(No Model.)

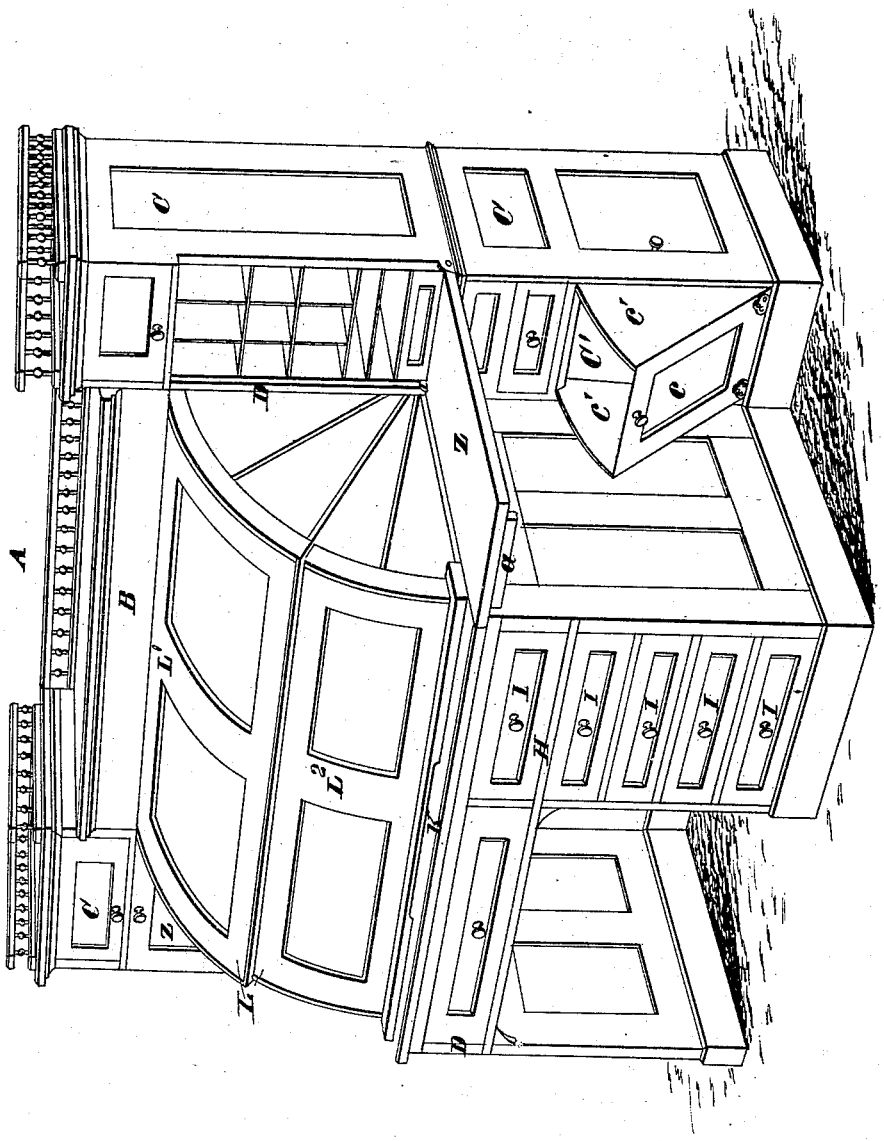
3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. H. TYLER.

OFFICE DESK.

No. 267,041. Patented Nov. 7, 1882.

Fig. 1.



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(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 2.

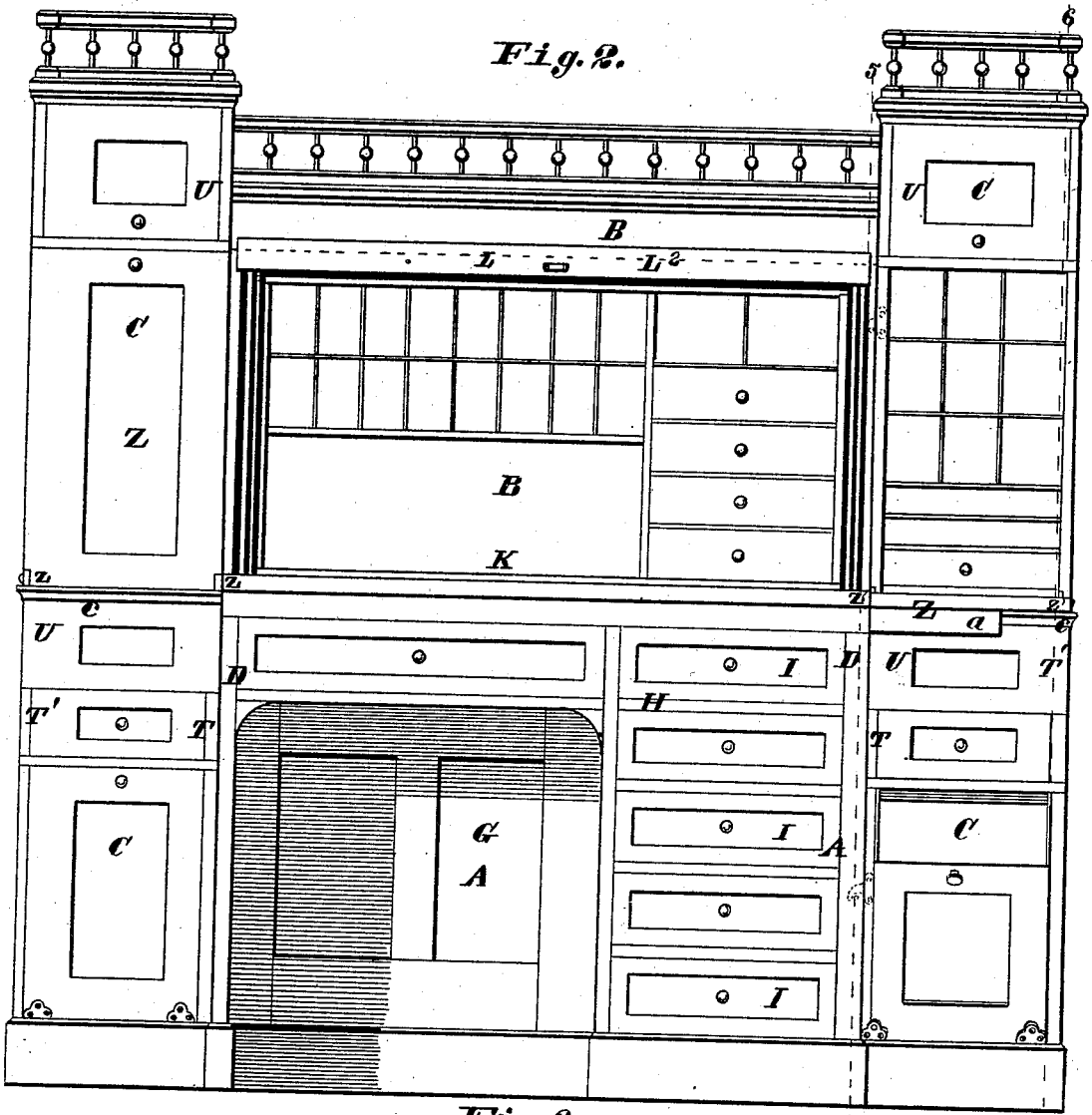


Fig. 3.

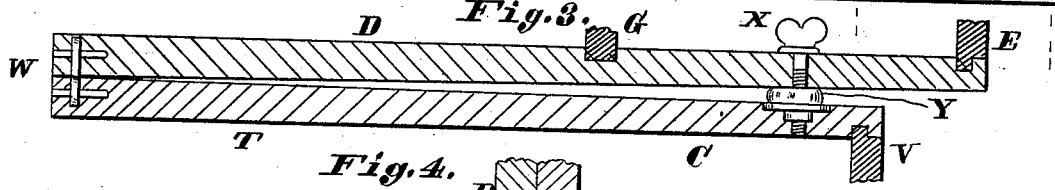
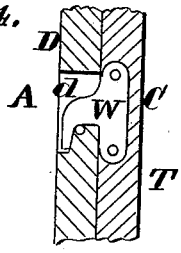


Fig. 4.



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

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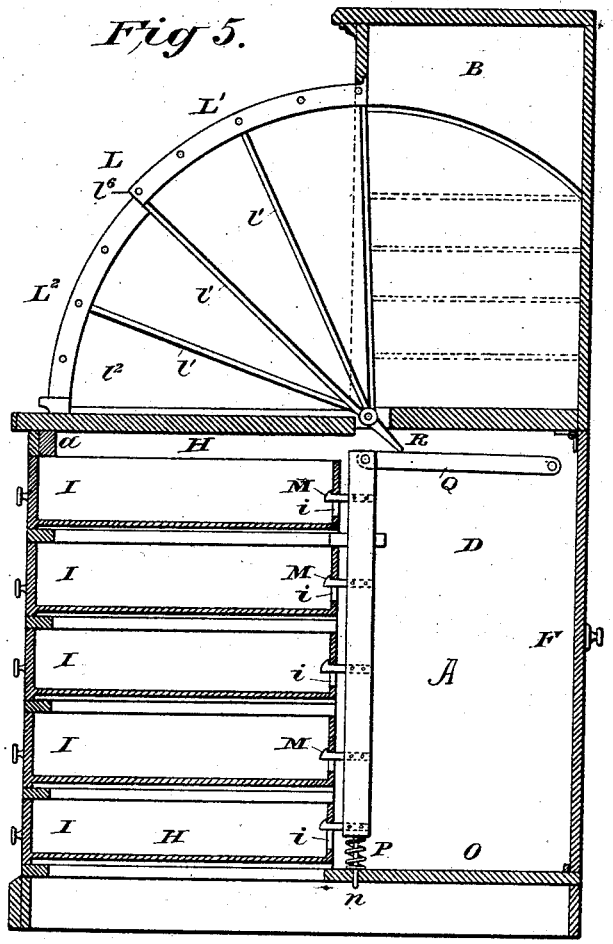
Fig 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. TYLER, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

OFFICE-DESK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 267,041, dated November 7, 1882.

Application filed February 20, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. TYLER, of the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Office-Desks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of the same.

My improvement relates primarily to that class of office-desks known as "cylinder-desks," the same having a curved cover to let down over the table.

My invention consists in the provision of sector-shaped end frames for the curved covers of cylinder-desks; also, in the described combination of a central desk and detachable wings; also, in a toe upon the cover, combined with the drawer-locking device, substantially as set forth; also, in other details, set forth in the specification.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved desk with its two wings attached. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section of the contiguous walls of the desk and wing, showing the attaching devices. Fig. 4 is a vertical section of the contiguous walls of the desk and wing, showing the attaching-hook. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section of the desk proper.

The body or central part of the desk consists of a base, A, and an upper member or top, B. To the central part is removably attached a wing, C, either at one or both sides.

I will first describe the body or central part, A B. The base or lower member has side walls, D, a rear wall, E, having hinged door or doors F, and a central wall, G, parallel with the rear wall. In front of the central wall there is a space for the legs of a person sitting at the desk, with a side wall, D, at one side, and a frame, H, at the other side, in which are a number of drawers, I. Above the drawers I is a fixed table or board, K. The drawers I are made to lock when the curved cover L is drawn down upon the table, and the drawers are unlocked by throwing the cover upward and backward. The rear end of each drawer has a slot, *i*, or in place of the slot a fixed loop or staple, which receives a spring-catch, M, to hold the drawer when the catch is in its upper position, as shown in Fig. 5. The catches M are all shown on a single vertical bar or rod, N, whose lower end terminates in a pin, *n*, which works in a socket in the floor O of the base A. Surrounding the pin is a spiral spring, P, which acts to lift the rod into its elevated position. The upper end of the rod has lateral support on a radius-rod, Q, which is hinged at one end to the upright D of the base and at the other end to the upright rod N. This rod is forced down to unlock the drawers by a toe, R, projecting downward and backward from the jointed corner of the sector-frame L′ of the cover L. The cover consists of two or more sections, L′ L^2, whose faces are curved in the arc of a cylinder and sector-formed, each consisting of a metal frame, *l*, the bars *l′* of which receive and hold the panels l^2. The sectors are jointed to the desk at l^5, so that they can be thrown up into the part B or be drawn down to cover the table K, as shown in Fig. 5. Each lower section, as L^2, fits inside the section L′ above it, so that when raised into the part B they are nested together in a vertical series.

It will be understood that there is considerable practical gain in making the cover in sections for several reasons, among which are the following: The sections occupy a much smaller space when raised, as they do not extend so far backward and downward as when the cover is made in one piece, for in the latter case the cover turns about one-fourth of a circle. To more fully explain, it will be understood that where the cylinder-cover is made in one piece it must extend as far backward when open as it does forward when closed down upon the table. Thus a fixed table can only extend an equal distance forward from the hinges that the back of the desk extends behind the hinges. As it is objectionable to extend the depth of the latter space, B, and the table is required to be much deeper than the part B to give the required accommodation for use, the table has been made to slide outward when the cover has been opened, and to be slid inward before the cover is closed to bring it within the scope of the cover. It will be seen that to bring the space B within the proper limit in depth, the height of such space is much limited, and the depth of the table is also limited, or it is made to slide inward and outward.

It will be further seen that when the table is made to slide the lower set of drawers must be dispensed with, to leave room for the table to slide back, and as the cover turns back and occupies the space behind the rear edge of the table, it follows from the above, and from the fact that the height of the pigeon-hole space beneath the cover cannot exceed the depth of such space backward, and as the depth of the table when the desk is closed cannot much exceed the depth of the pigeon-holes, and as any increase in depth of the part B is objectionable, because it makes the desk cumbrous, that the pigeon-hole space between the level of the table and the top of the cover must be contracted, and that the depth of the table must be contracted, or else it must be made to slide, whereas it will be readily seen that if the cover is made in sections, (two or more,) as described, the pigeon-hole space B′ can be increased in height, and the table K made a fixture and increased in depth, because as the cover-sections fold within each other in a vertical series they may be made to occupy a space of very little depth from front to back.

I will now describe the construction of one of the wings C, and as they may be made uniform a description of one will answer for both, (it being of course understood that they are made right and left, to fit the opposite ends or sides of the central part, A B, of the desk.) These extensions or wings do not rest upon the floor, but are so attached to the ends of the desk as to terminate at their lower ends a short distance above the floor, by which means the desk can be moved from point to point in the room, running on suitable casters (not shown) attached to the base of the desk. The wing C has upright sides T T′, a front, U, and back V. From the side wall T, near its front edge, extend a number of hooks, W, of any suitable form, which enter slots *d* in the side wall D and engage on the bottom edges of said slots, or on pins therein. By this means the front part of the wing is held firmly against the central part or body, A B. The rear part of the wing is held to the body by a screw, X, which passes through the side walls D and T. The horizontal section, Fig. 3, of the side walls D and T shows a decreasing thickness in the walls from front to back, so that the walls do not touch each other at the back. They are separated by a rubber cushion or other spring, Y, through which the bolt passes, and which tends to spring them farther asunder at the back, while by the screw they are drawn together to the required position. The purpose of this construction will be set forth hereinafter.

Z is a table, which is hinged to the wing C at *z*, so that it can be turned down into the plane of the fixed table K, or be turned up into a perpendicular position to close the front of the pigeon-holes or other recesses in that part of the wing. When the table Z is turned down its outer edge is sustained by a bar, *a*, sliding beneath the table K, and the inner edge of the table Z rests on a bead or ledge, *c*. From the lower inner edge of the table Z extends a counterbalance-weight, *z′*, that holds the door in its vertical position when so placed, and which may assist in the support of the door, when down, by pressure beneath the shelf C^2. To bring the edges of the tables K and Z close together when the desk is first erected and the table Z is opened, the nut of screw X is turned outward on the screw, and then the elastic cushion Y forces the rear part of the wing C away from the rear part of the body A B and brings the edges of the tables in close contact.

c is the cover of a scrap or waste receptacle, C′, and it is formed with two sector-shaped sides, *c′*. The cover is hinged at the lower edge to the front wall, U, of the wing. The mouth-board *c* is arranged to close the opening c^2 of the waste-box when it is shut back in line with the front wall, and in this position it is held by the weight of the sides *c′* within the waste-box. The scraps may be removed from the box C′ through a doorway at the back or side.

It will be seen that the construction of the desk is such that it can be quickly separated into a number of pieces that can be readily moved from room to room and quickly set up again. It will also be seen that a large amount of room is afforded for the reception of papers, for the reasons before given.

I claim as new and of my invention—

1. In a desk, a curved cover the ends of which are each formed with a sector-shaped frame hinged at the center of its radius to the desk, and provided with a toe, R, formed upon the frame at its pivotal point, in combination with the bar Q, pivoted at its rear end to the side of the desk, the bar N, jointed at its upper end to the front end of the bar Q and provided with the pin *n*, spring P, and catches M, and the drawers I, provided with slots or staples *i*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. The combination of base A, wing C, attaching device W *d*, and adjustable attachment X Y, substantially as set forth.

3. In a desk, the central member, A B, having the fixed table K, in combination with the extension C, having hinged leaf Z and the thumb-screw X, and interposed elastic buffer Y, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In a desk, the central member, A B, provided with a fixed table, K, in combination with an extension, C, having a hinged leaf, Z, arranged to drop in line with the fixed table, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES H. TYLER.

Witnesses:
SAML. KNIGHT,
GEO. H. KNIGHT.