(No Model.)

J. D. KELLY.

Construction of Posts and Columns.

No. 232,274. Patented Sept. 14, 1880.

Fig. 3

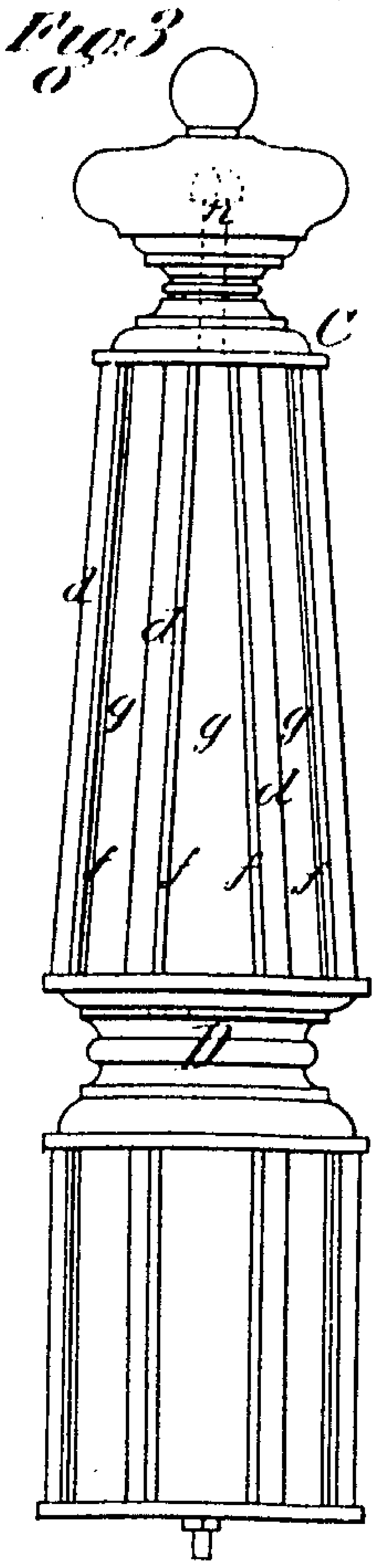

Fig. 1

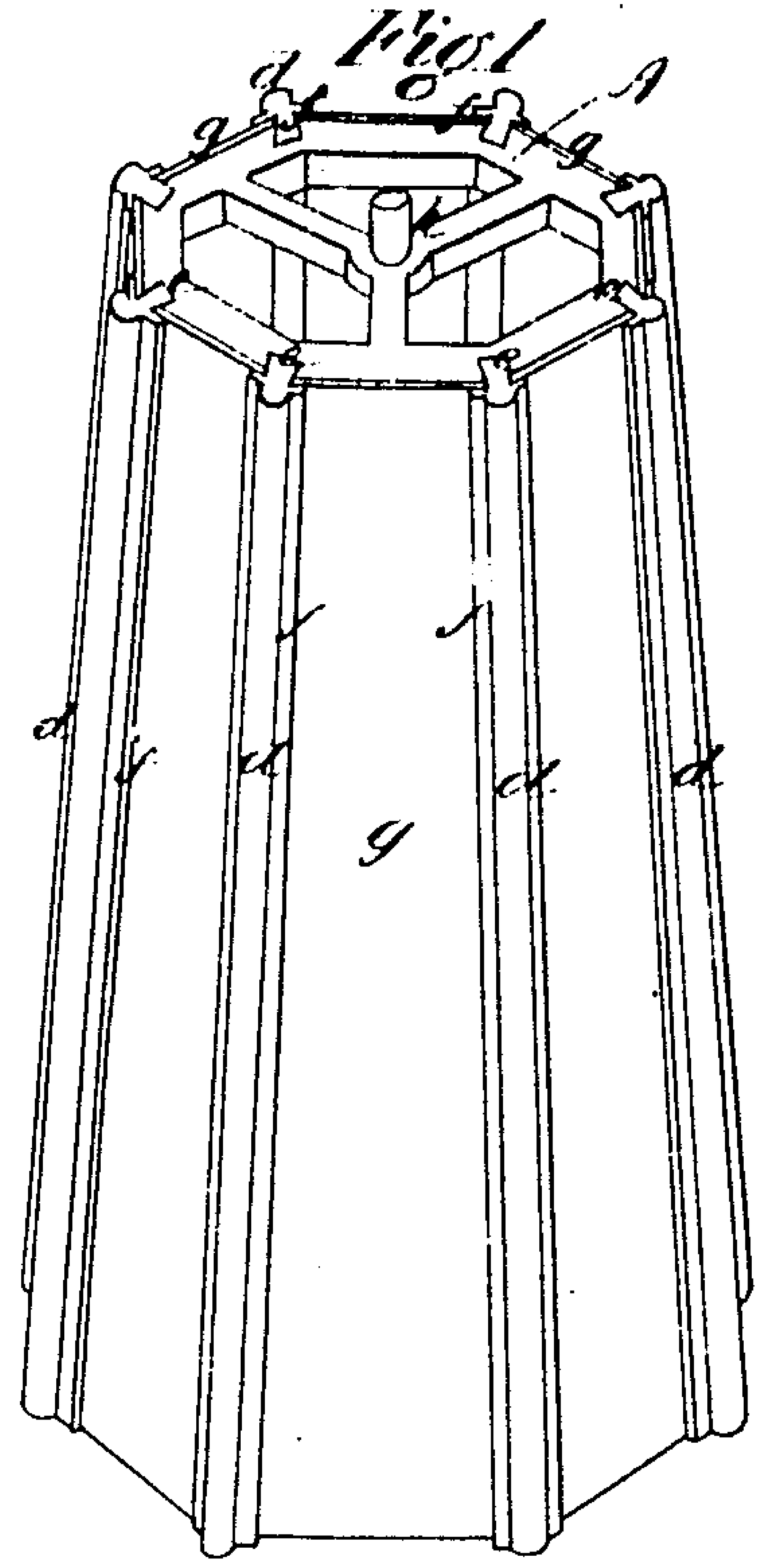

Fig. 4

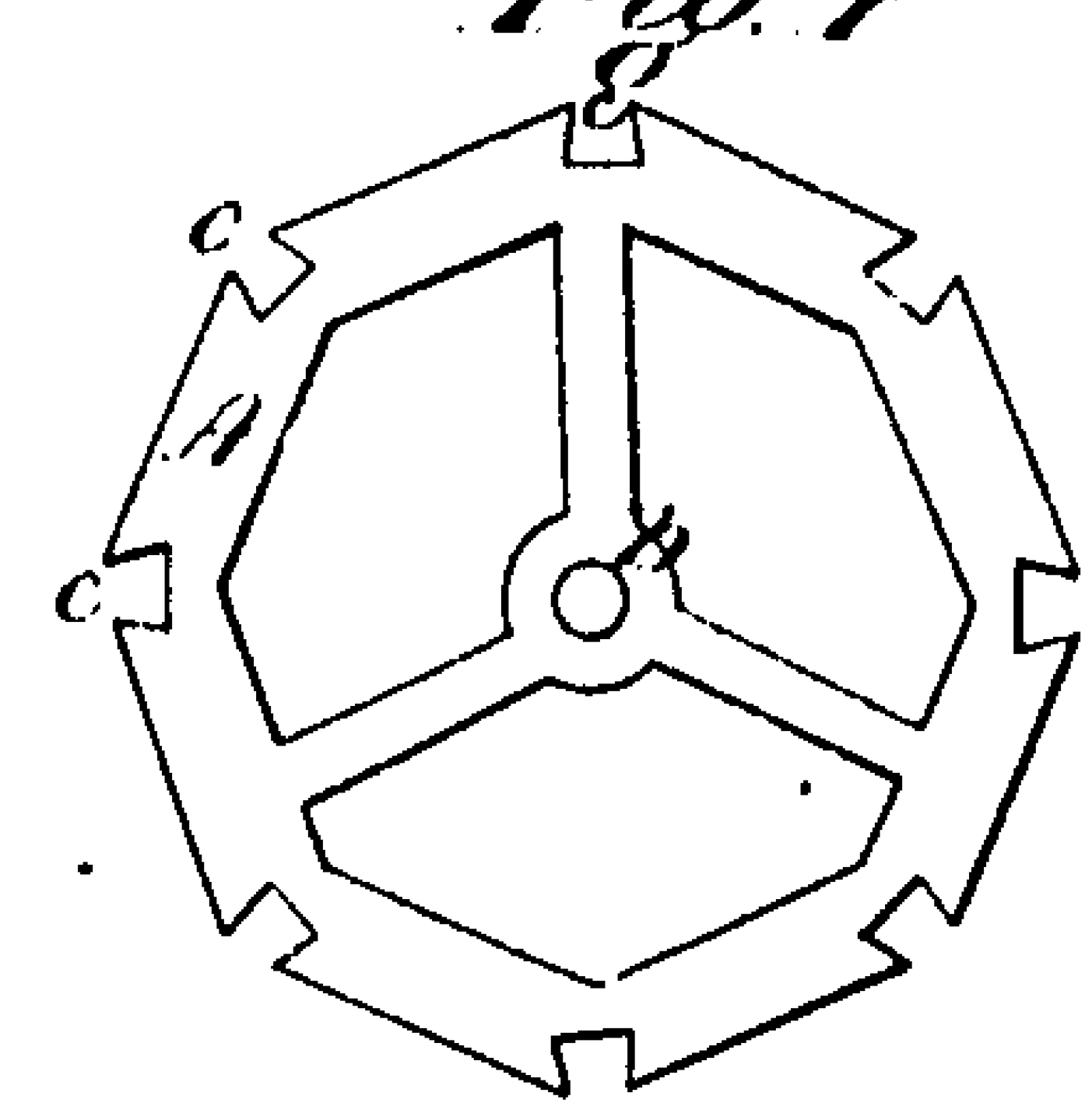

Fig. 5

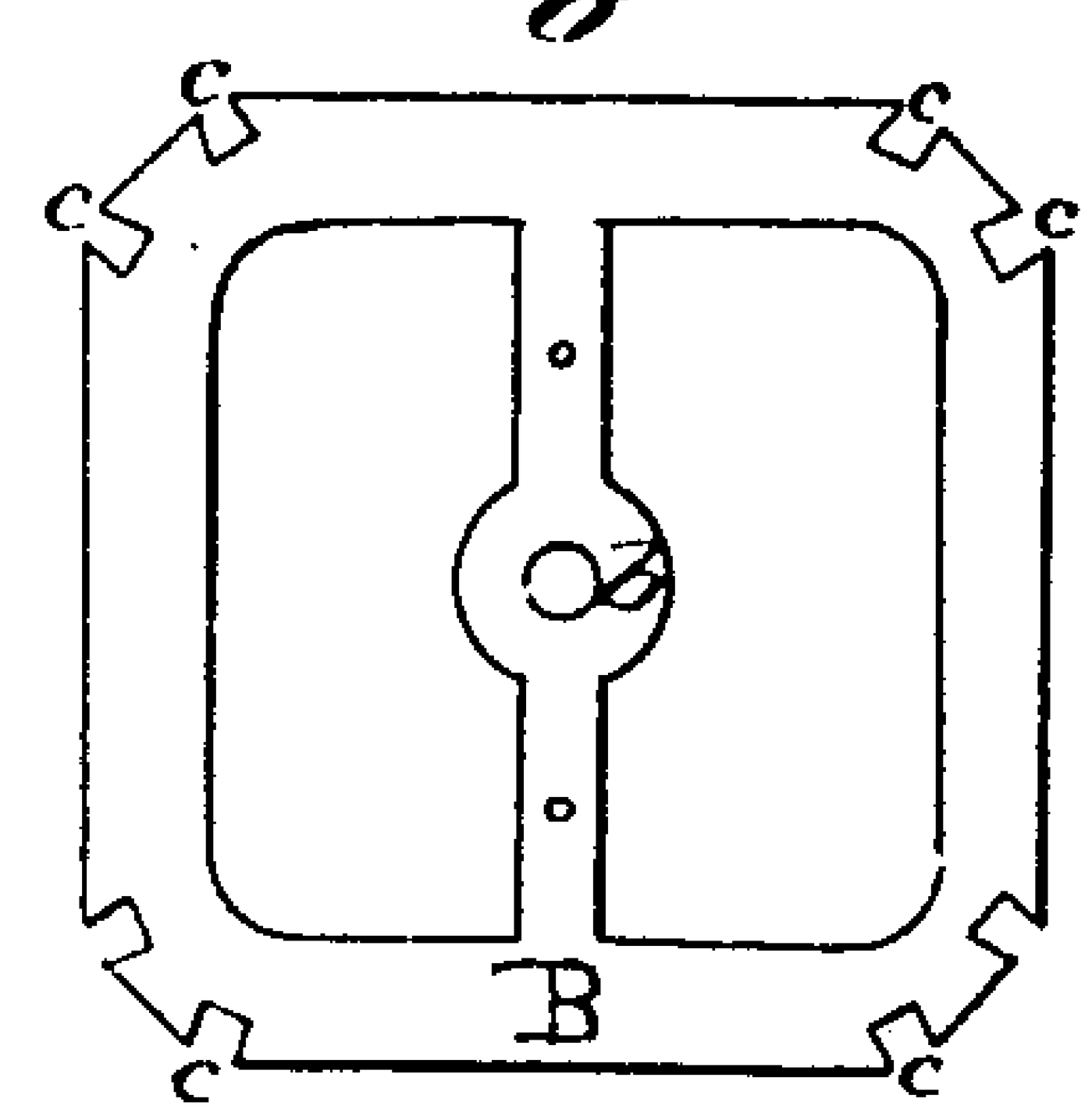

Fig. 2

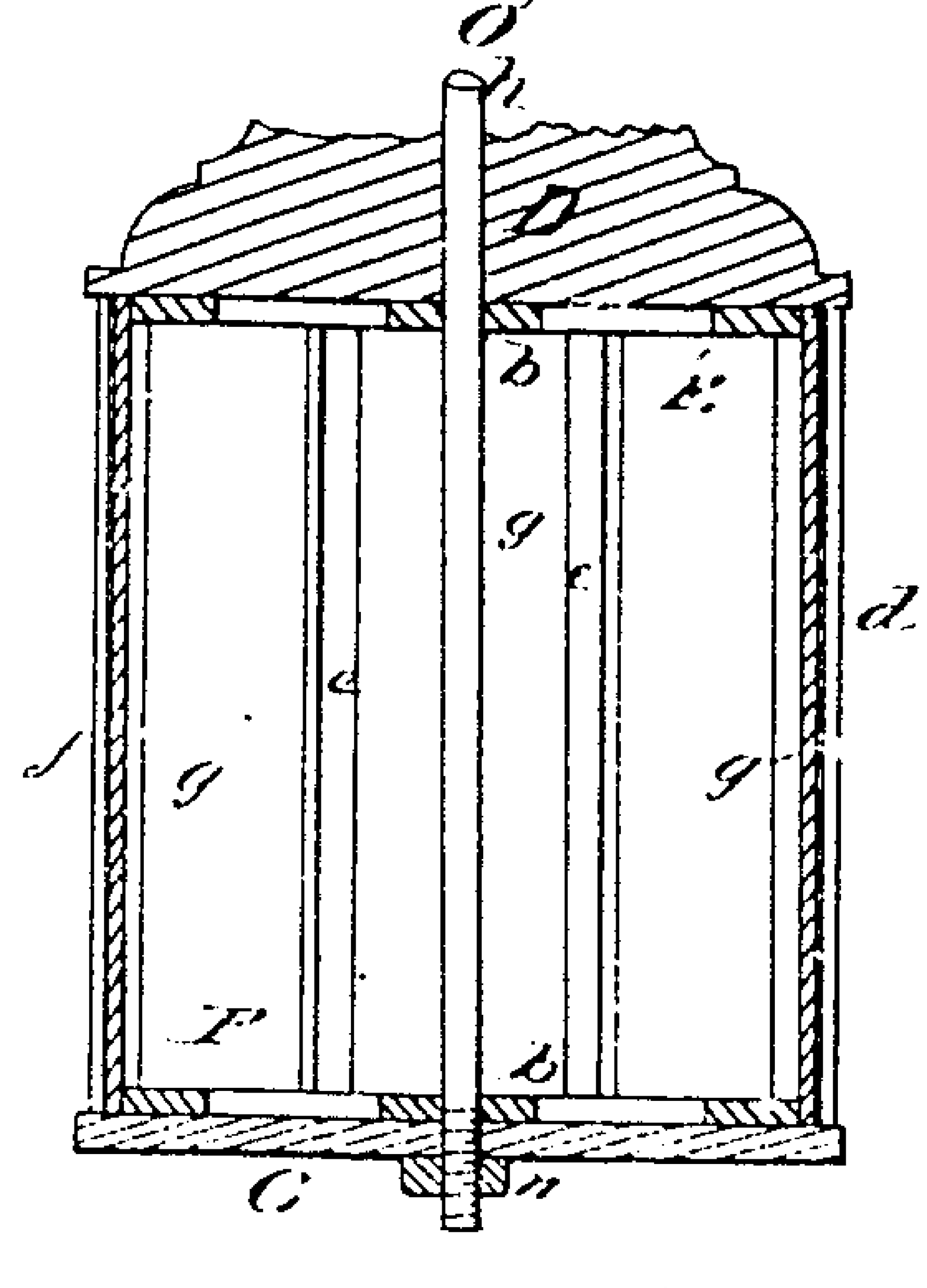

Fig. 6

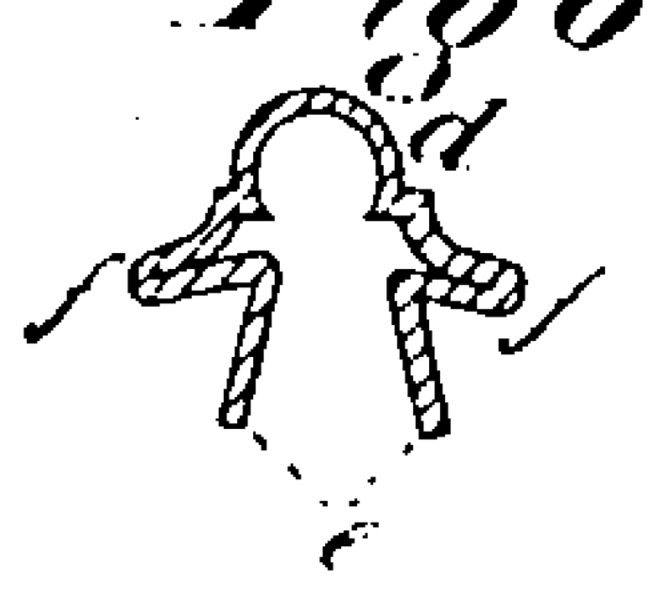

Fig. 7

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES D. KELLY, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

CONSTRUCTION OF POSTS AND COLUMNS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 232,274, dated September 14, 1880.

Application filed April 26, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES D. KELLY, of Pittsburg, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Posts and Columns; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of the upper part of a newel-post constructed after my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the lower part of the same. Fig. 3 represents a complete newel-post when finished on my plan. Figs. 4 and 5 are modifications in the form of the metal spiders. Figs. 6 and 7 show different forms of the strips.

This invention relates to the construction of posts, pillars, columns, &c., and is designed as an improvement on Letters Patent No. 172,126, granted to me on January 11, 1876.

In said patent I used a prismatic shell with dovetail grooves longitudinally at the corners; but the preparation of patterns for the various-sized shells was expensive and the casting difficult and somewhat costly.

My present improvement consists in using, instead of the shell, metallic rings at the ends of the section, each ring being in outline shaped according to the exterior to be presented by the post, and having at its corners, or at intervals in its edges, dovetail notches; further, in combining with such rings correspondingly-tongued strips having beads or flanges and panels inserted between the beads and the notched rings, and securing all together by a rod or gas-pipe and draw-nut, as before.

More particularly, my said improvement is as follows, reference being had to the annexed drawings:

A designates a ring or spider, of iron, having the central aperture, *b*, and eight equal sides, or any other desired number, at each corner of which is a dovetail notch, *c*, as shown.

In constructing a newel-post, for example, the upper section of panel-work is generally pyramidal in form. For this work I construct two spiders, A or B, the lower being larger than the upper one. Laying the larger one on any suitable flat surface, I build as follows: I have a number of strips, *d*, of wood or other material, each having the undercut tongue *e* and the overhanging beads or flanges *f*. The exterior of the strip is molded according to fancy. I first lay in position the panels *g*, which may be plain or ornamental, and then insert the strips *d*, so that the tongues *e* will enter the notches in the lower spider and the flanges *f* will overlap the panels. After all are inserted I set on the upper spider, so that the panels *g* will be outside it, the strips *d*, with their tongues in the notches and their flanges *f* overlapping the panels. A cap, C, is then laid on, preferably with an overhanging lip, as shown, and a socket or recess for the nut *n*. A corresponding molding-piece, D, is then placed under the section already constructed. I next build up a square section, as follows: To the under side of piece D, I attach the notched spider E, and attach a spider, F, to a base-board, G. Then, proceeding with the strips and panels as before, the pedestal or lower section of a newel-post is built up. The sides being in this case parallel, I prevent the movement or displacement of the spiders by nailing or screwing them to the parts D and G, respectively. The whole is drawn together and held by a piece of gas-pipe or a rod, *h*, passing down through the post, and secured by nuts *n* at top and bottom, as shown.

As in my previous patent, the exact shape of the post is not a part of the invention, it being alike applicable to all sorts of posts, pillars, columns, pedestals, &c., whether square, round, octagonal, or other shape. All that is required is to make the spiders of the desired shape. Having these, I can make the sections of strips and panels of any length with but one set of castings.

Instead of the ordinary wood strips *d*, I can construct sheet-metal strips *d*, as shown in Fig. 6, or I can make round tongues, as in Fig. 7, instead of the square dovetails previously described.

I claim as my invention—

1. In the construction of posts and columns, the combination of spiders A, having periph-

eral notches *e*, with the tongued strips *d*, having beads or flanges *f*, and the panels *g*, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the molding-piece D, having spider E attached thereto, and constructed with peripheral notches, the base-board G, having the attached notched spider E, and beaded and tongued strips *d* and panels *g*, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand.

Witnesses: JAMES D. KELLY.

T. J. McTIGHE,

JOHN E. DUFFY.