

(No Model.)

M. E. BENJAMIN.

GONG AND SIGNAL CHAIR FOR HOTELS, &c.

No. 386,289.

Patented July 17, 1888.

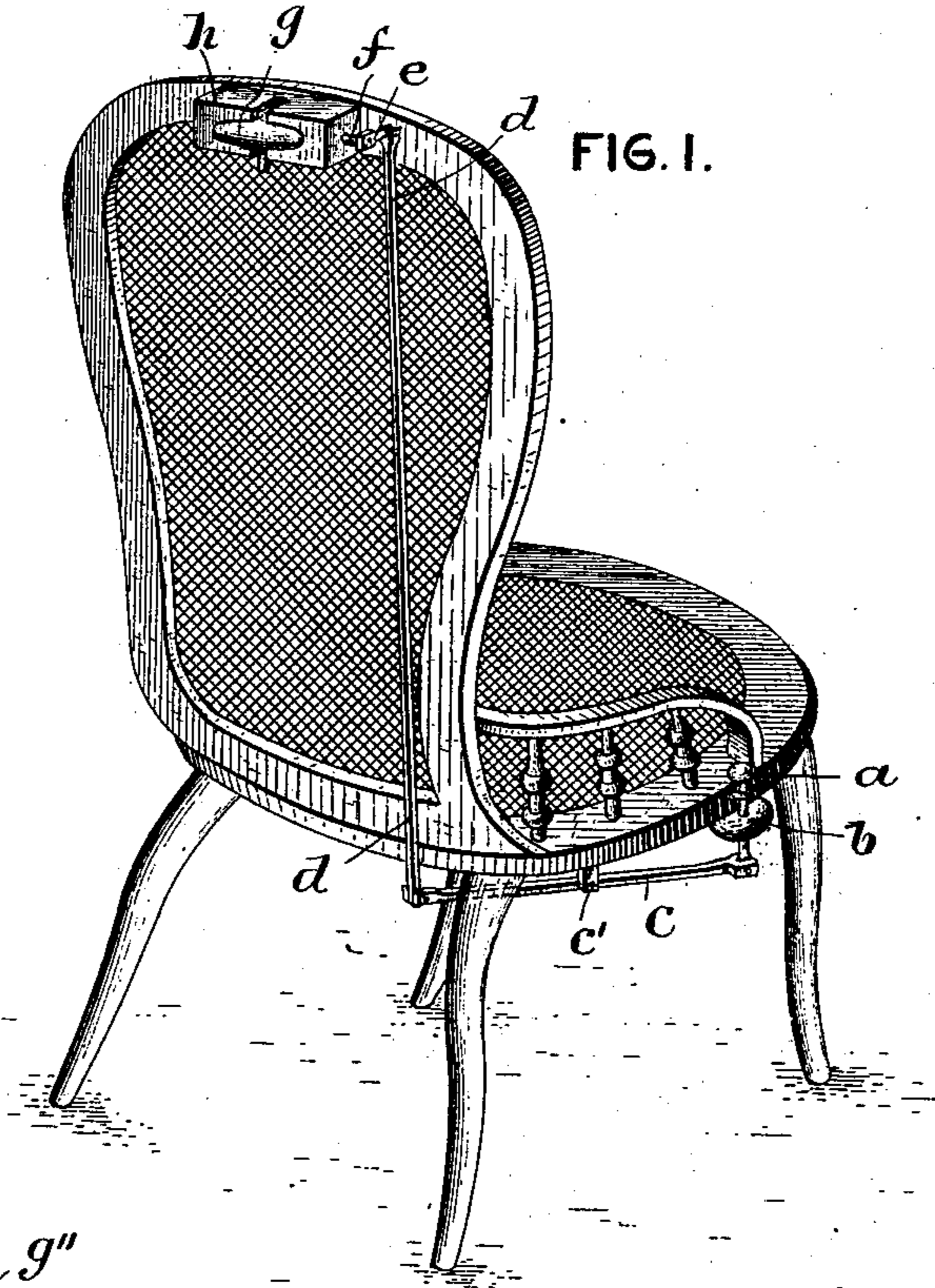


FIG. 1.

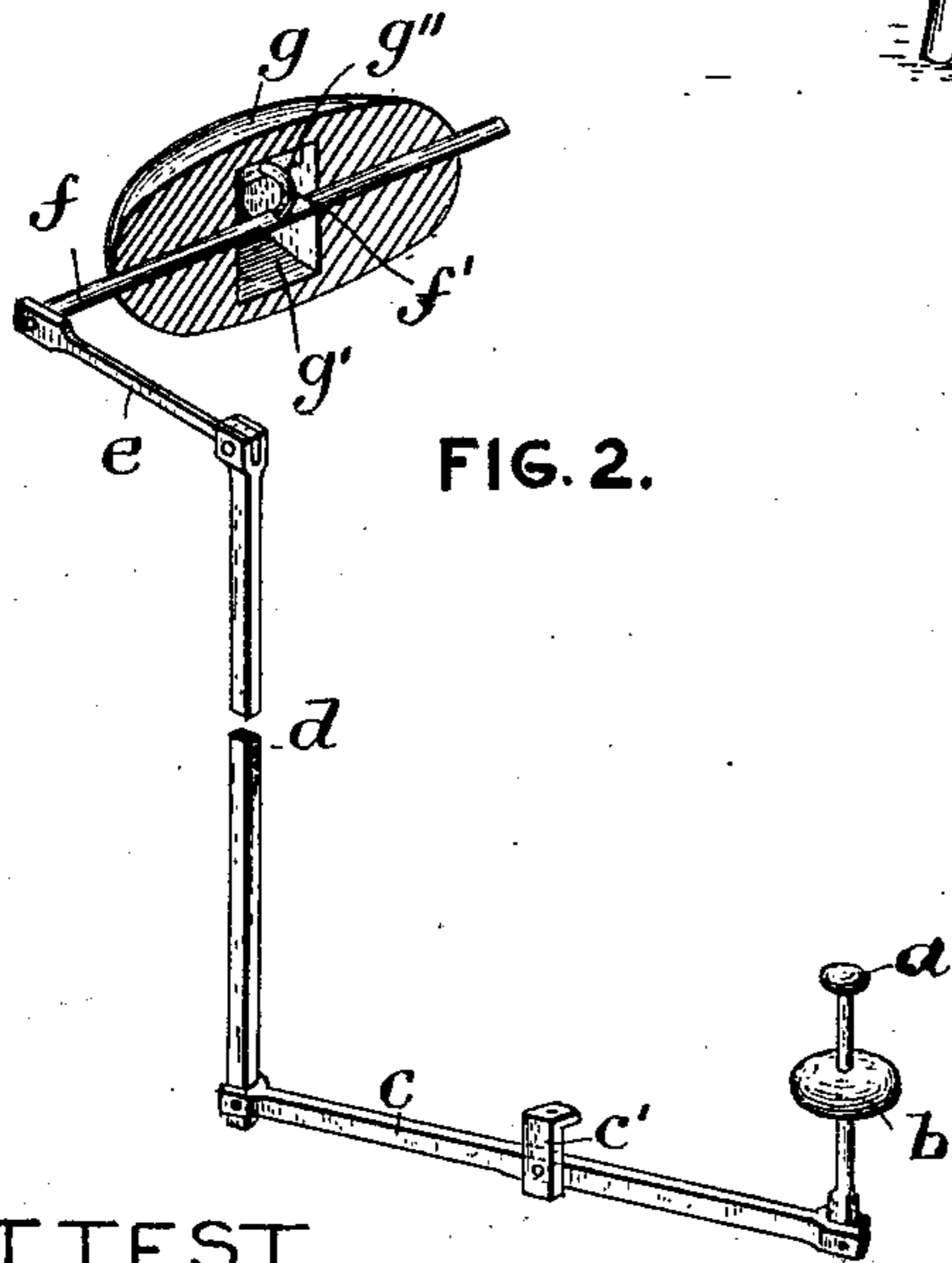


FIG. 2.

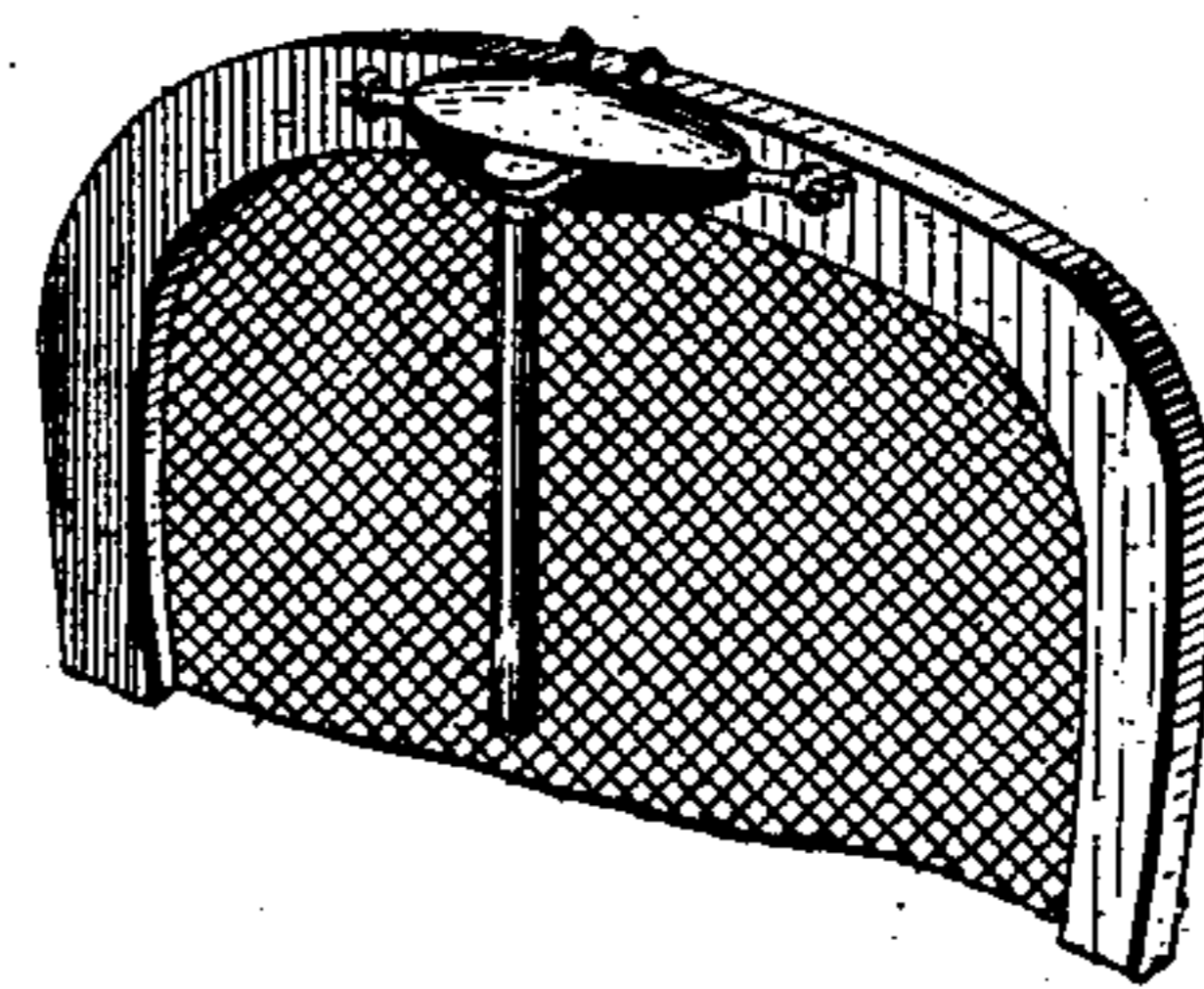


FIG. 3.

ATTEST.
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GONG AND SIGNAL CHAIR FOR HOTELS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 386,289, dated July 17, 1888.

Application filed October 1, 1887. Serial No. 251,180. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MIRIAM E. BENJAMIN, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gong and Signal Chairs for Hotels, Restaurants, Steamboats, Railroad-Trains, &c., of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in "gong and signal chairs" to be used in dining-rooms, in hotels, restaurants, steamboats, railroad-trains, theaters, the hall of the Congress of the United States, the halls of the legislatures of the various States, for the use of all deliberative bodies, and for the use of invalids in hospitals; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof, in which--

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the appliance on a chair. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the appliance, showing a lengthwise section of the signal; and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a modification of the appliance on the back of a chair.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures of the drawings.

The object of my invention is to reduce the expenses of hotels, &c., by decreasing the number of waiters and attendants, to add to the convenience and comfort of guests, &c., and to obviate the necessity of hand-clapping or calling aloud to obtain the services of pages, &c., in Congress, the various legislative bodies, deliberative assemblies, stores, &c.

Under the present system in hotels, &c., it is customary to have one waiter in attendance upon, say, three or four guests, so as to promptly ascertain and supply their wants, which is no inconsiderable portion of the expense of hotel-keeping. The use of my invention will obviate the necessity of employing more than one waiter to twelve or fifteen guests, who will not be required to call aloud

for "waiter," or to rap on the table, so as to attract the waiter's attention. All of these annoyances and attendant expenses will be obviated by the employment of my invention, it only being necessary for the guest to touch a button, when instantly a signal appears upon the back of his chair, thus notifying the waiter that his presence is desired.

My invention consists in the combination of a horizontal rod attached to a vertical rod by a hinge and fastened to the bottom of a chair by being pivoted upon a bridge with a gong at one end of it, and in the upper end of the vertical rod being attached to a crank, which turns a short horizontal rod which extends along the top of the back of the chair, forming an axle for a ball, which rests upon an outwardly-curved hook in the slot on the inside of it, which throws it forward when the knob of the gong is pushed downward, displaying a red signal (one side of the ball) when the gong is sounded.

The appliance is formed by the vertical rod of a gong, *b*, with a knob at its upper end and its lower end attached to the horizontal rod *c*, the rod *c* resting on the bridge *c'* and connected to the vertical rod *d* by a hinge. The rod *d* is joined to the crank *e*, and the crank *e* to the horizontal rod *f*, with the ball (or signal) *g* resting on the rod *f*, having the hook *f'* resting against the stop *g''*, the appliance being placed upon the chair so that the rod *d* comes a little to the right of the center of the back of the chair, and the rod *c* passing under the chair from the lower end of the rod *d* to the gong *b*, the gong being attached to the side of the chair. The rod *f* is fastened to the top of the back of the chair supporting the ball, (or signal,) which is incased in a metal plate with an opening, which allows the signal or red side to be seen through it when in use.

When an attendant is wanted, press upon the button *a* and the vertical rod in the gong will press downward upon the end of the rod *c* directly under it, causing the other end of rod *c* to be raised, which in turn lifts the rod *d*, and this rod in turn acts upon the crank *e*, which turns the rod *f*, so that the ball *g*, resting upon the hook *f'*, (with its dark side displayed,) will be thrown forward, turning the dark sur-

face under and a red surface outward, thus displaying the signal at the sound of the gong. After the want is supplied the signal is replaced by the attendant, who lifts the appendage, now at the bottom of the ball, upward to the opening in the upper part of the plate *h*, in which it rests, turning the dark surface of the ball outward in readiness for the next signal.

The modification of the appliance in Fig. 3 shows the signal operated in a simpler manner, in which the main portion of the appliance remains unchanged, while the ball *g* revolves upon a simple rod attached to the top of the back of the chair, and the upper end of the rod *d* rests directly under a projecting appendage attached to the surface of the ball *g*. When the appliance is put in motion in the manner before described, the rod *d* pushes the appendage upward, which causes the ball to turn, displaying the red surface, which remains displayed until replaced by the attendant.

My appliance can be used on revolving chairs as well as on stationary chairs, and the signal can be used to be seen on the front of chairs as well as on the back. I propose to use the within described signal on desks, counters, &c., as well as on chairs; and by lengthening the vertical rod of the appliance the signal may be elevated to any height. By placing the horizontal rod near the floor the appliance may be operated with the foot.

I do not confine myself to any particular method of displaying my signals, as any means may be resorted to for that purpose, either by

ordinary mechanical devices or by other methods; but

What I distinctly claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A signal to be displayed on the backs of chairs and the like, consisting of a gong secured to the seat of a chair and within reach of the hand, and having a rod passing there-through for sounding an alarm, the prolongation of said rod being pivotally attached to a lever fulcrumed on said seat, the opposite end of said lever being attached to a vertically-operating connecting-rod to actuate the same and through it a rock-shaft attached to the chair-back, and upon which is secured a signaling device which may be elevated or depressed at will by means of the mechanism herein set forth.

2. A signaling device of the character described, consisting of a gong attached to the seat of a chair and having its sounding-rod extended to connect with one arm of the lever *c*, pivotally secured to the bottom of said chair, and the vertically-reciprocating connecting-rod *d*, having its lower end attached to the outer end of said lever and its upper end attached to the rock-shaft *e f*, located on the back of the chair to actuate a signaling device secured thereto.

MIRIAM E. BENJAMIN.

Witnesses:

JAS. C. WOOD,
HENRY E. BAKER.