

Tying-up.—The tying of a volume after the cover has been drawn on, so as to make the leather adhere to the sides of the bands; also for setting the head-band.

Type.—Metal letters used in printing and lettering.

Type-holder.—An instrument for holding the type when used for lettering.

Varnish.—Used as a protection to the glaire when polished on the covers of books.

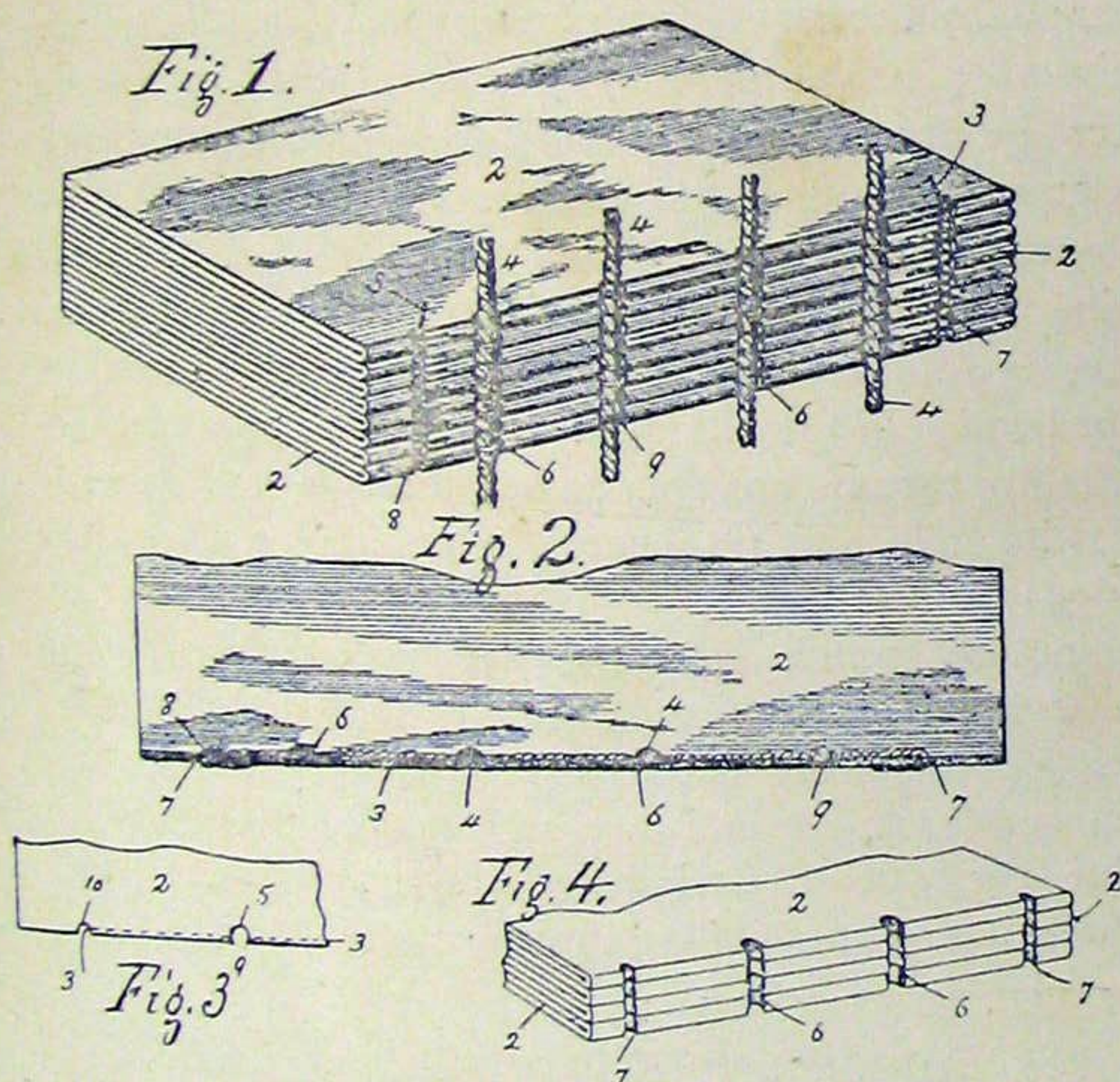
Whipping.—Another term for overcasting, but when longer stitches are made.

Witness.—When a volume is cut so as to show that it has not been so cut down but that some of the leaves have still rough edges, these uncut leaves are called “witness.”

Wrinkle.—The uneven surface in a volume, caused by not being properly pressed, or by dampness; also caused by improper backing.

[For much of the above information we are indebted to the works of Mr. Zaehnsdorf.]

New Method of Book Sewing.



OUR New York contemporary gives detailed particulars of an improved method of bookbinding. The improvement is more particularly adapted to that class of books in which the binding cords are inserted lengthwise of and lie within and continuously along the folds of the signatures in lieu of being threaded in and out, as in hand bookbinding. Its object is to produce a neat binding—one stronger than the ordinary hand binding, and, furthermore, so applied and arranged that it approximates somewhat to the hand sewing, and can be produced automatically by mechanism. Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a series of signatures united by this method of binding. Fig. 2 is a section through the fold

of a signature and transversely of the holding cords or bands. Fig. 3 is a plan of a part of a signature. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a series of signatures laid in position and showing the bandways or slots formed by the holes punched in each signature separately.

The purpose is to secure each signature firmly for its entire length to the adjoining and contiguous signatures in lieu of at intervals, as now practised in the ordinary method of hand sewing; furthermore, to obviate the use of a single binding thread, which is to be passed in and out about the holding cords and signatures and made to pass from one signature to the

next adjacent to bind all the signatures together as a unit. This is effected by providing each signature, 2, with an individual binding thread, 3, and uniting all of their extremities by successive knots, preferably by a kettle-stitch, so that if a binding thread should break only one signature could be released.

In carrying out this method of sewing, to be accomplished by automatic mechanism, a series of needles are employed—in the present instance four—or in number equal to the holding cords, 4, which they are intended to carry. These are disposed at intervals apart suitable to the length of the signatures of the book to be sewed.

Presuming that several signatures have already been united by this method, the signature to be attached is operated upon as follows: The signature, folded and with its individual binding thread, 3, laid closely within the fold, is presented to punches which are in alignment with the needles carrying the holding cords. These punches are adjusted to pass through the outer edge of the back fold of the signatures, thereby forming a series of holes, 5, through which the individual binding thread, 3, is pushed a short distance. A loop or bend, 9, is thereby formed projecting from the back fold. (See broken line, Fig. 3.) By this operation straight cuts or grooves, 6, formed in the back of the book, serve to contain the holding cords, 4, in order to give a smooth finish to the back of the book, the grooves being made up of the several holes, 5, formed by the punching of each individual signature. Similarly transverse grooves or threadways, 7, are formed by punching holes, 10, in the signatures near the ends, through which the extremities of the individual binding threads are passed and knotted at 8, the knotted strand fitting in the groove. By this the separate operation of producing grooves or channels by saw cuts, as hitherto practised, is obviated.

Following the operation of punching the signature, the latter is passed to the needles which carry the holding cords. The needles enter the hole 5 formed in the back of the signature between the latter and the loop or bend 9 in the binding threads, which project there-through. The ends of the individual binding threads are then passed through the holes 10, formed in the fold of each signature near its ends, and are secured by a kettle or other locking stitch to the ends of the preceding signature last laid.

The formation of the braided or knotted strands indicated at 8 makes a very strong as well as elastic fastening, and the individual binding cords are not so liable to break. In the event of one of such cords breaking only that signature held thereby is released, the binding threads which hold the signatures next adjacent and contiguous not being disturbed or released, since each binding thread is independently fastened. Thus the escape of several signatures by the breaking of one binding thread cannot occur.

Cloth Binder's Specimen Plate.

The renowned old firm of Wesley's will be found to have contributed this month a sample of blocking that well represents this ancient house. It is not a design likely to fascinate a young mademoiselle whose soul is locked up in her paint-box; but happily it was never intended so to do. There is many a lover of heraldic art who will prize it highly, and all practical men engaged in the blocking trade will credit it with an excellence of finish and perfection of glazed colouring not always to be met with. The coat-of-arms on the upper portion of the cover is as near perfect as a cloth-blocker is likely to get it.