A. R. FERGUSSON.

MEANS FOR MECHANICAL INDEXING.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 17, 1919.

1,367,311. Patented Feb. 1, 1921.

Fig. 1.

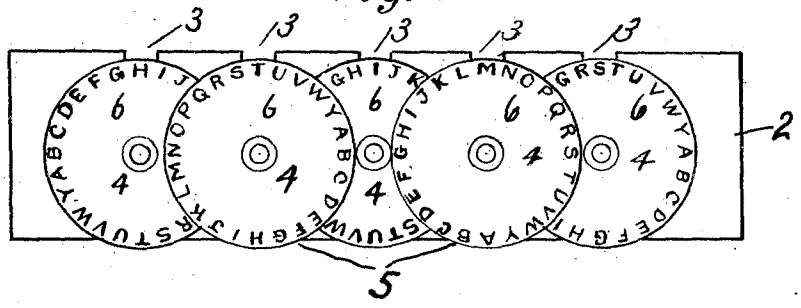


Fig. 2.

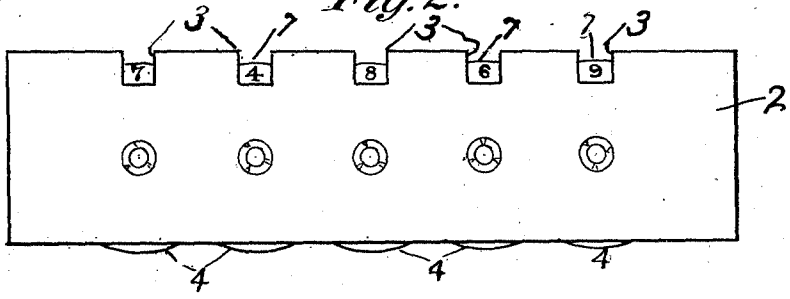


Fig. 3.

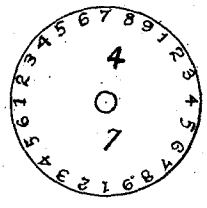
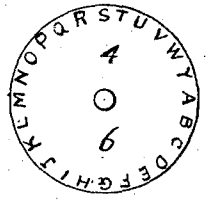


Fig. 4.



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MEANS FOR MECHANICAL INDEXING.

1,367,311. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Feb. 1, 1921.

Application filed November 17, 1919. Serial No. 338,663.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALAN R. FERGUSSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wilmington, in the county of New Hanover and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Mechanical Indexing, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improved means for mechanically indexing, the object thereof being to provide an inexpensive, simple and efficient means of translating a name into a number without the use of a typewriter, and one which can be easily constructed of celluloid, fiber or metal, of a size that can be easily carried in the pocket if desired or of a size that may be readily hung near a filing cabinet.

In view of the simple and inexpensive manner in which the same is made, any office using the system may have as many in use as is necessary, so that a clerk at his desk may quickly determine a name's number or the device may be made so small that it may be readily carried in the pocket and used as a means for obtaining a telephone number when such a system is used by telephone companies to replace the phone book or which may be carried in the pocket of a military officer to determine the number of a soldier, where this system is used for army registration, by insurance companies to identify names of policy holders and by tax offices for automobile licenses, etc., and ultimately if the system came generally into use to have a certain number permanently identified with every name whereby, as it were, practically every name in the world would be numerically indexed.

The present improvement is an improvement over my prior Patents 1,205,180 dated November 21, 1916 and 1,270,934 dated July 2, 1918, wherein the use of a typewriter or similar machine is essential in order to mechanically index a name and over my prior Patent 1,234,320 dated July 24, 1917, which required the use of certain elements entirely unnecessary in the present improvement.

In the drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a face view of the present improved mechanical means; Fig. 2 is a rear view thereof; Fig. 3 is a view of one side of one of the rotary disks and Fig. 4 is a view of the opposite side thereof.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

In the present improvement, a suitable card or supporting member 2 is provided having in one edge thereof a plurality or series of notches 3, which notches correspond in number to the number of rotary disks which may be used. Pivotally positioned on the supporting member is a plurality or a series of rotary disks 4, some of which, as 5, two in the present instance, are shown superimposed upon others whereby the length of the device is materially shortened. Each of these disks carries upon its face 6 the letters of the alphabet running in the present instance from A to Y, the letter X being omitted in the present instance, although this is not necessary. Each disk is lettered the same, the lettering being located adjacent to the edge of the disk. In the present instance five of these disks 4 are shown pivotally supported upon its base 2 in such manner that each letter of every disk may be brought adjacent to one of the notches of the supporting base. Each disk is provided on its opposite side 7 with a plurality of sets of numbers. In the present instance each disk has two sets of numbers, each running from one to nine, and also an additional set of numbers running from one to six, making twenty-four numbers in all, each number corresponding with a letter of the alphabet.

In other words, taking the right-hand disk in Fig. 1, it will be observed that the letter A when reversed, corresponds with the figure 1; the letter Y corresponds with the figure 2; the letter W with the figure 3; the letter V with the figure 4; the letter U with the figure 5; the letter T with the figure 6; the letter S with the figure 7; the letter R with the figure 8; the letter Q with the figure 9, and in turn the letter P with the figure 1 and so on. By means of this arrangement of letters and figures it will be observed (see Fig. 1) that when the letter S of the right-hand disk is brought opposite the notch, the letter M of the next disk is brought opposite its notch, and the letter I of the next disk is brought opposite its notch, and the letter T of the fourth disk is brought opposite its disk, and the letter H of the fifth disk is brought opposite its disk, that this spells the name "Smith" whereupon upon reversing the indexing means the number 74869 appears, which of course indicates

the number corresponding to the name Smith.

By a similar manipulation of the various disks, any desired name may be spelled and by merely turning over the indexing means the number of this name can be thus readily ascertained.

It will be understood of course that the various details may be more or less changed as the disks may be arranged in any desired manner, and that the present improved simple means of mechanically indexing names does away with the impractical, slow method of using a chart and memory, or writing down the numbers, and also the use of a typewriter, such as disclosed in the patents hereinbefore referred to. The device may be made of any suitable material and with any desired number of disks. It will also be observed that it is only necessary to use the numerical digits from 1 to 9 in order to accomplish the desired result.

It will furthermore be understood that the arrangement of the figures and numbers as shown herein is entirely arbitrary and that other arrangements thereof may be adopted as desired, and that a greater or lesser number of disks, as hereinbefore stated, may be used as occasion may require, and that such disks may be located closer together or farther apart as may be found most convenient and desirable in practice, the gist of the invention being a plurality of rotatable members, each carrying a letter and also a number corresponding thereto whatever may be the arrangement of the disks and the arrangement and location of the numbers and letters.

I claim as my invention:

1. An indexing means comprising a supporting member provided with a series of alined notches on its upper edge, a series of disks rotatably mounted on said supporting member, each disk having a corresponding notch and provided with letters of the alphabet on one side adjacent the edge and provided with numerals on the opposite side adjacent the edge whereby a predetermined series of numbers corresponding to a predetermined series of letters will be simultaneously registered in said notches by the simultaneous rotation of said disks.

2. An indexing means comprising a series of disks rotatably mounted on a support, said disks being provided with characters on one side and numerals on the other side, each character having a predetermined number on the opposite side of the disk whereby upon the rotation of said disks a predetermined series of numbers will be registered at selective points, said numbers corresponding to a predetermined series of letters.

3. An indexing means comprising a series of disks rotatably mounted on a support, said support having an opening for each disk disposed above the axis of said disk and on the upper edge of said support, said disk being provided with characters on one side along the outer edge and numerals on the other side along the outer edge, each character having a predetermined number on the opposite side of the disk whereby upon the rotation of said disk a predetermined series of numbers will be registered at selective points, said numbers corresponding to a predetermined series of letters.

4. An indexing means comprising a supporting member having a plurality of alined openings along one edge thereof, a plurality of disks corresponding in number with said openings pivotally supported on said supporting member, each of said disks having letters of the alphabet and numbers whereby each letter on the rotation of a disk will indicate a number in a corresponding opening.

5. An indexing means comprising a supporting member having a plurality of alined openings along one part thereof, a plurality of disks corresponding with said openings pivotally supported on said supporting member, each of said disks having letters of the alphabet and numbers, the numbers and letters being located at different points whereby each letter on the rotation of a disk will indicate a predetermined number in a corresponding opening.

6. An indexing means comprising a supporting member having a plurality of alined openings along one part thereof, a plurality of disks corresponding with said openings pivotally supported on said supporting member, each of said disks having on one side letters of the alphabet and on its opposite side numbers whereby a predetermined letter on the rotation of a disk will indicate a predetermined number in a corresponding opening.

7. An indexing means comprising a supporting member having a plurality of alined notches along one edge thereof, a plurality of disks corresponding with said notches pivotally supported on said supporting member, each of said disks having on one side letters of the alphabet and on its opposite side numbers whereby upon rotation of the disks a series of numbers will be simultaneously registered in said notches corresponding to a predetermined series of numbers.

8. An indexing means comprising a supporting member provided with a series of alined openings on its upper edge, a series of alined disks rotatably mounted on said supporting member, each disk having a corresponding opening located directly above its axis of rotation and having letters of the alphabet on one side adjacent the edge, and numbers on the opposite side whereby a predetermined series of numbers

corresponding to a predetermined series of letters will be simultaneously registered in said openings upon the rotation of said disks.

9. An indexing means comprising a plurality of pivotally supported disks, each having on one side letters of the alphabet arranged in a circular row and on its opposite side adjacent the edge a circular row of numbers, each corresponding with a letter of the alphabet, said numbers running in series from one to nine, and means for supporting said disks, said means having alined openings along one edge corresponding to the number of disks for the observation of said numbers.

10. An indexing means comprising a supporting means, a series of rotary disks pivotally carried by said supporting means, some of said disks being superimposed over the edges of other of said disks, each of said disks having a circular series of letters on one side and a circular series of numbers on the opposite side, the numbers running in series not exceeding nine.

11. An indexing means comprising a supporting member, a series of five disks pivotally carried by said supporting means, each of a pair of said disks being superimposed over the edges of its companion disks and located in alternation therewith, each of said disks having on one face a circular series of letters and on its opposite face a circular series of numbers not exceeding nine whereby on the rotation of the several disks to spell a name, such name will be represented by a particular arrangement of numbers.

12. An indexing means comprising a supporting member, a series of disks rotatably mounted on said supporting member, each disk being provided with letters of the alphabet on one side and numerals on the opposite side whereby upon rotation of said disks a predetermined arrangement of letters indicated on one side of said supporting member will indicate a predetermined arrangement of numerals on the opposite side of said supporting member.

13. An indexing means comprising a series of disks rotatably mounted on a support, said disks being provided with characters on one side and numerals on the opposite side, each character having a predetermined numeral on the opposite side of the disk whereby upon the rotation of said disks a predetermined combination of numerals on one side will indicate a predetermined combination of characters on the opposite side.

14. An indexing means comprising a supporting member, a series of alined disks rotatably mounted on said supporting member, each disk being provided with characters on one side adjacent the edge, and characters on the opposite side adjacent the edge whereby upon the rotation of said disks a predetermined arrangement of characters on one side of said supporting member will indicate a predetermined arrangement of characters on the opposite side of said supporting member.

15. An indexing means comprising a supporting member provided with a series of openings on one part, a series of alined disks rotatably mounted on said supporting member, each disk having a corresponding opening and provided with characters on one side, and characters on the opposite side whereby upon the selective rotation of said disks a predetermined combination of characters on one side of said supporting member will indicate a predetermined combination of characters on the opposite side of said supporting member, each character being registered in a corresponding opening on said supporting member.

Signed at Wilmington, in the county of New Hanover and State of North Carolina, this 27th day of September, 1919.

ALAN ROBB FERGUSSON.