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reading means having a plurality of openings there-
 through intersecting with a braille reading surface
 to be scanned by the fingers of the braille reader to
 define a braille character, respective ones of said
 rod means being operative within respective ones of
 said openings in said reading means and for
 being elevated in one operative position above the
 surface of said reading surface to be sensed by the
 fingers of the reader and for retraction relative to
 said elevated position in another operative position;
 and
 each of said reed means being relatively broad having
 a pair of opposed broad faces and a pair of narrow
 side faces and being stacked with their respective
 broad faces in mutually opposed relation and with
 a plurality of said reed means having their free end
 portions extending beyond the terminus of a plural-
 ity of said other ones of said reed means, and at
 least one of said reed means having an opening
 extending therethrough from one broad face to the
 other to accommodate passage therethrough of one
 of said rod means.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said opening in
 one of said reed means comprises a notch extending into
 said reed means from an edge thereof.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the free ends of
 said reed means are tiered in pairs in a stair step confi-
 guration with the top reed of each stepped pair notched to
 provide said opening to accommodate passage there-
 through of one of said rod means operatively associated
 with the lower reed in said stepped pair of reeds.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said reed means
 are of essentially the same length, and wherein said
 fulcrum points of support for said reed are tiered in pairs
 in a stair step configuration.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said rod means
 each include a shoulder portion for engagement with
 the marginal edge of the opening in said reading means
 through which said rod means passes for limiting the
 axial extent of travel of the respective rod means within
 said opening in said reading means and thus for deter-
 mining the maximum projection of the respective rod
 means above the braille reading surface.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 including means slideably
 inserted within each of said sensing rod means for ad-
 justing the length of said composite sensing rod means.

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