(No Model.)

W. OSWELL.

SHOW WINDOW SHELVING.

No. 349,117. Patented Sept. 14, 1886.

Fig. 1

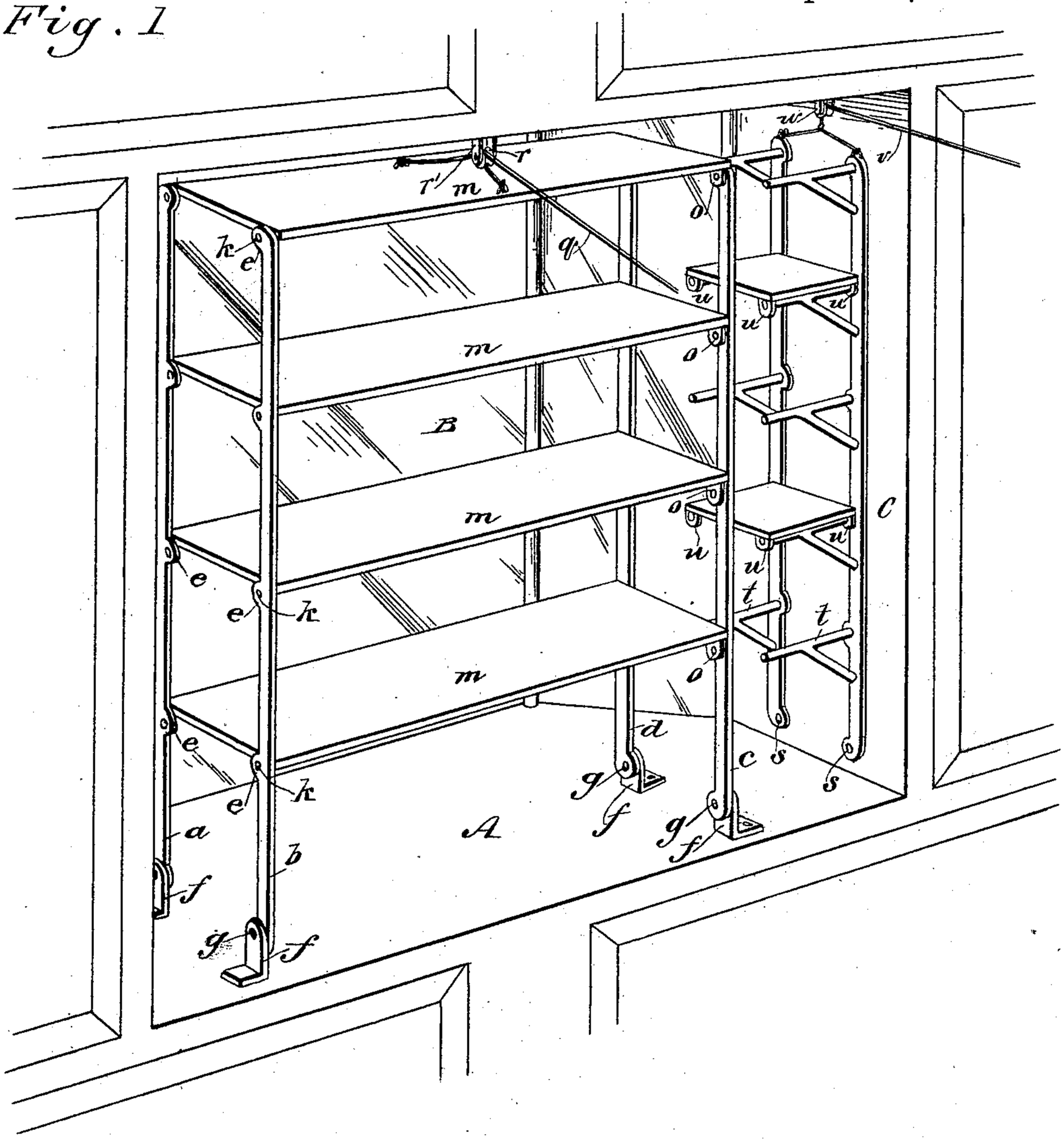
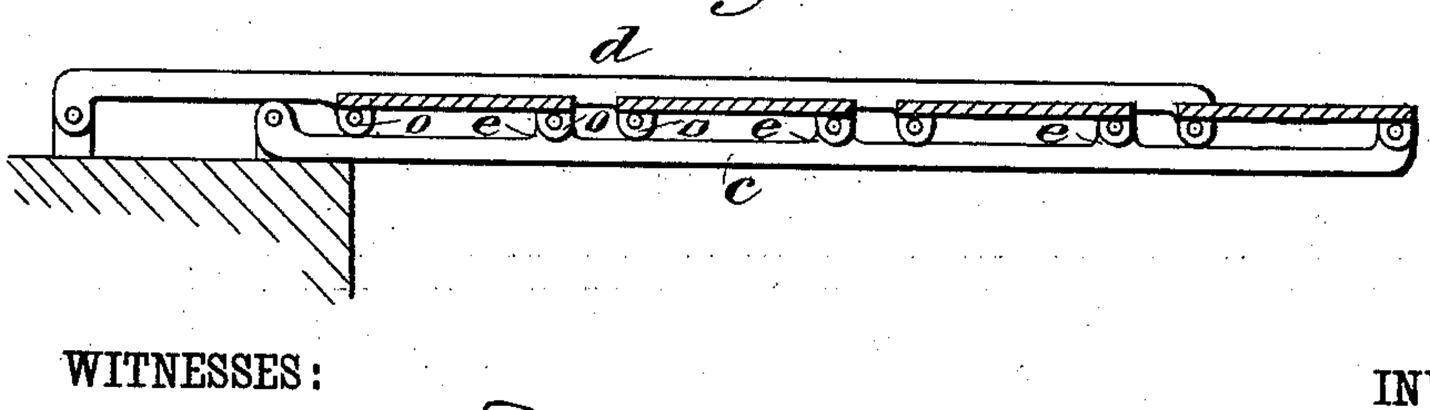


Fig. 2.



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SHOW-WINDOW SHELVING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 349,117, dated September 14, 1886.

Application filed September 8, 1885. Serial No. 176,490. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM OSWELL, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and Improved Show-Window Shelving, of which which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to the construction of a shelving for show-windows or stores, and its object is the formation of a series or system of shelves supported in such a way that the shelves may be moved to a position so that they will all be in the same vertical plane, or each shelf may be held diagonally above the one beneath, but still the shelves will never be thrown out of a horizontal plane; and to this end my invention consists of upright supporting-posts, which are pivoted at the base, in combination with shelves, said posts or uprights and shelves having correspondingly-placed lugs thereon, connected together by pivots through the lugs, the several points of connection of a shelf with the posts or uprights being the same distance from the lower ends of the posts or uprights, substantially as hereinafter more fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the interior of a show-window supplied with my improved shelving, two forms of shelving being shown in an upright position; and Fig. 2 is a sectional side view of the shelving when folded down so that the supporting-bars are in a horizontal position.

Referring now to the general construction illustrated in the drawings, A represents the flooring of any ordinary form of show-window; B, the front glass, and C one of the side walls.

The main shelving (shown as in upright position within the show-window just referred to) is mounted on a frame-work consisting of four posts or bars, *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, which are formed with lugs *e e*, corresponding lugs on all the bars being formed at equal distances from the lower ends of the bars. These bars are pivotally connected to brackets *f f*, which are secured to the flooring A at the four corners of a rectangle in a position such that when the bars are pivoted thereto by the bolts *g*, and the posts are raised, as shown in Fig. 1, they will constitute the four corner-supports of the shelves *m m*, which are formed with downwardly-projecting lugs *o o* at each corner, and are connected to the posts *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* by bolts *k*, which pass through apertures formed in the meeting lugs *e* and *o*.

In order to hold the shelving in an upright position, I attach a cord, *q*, to the upper shelf and run it over a sheave, *r*, carried by a block, *r'*, secured to the ceiling of the window, the free end of the cord being secured to a cleat or other fastening device.

Such a set of shelving as I have described may be lowered outward from the top to any desired angle and fastened in position by the cord *q;* but the shelves *m m* will always be in a horizontal position, because of the fact that their pivotal connections with the bars *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* are at the same distance from the lower ends of the bars, and consequently as the bars fold down the pivotal connections of each shelf will pass through corresponding arcs, thereby maintaining the shelf in a horizontal plane, irrespective of the angle at which the bars are inclined.

Upon the side C of the window I show a smaller set of shelves mounted on two bars that are pivoted to the side wall at *s s*, each bar being formed with brackets *t t*, which project outward at right angles to the bars. In this case the shelves are formed with lugs *u u*, as are also the upright bars or posts, as shown, said lugs having central apertures, and through the apertures of the lugs *u u* the bracket-arms pass and turn freely therein, so that there is really a pivotal connection between the parts, the said bracket arms or pivots being fixed at their one end in the apertures of the lugs of the upright bars or posts. This form of shelving is also supported by a cord (shown at *v*) which passes over a sheave, *w*.

Although I have illustrated and described my invention as embodied in the form of shelving, it will readily be seen that the construction could be employed in the construction of balancing fire-escapes and many other devices, such as self-adjustable stairways for ship-landings.

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

1. The combination, with upright bars or posts pivoted at the base, of shelves, said upright bars or posts and shelves having correspondingly-placed lugs thereon connected together by pivots through the lugs, the several points of connection of a shelf with the posts or upright bars being the same distance from the lower ends of the upright bars or posts, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination, with a frame-work consisting of four posts pivotally connected with a bed or base plate, of shelves pivotally connected with the posts, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with four posts, as *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, formed with correspondingly-placed lugs *e e* and pivotally connected with brackets *f f*, of shelves *m m*, formed with lugs *o o*, and thereby pivotally connected with the lugs *e e* of the posts named, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with four posts, *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, formed with correspondingly-placed lugs *e e* and pivotally connected with brackets *f f*, of shelves formed with lugs *o o* and pivotally connected with the posts named by bolts which pass through lugs *e* and *o*, and a cord, *q*, which passes over a sheave, *r*, carried by a block, *r'*, that is secured above the shelves, substantially as described.

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