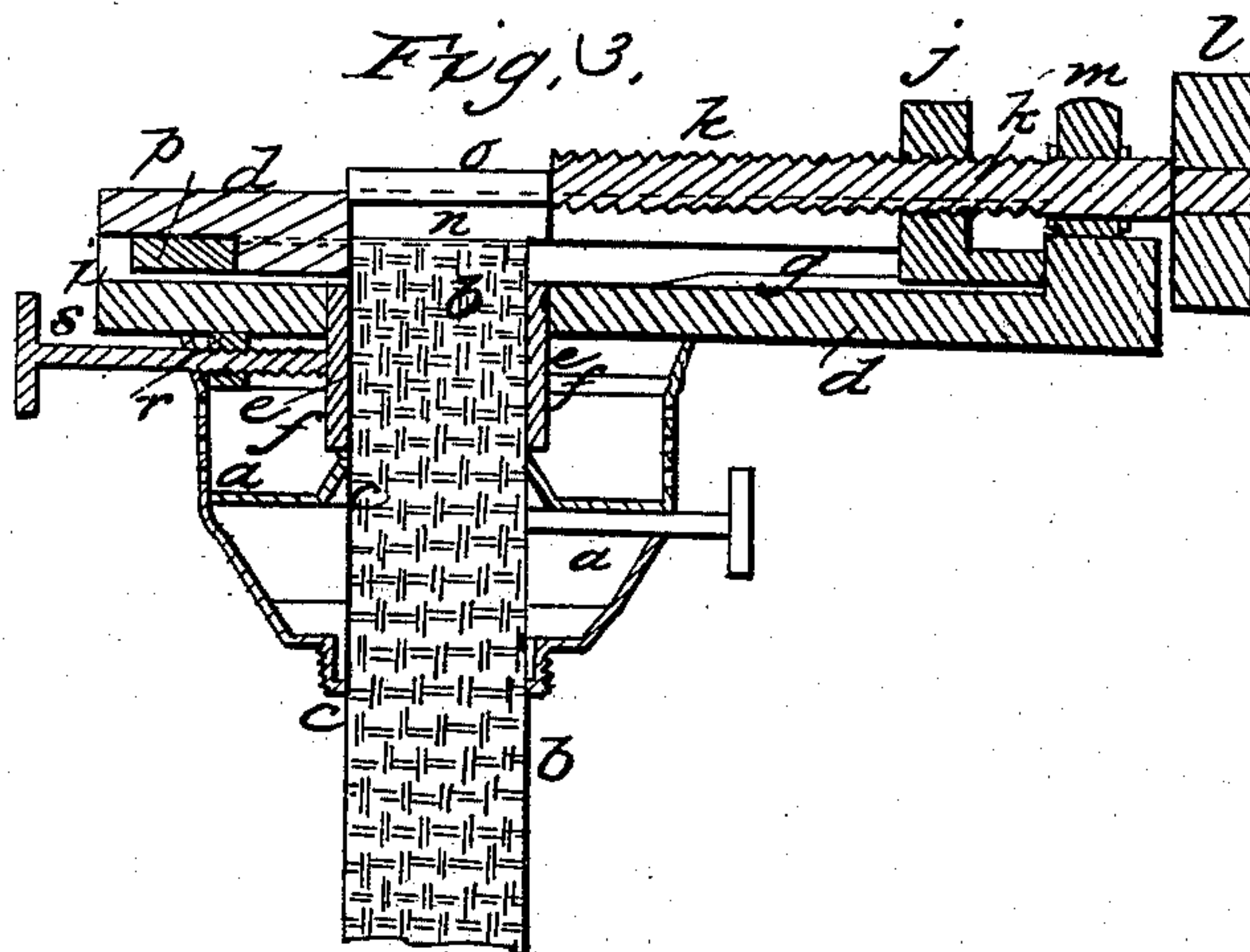
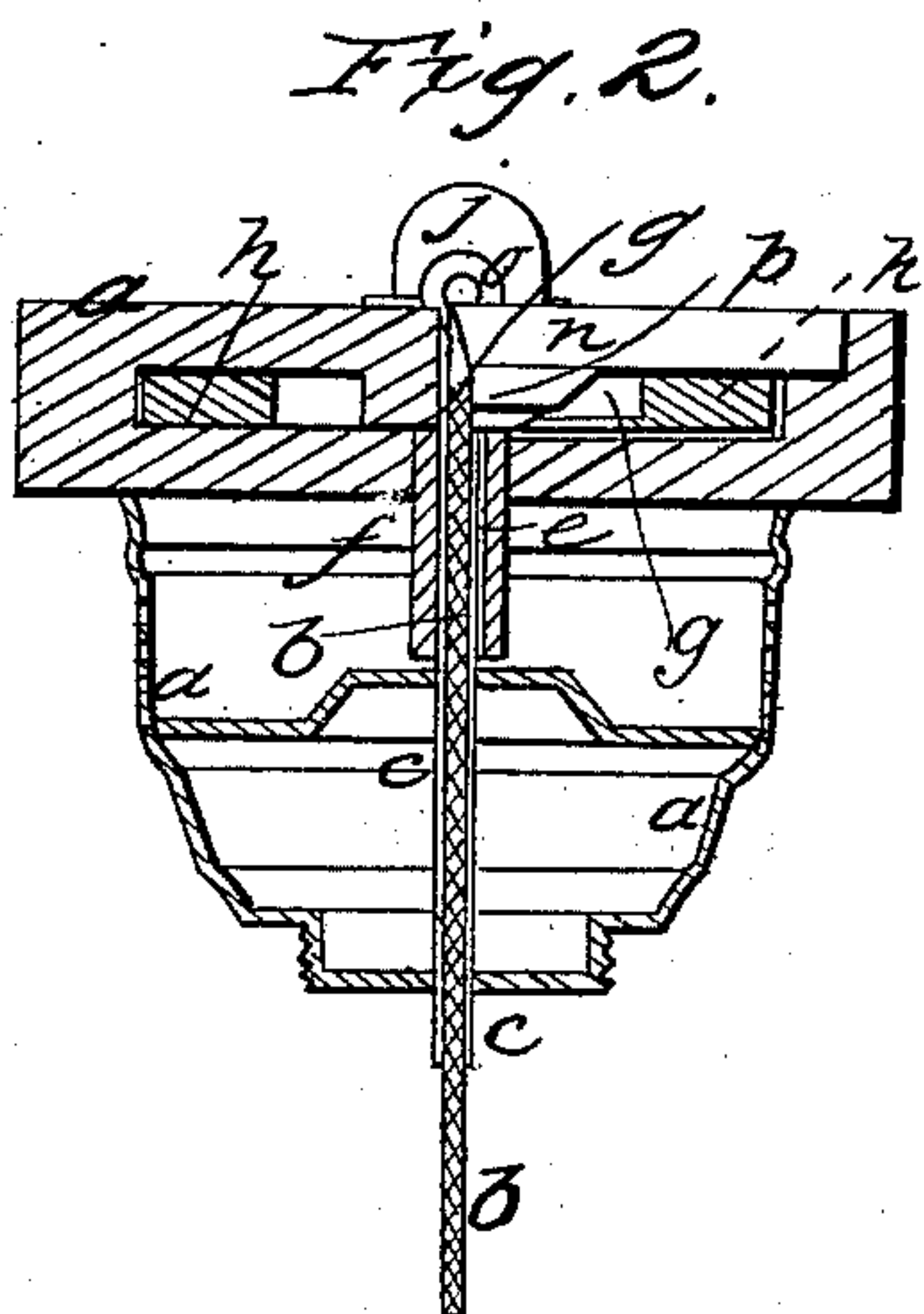
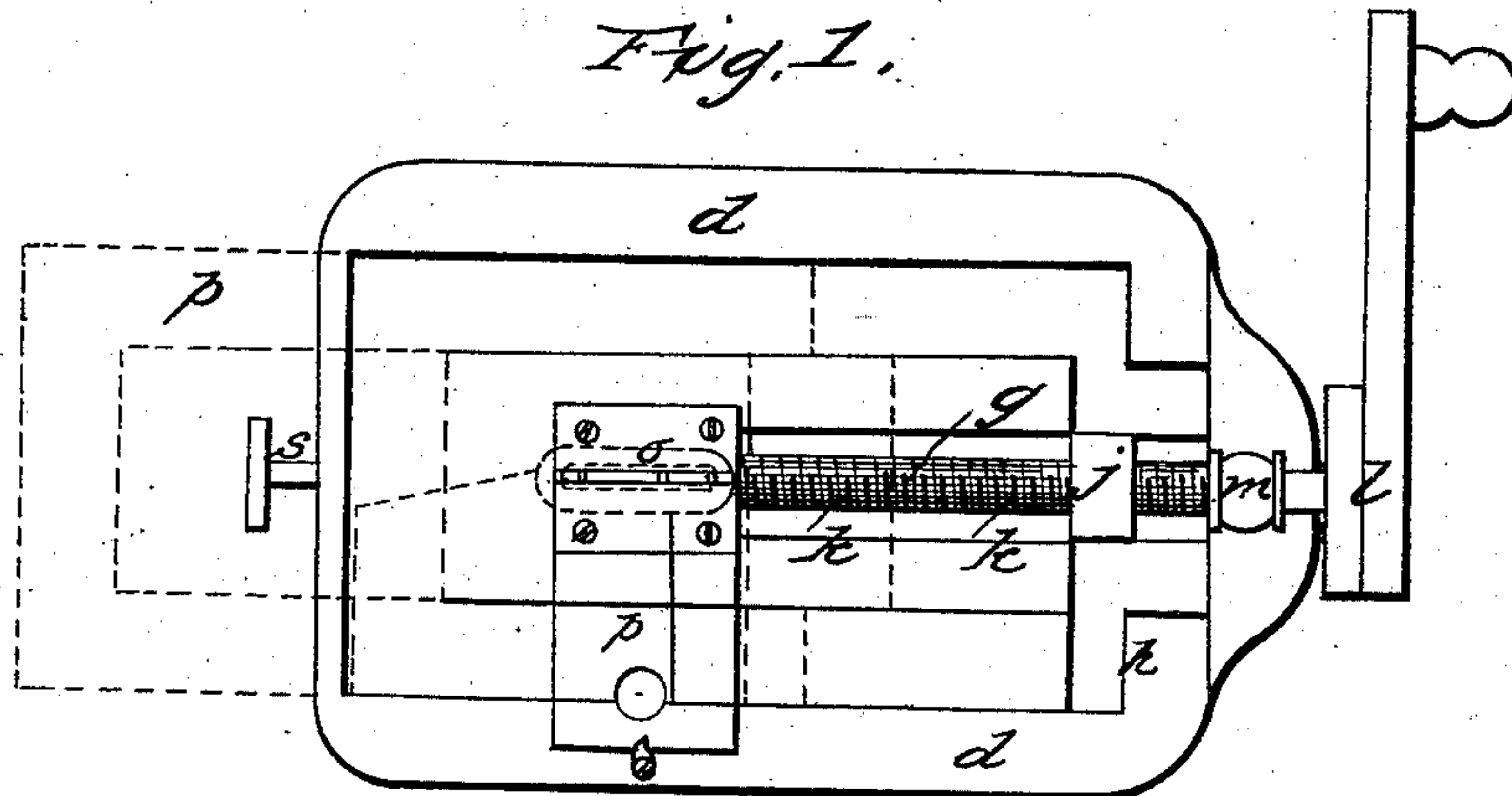


A. R. TURNER.  
Wick Trimmer.

No. 31,915.

Patented April 2, 1861.



Witnesses:  
Albert W. Brown.  
Joseph Garrett

Inventor:  
A. R. Turner  
by his atty.  
Geo. S. Weeks



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED R. TURNER, OF MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS.

## APPARATUS FOR TRIMMING WICKS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 31,915, dated April 2, 1861.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, A. R. TURNER, of Malden, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Apparatus Used for the Trimming of the Wicks of Lamps, and that the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, hereinafter referred to, forms a full and exact specification of the same, wherein I have set forth the nature and principles of my said improvements, by which my invention may be distinguished from all others of a similar class, together with such parts as I claim and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent.

In the burning of lamps especially those intended for kerosene and sperm oils, it is very desirable that an even flame should be produced, which can not be the case, if the wicks of the same are not evenly trimmed.

Heretofore the wicks have usually been trimmed by hand, that is by the use of the common shears, which mode was liable to soil the hands, deface or injure the clothes of the person and never could give that evenness of finish or "trim" which is so desirable in the burning of the lamps.

The present invention consists in a novel arrangement of mechanical devices to be used for the purpose of trimming the wicks of lamps and by means of which the same are always sure to be unerringly and rapidly cut, without being obliged to place the hands in contact with the same.

In the accompanying plate of drawings my improvements are represented as attached to the ordinary kerosene oil lamps and of which—

Figure 1 is a plan or top view, Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section and Fig. 3 is a central longitudinal vertical section.

*a a* represent the top portion of the lamps used for the burning of kerosene oil and made of the usual form.

*b* is the wick passing through the wick-tube *c* of the lamp.

*d* is a frame susceptible of being placed upon the top end *e* of the tube *c* the short tube *f* attached to the lower surface of the frame *d* fitting over the outside of the same. In this frame *d* is a knife *g* having a beveled edge or tapering from heel to point and which is secured to a sliding carriage *h* moving through a suitable way or passage *i* for the same. This carriage *h* to which the

knife or blade *g* is attached as described, has a rectilinear motion imparted to it by means of the following mechanical devices; viz.; *j* is a standard of the carriage *h* in which works a horizontal screw *k* operated by a crank *l* upon its outer end and which passes loosely through a standard *m* of the frame *d*.

*n* is a cover turning upon a hinge *o* opening upon the top of the frame *d*, of equal width with the wick and set over the place where the short tube *f* passes through the frame *d*. This cover *n* has a lip *p* formed on its under surface, the object of which is to hold the wick during the operation of cutting or trimming the same.

The short tube *f* of the frame *d* being slipped over the top portion of the wick tube of the lamp, the adjustment and operation of the apparatus is as follows: The wick, after having been turned up, by the usual means employed in kerosene oil lamps, a sufficient distance for the trimming or cutting of the same by the knife *g* or above the lower horizontal surface of the way *i*, is firmly and securely held by the edge *q* of the lip *p* and of the cover *n*, which when the cover is closed presses the top of the wick between the same and the edge *r* of the frame *d* and also by means of the screw *s*, passing through a bearing *r* on the lower surface of the frame *d*, and pressing against the wick in the short tube *f*. The knife *g* being of the tapering form herein described and represented in the drawings,—by the turning of the screw *k* working through the standard *j* of the carriage *h* of the same, is then made to move in a rectilinear direction, passing over the lower horizontal surface of the way *i*, which thereby cuts or trims the wick rapidly and accurately and also imparts to the top of the same that evenness of trimming which is so desirable in the burning of kerosene and other oil lamps in order to produce a steady and even flame. The knife *g* is allowed to move a sufficient distance to trim or cut the whole width and thickness of the wick and is replaced in proper position for cutting the wick of another lamp by merely reversing the movement of the screw *k*; and the apparatus can be removed from the lamp after having turned back the screw *s* pressing against the wick.

It will be evident that the knife *g* and its carriage *h* may be made to move in a recti-

linear direction or back and forth, by other means than those described, as for instance, it could be pushed forward with the hand and a spiral spring being attached to it, 5 would necessarily force it back to its original position.

Having thus described my improvements, what I claim as my invention and desire to have secured to me by Letters Patent, is—

10 The organized apparatus herein described for trimming the wicks of lamps, the same

consisting substantially of the knife *g* attached to a traveling carriage which is made to move back and forth in a horizontal plane while the wick is firmly held by any suitable 15 holding device during the cutting operation, as set forth.

ALFRED R. TURNER.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH GAVETT,  
A. W. BROWN.