

*J. B. Shannon.*

*Speaking Tube.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 67,918.*

*Patented Aug. 20, 1867.*

FIG. 1.

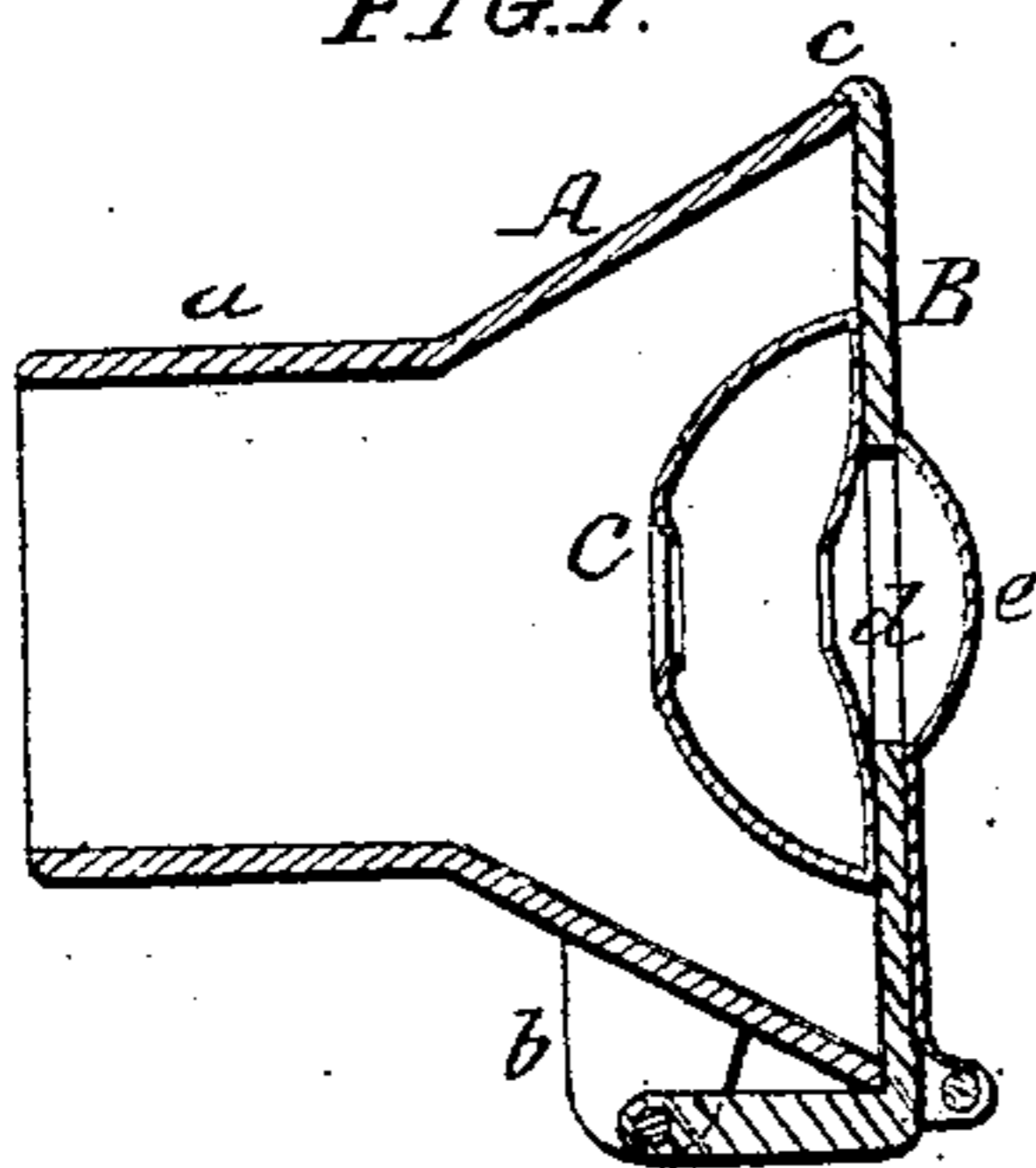


FIG. 2.

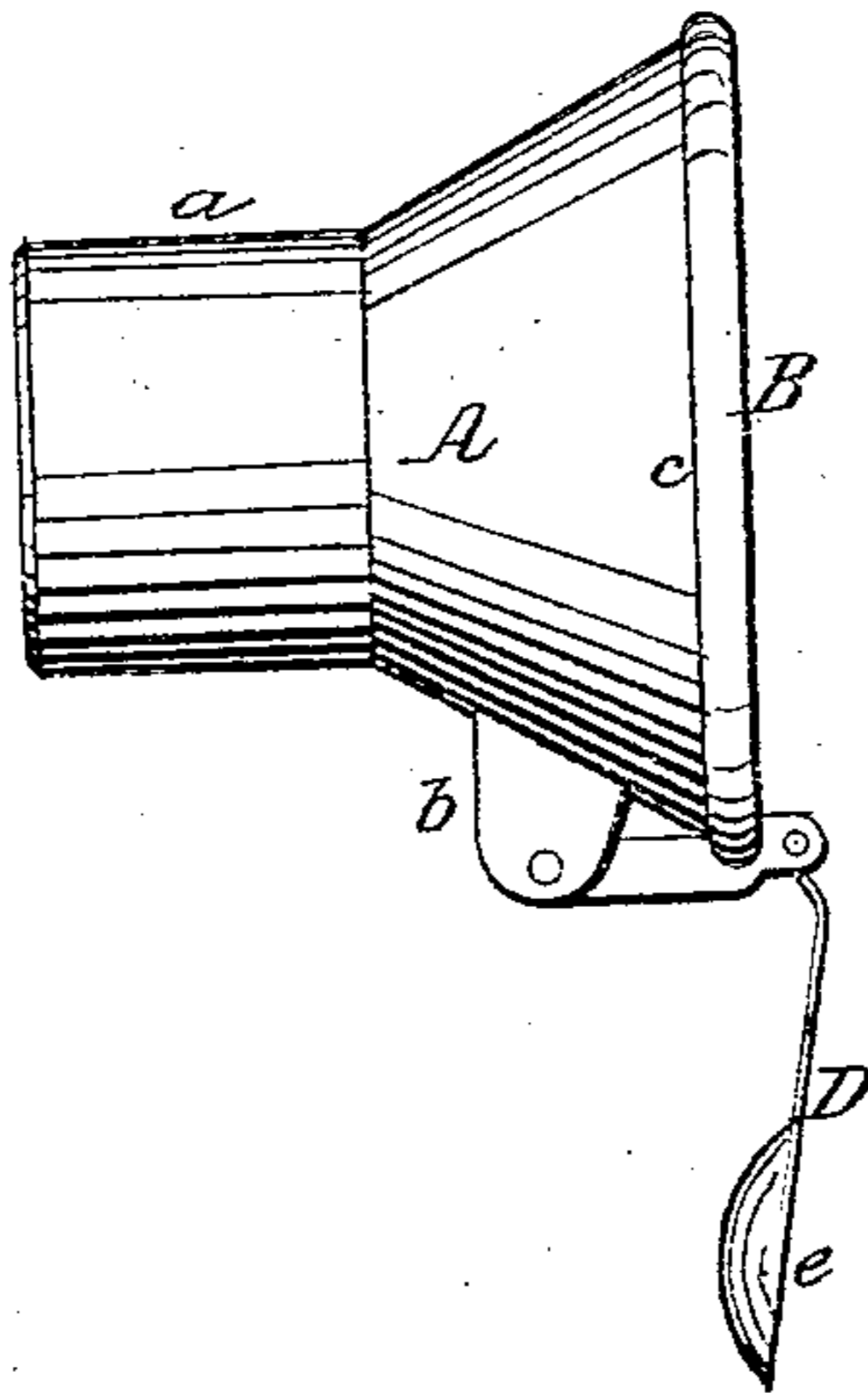


FIG. 6.

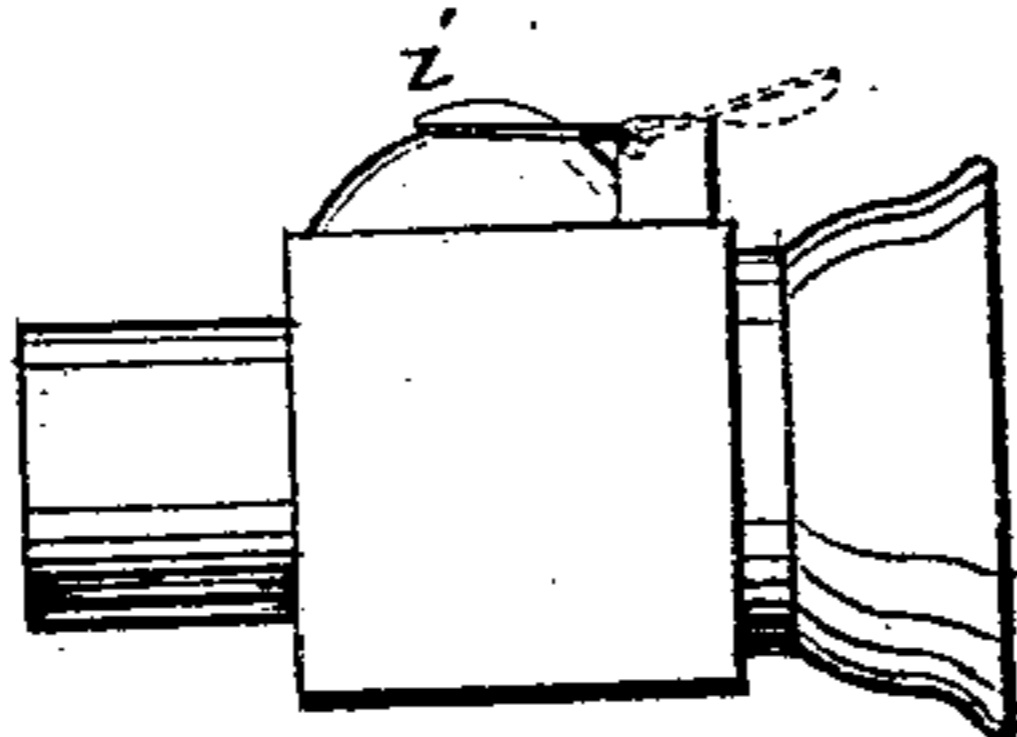


FIG. 3.

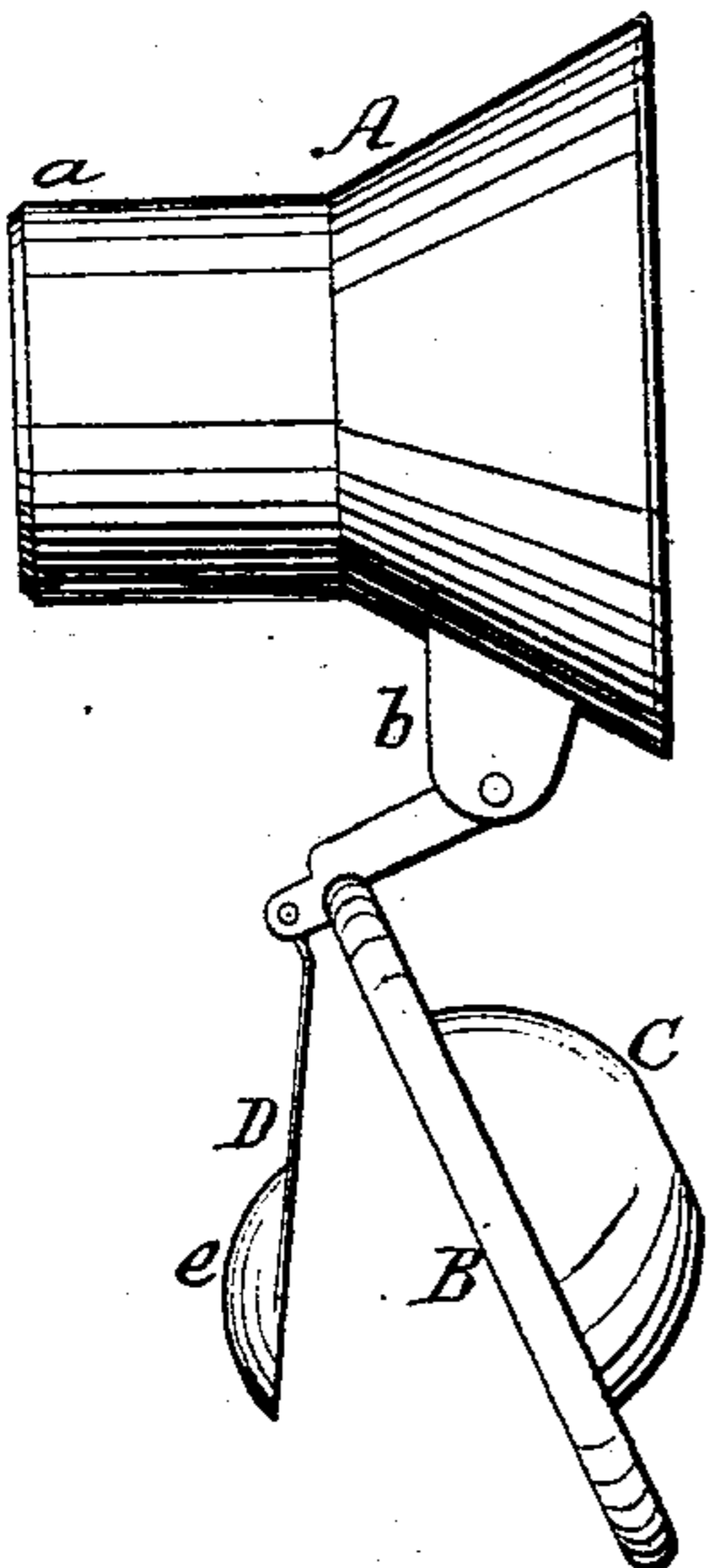


FIG. 4.

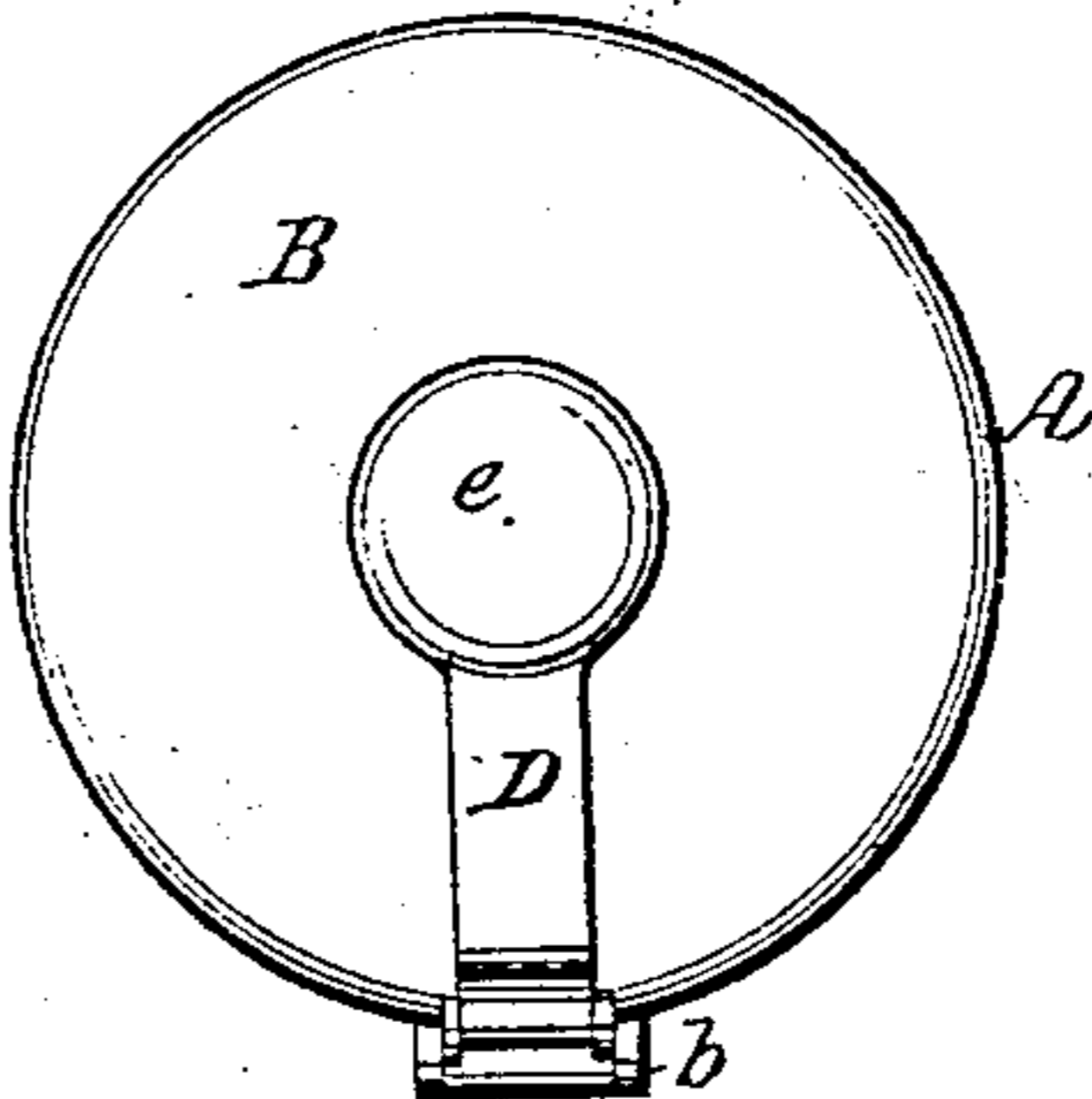
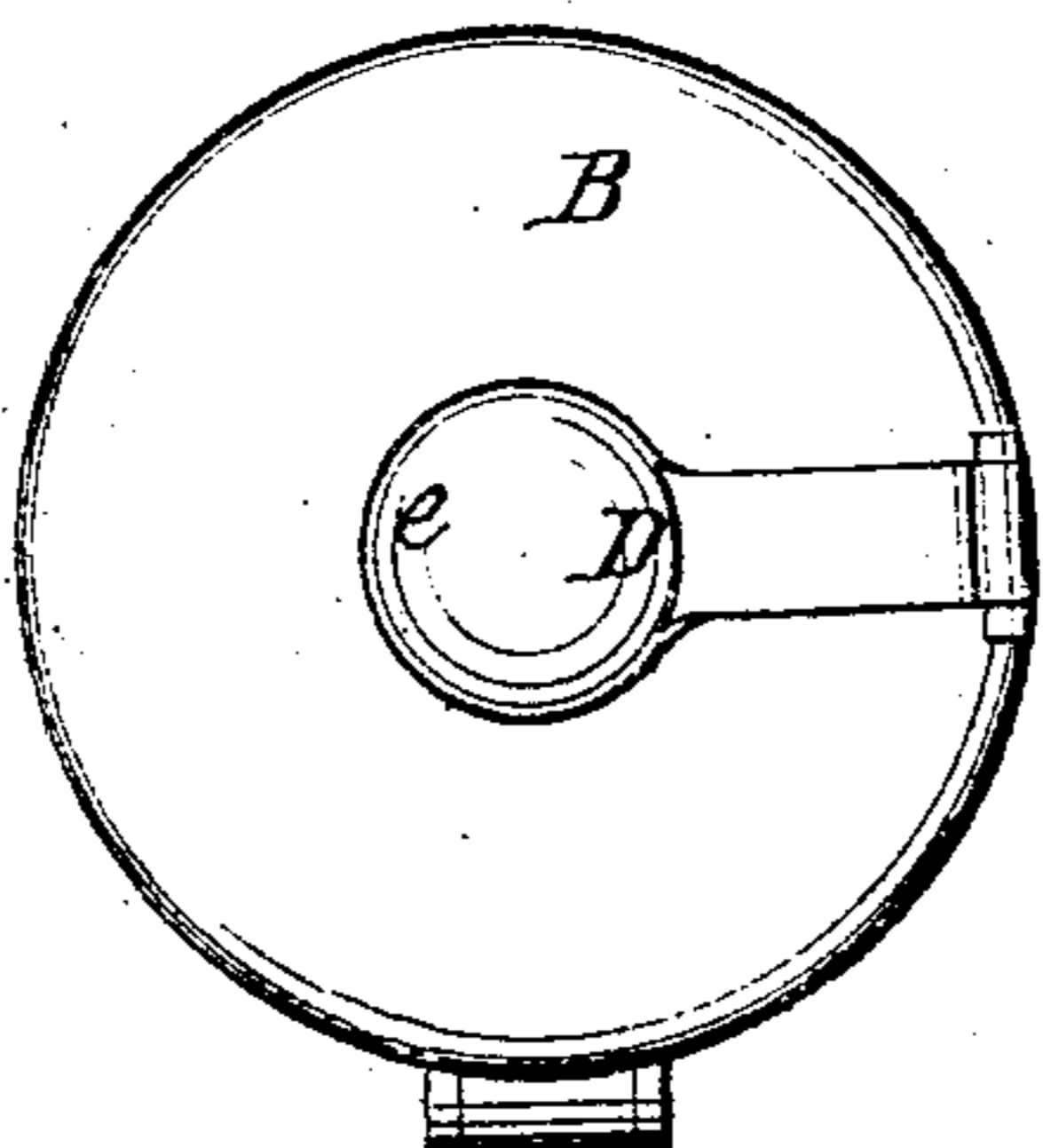


FIG. 5.



*Witnesses.*

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By his Atty  
H. Howson*

# United States Patent Office.

J. B. SHANNON, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

*Letters Patent No. 67,918, dated August 20, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN SPEAKING-TUBES.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, J. B. SHANNON, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented an Improvement in Mouth-Pieces for Speaking-Tubes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My invention consists of a flap or plate, hinged to the cover of the mouth-piece of a speaking-tube as described hereafter, so that on blowing through the tube it will be caused to fall or to swing to one side, thereby indicating, when a number of tubes are arranged together, the one from which the signal has proceeded.

In order to enable others to make and use my invention, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical section of my improved mouth-piece for speaking-tubes.

Figure 2, an exterior view of the same.

Figure 3, a view of the mouth-piece with the cover depressed.

Figure 4, a front view.

Figure 5, a modification of my invention; and

Figure 6, a view of an ordinary mouth-piece.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

A is the mouth-piece, of cast iron, sheet metal, or other suitable material, the cylindrical portion *a* of which is secured to an ordinary speaking-tube. To a projection, *b*, on the under side of the mouth-piece, is hinged the cover B, provided with a flange, *c*, by means of which it is held in an elevated position against the front of the mouth-piece, as shown in fig. 1. Secured to the inner face of the cover B is an alarm-whistle, C, the holes in which are concentric with a larger opening, *d*, in the cover. A light sheet-metal plate, D, the upper concave portion *e* of which is arranged to close the opening *d*, is so hinged to a small projection on the lower part of the cover B that, when placed against the face of the latter, it will remain in an elevated position, but so that a slight current of air from the tube will be sufficient to cause it to fall to the position shown in fig. 2.

When a number of mouth-pieces connected with speaking-tubes is arranged side by side, as is often the case in large buildings, and the whistle is sounded to attract attention, it is a difficult matter to discover from which tube the sound proceeds. To remedy this defect the device illustrated in fig. 6 has been adopted. In this case the whistle is secured to the top of a box at the rear of the mouth-piece, and its opening covered by a horizontal hinged flap, *i*. When the whistle is sounded the flap *i* rises, and sometimes falls back to the position shown in dotted lines, thus indicating the tube from which the sound has proceeded; but as the flap sometimes rises and then falls to its first position, the device is unreliable. In order to prevent this I construct the mouth-piece, as above described, so that the slightest current of air blown through the tube and whistle is sufficient to cause the plate D to fall, in which position it will remain until returned to its proper place. When it is desired to speak through the tube the cover B is turned upon its hinge and depressed, as shown in fig. 3.

In the modification of my invention, shown in fig. 5, the plate D is hinged at one side of the cover B, so that it will open laterally, the mouth-piece being sufficiently inclined to prevent it from returning to its place.

I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The flap or plate D, hinged to and arranged on the corner of the mouth-piece A in respect to the opening *d* in the said cover, as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

J. B. SHANNON.

Witnesses:

CHARLES E. FOSTER,

JOHN WHITE.