

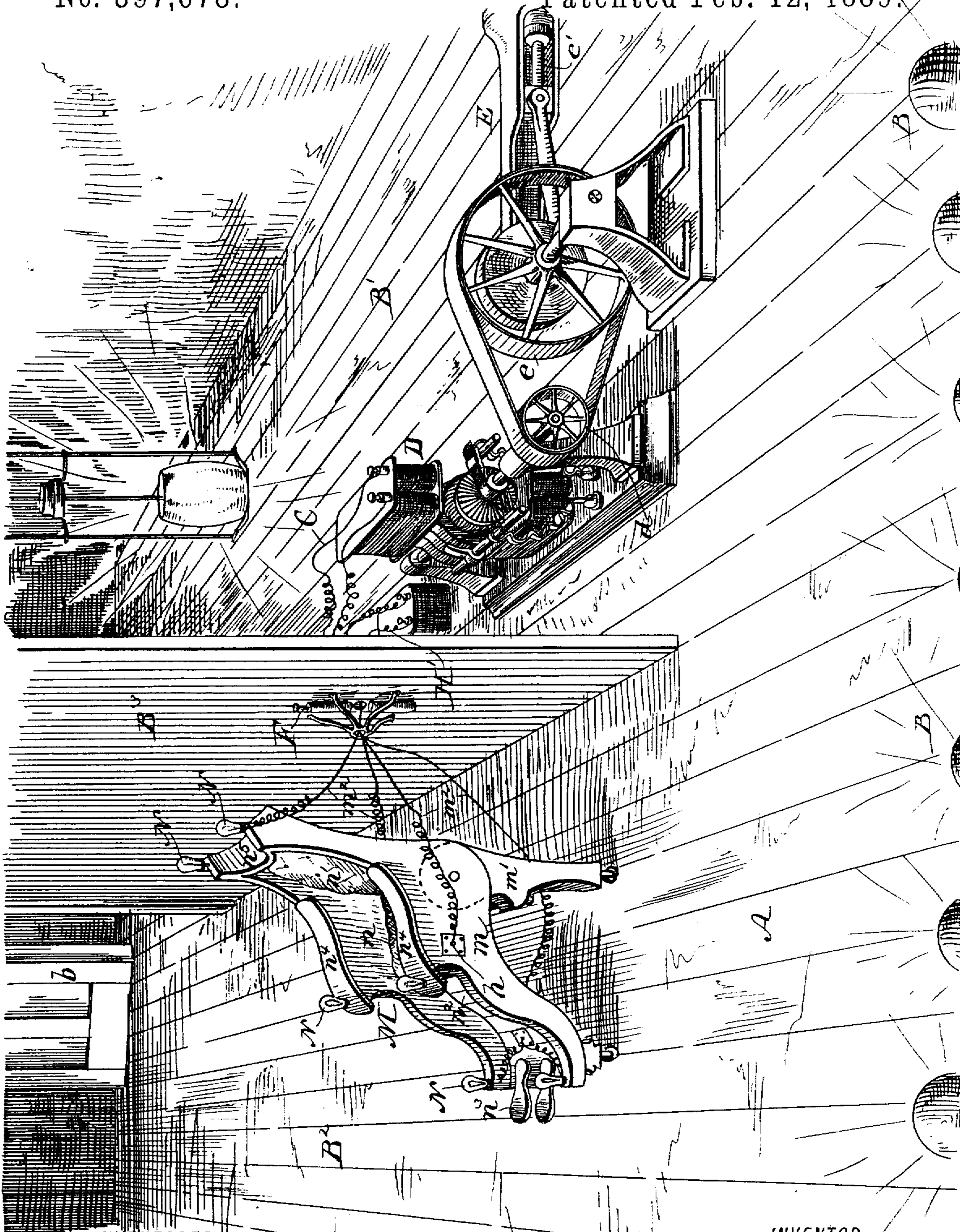
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

F. WILSON.
THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.

No. 397,678.

Patented Feb. 12, 1889.



WITNESSES:

*John H. Deemer**E. M. Clark**Fig. 1.*

INVENTOR:

Fred Wilson

BY

Munn & Co

ATTORNEYS.

(No Model.)

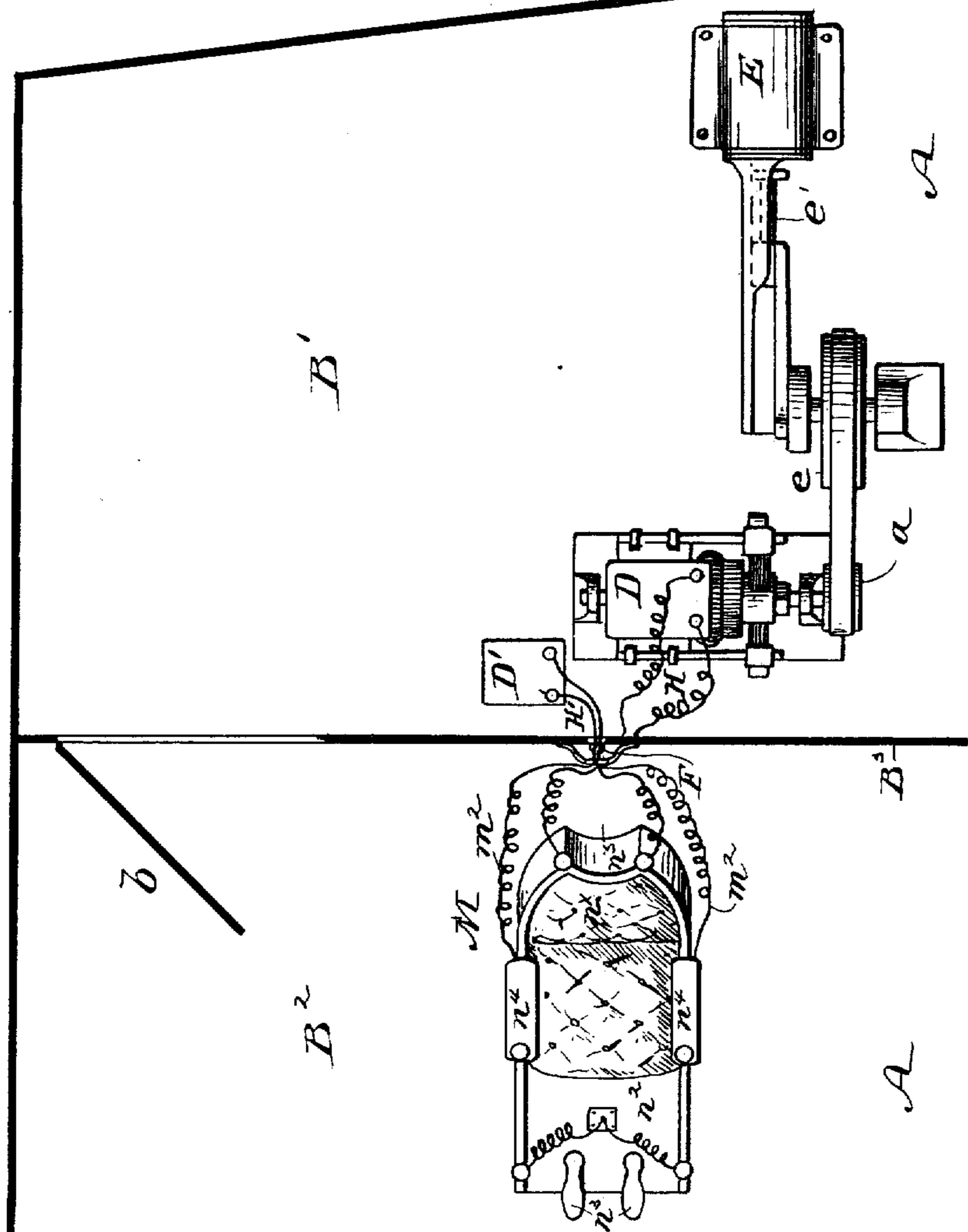
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Fig. 2.



WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED WILSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,678, dated February 12, 1889.

Application filed July 21, 1888. Serial No. 280,641. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED WILSON, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Theatrical Appliances, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improvement in theatrical appliances, and has for its object to provide a means whereby the interior of connecting rooms will be accurately represented—one room containing an electrical death-chair and apparatus for manipulating the same and the adjoining room an electric plant connected with the said death-chair; and the further object of the invention is to provide a simple and convenient means for manipulating the death-chair and connecting the chair with the electric plant.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a 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 scene, and Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same.

In carrying out the invention, A represents the floor of the stage, and B the foot-lights. The stage is divided into two rooms or chambers, B' and B², by a flat, B³, extending perpendicularly from the floor upward and from the rear of the stage to a point approximating the foot-lights, whereby the interior of the several chambers may be fully exposed to view from the front of the stage. The flat B³ at or near the rear may, if desired, be provided with a door, b. In the chamber B' a dynamo, D, of any suitable construction, is located adjacent to the flat, or a model or representation of a dynamo may be substituted for a practical machine. To the front of the dynamo and at one side thereof an engine, E, is secured to the stage, the fly-wheel e of which is rotated by a suitable piston-rod, e', and any approved connections between the fly-wheel shaft and said rod. The dynamo is provided with a drive-pulley, d, and the said pulley is belted to the fly-wheel of the engine. To the rear of the dynamo and concealed thereby a small electric battery, D', is

located, being secured to the floor or other convenient support.

Upon the side of the flat B³ in the chamber B² a push-button, F, is held to reciprocate, having connection with the wires H and H', emanating, respectively, from the dynamo and small battery. Within the chamber B² a death-chair, M, is placed upon the floor of the stage, which chair consists of a body, m, pivoted upon the hind legs, m', which legs are stationary. The body of the chair is constructed with an integral seat, n, back n', leg-support n², foot-rest n³, and arm-rests n⁴, and the upper surface of the back is concaved to constitute a head-rest, n⁵. Upon the head-rest, at the foot of the chair-body and upon the arms, incandescent lamps N are secured, having connection through wires m² with the push-button F, whereby when said button is pressed a circuit will be completed and the lamps illuminated. A suitable circuit is also established between the dynamo and the chair. The extremities of the chair-body are so weighted that the back will be held normally in vertical position and a perfect balance be obtained even when the chair is occupied, the purpose of the equipoise being to enable the body of the chair when occupied or unoccupied to be placed at an inclination or in a horizontal position. The chair is provided with suitable apertures, h, for the introduction of the wires to the lamps, which apertures are usually surrounded with metal plates. The arm-rests, foot-rest, and head-rest are preferably constructed of metal.

The electric lamps are preferably sunken in the chair-frame, in order that they may be essentially invisible from the front of the house, the object being to produce a flash from an unseen source.

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

1. The combination of a stage, a mechanical structure representing the interior of adjoining compartments, a chair in one compartment having electric lamps mounted thereon, a push-button adjacent to said chair, a battery in the adjoining compartment, wires connected with said battery and push-button, and wires connected with said lamps engaging said button, all arranged to operate

substantially in the manner and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination of a stage, a mechanical structure representing the interior of adjoining compartments, a chair having a balanced pivoted body, electric lights mounted upon the chair-body, a push-button adjacent to said chair, a battery, wires connected with said battery and push-button, and wires connected with the lamps engaging the button, all arranged to operate substantially as shown and described.

3. In a theatrical appliance, a chair provided with a head-support, electric lamp attached to said chair, a generator of electricity, wires establishing a circuit between the gen-

erator, the chair, and the lamps, and a switch or button controlling said circuit, all arranged substantially as shown and described.

4. In a theatrical appliance, a chair having a pivoted and balanced body, electric lamps attached to said chair, a generator of electricity, wires establishing a circuit between the generator and lamps, and a device, substantially as shown and described, to open or close the circuit, as and for the purpose specified.

FRED WILSON.

Witnesses:

J. F. ACKER, Jr.,

EDGAR TATE.