

(No Model.)

R. H. INGERSOLL.
TOY BLOCKS.

No. 272,443.

Patented Feb. 20, 1883.

Fig. 1.

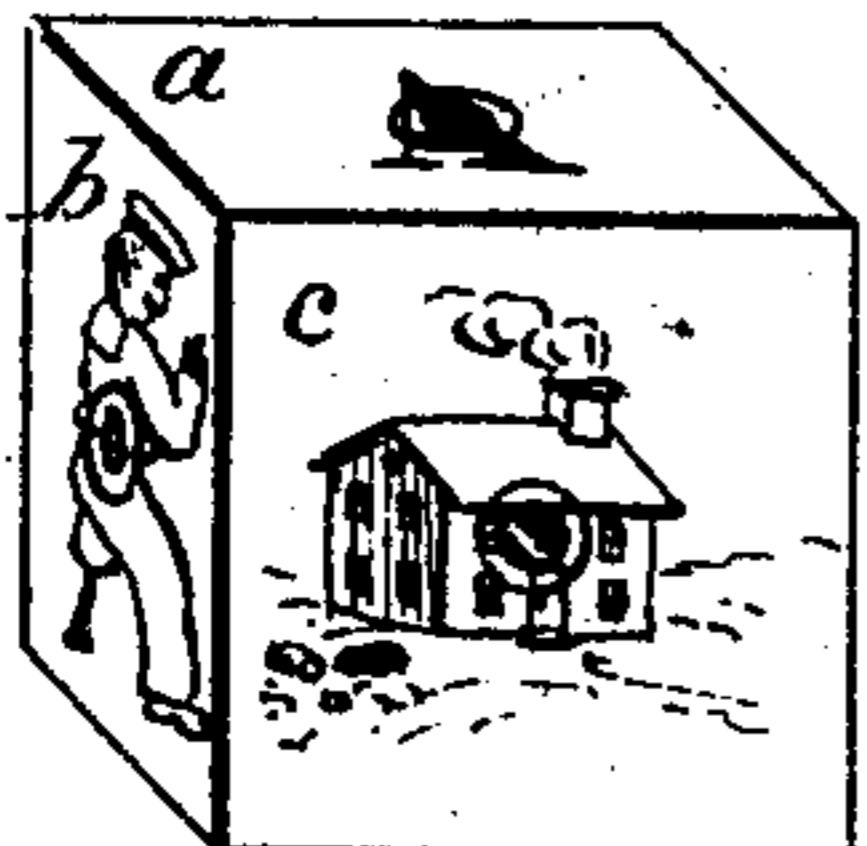


Fig. 2.

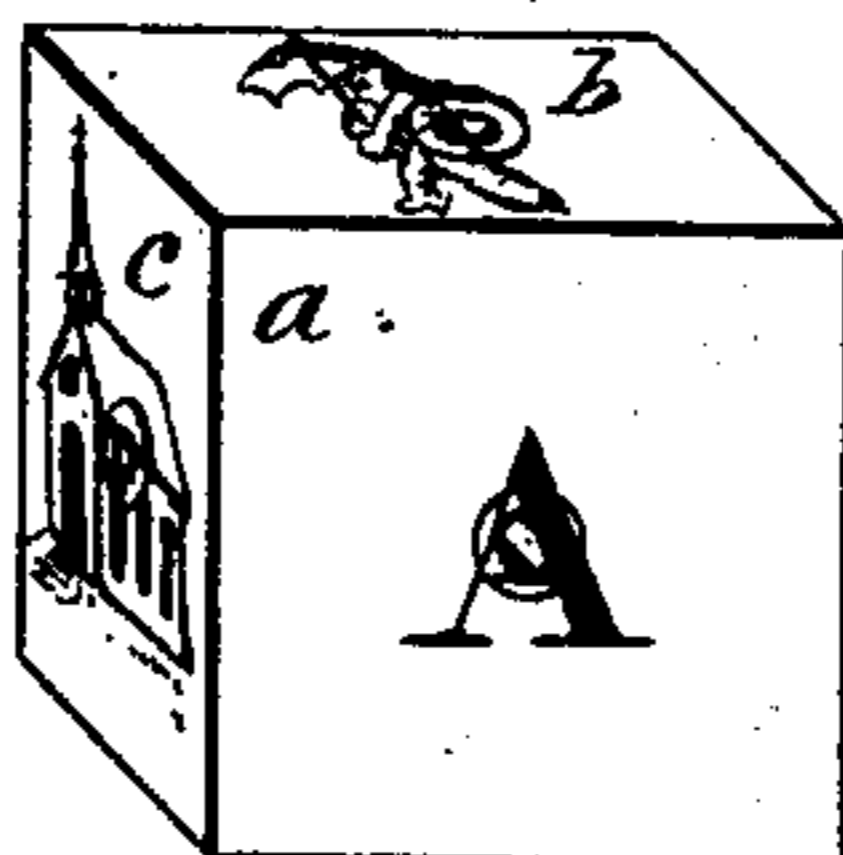


Fig. 3.

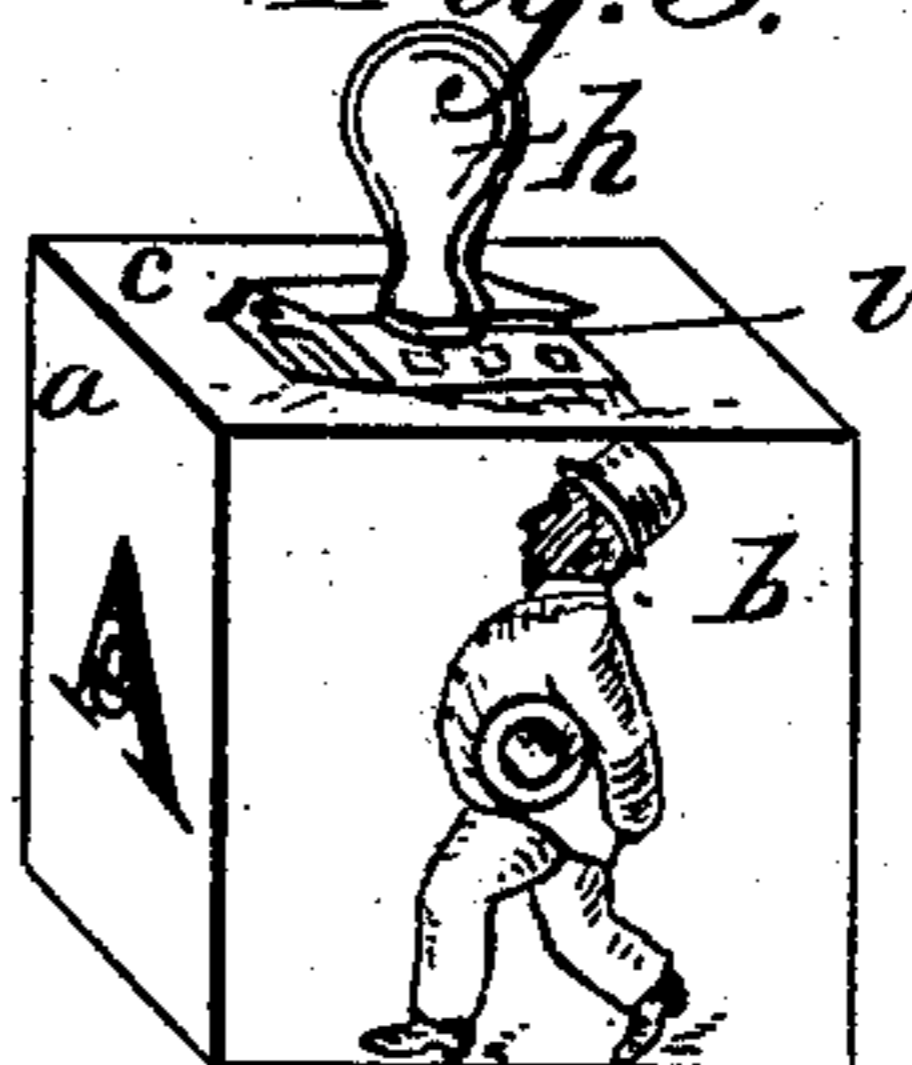


Fig. 4.

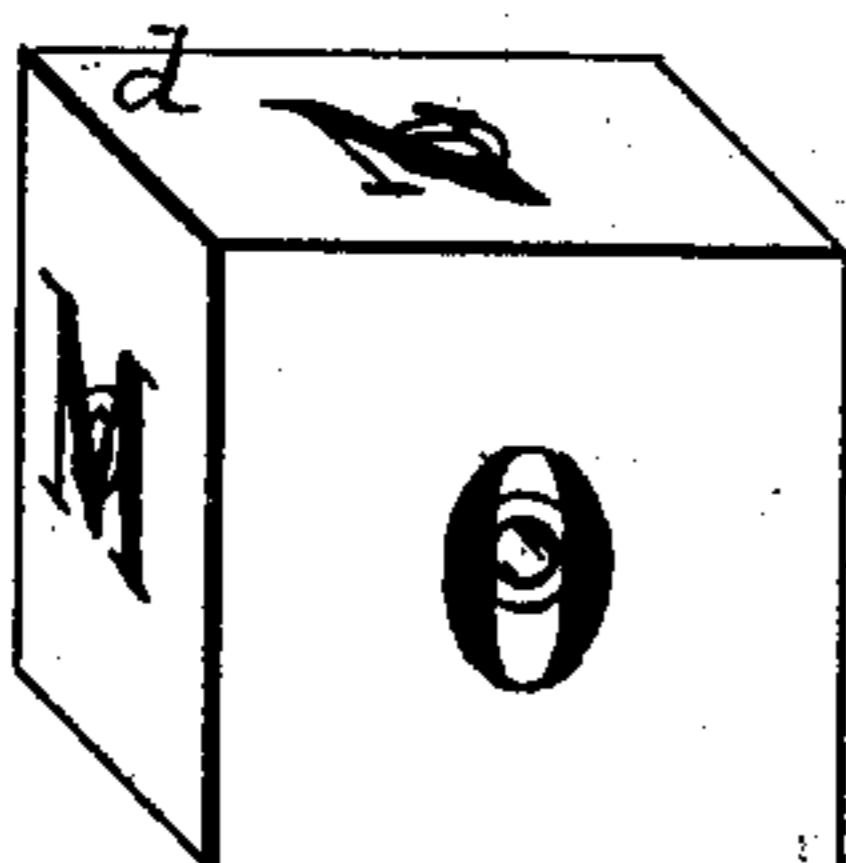


Fig. 5.

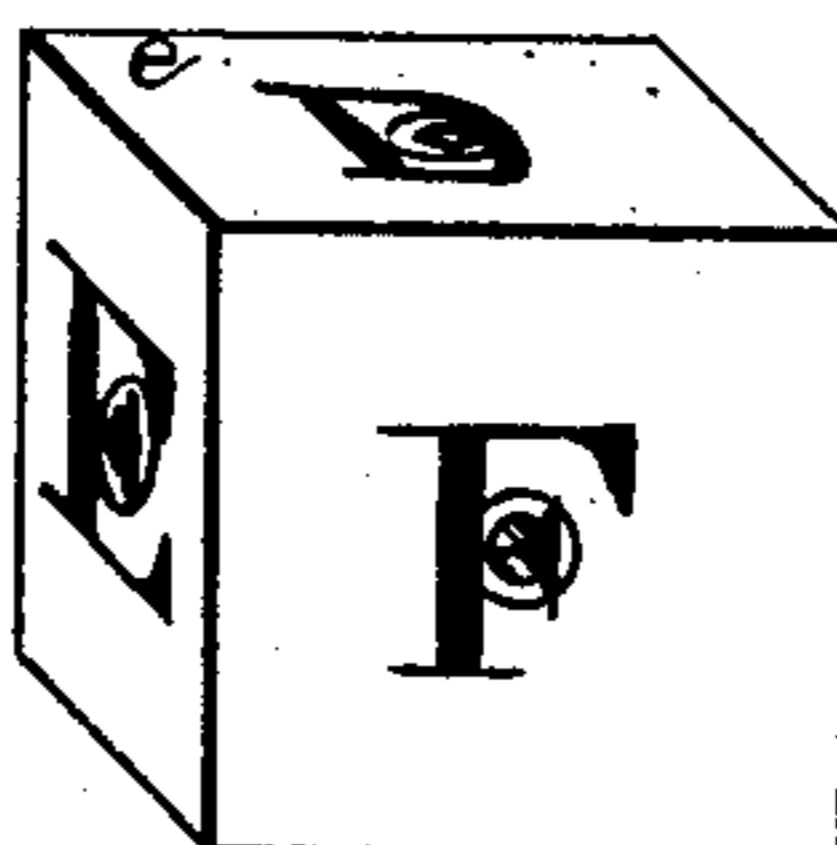


Fig. 6.

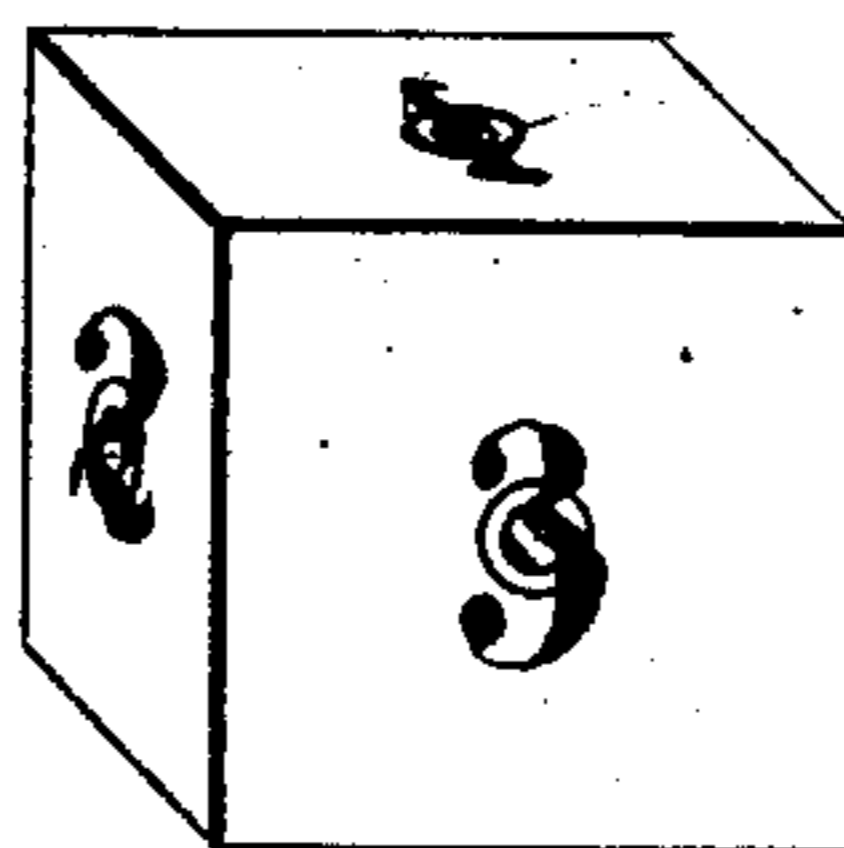


Fig. 7.

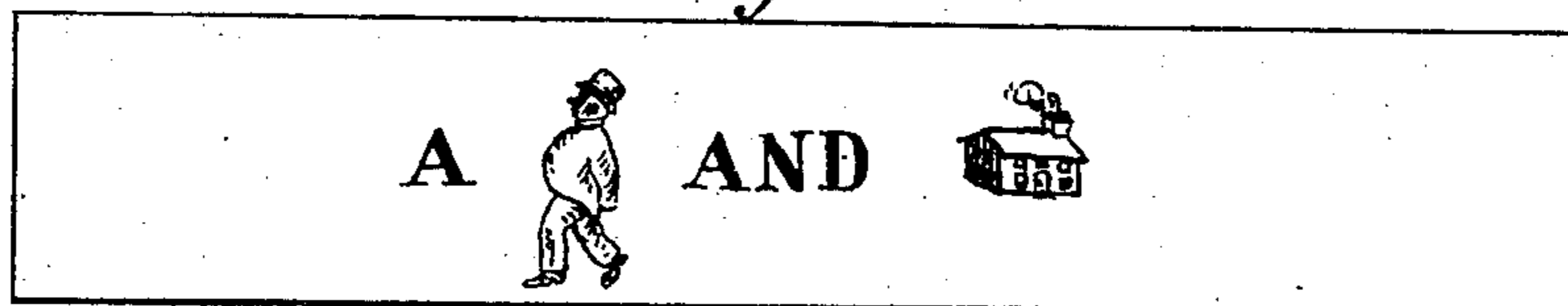


Fig. 8.

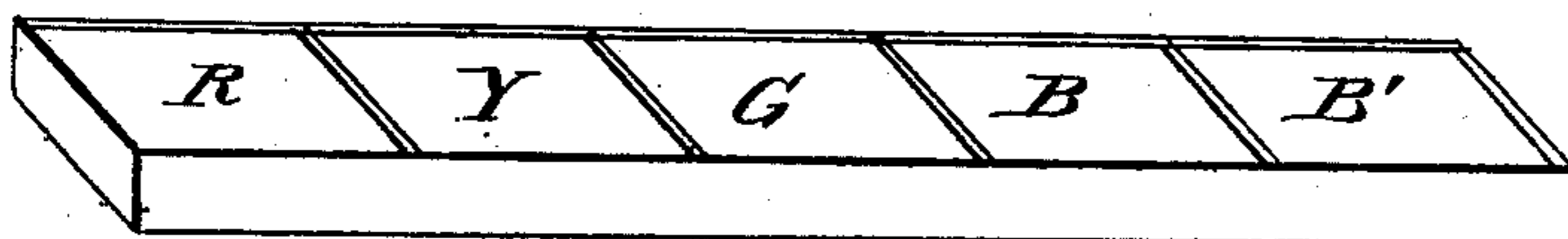


Fig. 9.

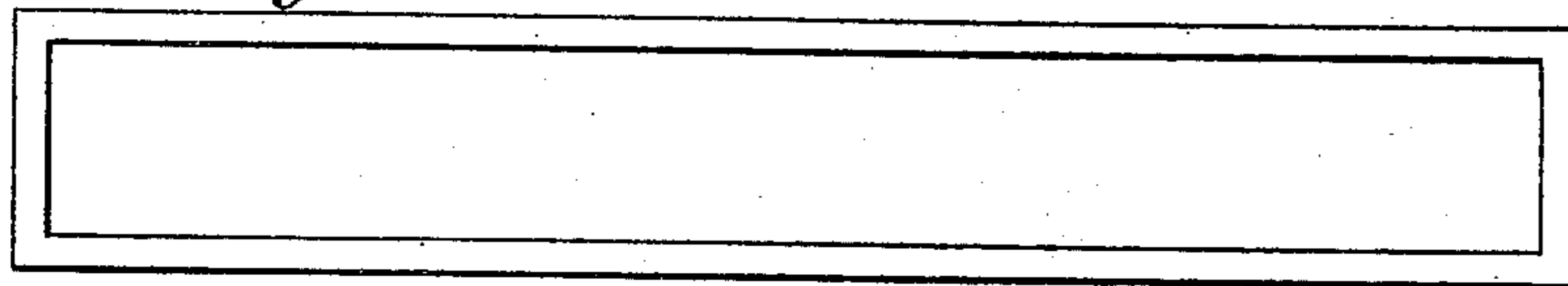


Fig. 11

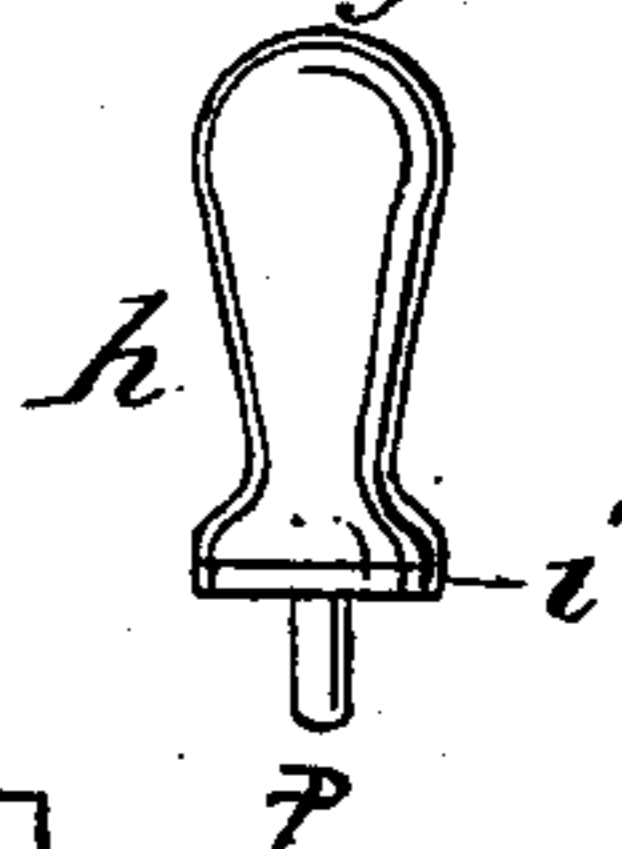


Fig. 10.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT H. INGERSOLL, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TOY BLOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 272,443, dated February 20, 1883.

Application filed January 5, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT H. INGERSOLL, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toys for the Amusement and Instruction of Children, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to toys which are known as "block toys," such as A B C blocks, building-blocks, map-blocks, &c.; and the object of the invention is to introduce new elements which shall add to the amusement of the child and at the same time interest and stimulate to mental and industrial exertion and improvement. I attain this object by means of the series of blocks illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 are views in perspective of cubes of wood constructed in the manner hereinafter described, Fig. 3 having the handle in place ready for use. Fig. 7 is a plan view of a sheet of paper on which is printed an illustrated phrase or charade by means of the type and cuts attached to blocks shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Fig. 8 is a view in perspective of an inexhaustible ink-pad constructed in sections, each one of which contains an ink of a color different from the others—viz., R, red; Y, yellow; G, green; B, blue, and B', black. Figs. 9 and 10 are plan views of slotted guides to enable the child to print the figures in straight or curved lines when desired. Fig. 11 is a side view of a handle, *h*, with a point or projection, *P*, at the lower end to fit snugly into the hole *O* in the blocks, which handle is provided with a rubber cushion, *i*, and is detachable and to be used in handling the blocks.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The blocks 1 2 3 4 5 6 are provided on three sides with types or cuts representing letters, figures, or designs, which types and cuts are constructed of rubber and vulcanized onto the surface of the block. On the side of each cube opposite to said type or cut is placed a representation or impression made from the same, so that the child will know what type or cut is on the bottom of the block.

In the center of each surface of the block, on the side opposite the type or cut, I make a

hole, *o*, perpendicular to the surface, about three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, and line it with soft rubber, constituting a spring-cushion, which serves by lateral pressure to attach the block to the handle *h* while it is removed from its case or the table and used in printing by means of the type or cut on the opposite side. When the printing is accomplished the block may be replaced, and by pressing the finger on the upper corner the handle can be withdrawn and inserted into the block to be next used.

The handle *h* is provided with a rubber cushion, *i*, by which the pressure will be equalized, and thus enable the operator to make a better impression.

By way of illustration, the three figures 1, 2, 3 represent similar cubes, the cube in Fig. 1 having on side *a* the printed letter A, while on the opposite side is the type from which the letter A was printed. In Fig. 2, on its side *b*, is seen the picture of a boy, while on its opposite side is the cut of a boy from which the picture was printed. In Fig. 3, on its side *c*, is seen the picture of a house, while on its opposite side is the cut from which the picture was printed. In Fig. 4, on its side *d*, is seen the letter N, while on the opposite side is the type from which the letter N was printed. In Fig. 5, on the side *e*, is seen the letter D, while on the opposite side is the type from which the letter D was printed. The handle *h* is seen inserted in the block at Fig. 3, ready for use. In Fig. 7 is seen an illustrated phrase or charade which has been printed by using the type and cuts shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in the following order 1 2 1 4 5 3. The handle *h*, being inserted in the hole in the block, Fig. 1, is grasped by the rubber cushion *O* sufficiently to attach the block to the handle. It is then applied to the ink-pad, Fig. 8, and then to the paper, Fig. 7, printing the letter A. It is then returned to its place, a finger pressed on a corner, the handle *h* detached and replaced in the block, Fig. 2, which is used in the same manner to print the impression of the boy on the paper, Fig. 7. The same process is then repeated with the blocks 1, 4, 5, and 3 successively, and the illustrated phrase or charade, Fig. 7, is complete, and the handle *h* has enabled the child to accomplish it without coming in contact with the ink.

I make use of three sides of the cubes as type-faces, though, if desired, only one or any number of the sides may be used, to suit the taste or wishes of the manufacturer. The
 5 more sides that are used the greater variety of type can be obtained with a given number of blocks. In maps and blocks of that description only one side can be used as a type-surface. Any form of toy block having two
 10 or more sides may be used for the purpose.

The blocks used may each be provided with letters or figures only, or letters, figures, and cuts may be used on the same block.

It will readily be seen that by using a series
 15 of blocks with a variety of pictures, letters, and figures, by means of the handle *h* a child can construct a great variety of words, phrases, and sentences, and can illustrate an endless variety of historical and life scenes pertaining
 20 to parks, fields, garden, farm-yards, circus, menagerie, military parade, &c., enlivening the pictures by the use of such colored ink as will be appropriate to the thing represented. Such exercise will call into active co-operation the
 25 ingenuity, imagination, and taste, and contribute to the amusement of the child, while it stimulates to thought and mental exertion. The mechanical construction avoids the necessity of handling the type, and thus makes
 30 it a cleanly as well as useful improvement.

I am aware that rubber type has been used for children, called "kindergarten type," but that has been simply ordinary blocked-rubber type, having no connection with toy blocks,
 35 and provided with no means of handling.

All such type I disclaim as dedicated to public use.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A series of toy blocks provided with rubber types and cuts of letters, figures, and pictures, whereby children may construct on paper words, phrases, and sentences, and illustrate them by means of pictorial representations, as herein described and shown. 40

2. A series of toy blocks provided with rubber types and cuts of letters, figures, and pictures vulcanized onto the body of the block, with a picture of said type or cut on the opposite side, as herein described and shown. 45 50

3. Toy blocks with rubber types and cuts vulcanized on the surface, and provided with a tubular rubber spring or cushion for attaching a detachable handle, as herein described and shown. 55

4. Toy blocks provided with rubber types and cuts, and a detachable handle having a rubber cushion for equalizing the pressure, as herein described and shown. 55

5. As a new article of manufacture and commerce, toy blocks in sets or series, provided with types and cuts of letters, figures, and pictures made of rubber, with a tubular rubber cushion or spring for attaching a detachable handle, with rubber cushion for equalizing
 60 the pressure, as herein described and shown. 65

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Witnesses:

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