means of plane slides, which were moved from side to side, at the will of the teacher, at one time disclosing the object, and then shutting this out from view, to direct the attention of the children to the letters of its name.

In the use of this spelling-box, it has been found, that although the attention of the children is readily kept from wandering to those portions of the rollers which are shut out from view, their minds cannot be centred upon the object of the lesson, in consequence of the diversion created by the motion and varying length of the ends of the slides, as they project from each side of the box.

By the use of the flexible slides D D, arranged to pass around, outside of the box or within, in the manner shown, it is designed to overcome this difficulty.

The slides should be made perfectly plain, and of the same color with the face of the box.

The material is a matter of choice or convenience. Leather might be employed.

The perpendicular slips of wood, secured to stout strips of cloth, as shown in the drawings, will answer every purpose.

The attention of the children is not diverted from the object by any visible part of the mechanism of the wonderful box, but is the more forcibly directed to the bright picture or letter, apparent through the opening, in the effort to comprehend the mystery thereof.

My improvement is designed to be applied not only to spelling-boxes, but also to all similar apparatus for instructing children, whether adapted to geography, grammar, astronomy, or any other branch of knowledge.

I do not claim a flexible slide, formed of wooden strips, leather, or of any particular construction; but

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The flexible slides D D, constructed and arranged as described, as an improvement upon the patent of David F. Dunham, dated November 13, 1860.

In testimony that I claim the above, I have hereunto subscribed my name, in the presence of two witnesses.

A. PERLEY M. JEFFERS.

Witnesses:

E. W. ANDERSON,

CHARLES KENYON.