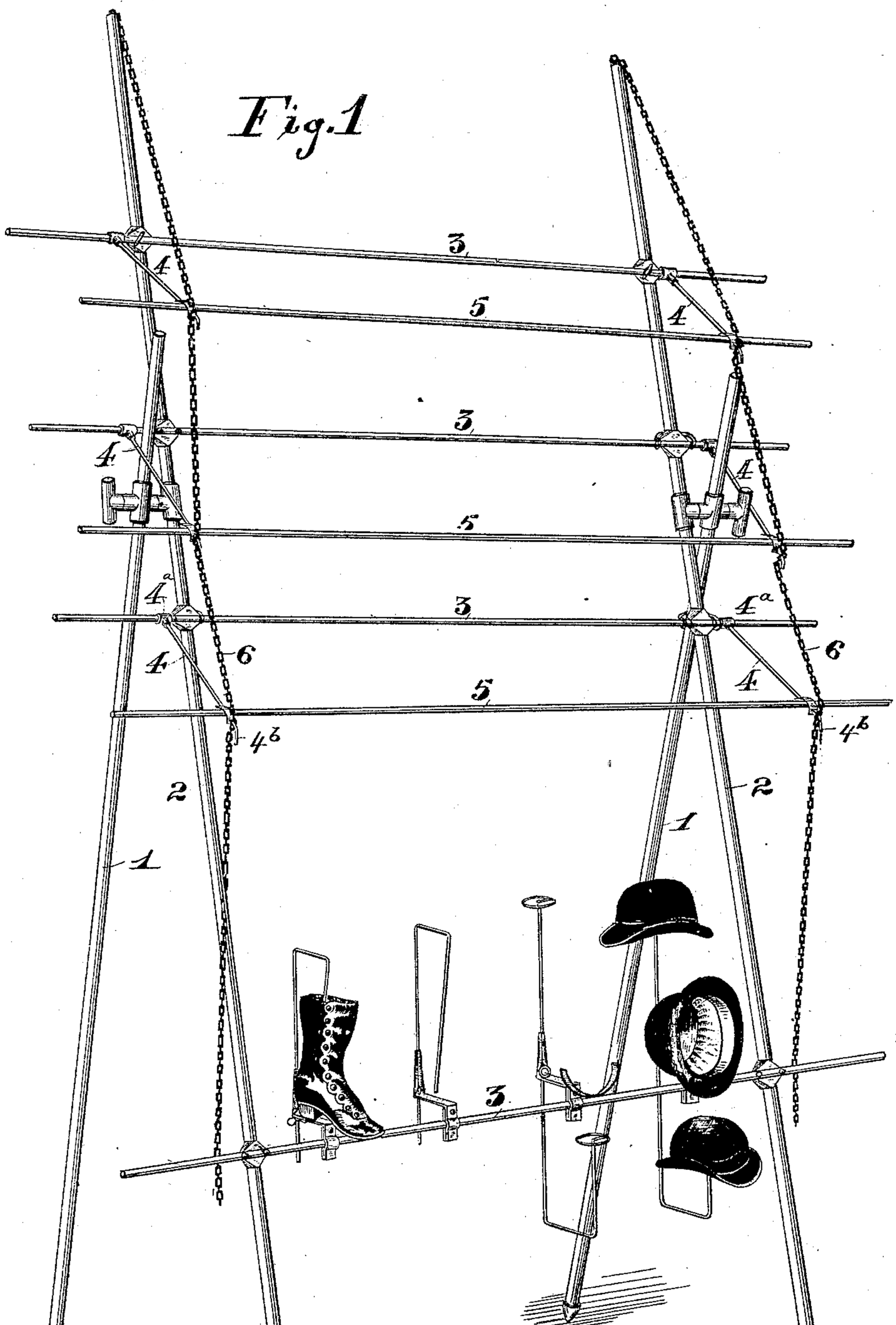
(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

B. G. CASLER.

SHOW RACK.

No. 421,907. Patented Feb. 25, 1890.

Fig. 1



(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 2.

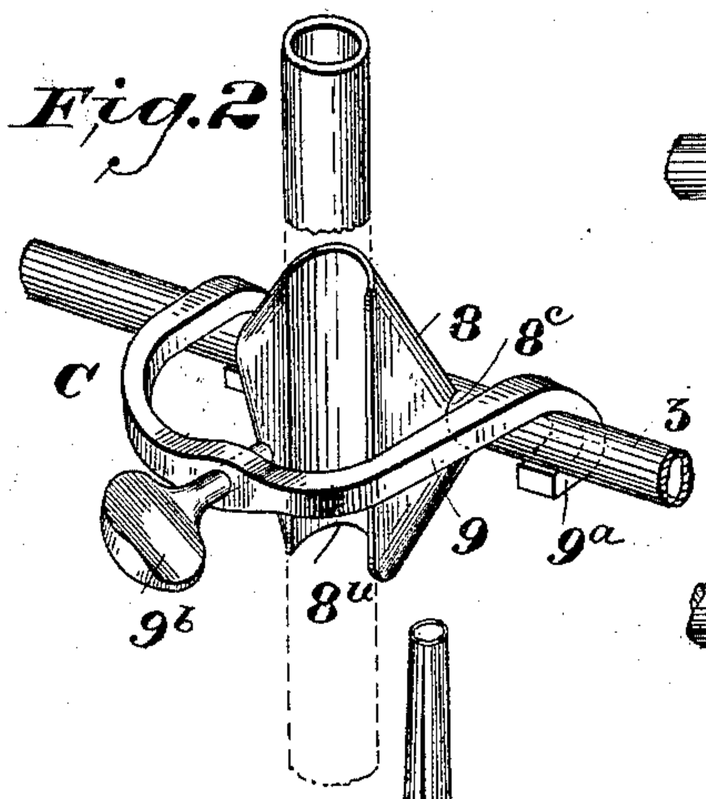


Fig. 3.

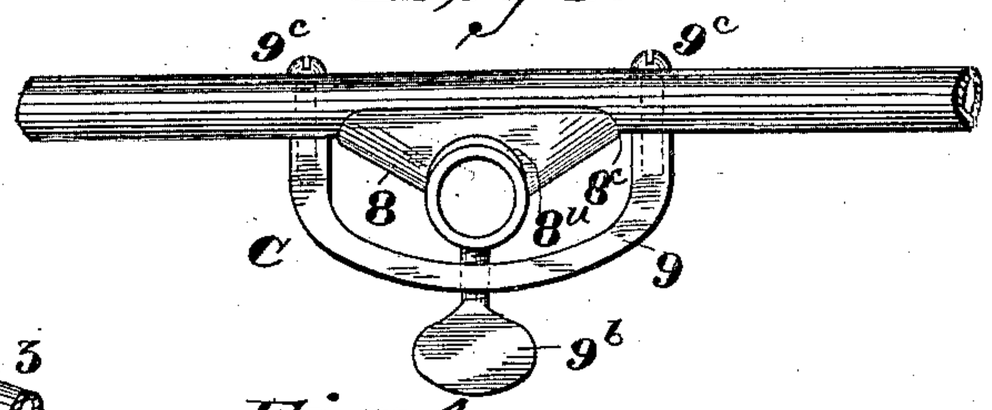


Fig. 4.

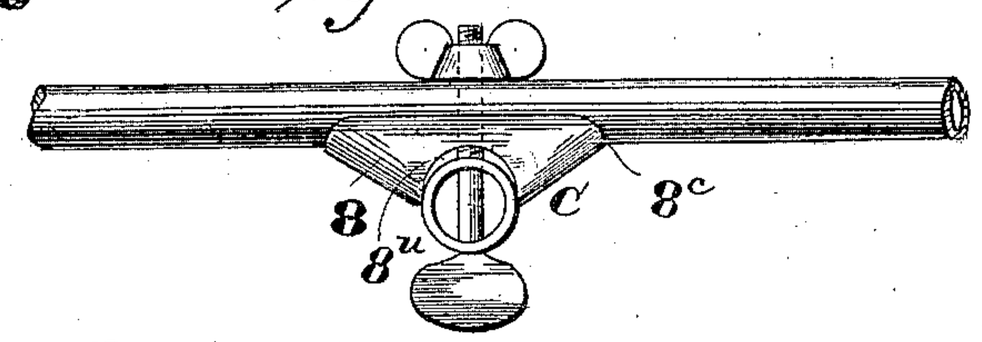


Fig. 5.

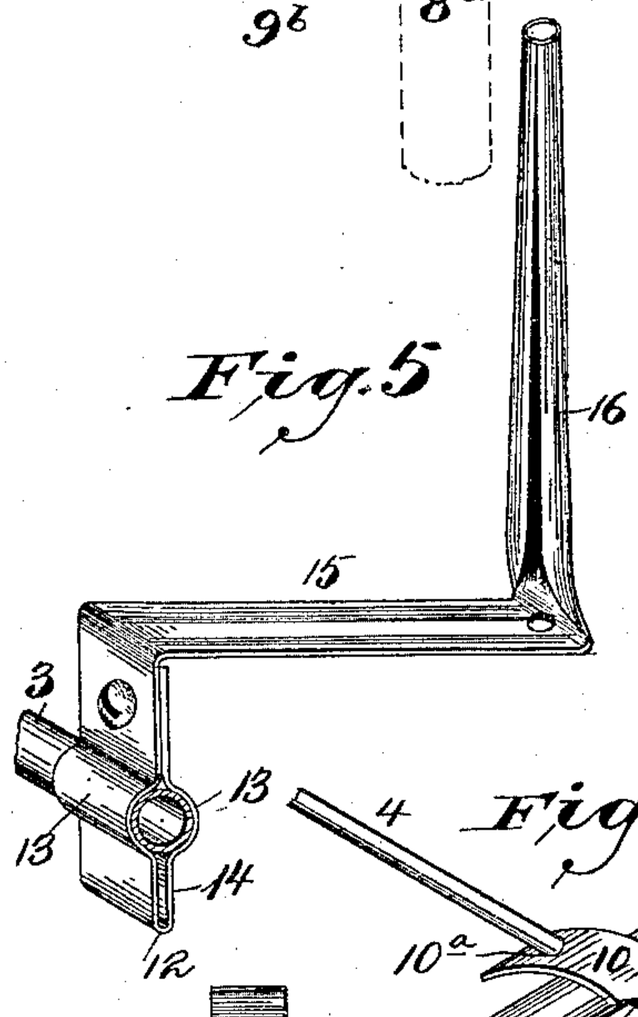


Fig. 10.

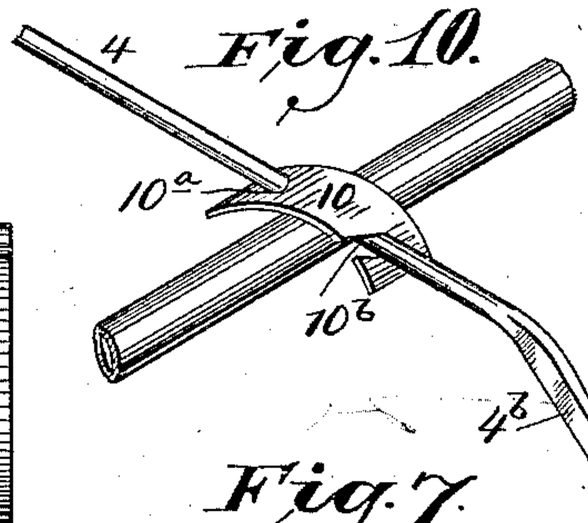


Fig. 7.

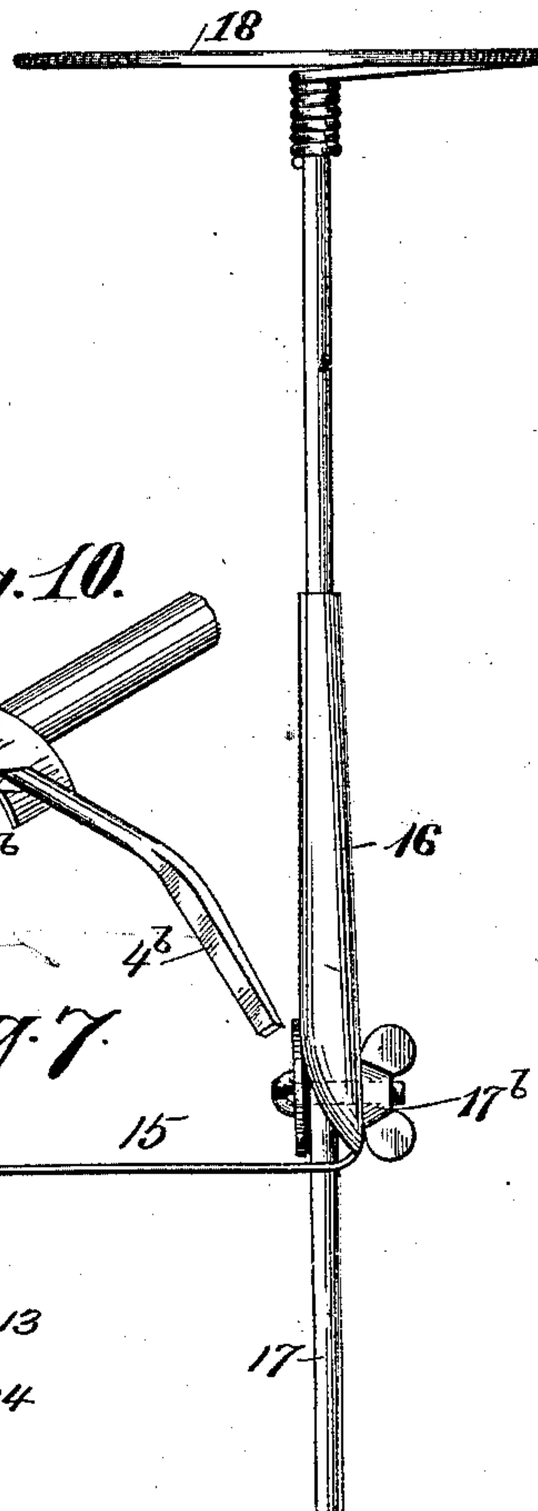
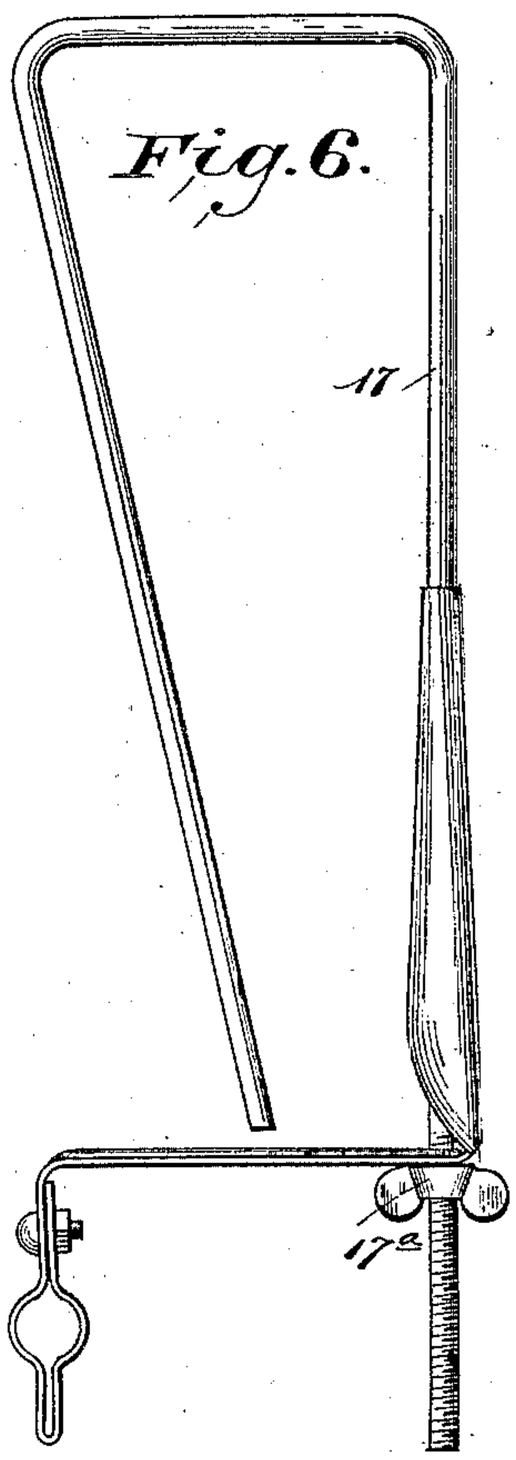


Fig. 6.



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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

B. G. CASLER.

SHOW RACK.

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Fig. 9.

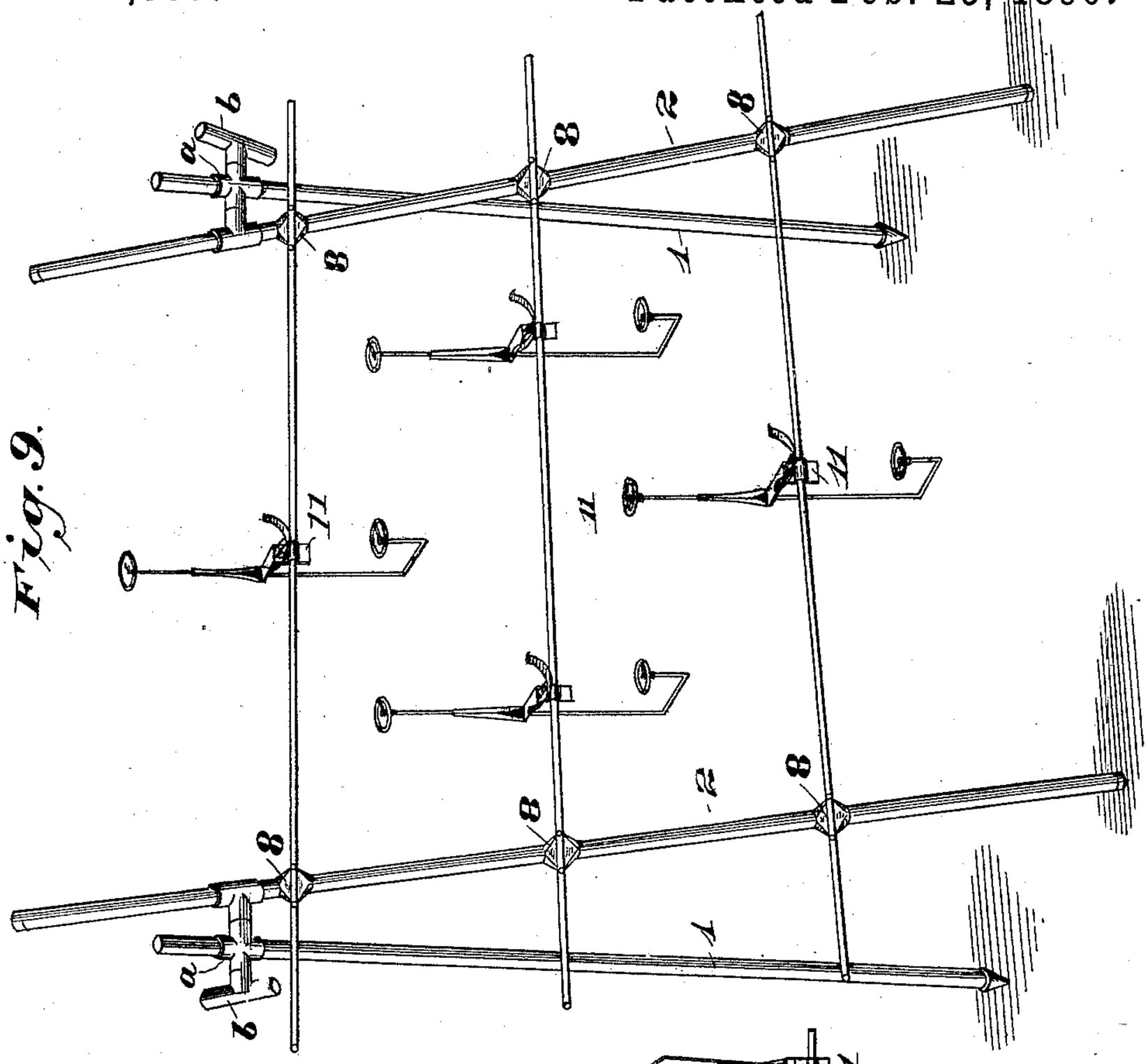
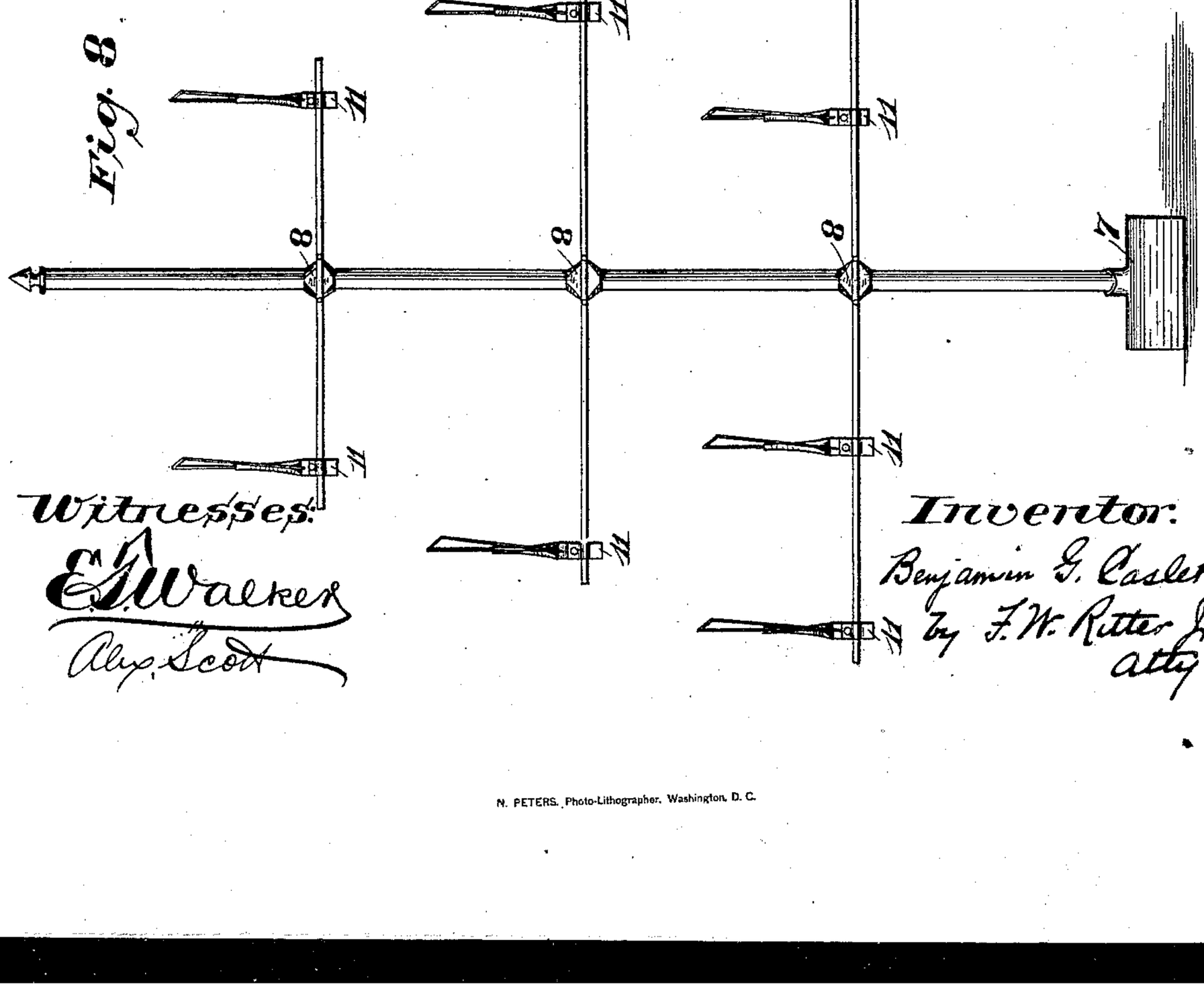


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN G. CASLER, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

SHOW-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 421,907, dated February 25, 1890.

Application filed October 14, 1889. Serial No. 326,912. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN G. CASLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Show-Racks for Store-Windows, &c.; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a show-rack embodying the several features of my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of the preferred construction of the corner-clamp of the frame. Fig. 3 is a view of a slightly-modified construction of the corner-clamp. Fig. 4 is a second modification of the corner-clamp, which may be employed where adjustability is not required. Fig. 5 is an enlarged detail view of the spring-clamp; Fig. 6, an enlarged detached view of the spring-clamp and adjuncts as adapted to display a shoe. Fig. 7 is a similar view of the spring-clamp and adjuncts as adapted to display a hat. Fig. 8 is a modified arrangement of the devices adapted to display shoes only. Fig. 9 is a modified arrangement of the devices adapted to display hats only. Fig. 10 is a view of the curved locking-hook for securing the cross-bar on the shelf-rod or shelf-arm.

Like symbols refer to like parts wherever they occur.

My invention relates to the construction of universal display-racks for show-windows, and has for its object, first, to obtain a rack composed of as few elements as possible, which elements shall be convertible and interchangeable, so that by adjustment and arrangement of the several parts there may be produced either a rack for showing a variety of different goods or a rack or racks for displaying separately one or more of said variety of goods; second, to obtain a rack which shall be simple in construction, light in weight, symmetrical in form, easily taken apart and set up, and withal rigid and firm when in use.

The present invention makes use of some features of construction which are covered in my former patent, No. 398,027, granted February 19, 1889—as, for instance, the manner of connecting the uprights or verticals and the main frame and of supporting the shelves by guys—and such features, while used for purposes of illustration, are not claimed herein.

Among the novel features of the present invention are, first, a corner-clamp for the frame, composed of a block having on its opposite faces seats for the frame-bars and means for clamping the said bars to the block, whereby strength and rigidity of the structure are obtained, and, second, a locking-hook for adjustably securing the cross-bar to the shelf-bar, which features are universally available in the construction of the frames of display-racks.

A further novel feature, which is more especially useful in displaying such articles as hats, bonnets, shoes, &c., which require either a support throughout or a detached support, consists in a spring-clamp adapted to clamp the cross-bar of the frame and provided with a rod, tube, or sleeve for carrying the detached rod which supports the article to be displayed.

There are other minor features of invention, which will hereinafter more fully appear.

I will now proceed to describe my invention more specifically, so that others may apply the same.

In the drawings, 1 1 indicate the verticals or uprights which are to support the rack or frame. 2 2 indicate the side bars of the frame or vertical frame-bars; 3 3, the cross-supports or cross-bars of the frame; 4 4, shelf-bars; 5 5, cross-bars for the shelves, and 6 6 the guys or chains which support the free ends of the shelf-bars 4 4.

The parts 1, 2, 3, and 5 of the rack are preferably tubular, as lightness, strength, and rigidity are thus obtained; but solid bars may be used, if preferred. The foot of the vertical 1 may be provided with a base 7, or where the side bars 2 2 of the frame are used the base may be dispensed with if the said side bars are extended down sufficiently to rest on the floor which supports the rack. Where any adjustable inclination of the frame of the display-rack is desired, the verticals 1 1 and side bars 2 2 are connected pivotally, either by pivoting the side bars 2 2 of the frame on the slide *a*, which slide is adjustable on the verticals 1 1 by means of a set-screw *b*, as shown in my former patent, hereinbefore

referred to, or by means of any other suitable pivotal and slide connection.

In order to connect the cross-supports or cross-bars rigidly to the side bars 2 2, (or verticals 1 1 in case no side bars 2 2 are employed,) I provide a corner-block 8, having on one face a groove 8^u for the upright bar, and on the opposite face a groove 8^c for the cross bar or rod, and combine therewith a clamp C to connect the parts. This clamp C is preferably a stirrup or yoke 9, having grapplers 9^a, Fig. 2, to bind on one bar and a set-screw 9^b to bind on the other bar, and thus adjustably secure the part, so as to vary at will the size of the frame; or where adjustment is not required the yoke 9 may be secured to one of the bars by screws 9^c, as in Fig. 3, or a through-bolt and a nut may be substituted for the yoke, as shown in Fig. 4, as the securing features are of minor importance, the essential feature being the corner-block having grooves on its opposite faces, which prevent motion and insures the rigidity of the frame.

4 4 indicate the shelf-bars, each having at one end a sleeve, collar, or eye 4^a, by which it is secured at its inner end to the cross-bar 3, and having its opposite end flattened and curved, as at 4^b, to form a hook which enters a link of the guy 6, by which guy said arm is supported or sustained at its outer end. The shelf-arms 4 4 are usually rods of less diameter than the cross-bars 5 5, and the latter are perforated to permit of the ends of the shelf rods or arms 4 4 passing through.

In order to adjust and secure the cross-bars 5 5 after they have been threaded on the shelf-bars 4 4, I provide a curved locking-hook 10, having an eye 10^a, by which it is threaded on the arm 4 on one side of cross-bar 5, and a hook 10^b, which engages the arm 4 on the other side of cross-bar 5. I have found this device to be a neat and efficient means of securing the cross-bars 5 5 to the shelf-arms 4 4. It will be evident that this curved hook may be used to secure the cross-bar 5 to the shelf rod or arms 4 without passing the arm 4 through the cross-bar 5, if desired. The shelf-supports thus constructed may have plate-glass shelves, and will be found admirably adapted to display the majority of goods found in stores; but in order to display hats, bonnets, shoes, &c., it is desirable to support the article in various detached positions, which display the different sides or parts of the article. For this latter purpose I provide a spring-clamp, which can be firmly secured to the cross bars or rods 3 of the frame without marring or disfiguring the cross-bar, and consequently can be changed from one point to another on the bar, as desired. This spring-clamp 11 (see Fig. 5) is preferably formed from a sheet or broad metal strip of sufficient width to obtain a firm grip or bind on the frame-rod 3 without marring the same. Said sheet is folded, as at 12, to form the jaws of the clamp, curved or depressed, as at 13, to conform to the shape of the frame rod or bar with which the clamp is used, and provided with a bolt and nut or equivalent means for tightening the jaws of the clamp or causing it to grasp the frame-rod. The fold at 14 will afford all the spring required in the clamp. The sheet is then extended at right angles or bent to form an arm 15, if the character of the goods to be displayed requires it, and again at right angles or in a plane parallel with the clamp-section 12 to form a rod, tube, or sleeve 16. In case it is desired to display a shoe (see Figs. 1 and 8) this arm or offset 15 will afford a support for the heel of the shoe to rest on and the shoe will be held upright and secured by a bent rod 17, one arm of which is threaded and passes through the sleeve 16, where it is provided with a thumb-nut 17^a, while the other arm projects down into the shoe. By means of the thumb-nut 17^a the rod 17 may be adjusted to clamp and hold the shoe firmly in an upright position upon arm 15. In case it is desired to display a hat or bonnet (see Figs. 1 and 9) the bent rod 17 is passed through the sleeve 16, as before, and is secured and adjusted by a clamp-nut 17^b; but the position of the bent rod is reversed, and on its ends are secured disks or circles 18, or their equivalent. The arm or offset 15 will now afford a support for the crown of a hat, and in order to prevent the hat from rolling off the horns or curved arms 19 may be secured to the arm 15 by means of the same bolt and nut which secure the clamping-jaws 12, or otherwise.

The construction of the several parts of the show-rack and the manner of combining the parts or setting up the rack, as a whole, where it is desired to display a variety of goods—such as gents' furnishings—on a single rack, appears fully in Fig. 1 and has been hereinbefore pointed out; but it is evident that the spring-clamp 11 and its adjuncts may be used with any rod-rack; or several different forms of rod-racks may be readily arranged from the verticals 1, cross-rods 3, and clamps C and 11 by a simple rearrangement of the parts, as indicated in Figs. 8 and 9, and I do not therefore desire to be limited to the particular forms of rack shown herein, intending hereby to claim, broadly, the novel features hereinbefore described independent of the particular character or class of rack considered as a whole.

I am aware that tubular or sleeve slides adapted to be moved on standards and provided with set-screws, whereby they may be secured to the standards, said sleeve-slides also provided with rod-sockets and bar-rests, have heretofore been devised for constructing show-racks, and I do not herein claim such devices.

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

1. In a show-rack, the combination, with frame-bars, of a corner-block having bar-grooves on its opposite faces and a clamp for

securing the bars to the corner-block, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. In a show-rack, the combination, with frame-bars, of a corner-block having bar-grooves on its opposite faces and a yoke or stirrup-clamp for securing the bars to the corner-block, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. In a show-rack, the combination, with frame-bars, of a corner-block having bar-grooves on its opposite faces, a detachable yoke or stirrup-clamp having grapples for engaging one of the frame-bars, and a set-screw, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. In a show-rack, the combination, with a shelf-bar, of a cross-bar perforated for the passage of the shelf-bar and a curved or clamp hook arranged on the shelf-bar and adapted to clamp the cross-bar, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

5. In a show-rack, the combination, with a shelf-bar, of a cross-bar and a curved clamp-hook having an eye for the passage of the shelf-bar and a hook to engage with the shelf-bar, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

6. In a show-rack, the combination, with a frame-bar, of a spring-clamp having a rod tube or sleeve and a bent rod adjustable in said tube or sleeve, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

7. In a show-rack, the combination, with a frame-bar, of a spring-clamp having an arm or offset at an angle to the clamp and a rod tube or sleeve, and a bent rod adjustable in said sleeve, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

8. In a show-rack, the combination, with a frame-bar, of a spring-clamp having an arm or offset at an angle to the clamp and a rod tube or sleeve, and a bent rod adjustable in the rod-tube and provided at its ends with disks, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

9. In a show-rack, the combination, with a frame-bar, of a spring-clamp having an arm or offset at an angle to the clamp and horns or curved arms secured to said clamp, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

10. The sheet-metal clamp 11, having clamping-jaws 12, arm or offset 15, and rod tube or sleeve 16, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 9th day of October, 1889.

BENJAMIN G. CASLER.

Witnesses:
JOSEPH A. OSBORNE,
H. S. SPRAGUE.