

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. J. STELLWAGEN.

SPONGE CUP.

No. 246,044.

Patented Aug. 23, 1881.

Fig. 1,

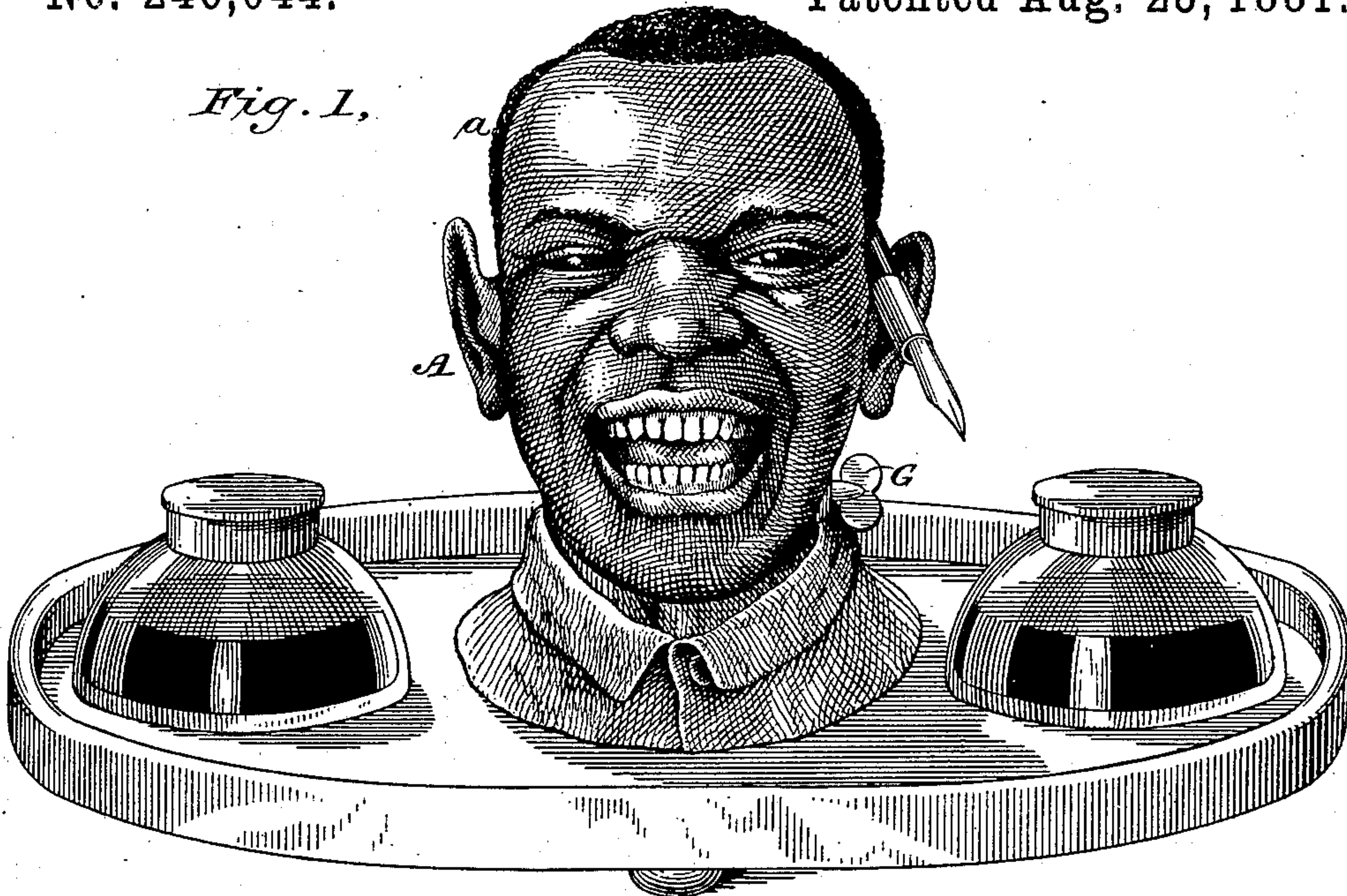
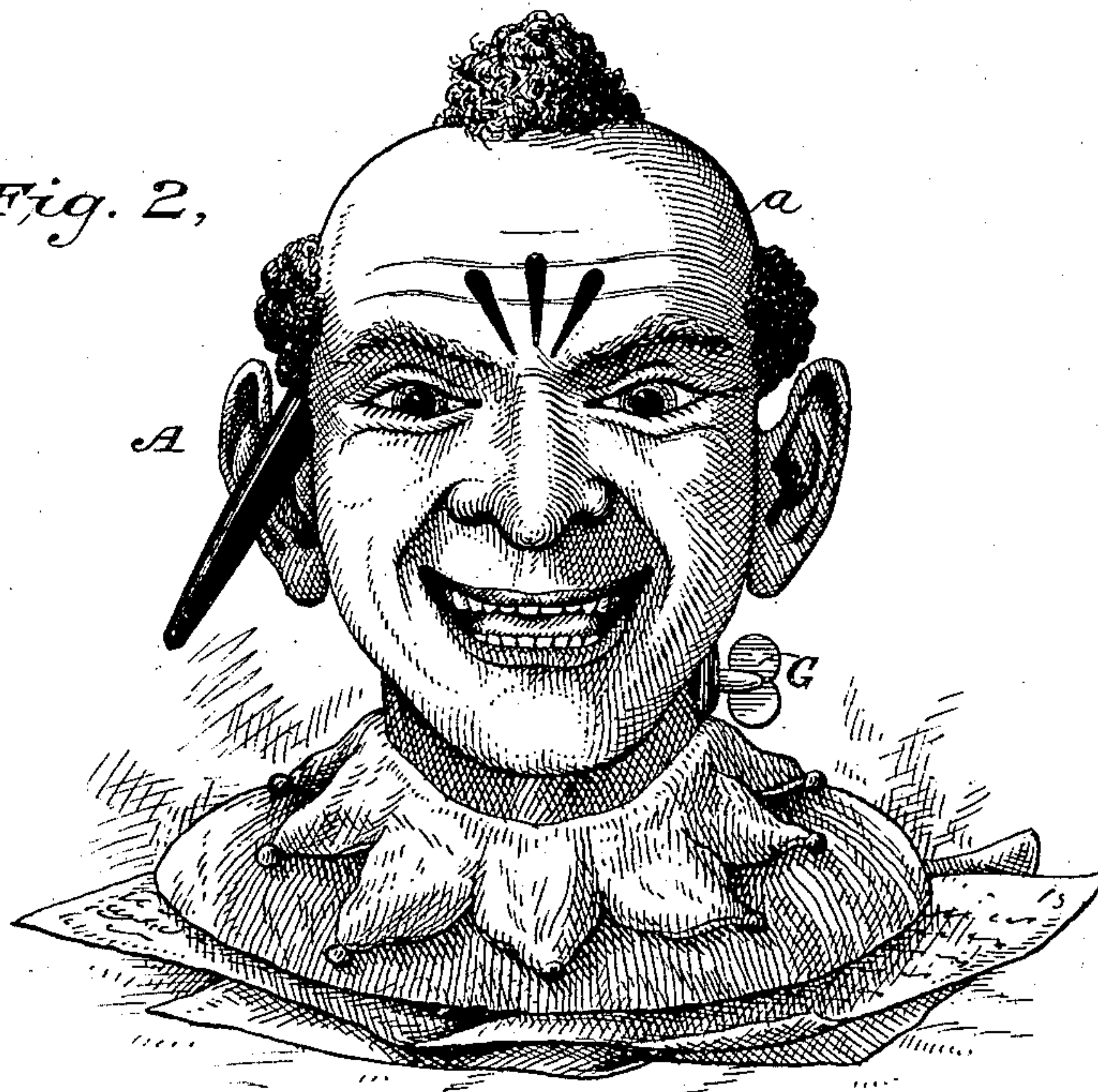


Fig. 2,



WITNESSES

Wm A. Shinkley,  
Geo W. Buck

INVENTOR

By his Attorneys Edward J. Stellwagen,  
Baldwin, Hopkins, Payton

(No Model.)

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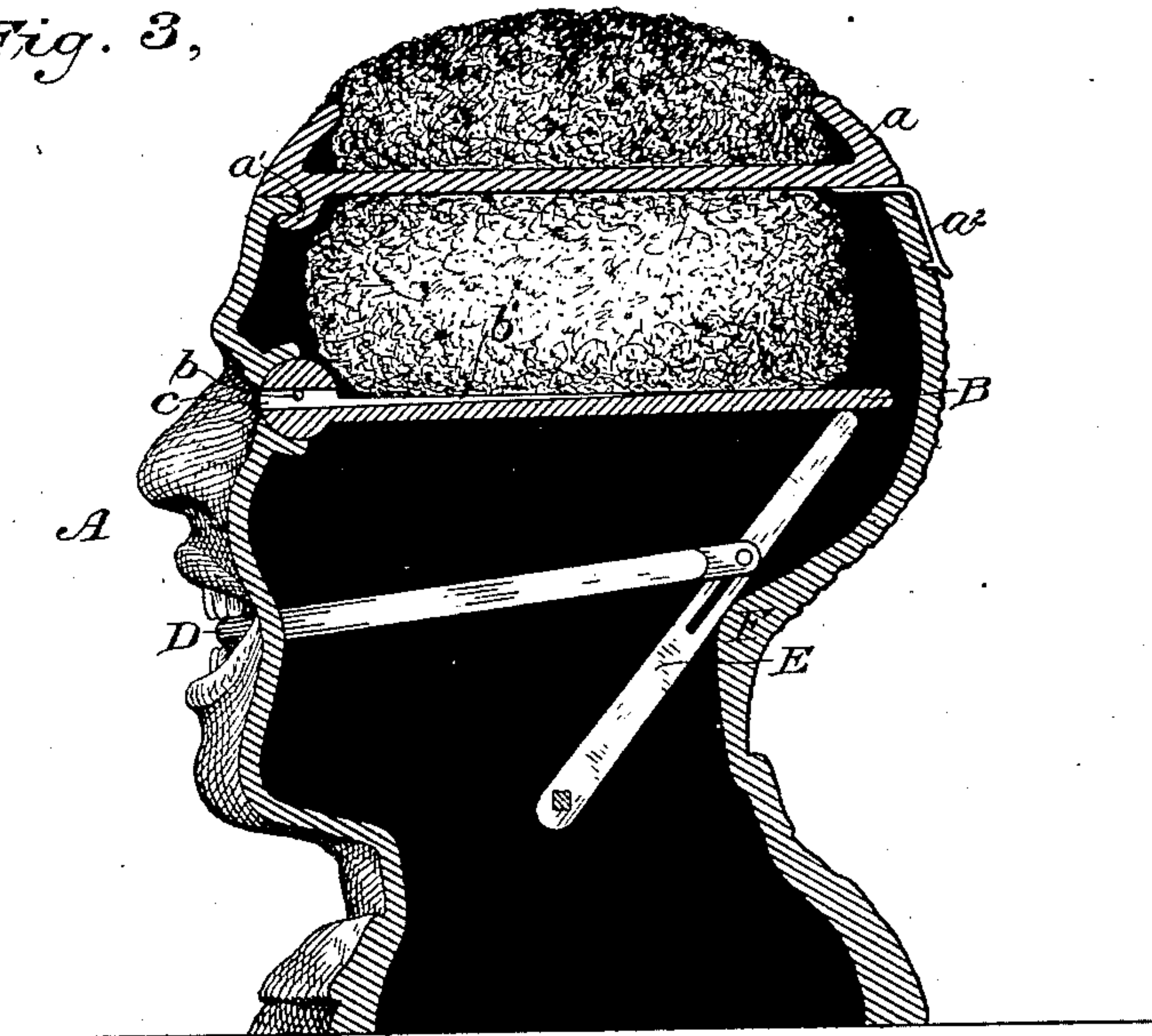
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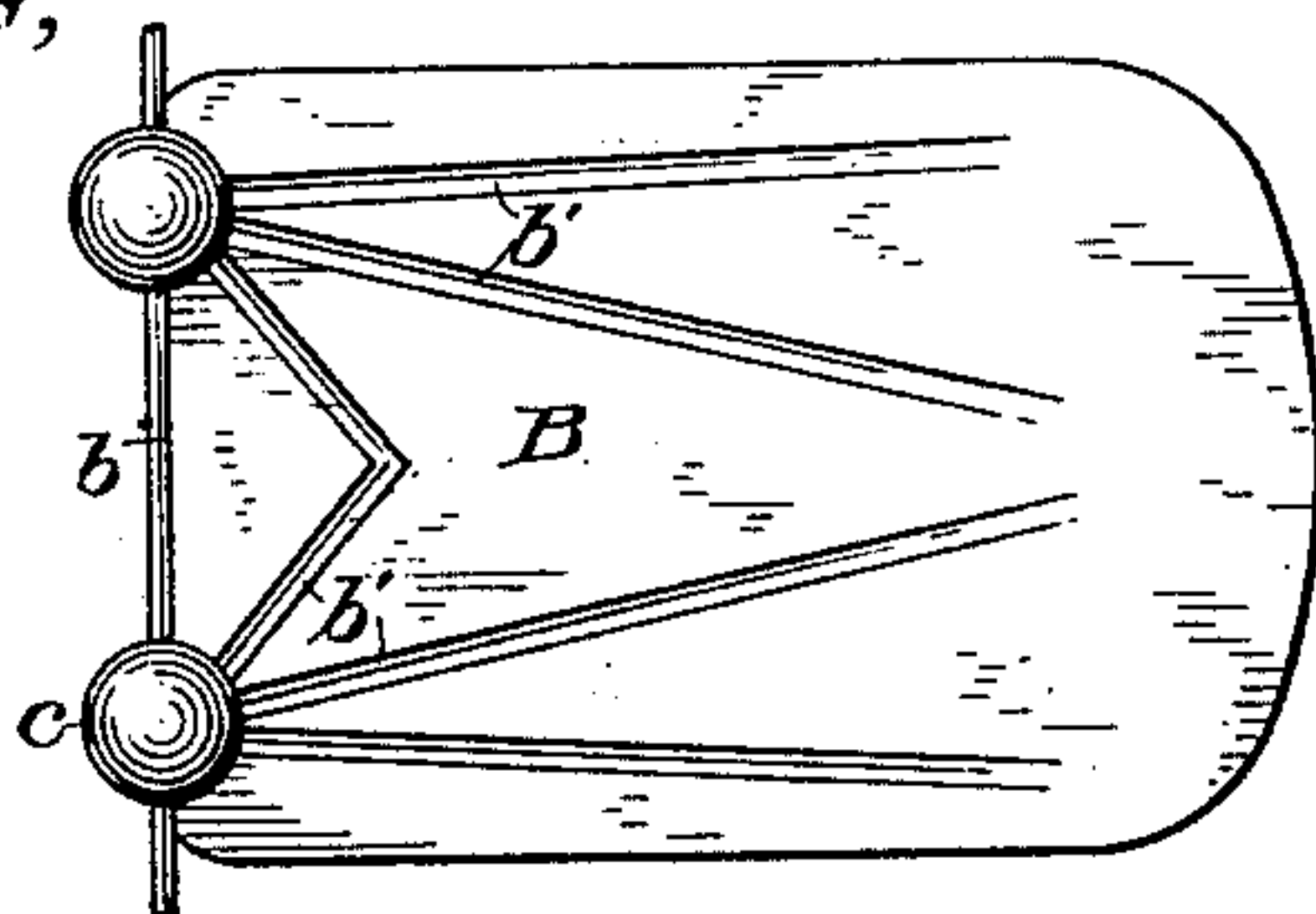
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*Fig. 3,*



*Fig. 4,*



*Fig. 5,*



*WITNESSES*

Wm A. Shinkle  
Geo W. Bruck.

*By his Attorneys*

INVENTOR

Edward J. Stellwagen,  
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(No Model.)

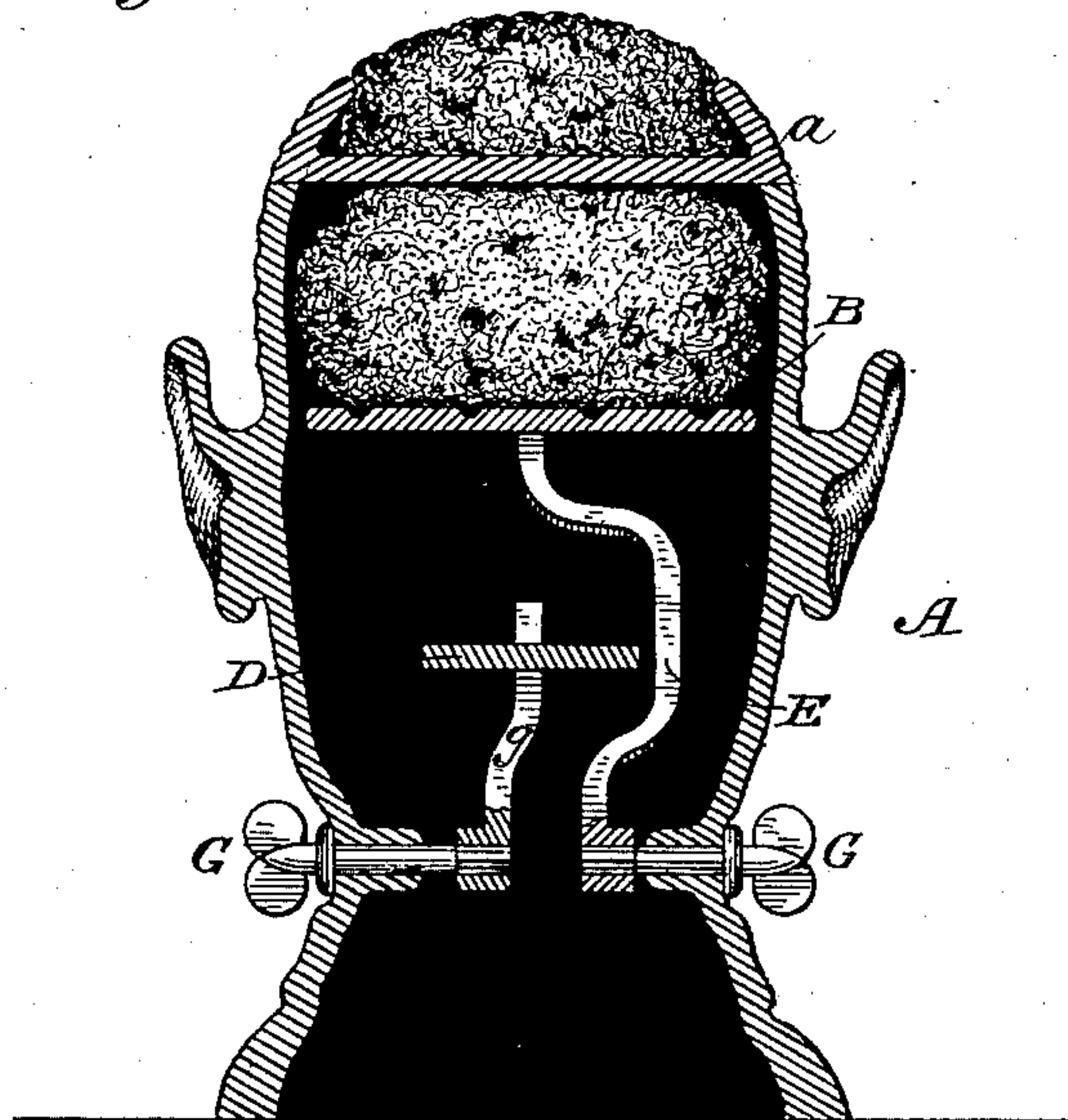
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E. J. STELLWAGEN.  
SPONGE CUP.

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*Fig. 6,*



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD J. STELLWAGEN, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## SPONGE-CUP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 246,044, dated August 23, 1881.

Application filed March 1, 1881. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD J. STELLWAGEN, of Washington city, in the District of Columbia, have invented an Improved Article of Desk-Furniture, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a device for office use capable of being used as a pen-rack, pen-wiper, stamp and envelope moistener, and paper-weight, and which can be made either ornamental or grotesque, to suit the taste of the public. With this object in view a representation of a head—preferably a human head—has been selected as the frame or body of the apparatus.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents my device in the form of a negro's head secured upon a tray, with inkstands on either side. Fig. 2 shows a representation of a clown's head supported upon a base so that it can be used as a paper-weight. Fig. 3 is a section through the head. Fig. 4 is a detached view of the plate to which the eyes are secured. Fig. 5 is a detached view of the tongue of the apparatus, and Fig. 6 is another section through the head, showing a modified construction.

The ears constitute the pen-rack, and are made sufficiently large to easily hold the pen-holders. The ear may be made elastic, but it would be cheaper, and perhaps better, to make it rigid and place an elastic cushion on the side of the head to properly support the pen-holder.

The head is composed of two parts, A *a*, which may be cast from any suitable material. The upper part, *a*, is cup-shaped, for the reception of a sponge to serve as a pen-wiper, and is held in place by small lugs *a'* in front and a spring-catch, *a''*, behind; but it might be secured in many different ways.

The eyes are secured upon the forward end of a plate, B, which is pivoted upon a pin, *b*, which passes through the eyes and has its bearings in the temples of the head. The eyes have openings *c* through them, to which the corrugations or grooves *b'* in the upper surface of the plate B converge. A sponge saturated with water is placed in the cavity of the head, between the cup *a* and the plate B.

The tongue D is composed of some stiff material, and has on its upper surface a cover of sponge, felt, or other soft absorbent. It is connected by a sliding joint at its inner end

with a lever, E, which rests against an inward projection, F, at the base of the skull, and supports the plate B, as shown in Figs. 3 and 6. This lever is operated by a thumb-piece, G, at the side of the neck. The effect of throwing the lever E forward is to shoot out the tongue, roll down the eyes, compress the wet sponge, and cause water to run out of the eyes down the face onto the tongue, the face being so shaped as to conduct the water to it. The tongue thus wetted is used for moistening stamps, envelopes, &c.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a slightly-modified construction, in which the tongue is thrust out by an independent thumb-piece, G, and lever *g*, the lever E in this instance being curved, as shown. By this construction the tongue can be kept out and the water for moistening it supplied as desired by compressing the sponge by the lever E.

When the head is designed for a paper-weight, as shown in Fig. 2, the base should be suitably weighted.

Instead of perforating the eyes, as shown, the water might be made to issue from around the eye, or it might issue from the nostril, or some point within the mouth, and the plate B, instead of being corrugated, as shown, might be made concave, with a channel leading to each eye.

The base of the apparatus, instead of being left open, as shown in Figs. 3 and 6, should be closed to prevent the water from the sponge wetting the desk or papers.

I thus produce a very useful and ornamental article of desk-furniture, the construction and appearance of which may be varied infinitely without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The herein-described representation of a head, the upper portion of which constitutes a sponge-cup, as set forth.

2. The combined pen-rack and pen-wiper herein described, consisting of a representation of a head formed in two sections, the upper one of which constitutes a sponge-cup, and having enlarged ears, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the representation of



a head, the moving eyes, the internal pivoted plate to which the eyes are secured, the sponge-cavity, the reciprocating tongue, and the operating lever or levers, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination of the representation of a head, the reciprocating tongue, the upper surface of which is covered with sponge or some similar material, and mechanism, substantially such as described, for moistening the tongue, for the purpose set forth.

5. The combination, substantially as herein

set forth, of the representation of a head formed in two parts, the upper one of which constitutes a sponge-cup, and having enlarged ears, the moving eyes, the pivoted corrugated plate to which the eyes are secured, the sponge-cavity, the reciprocating tongue, and the operating lever or levers.

EDWARD J. STELLWAGEN.

Witnesses:

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WOODBURY LOWERY.