(No Model.)

R. LEMBCKE.

ELECTRIC TOY.

No. 278,565. Patented May 29, 1883.

Fig. 1.

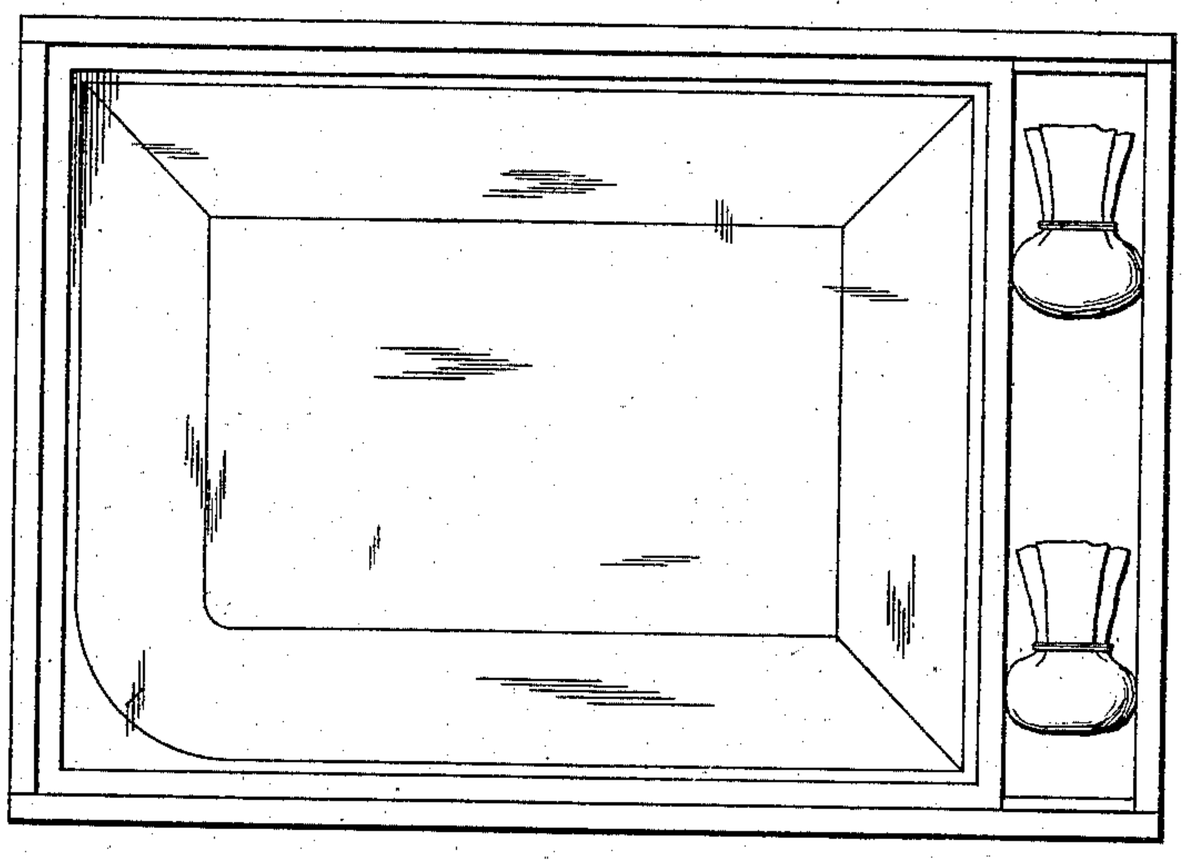


Fig. 2.

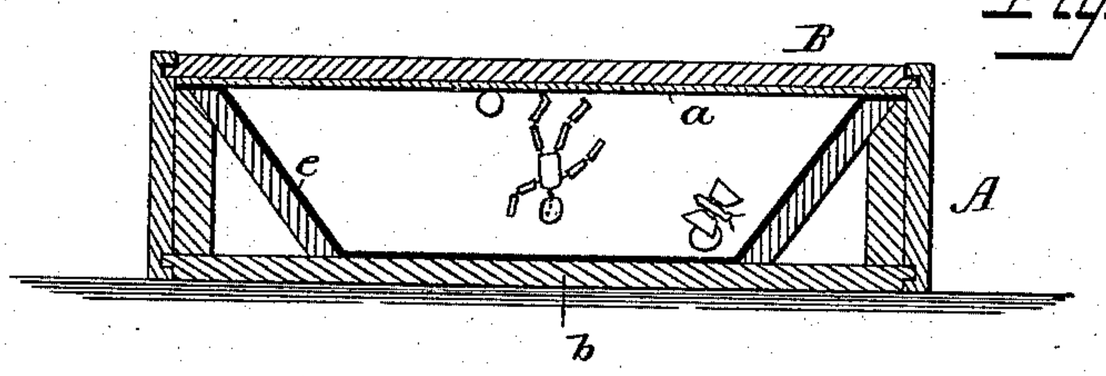


Fig. 3.

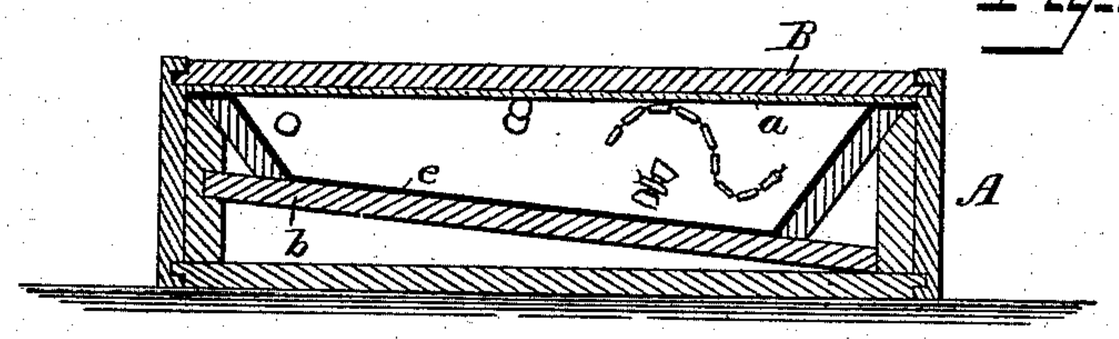
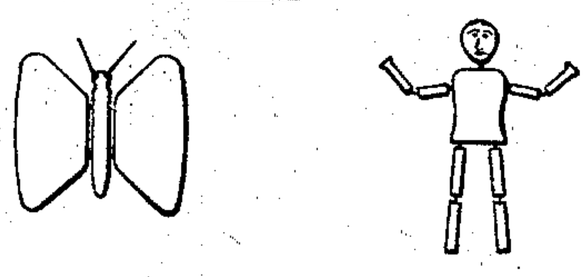


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT LEMBCKE, OF HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY.

ELECTRIC TOY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,565, dated May 29, 1883.

Application filed March 15, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT LEMBCKE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hoboken, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric Apparatus and Toys; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to that class of toys in which objects are caused to move between a plate of glass and a non-insulated plate below the same under the influence of frictional electricity generated by rubbing the surface of the glass plate; and my invention consists in certain improvements in the structure of the device, and also in the construction of the objects to be moved, whereby the device is rendered more effective and the electrical action better amplified.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of the casing of my improved toy. Fig. 2 is a transverse section. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section, showing modification; and Fig. 4 shows views illustrating the construction of the objects moved by electrical action.

A is a casing, of wood or other suitable material, open at the top and grooved to receive a sliding cover, B, which serves to protect and conceal the contents, so as to facilitate transportation through the mails or otherwise. Within the casing, below the cover B, is secured a plate of glass, *a*, parallel to the bottom, which, when rubbed by a pad or a piece of silk, or otherwise, in any well-known manner, will become electrified and will attract objects of light material interposed between the plate and the bottom *b* of the case.

Heretofore in toys of this class the interposed objects, once attracted to the electrified plate *a*, have a tendency to remain in contact therewith for an objectional length of time, and are also apt to become lodged in the corners and difficult to remove. I overcome the first objection by lining the case with a sheet of tin-foil, *e*, or other substance likely to become more strongly negative to the plate than the fabric covering usually employed; and to prevent the lodging of the objects in the corners I form the casing with rounded corners or with the inner side beveled, as shown. This has the further effect of bringing the non-electrified portions at some point nearer to the plate *a*, so that some of the objects will vibrate quickly between the inclined sides and the plate, which otherwise could not be raised from the bottom *b*. The same result may be secured by inclining the bottom of the case, as shown in Fig. 3.

Instead of using paper or pith objects, consisting each of a single rigid piece, I secure more effective results by forming the objects of separate sections linked together. Thus a snake may be make of a series of linked blocks, or a human figure of blocks jointed to the body portion, or a butterfly with wings jointed to the body, as shown in Fig. 4.

Without limiting myself to the precise constructions shown, I claim—

1. In an electrical toy, a casing provided with a glass top and with an inner lining of metal or equivalent material, substantially as set forth.

2. The casing having a glass top and shallower at some portions than at others, as set forth.

3. The combination of the casing having a glass top and articulated figures, substantially as specified.

ROBERT LEMBCKE.

Witnesses:
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