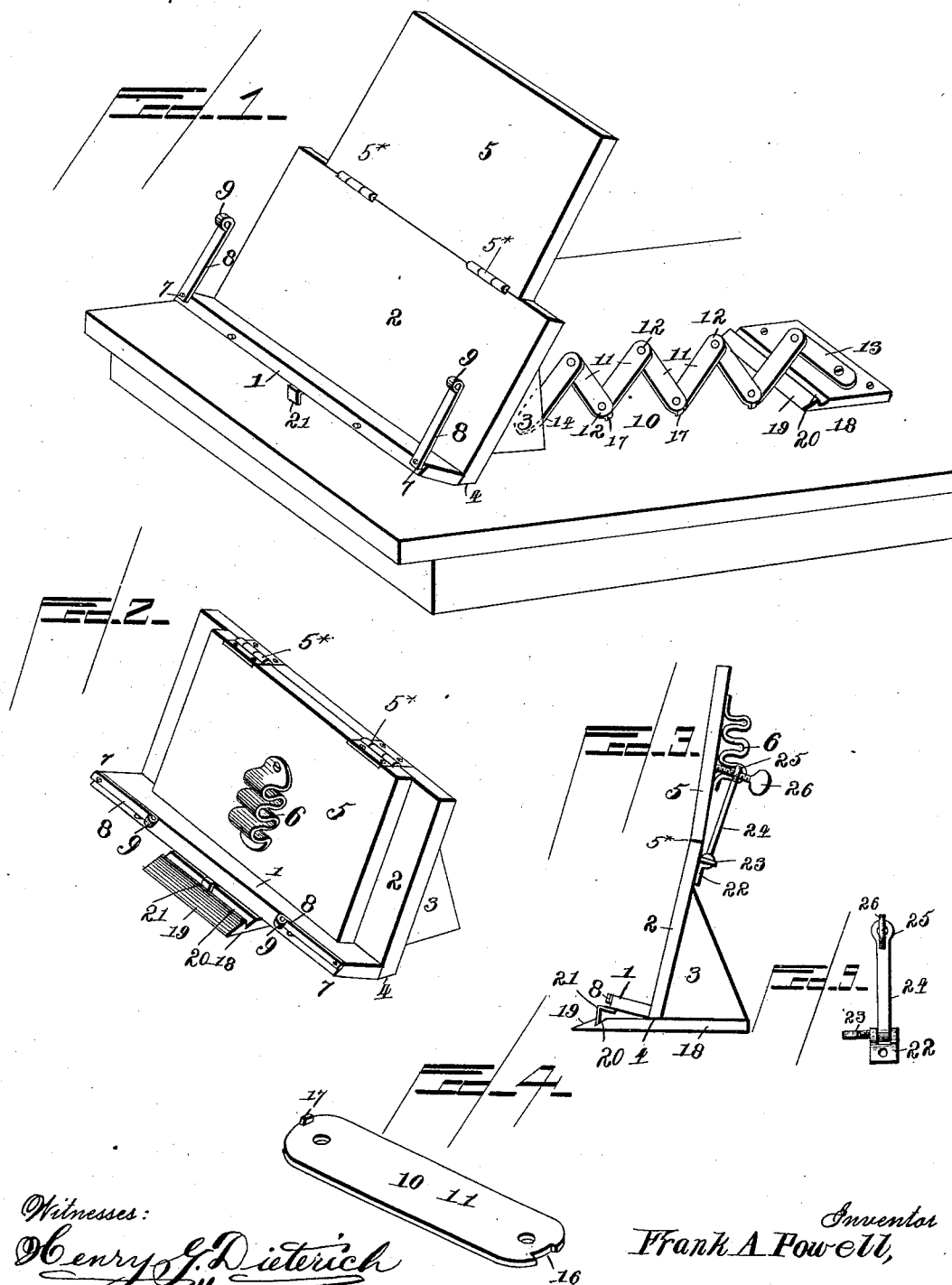


(No Model.)

F. A. POWELL.
BOOK REST.

No. 422,443.

Patented Mar. 4, 1890.



Witnesses:

Henry J. Dietrich

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK A. POWELL, OF HEBRON, NEBRASKA.

BOOK-REST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 422,443, dated March 4, 1890.

Application filed April 29, 1889. Serial No. 308,987. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK A. POWELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hebron, in the county of Thayer and State of Nebraska, have invented a new and useful Book-Rest, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has relation to book-rests, and is especially adapted for use upon school and other desks.

Among the main objects of the invention are to provide a cheap and simple rest that may be compactly folded when not in use and pushed out of the way, and which may be adjusted at any distance from the eyes of the operator, thus obviating the necessity of bending over the desk.

A further object of the invention is to provide the rest with a pen and pencil rack, whereby it not only serves the function of a rest, but also a rack.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will hereinafter appear and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the claims.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective of the rest constructed in accordance with my invention, the same being extended and in operative position. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the rest being folded or packed as when not in use. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Fig. 4 is a detail of one of the adjusting-arms. Fig. 5 is a rear elevation.

Like numerals of reference indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 represents the base of the rest, and to the same is secured a rear supporting-wall 2, from which project rearward-disposed feet 3. The wall 2 is located at a right angle to the base, but by reason of the beveling of said base at its lower edges, as at 4, and for the further reason of the contour of the feet, said wall is normally maintained at an incline.

In practicing my invention it is probable that I will cast the base, wall, and feet in a single piece of light metal, though I may cast the same separately and secure by any suitable means.

5 represents a flap, which is hinged to the upper edge of the wall 2, as at 5*, said flap being of a width adapted to fold down upon the wall 2 and within the base 1, and also

adapted, when unfolded, to form an extension of the wall 2. Upon the rear face of the flap there is provided a spring pencil and pen rack 6, in this instance formed by corrugating a piece of spring metal the terminals of which are secured to the flap.

Pivoted, as at 7, to the front edge of the base 1, at each end thereof, is a spring-arm 8, the ends of which are turned, as at 9, and are adapted for maintaining the book open when the same is mounted upon the rack and to be folded down against the edge of the base when not in use.

10 represents a lazy-tong adjustment, one end of the adjustment being connected to a plate 18, secured to the desk near its rear end, and the opposite end of the adjustment being connected to the rear face of the inclined wall 3.

The toggle-connection consists of a series of connected levers or arms 11, pivoted to each other, as at 12, the end section or arm 13 being arranged transversely, secured to the desk-top, and the opposite end arm 14 being similarly secured to the rest.

By raising the flap a book may be placed in position, the lower edge of the book resting upon the base, and the book will be maintained in an open position by means of the spring-arms, which are swung out and over the same. By drawing the rest in or out or to the right or left the book will be given such a position as will secure the best light, and will be at such a distance from the eyes of the reader as best adapted to his sight. In fact, it will be apparent that the rest has a universal movement in a horizontal plane. By returning the spring-arms to their folded position the book may be removed and the flap folded down upon the inclined wall, when the pen-rack will be in easy reach of the user and the rack may be pushed aside either directly to the rear or at an angle. When pushed to the rear, the toggle-connection folds, the levers folding one upon the other.

In order that the adjustable connection may not be accidentally drawn out, so as to bring the arms in line with each other, and thus render the connection liable to resist folding, or, if folded, to do the same in an irregular manner, some of the levers going in one direction and others in an opposite direction, I

have provided a means for limiting the outward movement or extension of the connection. The means employed consist in providing each of the arms of the connection at one end with a recess 16, the edge of which is concentric with the pivot of the lever, and at the opposite end there is provided an upturned lug 17, so that the lug of one lever takes in and rides in the curved recess of the next adjacent lever. In this manner the toggle-connection can only be opened to a certain degree.

The plate 18 is fastened to the rear of the desk-top by means of ordinary screws and has its front edge beveled, as at 19, and in rear of the same is arranged a longitudinal locking-groove 20. Secured to the under side of the rest at its front is a lug 21, which extends down even with the bottom of the rest and is adapted when the rest is pushed back to ride up the bevel 19 and raise the rest and take in the groove 20, whereby the rest is locked.

For the purpose of adjusting the inclination of the flap of the rest, I provide the rear face of the same with a bearing-lug 22, upon which, by means of a set-screw 23, is pivoted a rod 24, at the free end of which is formed a bearing-eye 25, through which is passed a set-screw 26, the end of the shank of which is designed to bear against the rear of the flap, and thus change the inclination of the same and a book thereon. When not in use, the rod may be folded down out of position.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination, with a desk or other fixed support, of a book-rest and of a toggle-connection having one end secured to the rest and its opposite end to the desk, each of the

arms composing the connection having one end recessed and the other provided with a lug, the lug of one arm riding in the recess of the other, whereby the extension of the connection is limited, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the base 1, of the wall 2, formed at a right angle thereto, and the wall being cut away, as at 4, and the latter being provided with rearward-extending feet 3, of the hinged flap 5, hinged, as at 5*, to the upper edge of the wall, and the spring-arms 8, pivoted, as at 7, to the front edge of the base, substantially as specified.

3. The combination, with the herein-described rest and the top or other support, of the toggle-connection 10, consisting of the arms 11, pivoted, as at 12, and notched or recessed, as at 16, at one end and at the other end provided with the bent lug 17, substantially as specified.

4. The combination, with a desk-top, of the plate 18, beveled, as at 19, and grooved, as at 20, the toggle-connection connected thereto at one end and at its other end to the rest, and a lug, as 21, connected to the rest and adapted to ride up the bevel and lock in the groove, substantially as specified.

5. The combination, with the rest 2, provided with the hinged flap 5, of the lug 22, the pivoted rod 24 and its screw 23, and having the eye 25, provided with the screw 26, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK A. POWELL.

Witnesses:

G. N. FOWLER,
M. A. SMITH.