

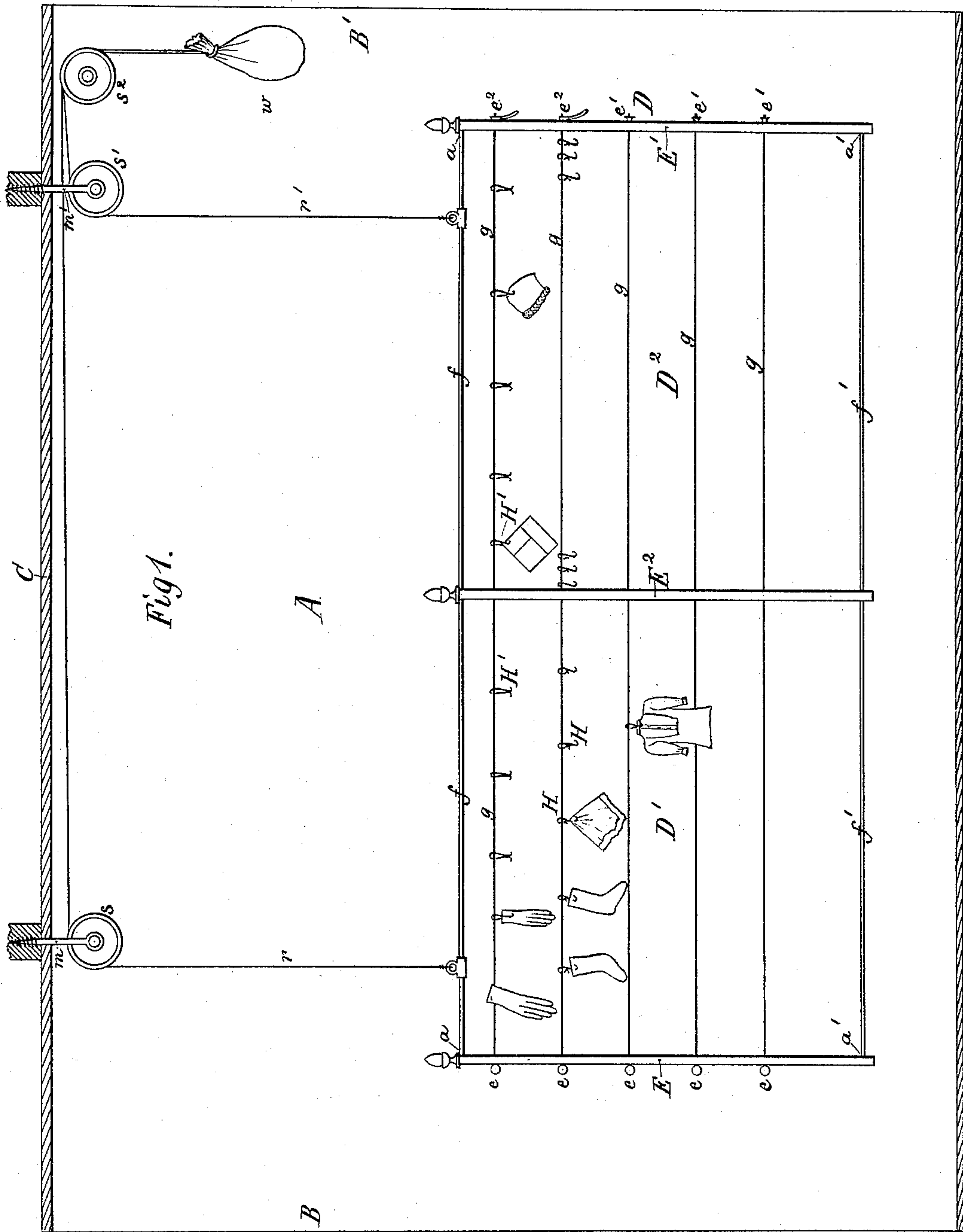
(No Model.)

S. R. DUNLAP.

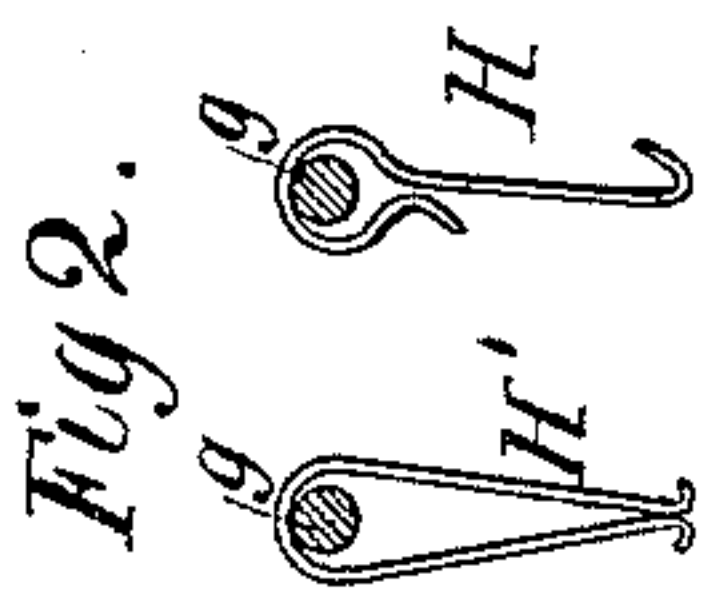
DISPLAY AND SALE RACK FOR MERCHANDISE.

No. 405,400.

Patented June 18, 1889.



Witnesses:
J. P. Geo. Lang.
E. J. Fenwick



Inventor:
S. R. Dunlap
by his Atty
Mason, Fenwick & Lawrence

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL ROBERTSON DUNLAP, OF EUTAW, ALABAMA.

DISPLAY AND SALE RACK FOR MERCHANDISE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 405,400, dated June 18, 1889.

Application filed March 1, 1889. Serial No. 302,217. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL ROBERTSON DUNLAP, a citizen of the United States, residing at Eutaw, in the county of Greene and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display and Sale Racks for Merchandise; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, forming a part of this my specification of said invention.

The object of my invention is to provide a display and sale rack for merchandise which shall occupy but little room and may be utilized in spaces in stores which are usually regarded as waste room, or undesirable or inconvenient for either the storing or display of goods, and which at a glance shall present to the eye of an observer the class of goods sought for without removing or handling the same, as is ordinarily the case in stores where merchandise is deposited upon shelves or in drawers; and, further, which shall secure the goods from attack by rats and mice, and which, in the event of fire occurring in the building in which the rack is used, may readily be removed to a place of safety with all the merchandise displayed upon it.

In the accompanying drawings, A, Figure 1, indicates a room occupied for the display and sale of merchandise, B B' its end walls, and C its ceiling. Fig. 2 shows the hooks and clasps, which are self-retaining on the wires *g*, used for confining goods upon the rack.

D indicates my improved rack for the display and sale of merchandise, suspended from the ceiling of said room, as shown, and so balanced by a weight that it may be readily drawn from an elevation near the ceiling to a convenient point near the floor, where the goods secured upon the rack may be critically inspected or removed therefrom, as occasion may require.

In practice the rack D, Fig. 1, may for convenience be made some six feet in length and from four to six feet in height, care being taken that the height of the same shall not exceed the height of the room in which it

is to be used, and thereby obstruct its ready removal in the event of fire.

In Fig. 1, E and E' are outer tubular metal posts, E² an intermediate tubular metal post, and *f* and *f'* upper and lower metal connecting-rods extending from E to E' and passing centrally transversely through the intermediate post E² near its ends, thereby forming rectangular sections of the rack, as D' D², on either side of the post E². The connecting-rods *f* and *f'* at their extremities may be firmly connected with the posts E E' in any proper manner—as, for example, their opposite ends may be screw-threaded—so as to engage with and be screwed firmly into female screw sockets or holes in the upper and lower ends of the posts E E' at the points *a a'*, and thereby firmly secure the parallelism of said frame.

The posts E E' E² are made of hollow round metal to secure lightness as well as strength, while the connecting-rods *f f'* may be made of metal piping, but of much larger diameter than the intermediate longitudinal display-wires *g*. In fact, the posts E E' E² may also be made of metal piping for economy in constructing the rack, but of much greater diameter than the connecting-rods *f f'*. The longitudinal display-wires *g*, which are about one-fourth of an inch in diameter, are at one end bent into a scroll form, as at *e*, to abut against the post E when in place, and pass through proper-sized holes drilled through each of said posts E E' E², while at their opposite ends they are screw-threaded in order to be made taut, or “screwed up” by nuts, either as shown at *e'* or *e²*, whichever may be preferred.

For artistic finish the posts E E' E² are each at top capped by a metal acorn, and the exterior surface of the posts E E' E², the connecting-rods *f' f²*, and the display-wires *g* are plated with some incorrodible metal, nickel-plating being preferably used for such purpose, so that dampness of temperature will not result in having the goods hung, clasped, or hooked to the display-wires *g* injured by contact with rust on the metal of the rack, every portion of which rack may be nickel-plated, thus presenting an attractive exterior throughout.

As shown in Fig. 2, H represents a metal hook, which I spring and retain upon the display-wires g , and on which I suspend various articles of merchandise, while also I employ
 5 metal clasps, as at H', with which I fasten goods upon said wires, and which, when the goods are removed, remain clasped upon the wires for further use. These hooks and clasps are also nickel-plated, or plated with
 10 some non-corrosive metal, the same as the other portions of the display and sale rack D.

It may often happen in the display of goods that it is desirable to change the relative size of the areas of the sections D' D², and in such
 ; case the intermediate post E² may be changed in position, either to the right or left hand along the display-wires g and the connecting-rods f and f' , thereby enlarging or contracting such sections at option. As shown in
 20 Fig. 1, the rack is suspended from the ceiling C by standards $m m'$, properly secured thereto, and which sustain wheels $s s'$, as shown, to receive a cord r , having its lower end properly fastened to the connecting-rod f of section D', as shown, while its opposite end
 25 passes over an idler wheel or pulley s^2 , and to which cord a counterpoise sand-bag or shot-bag weight w is attached to enable the rack to be elevated and lowered with ease. Another rope or cord, as r' , is also attached to f
 30 of section D², as shown, which cord, passing up over the wheel s' , is also connected with the counterpoise w , (the weight of which may be increased or diminished at pleasure,) and
 35 whereby the two cords may be operated simultaneously by said counterpoise, and thus the rack be evenly elevated and lowered without strain or torsion.

Thus constructed, it will be seen that my
 40 "merchandise display and sale rack" is especially useful in stores, where it is of great importance to economize room; that it may be suspended from the ceiling at any part where it will not interfere with the ordinary
 45 constructions for the display and sale of goods, and that it will simultaneously display, when drawn down in front of a person making purchases, a great variety of goods from
 50 which it is desired to make selections, thus saving both time and labor.

If desired, these racks can be used at the side walls of stores, thereby at once presenting a very attractive and extensive display
 55 of goods, every article of which may be brought within reach without the use of a ladder, and while the rack itself will present no foothold for either rats or mice, and which, when elevated, carries the goods suspended thereon entirely out of reach of that destructive
 60 class of vermin.

It will be seen that with my construction

the rack can be operated with a single weight or counterpoise w , the gravity of which may be varied, as desired, and that by placing the weight end of the rack near to one of the end
 65 walls of the store the weight and its contiguous cords will occupy a place where they will be most out of the way, and give no annoyance to persons in the room by the raising
 70 and lowering of the rack, and, further, that the construction with posts at each end of the rack will have the effect to prevent the sagging of the display-wires g . I would state, however, that while I prefer that the counterpoise of the rack should be effected as de-
 75 scribed, springs may be used for such purpose, and that while metal is preferably employed as the material out of which to construct the posts E E' and rods $f f'$, I do not confine myself to such material, as some
 80 varieties of wood might with advantage be utilized for metal in their construction.

What I claim is—

1. In a merchant's display and sale rack, the combination of the rack formed of end
 85 posts E E' and upper and lower connecting-rods $f f'$ and intermediate display-wires g , and the balancing and suspending mechanism attached to each end of the rack and to the wall or frame-work of the store-room, sub-
 90 stantially as described.

2. In a merchant's display and sale rack, the combination of the end posts E E', intermediate post E², connecting-rods $f f'$, intermediate display-wires g , passing transversely
 95 through the post E² and serving as adjusting or tension rods, and the balancing and suspending mechanism attached to each end of the rack and to the wall or frame-work of the store-room, substantially as described. 100

3. In a merchandise display-rack, the combination of the posts E E' E², connecting-rods $f f'$, display-wires g , provided with self-retaining hooks or clasps, and means for balancing and elevating and lowering the rack,
 105 said means being applied at each end of the rack and to the wall or frame-work of the building, substantially as described.

4. In a rising and descending merchandise display and sale rack, in combination, the side
 110 supporting-posts, and horizontally-connecting rods, cords, weight, and pulleys, a cord and pulley being at each end of the rack and both operated by a single weight at one end thereof, substantially as and for the purpose
 115 described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL ROBERTSON DUNLAP.

Witnesses:

H. W. SANDERSON,
 E. D. LIGHTFOOT.