

(No Model.)

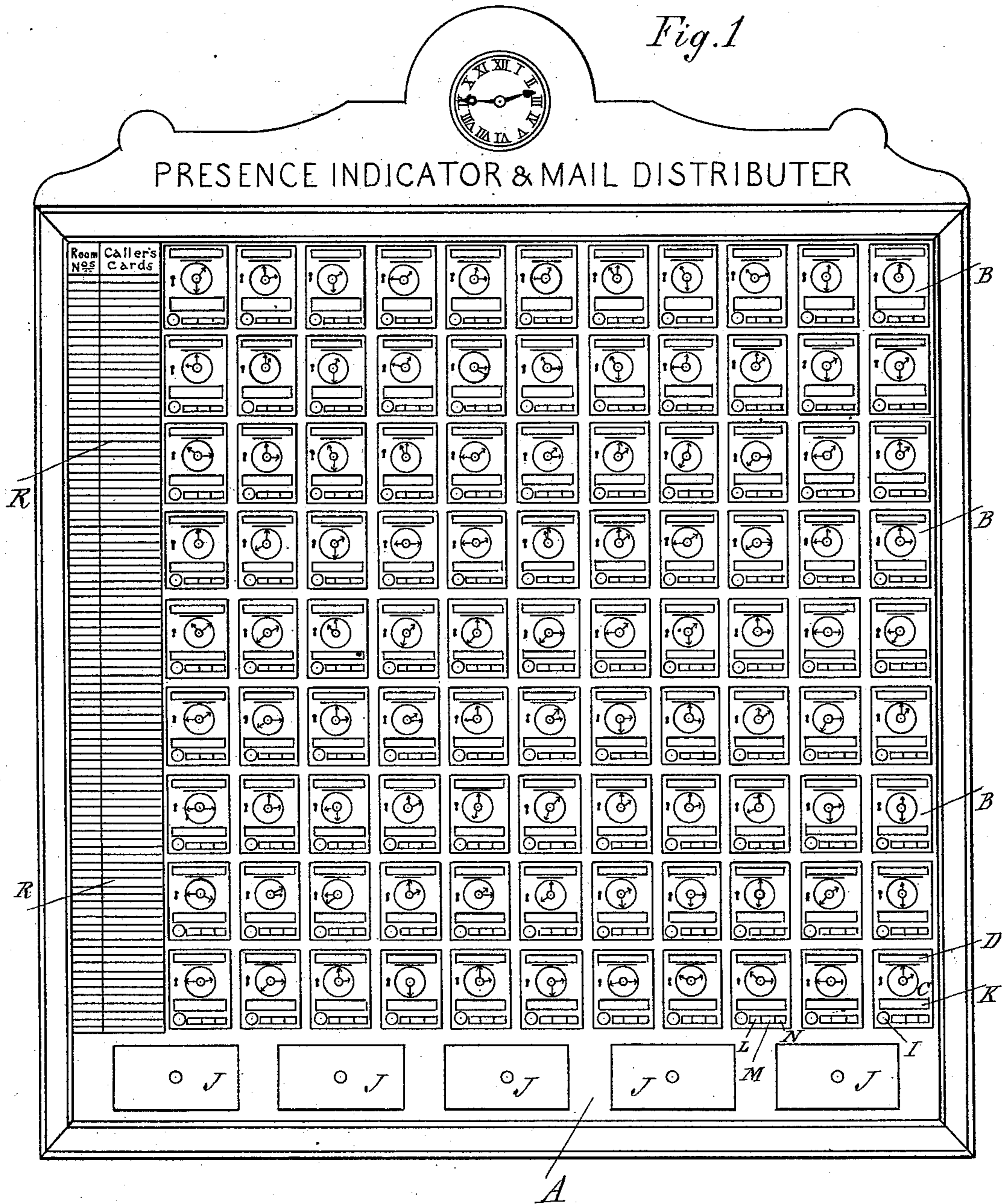
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R. R. GAREAU.
INDICATOR FOR HOTELS.

No. 393,894.

Patented Dec. 4, 1888.

Fig. 1



Witnesses.
J. Paul Mayer.
John Schuman.

Inventor.
Rock R. Gareau.
by *Thos. S. Sprague* for
Att'y.

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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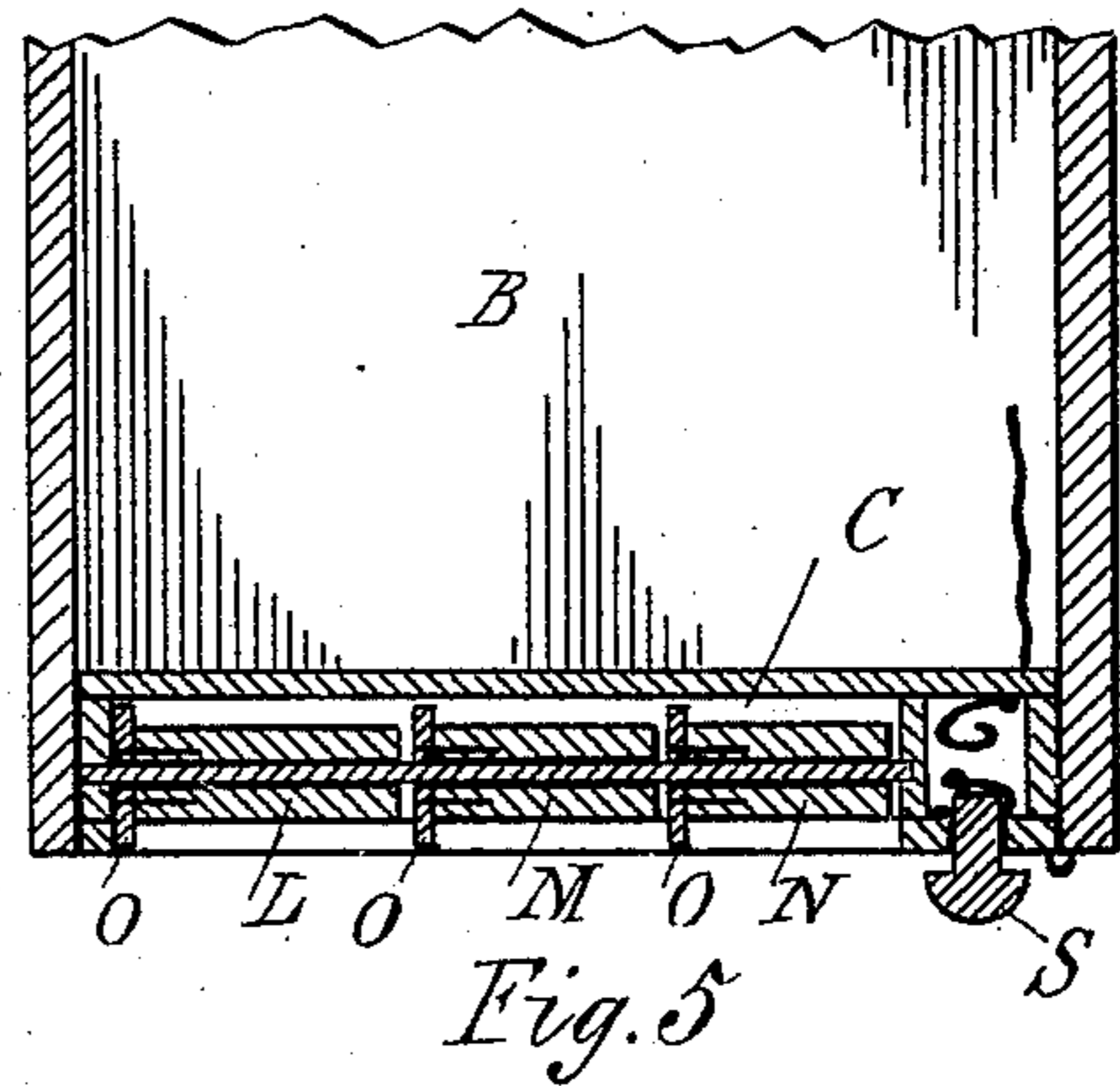
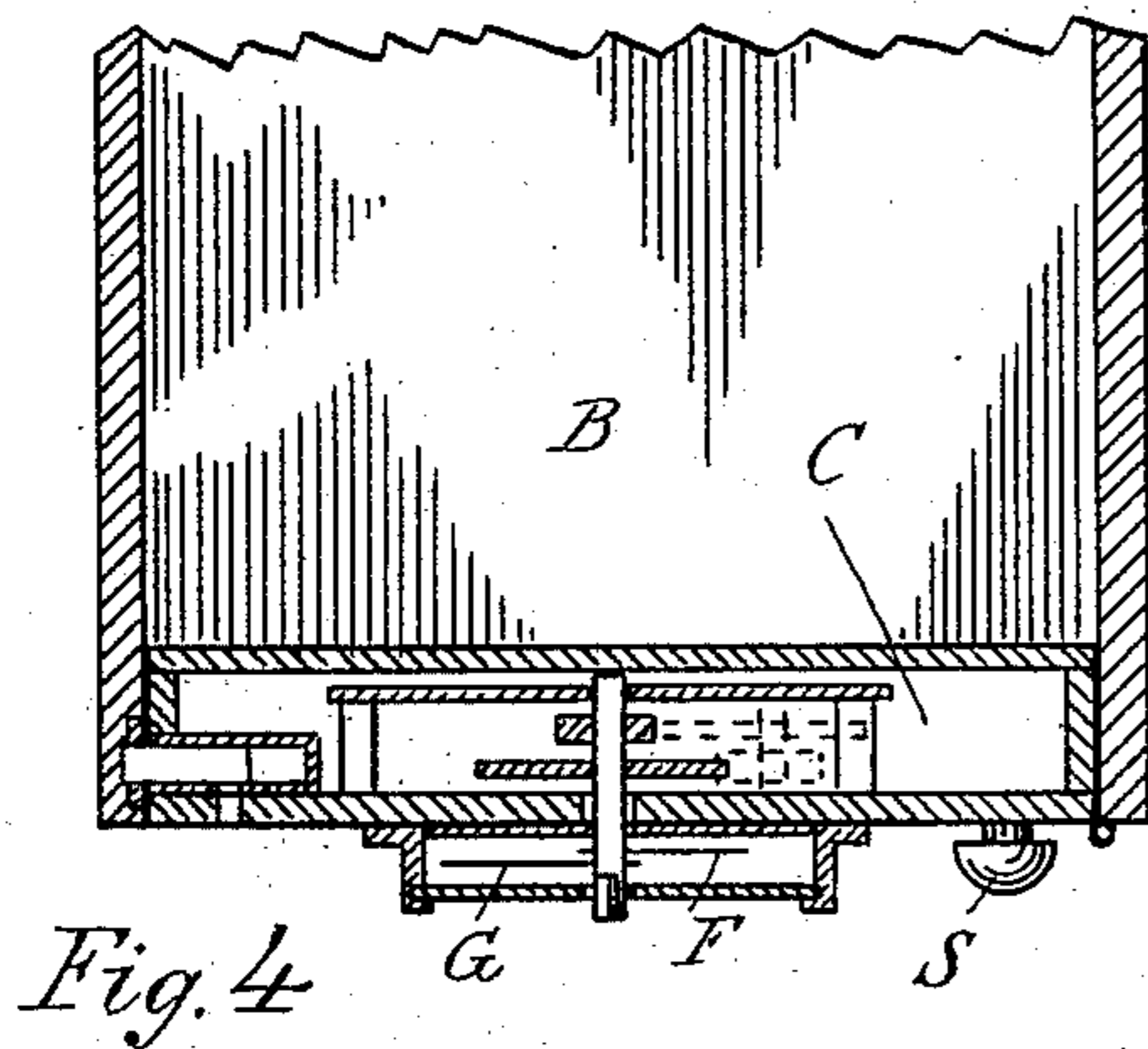
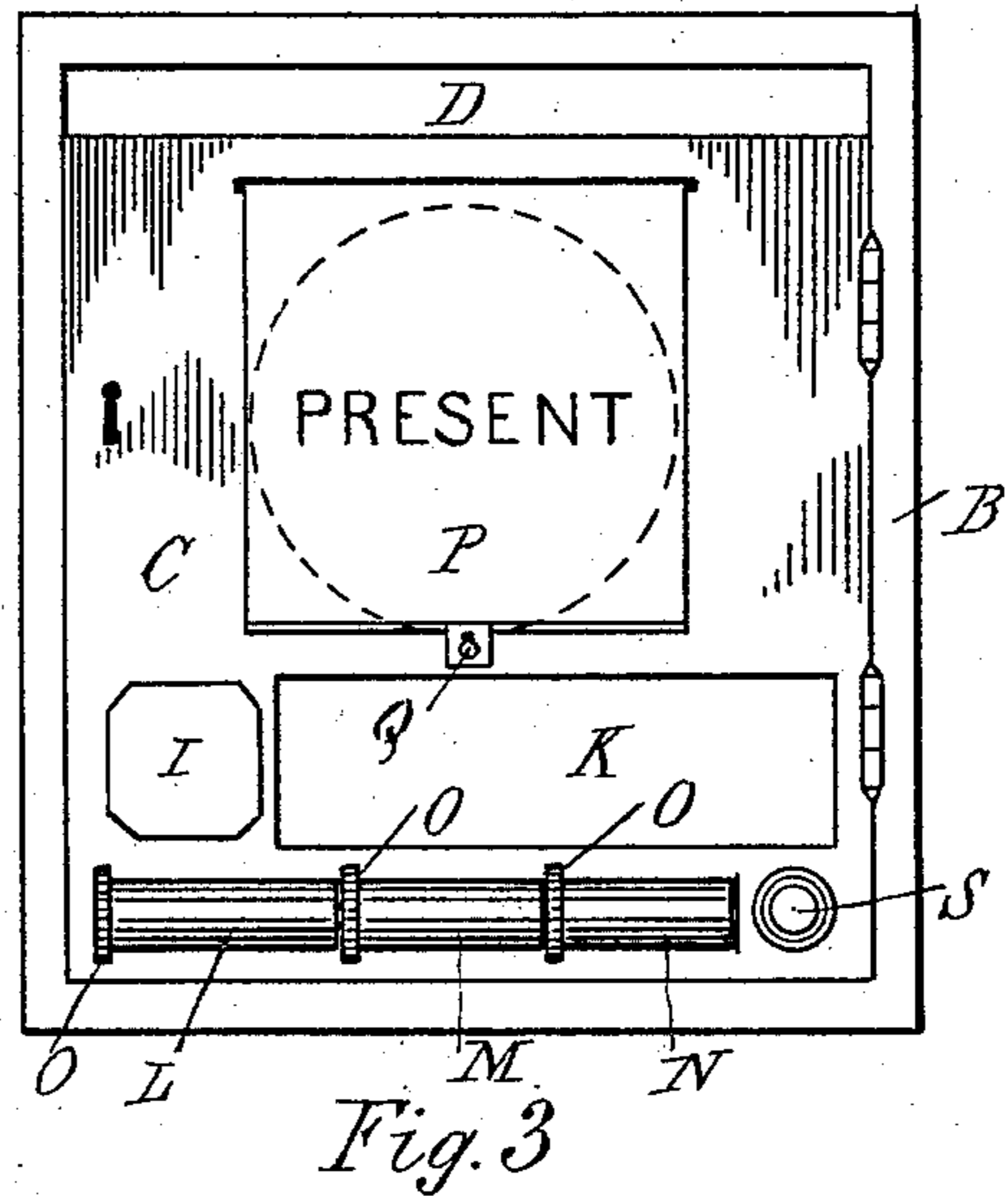
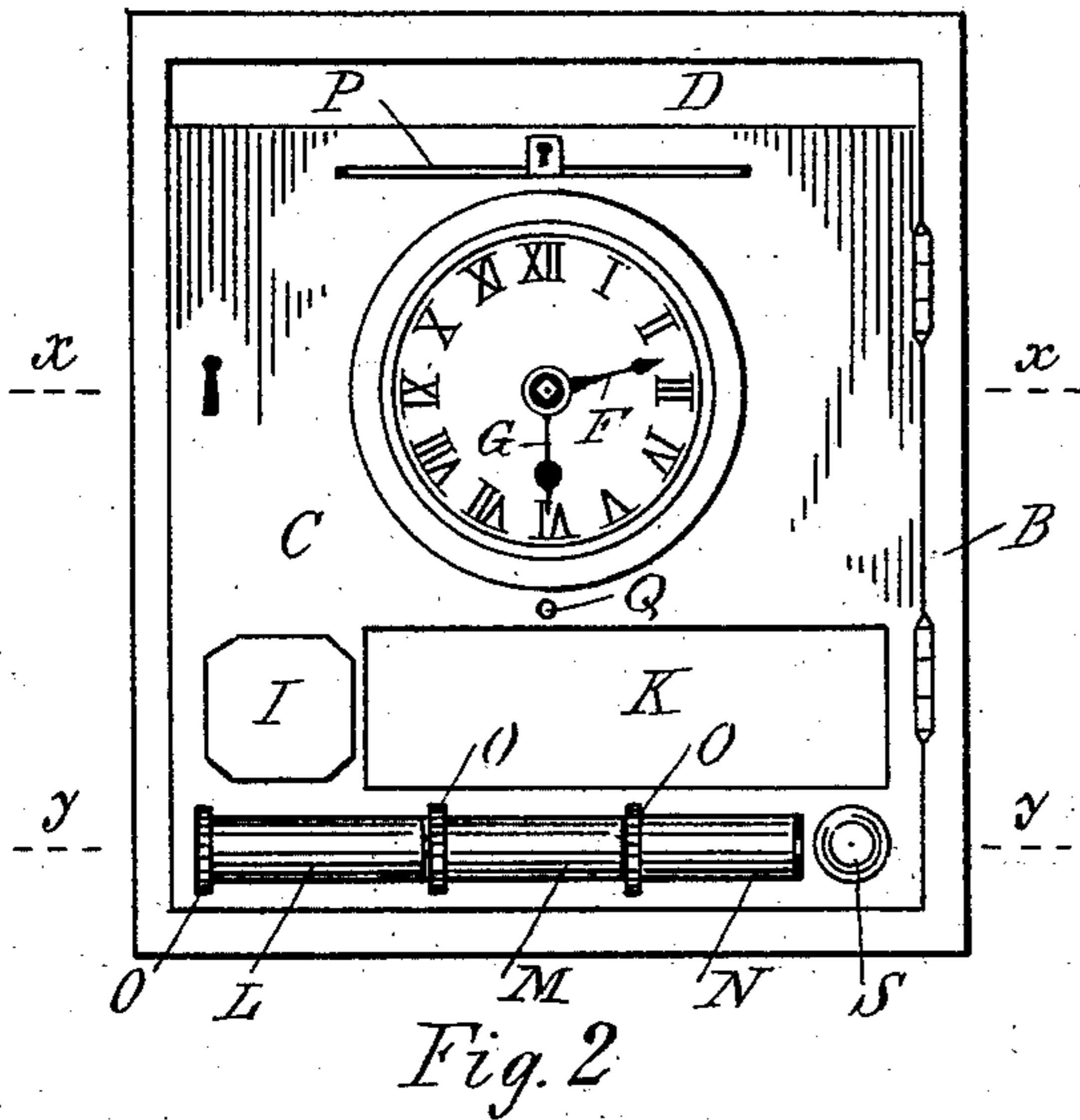
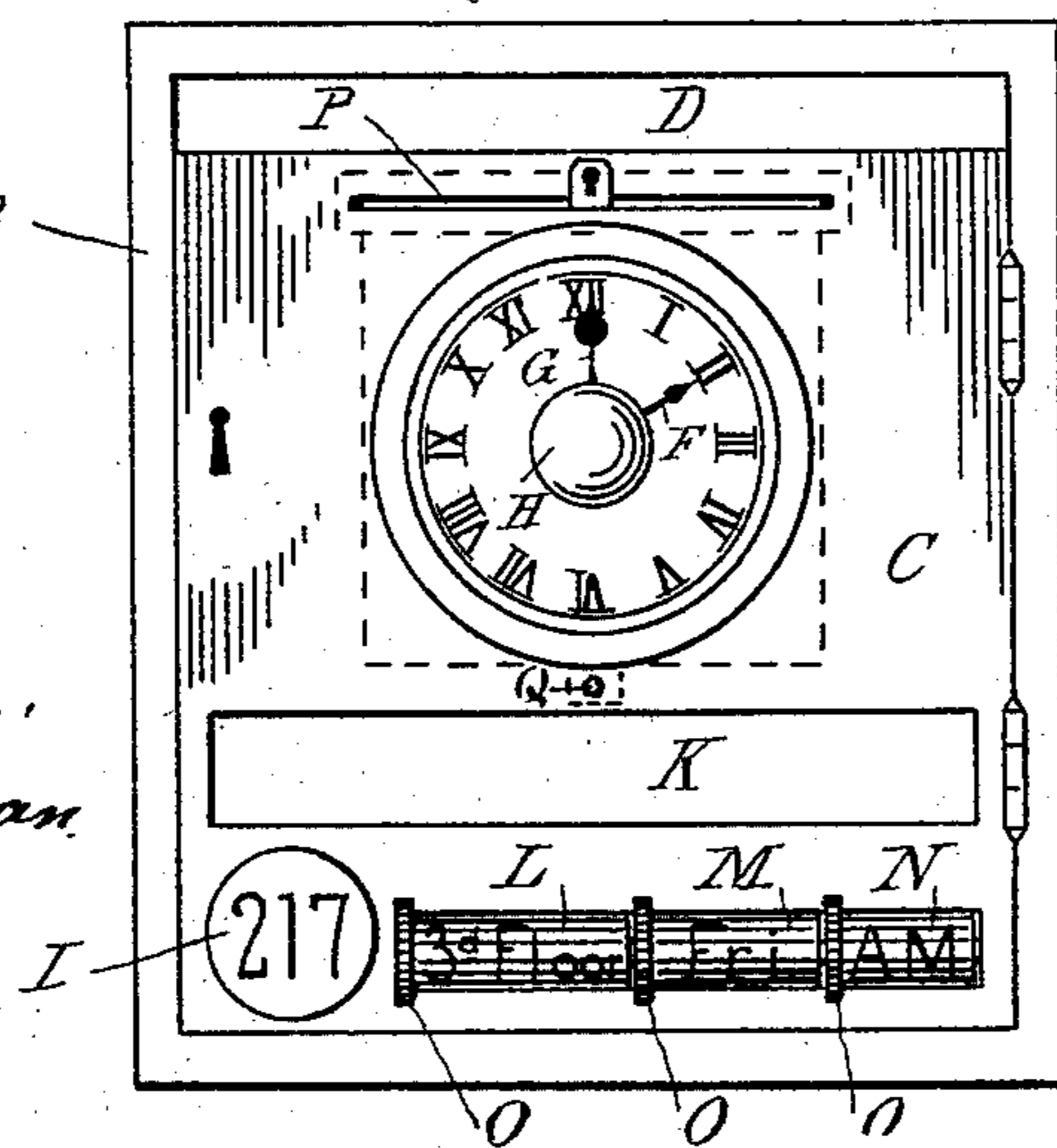


Fig. 6

Witnesses.
J. Paul Mayer.
John Schuman.



Inventor.
Roch R. Gareau,
by
Messrs. Spangenberg
Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROCH R. GAREAU, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

INDICATOR FOR HOTELS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 393,894, dated December 4, 1888.

Application filed September 10, 1888. Serial No. 285,065. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROCH R. GAREAU, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Hotels, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a combined presence-indicator and mail-distributer; and the object of my invention is to provide especially hotels and other buildings containing a large number of occupants, office-holders, or employés with a convenient device displayed in the office of the hotel or other convenient place of the building, whereby the guest or occupant of the building may on entering and departing indicate his absence or presence, his time of return, or other general information for the convenience of those wanting to see him without the necessity of searching for him or making tedious inquiry.

The object of my device is at the same time to furnish a distributer for the mail.

To this end my invention consists of a case divided into a series of individual compartments, one for each guest, occupant, or office-holder, each compartment serving to receive the individual mail and bearing upon its front a door, upon which the different devices are displayed, by means of which the purpose of my invention is effected, all as more fully hereinafter set forth, and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of my improved indicator and mail-distributer. Figs. 2 and 3 are enlarged elevations of the front face of one compartment. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on line $x\ x$, and Fig. 5 is a horizontal section on line $y\ y$. Fig. 6 is an enlarged elevation of the front face of one compartment, showing another arrangement of my device.

A is a case or frame, preferably of such ornamental design as to attract attention. This is divided by a series of horizontal and vertical partitions into a number of individual compartments, B. These compartments are of suitable size to admit of placing the ordinary mail within, and each is provided with a hinged door, C, in front, preferably provided

with a lock and key. Through this door or above it is provided a suitable slit, D, for introducing the mail into the compartments without opening the door.

Upon the upper portion of the door I display an ordinary clock-dial having the usual hour and minute hands, F and G, and a button, H, secured upon the shaft of the minute-hand for conveniently and rapidly setting the hands at any desired time; or the shaft of the minute-hand may be turned by means of a suitable key. The object of this clock-dial is to enable the temporary possessor of the box to thereby indicate the hour of his return whenever he absents himself.

Upon a subdivision of the door below the clock-dial I display the number of the room which the possessor of the box occupies, and this number I preferably display upon a detachable button, I, so as to readily change the number of the room or take the button off and keep it in one of the drawers J at the bottom of the case if the box should not be in use. Next to this numbered button a space, K, is provided, upon which the name of the occupant is displayed, either by writing it upon a card and securing such card in place in any suitable manner, or providing the space with a tablet of silicate, slate, parchment, or like material, which permits of writing and effacing the writing when the occupant chooses. The lower end of the door is provided with a recess, within which is independently journaled a series of index rollers or prisms, L, M, and N. The first roller or prism is marked upon its sides with the different floors of the building, the second with the days of the week, and the third with the letters "A. M." and "P. M."

Each roller is provided upon one end with a milled head, O, which projects slightly beyond the face of the door, and by means of which such roller may be rotated to display any one of its inscriptions upon the front face of the door. Thus, for instance, if the possessor of the box occupies a room on the second floor, he turns the roller L until the inscription "Second Floor" appears in front, and if the occupant wants to indicate that he will return on Tuesday he turns his second roller until the inscription "Tuesday" is displayed. Should he return in the morning, he

displays the inscription "A. M." on the third roller. Thus the possessor of a box is enabled by means of the clock-dial to indicate the hour of his return; by means of the roller M the day of his return, and by means of the roller N the time of day—meaning A. M. or P. M.

On a spring-roller curtain, P, of usual construction, suitably arranged over the clock-dial, I mark the word "Present," which when the guest or occupant is in the room or office is drawn down over the clock-dial and held in place by the pin Q, and when the guest or occupant is absent from the room or office is allowed to roll up out of view behind the door C.

The grouping of these different devices upon the door may be varied without changing the spirit of my invention. Thus, if desired, it may be found preferable to place the roller L, which displays the floor on which the occupant lives, in a group with the button indicating the number of the room. I preferably, however, place the rollers into one horizontal group for fixing therein, if desired, the push-button S of an electrical call leading to the room of the possessor of the box; but such device does not form a necessary part of my present invention.

I prefer to have the door partly constructed of glass to make the contents of the box visible.

While I have described and shown the different devices to be operated on the face of the door without opening the door, I do not want to confine myself to this construction, as it may be advisable to have all the adjustments of the movable parts from the inside, so that they may not be tampered with when the door is closed. I preferably provide the case upon the left hand to act with a vertical series of boxes, R, inscribed on top "Caller's Card," and alongside of each box are placed numbers indicating the number of the rooms—thus, if the caller wishes, he may leave his card in the box alongside of number 15. This arrangement is not, however, a material part of my device.

At the bottom of the case I arrange a series of drawers, J. Heretofore referred to. These drawers are for the convenience of the clerk in the hotel to keep the different detachable parts—such as keys, buttons, and so on—in a suitable place of deposit.

From the construction and description of the device heretofore given, it is evident that with the help of such a device the clerk in the hotel has his duty materially lessened, as he may refer any caller upon a certain guest to my indicator, which will impart to all the information generally required.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. In a device for the purpose described, the combination, with a frame or case divided into compartments or boxes provided with doors adapted to close and disclose such compartments, of a slit leading into each compartment, and a series of indicating devices displayed upon such door for indicating the number of the room, the floor on which said room is located, the name of the occupant and the time-indicating devices, and the curtain over the clock-dial, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. In a combined presence-indicator and mail-distributer, the combination, with a frame or case divided into compartments or boxes provided with doors adapted to open and close such boxes, of a slit into each compartment, and the indicating devices displayed upon the door, consisting of the clock-dial with indicator-hands, the detachable button carrying the room number, the name or card space provided for, and the series of rollers L, M, and N, substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 30th day of August, 1888.

ROCH R. GAREAU.

Witnesses:

JOHN SCHUMAN,
J. PAUL MAYER.