

(No Model.)

M. B. SMYTH.

INDEX.

No. 306,291

Patented Oct. 7, 1884.

Fig. 3.

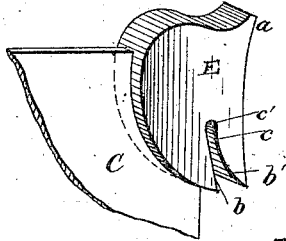


Fig. 1.

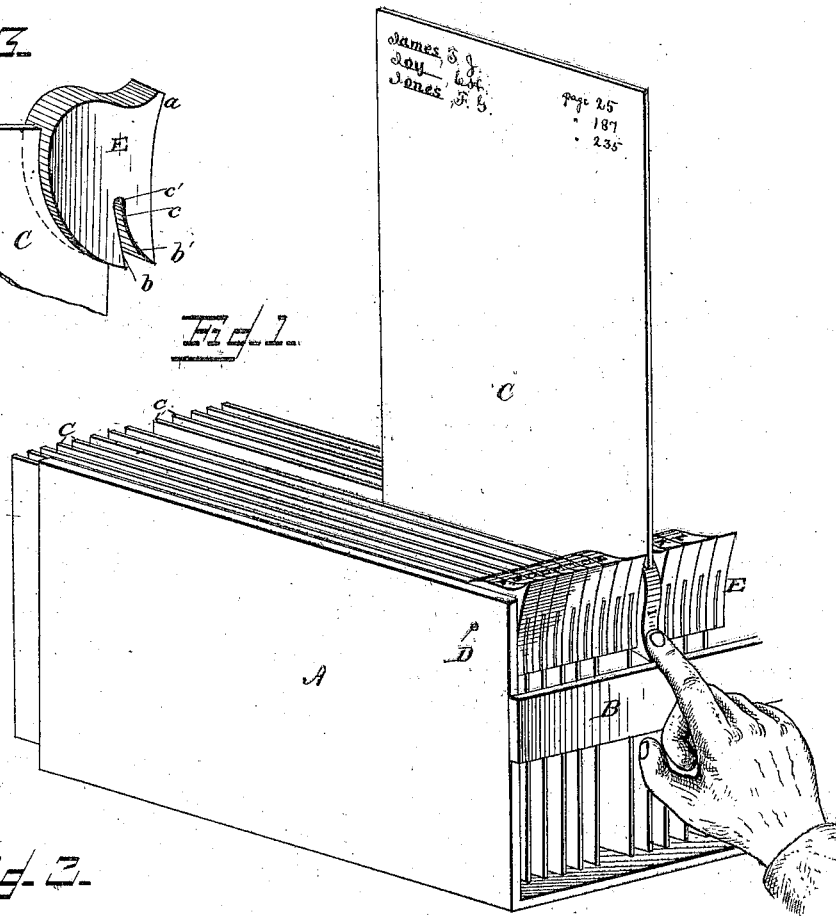


Fig. 2.

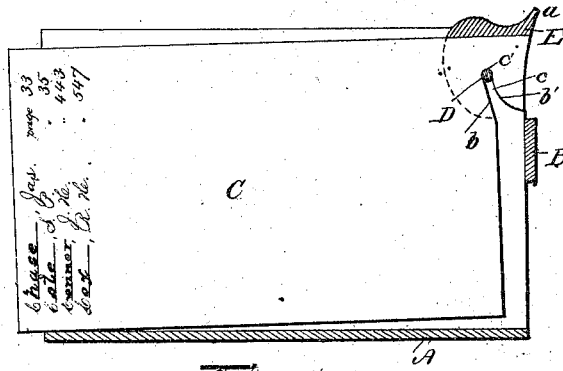
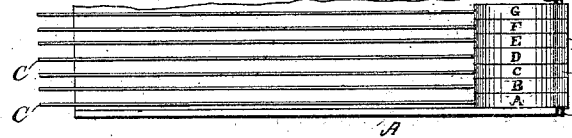


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MILTON B. SMYTH, OF HOLTON, KANSAS.

## INDEX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 306,291, dated October 7, 1884.

Application filed December 4, 1883. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MILTON B. SMYTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Holton, in the county of Jackson and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful

Improvements in Indexes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my index-case. Fig. 2 is a section taken longitudinally and vertically through the case. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of one of the slotted thumb-pieces, showing a section of a card secured therein. Fig. 4 is a top view of the index-register.

This invention is designed to take the place of an index-book, and to serve as a helper to book-keepers, who frequently have to refer to an index-book for names of debtors, and look to the day-book or to a ledger for the names and accounts of said debtors. Such book is usually mutilated by frequent usage, and for this reason I have invented a means whereby any one of a series of cards having the names of debtors and the numbers corresponding to the same recorded in a ledger, can be instantaneously brought to view simply by the pressure of the finger on the tail end of a slotted pivoted block, which block is removably applied to a cross-bar that affords a bearing for a number of said cards or tablets, as will be fully understood from the following description, when taken in connection with the annexed drawings.

A designates a suitable box or case adapted to contain my improved pivoted cards or tablets. This case is constructed with an abutting portion, B, against which the edges of the card-blocks will touch when erected to present the characters on the cards or tablets to view, which abutting portion is so arranged with respect to the axis of the cards or tablets that they will fall back into place when released, as I am now about to describe.

D designates a rod which is the axis of all the cards which I use in a case. This rod has its end bearings in the vertical sides of the box or case, and, if desirable, it is removable. Each card C is rigidly fixed into a card-block, E, which is constructed with a finger-piece or extension, *a*, a slot, *c*, and flaring edges *b b'*, as clearly shown in the side view, Fig. 2. At

the inner terminus of the slot *c* is a pivotal receptacle, *c'*, for the rod D, which rod is the fulcrum for all of the card-blocks E used in the case A.

It will be observed that I rigidly attach to the corner of each card in the series of cards a block, E, by grooving the block and cementing or otherwise fixing the card therein; also, that I so slot the several blocks E and their respective cards that each card, with its block, can be readily removed from the rod D at pleasure without interfering with its neighbors. It will also be observed that the blocks E, by reason of their being thicker than the cards or tablets secured into them, serve as separating-pieces for keeping the said cards or tablets at the required distance from each other.

It is obvious from what I have above described that by a simple pressure on any finger-piece or tail *a* of a block which forms a broad bearing for the cards its tablet can be erected and the characters on it brought into view, and that, without springs, the tablet so erected will fall back into its place again when released.

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

1. In an index for book-keepers, the combination, with a case or frame, of pivoted tablets or cards and spacing finger-pieces secured thereto, substantially as described.

2. In an index for book-keeping, the combination, with a case or frame, of a pivot-rod, a series of tablets pivoted thereto provided with finger-pieces by which said tablets can be erected, and a stop applied to the case, substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

3. The new article of manufacture, consisting of a tablet or card having a slotted block secured to one corner, constructed with a finger-extension, and adapted to operate substantially as described.

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

MILTON B. SMYTH.

Witnesses:

FRANK NAYLOR,  
A. H. WILLIAMS.