

(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. BURRELL.  
TABLE.

No. 427,668.

Patented May 13, 1890.

Fig. 1.

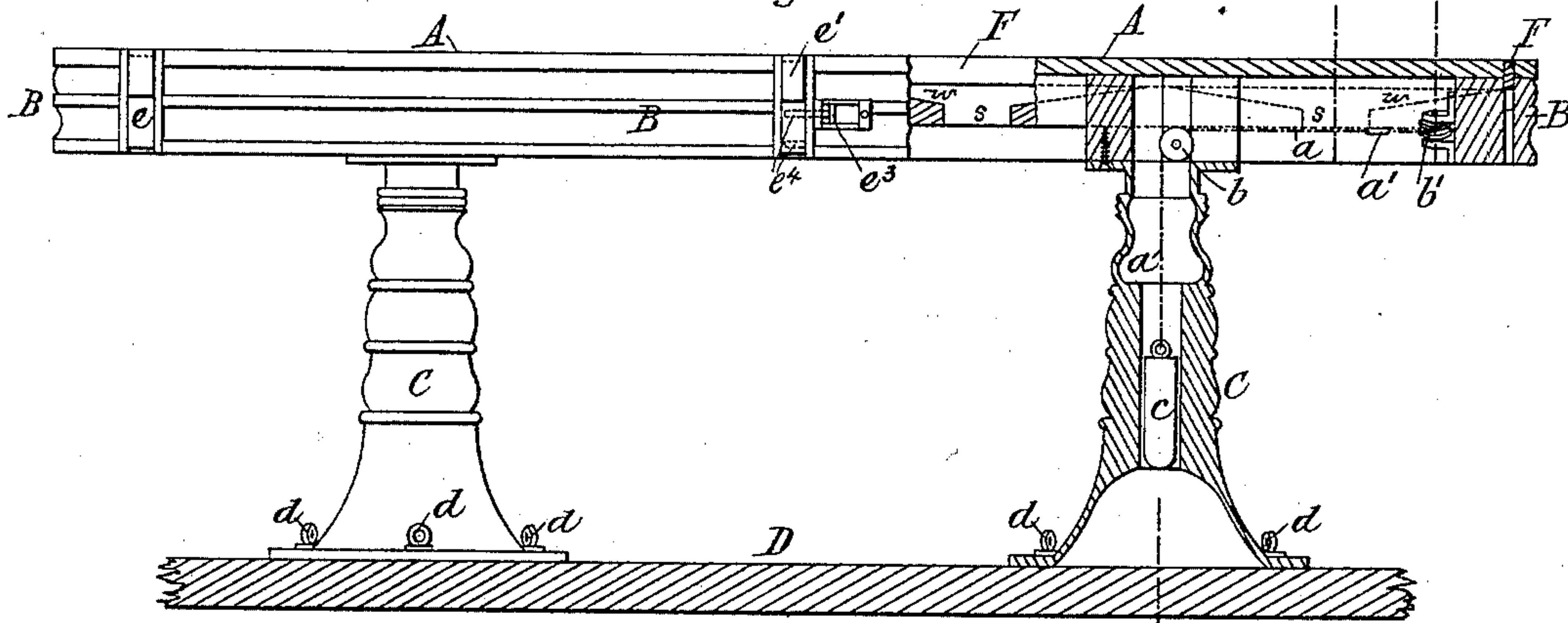


Fig. 3.

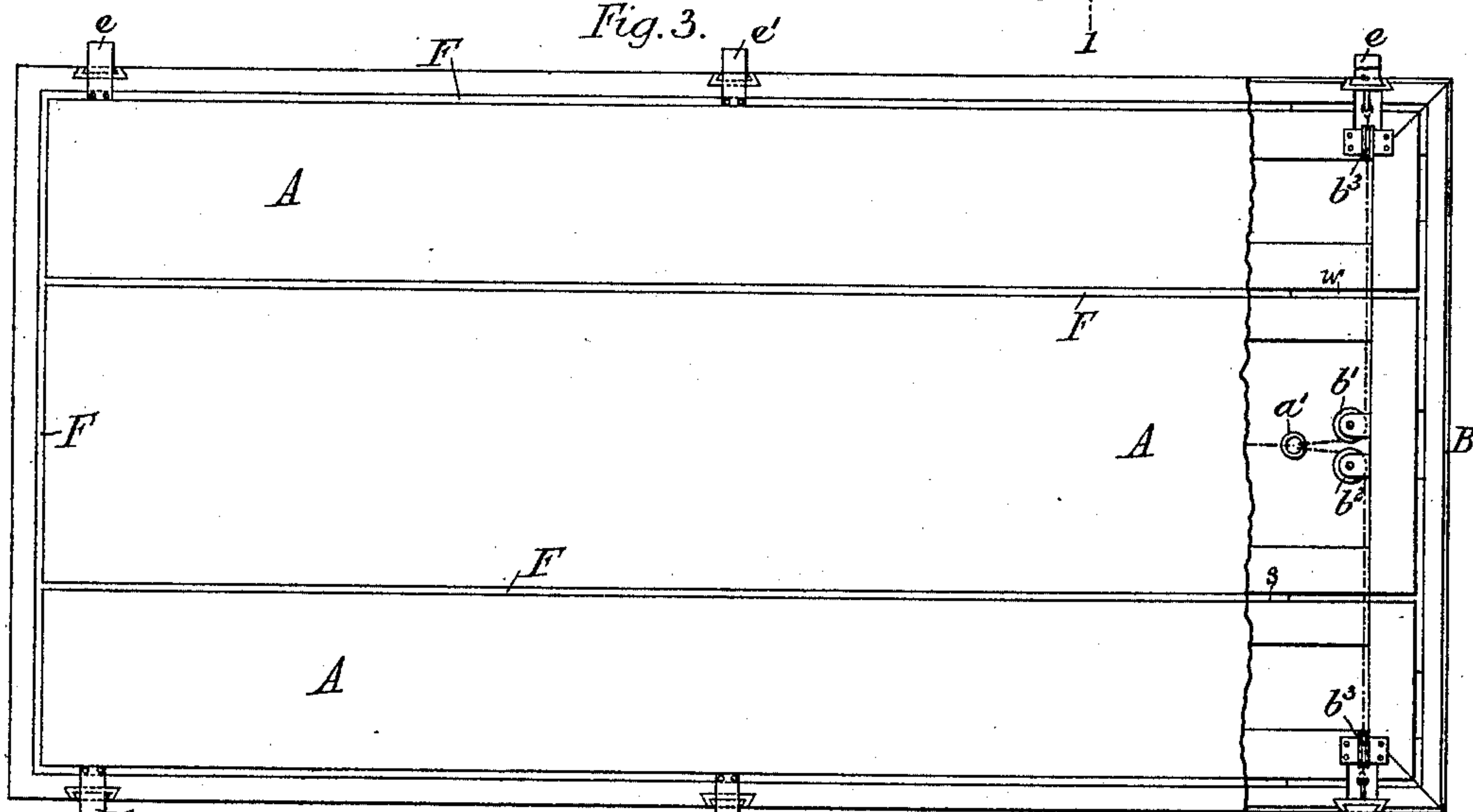
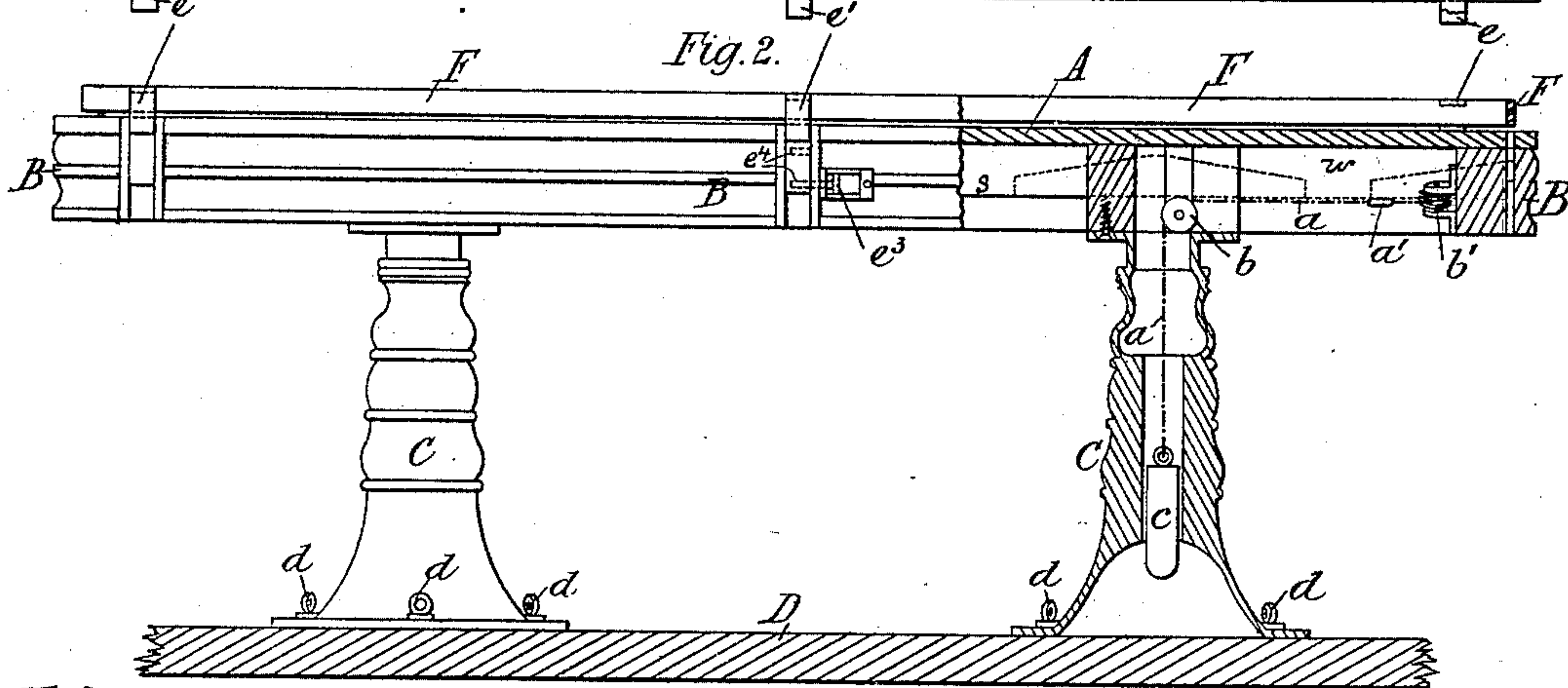


Fig. 2.



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Inventor: Henry Burrell,  
by Arthur Brown  
his attorney

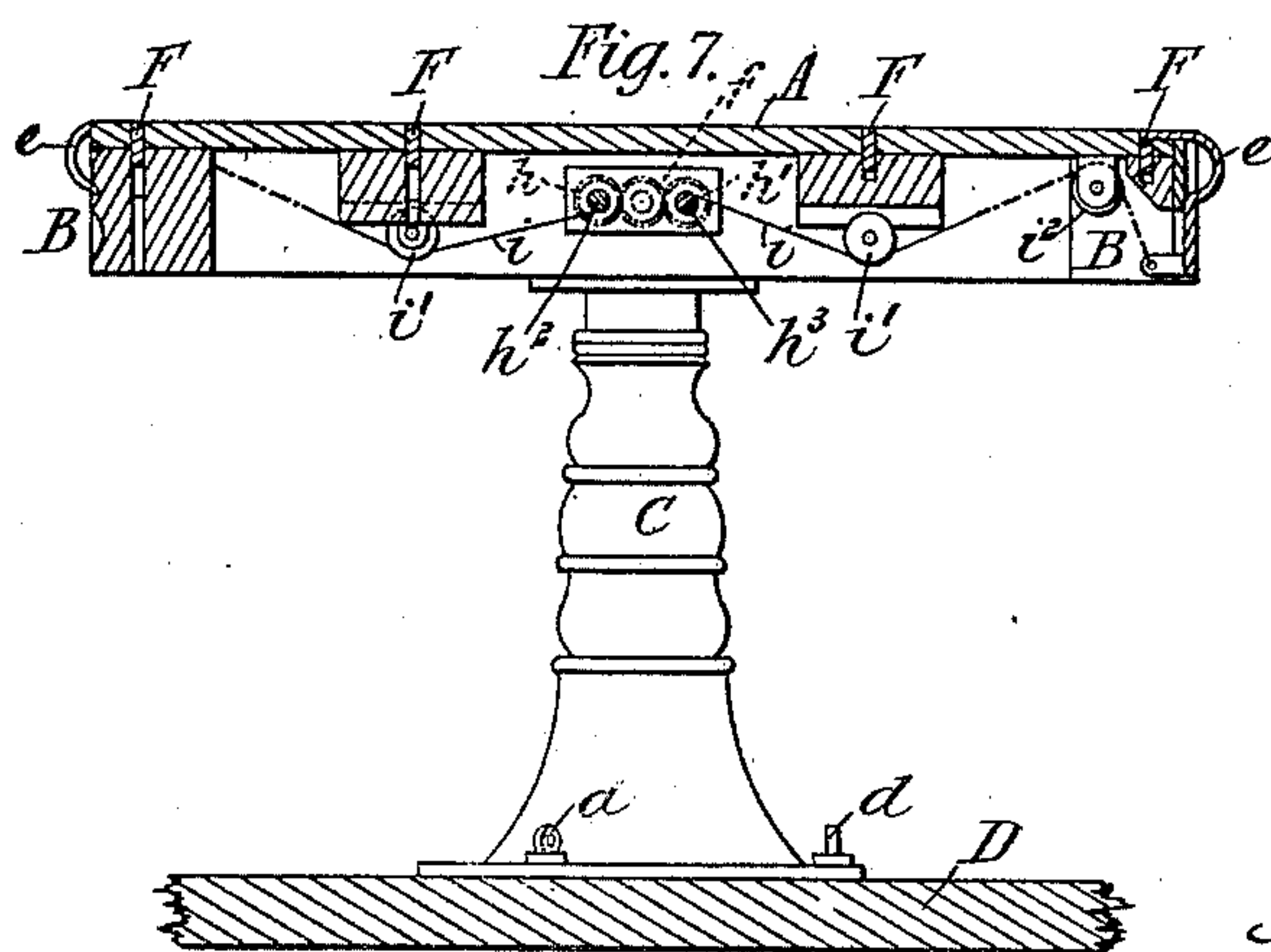
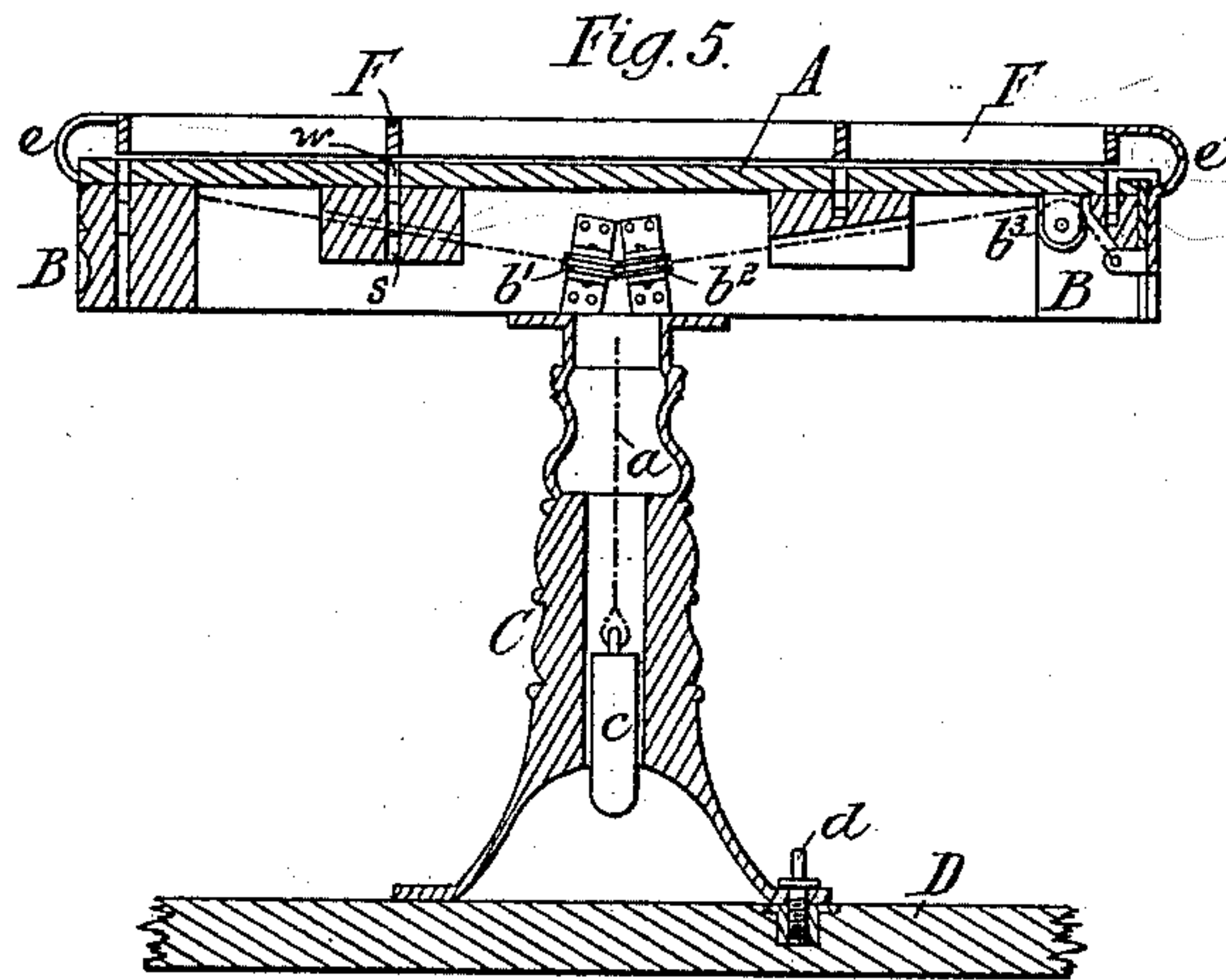
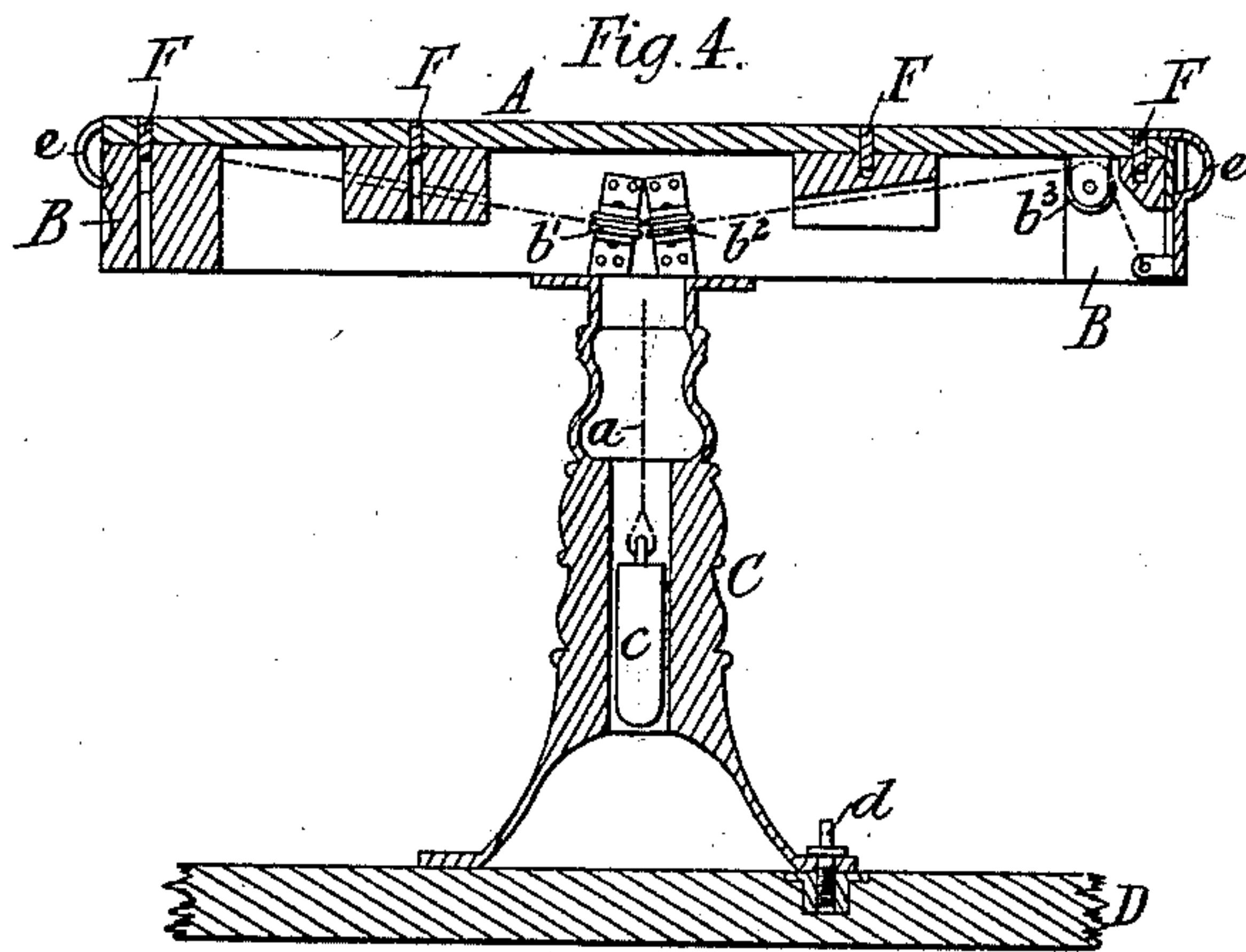
(No Model.)

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TABLE.

4 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 427,668.

Patented May 13, 1890.



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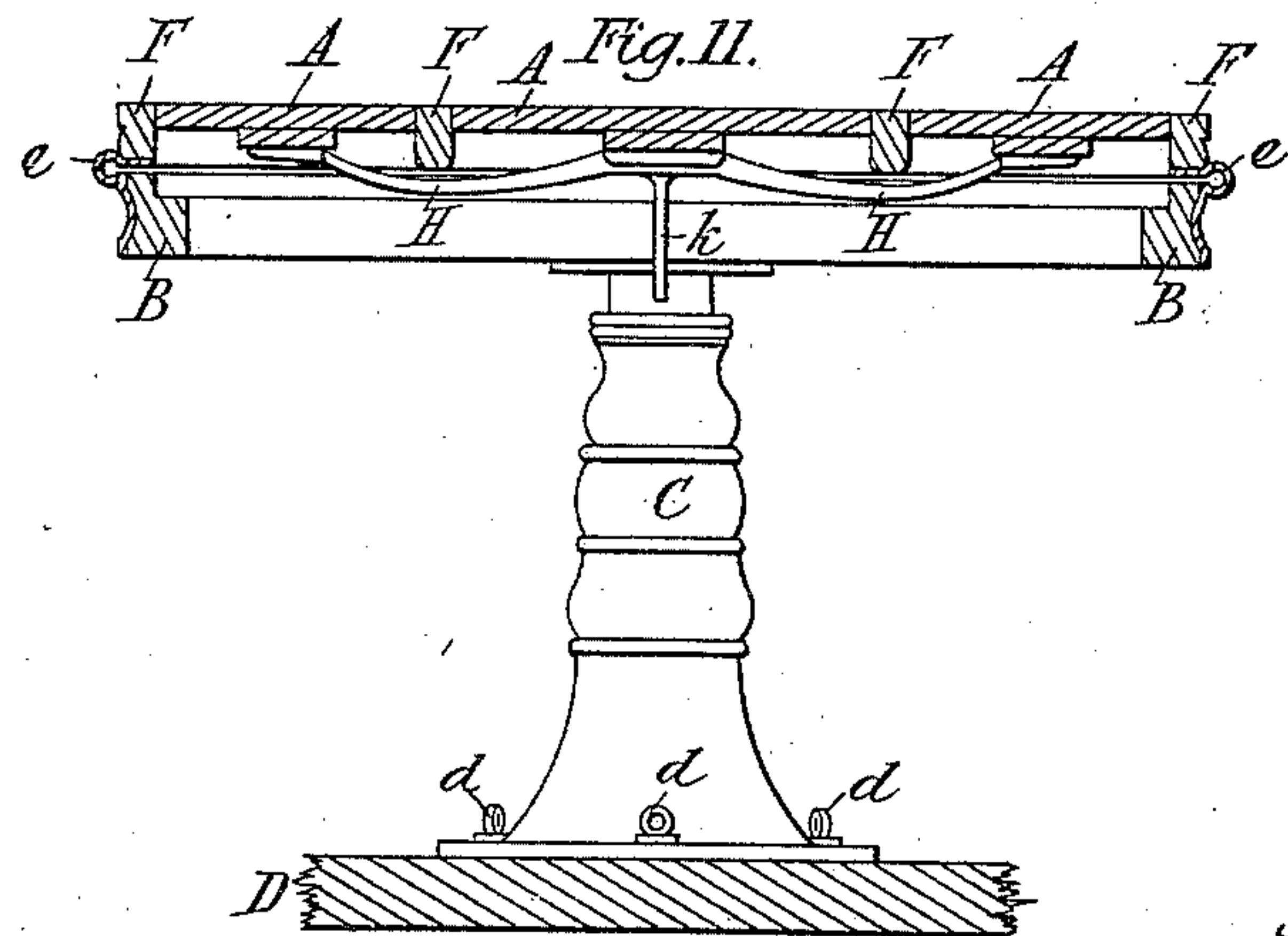
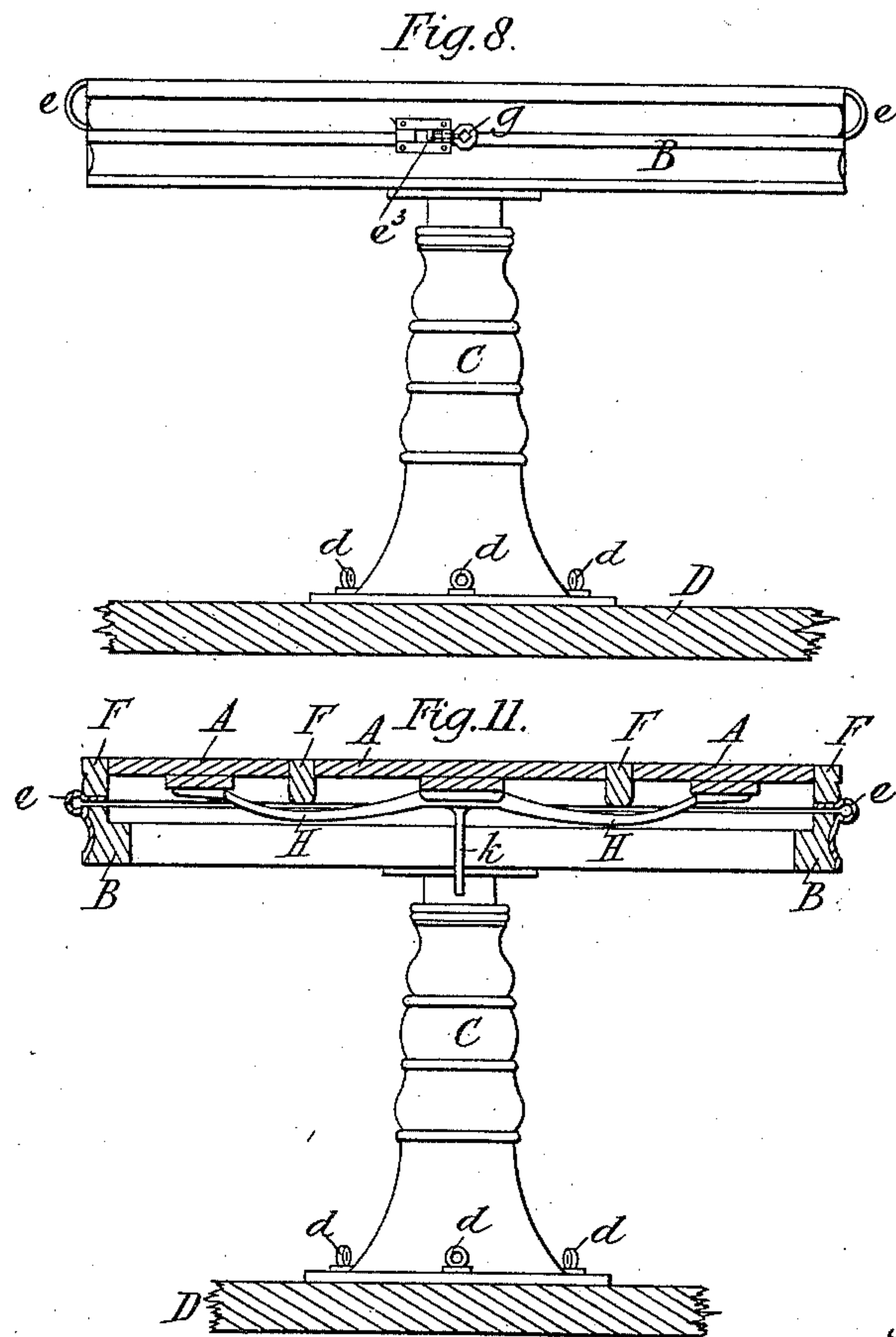
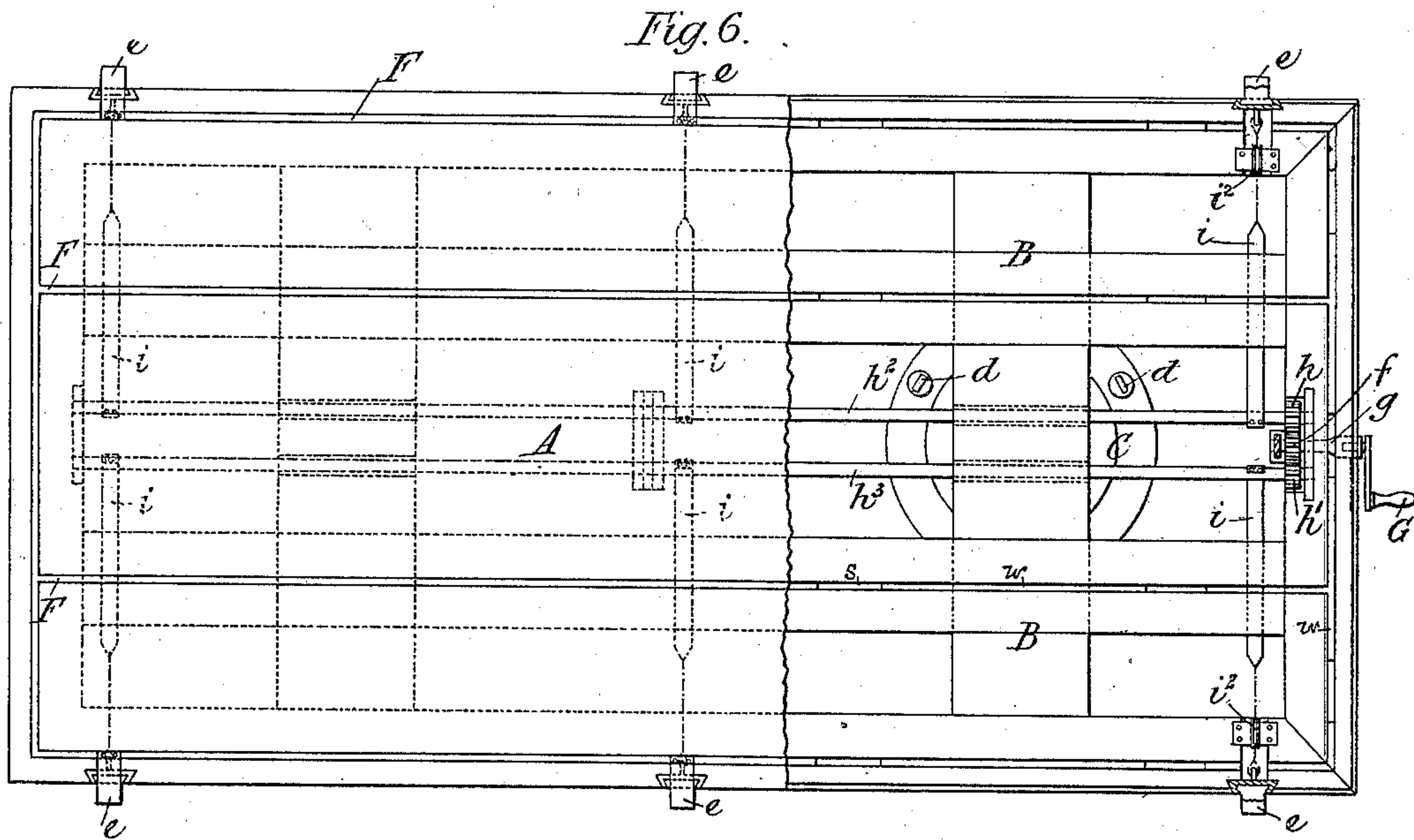
(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 3.

H. BURRELL.  
TABLE.

No. 427,668.

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(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 4.

H. BURRELL.  
TABLE.

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Patented May 13, 1890.

Fig. 9.

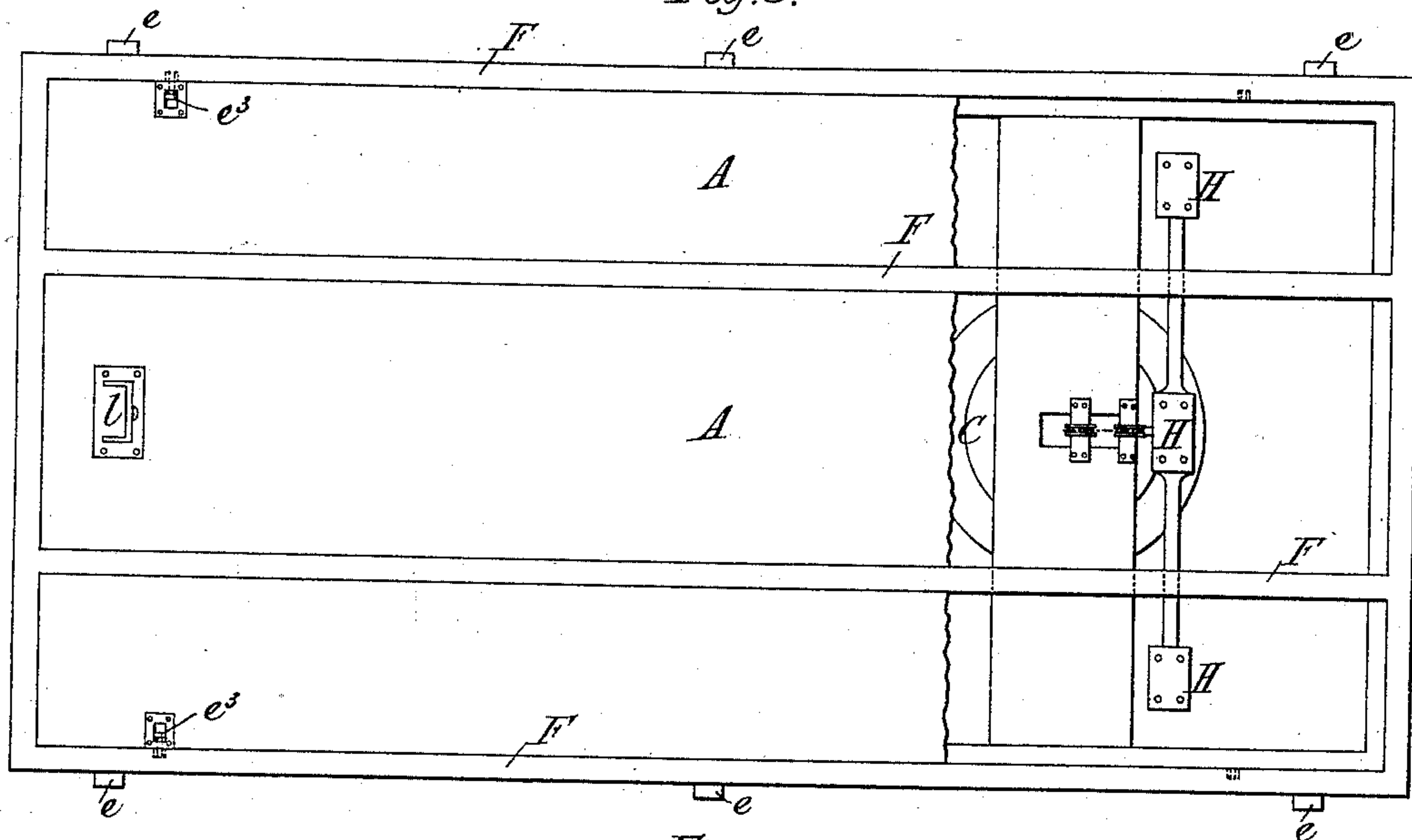


Fig. 10.

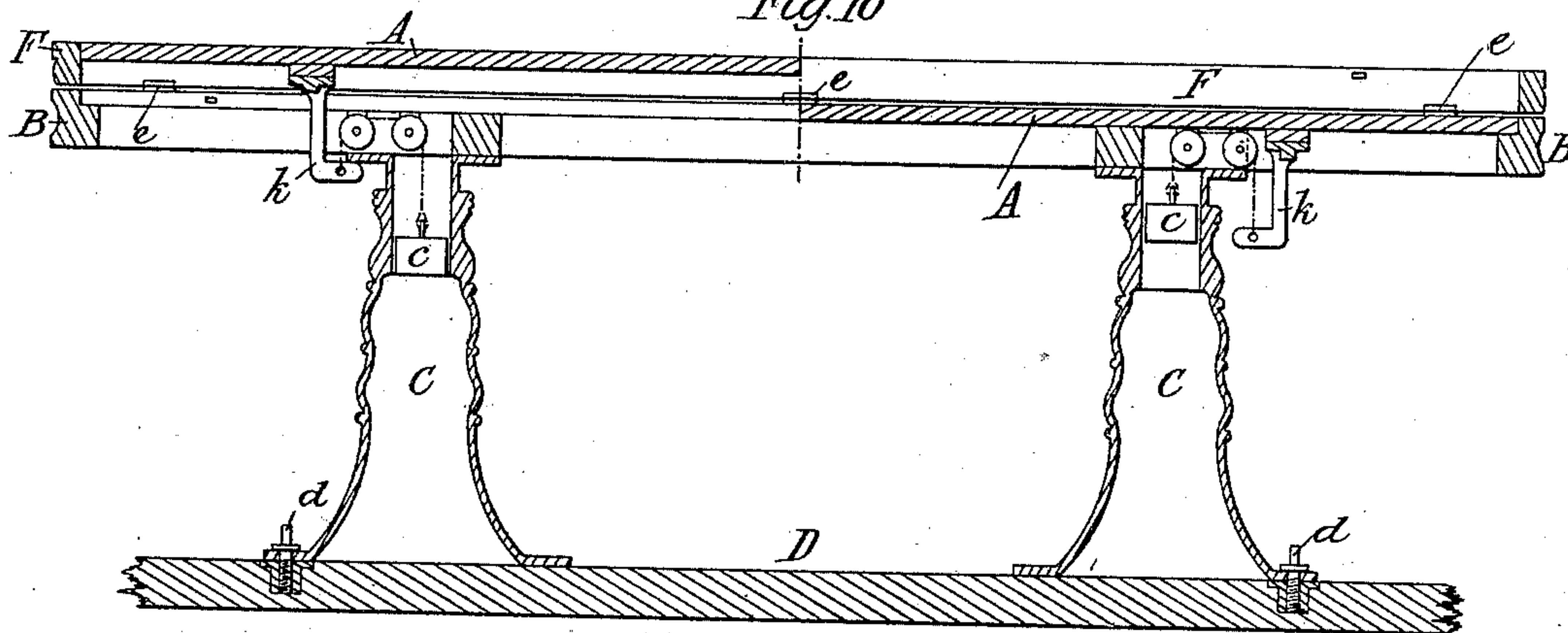
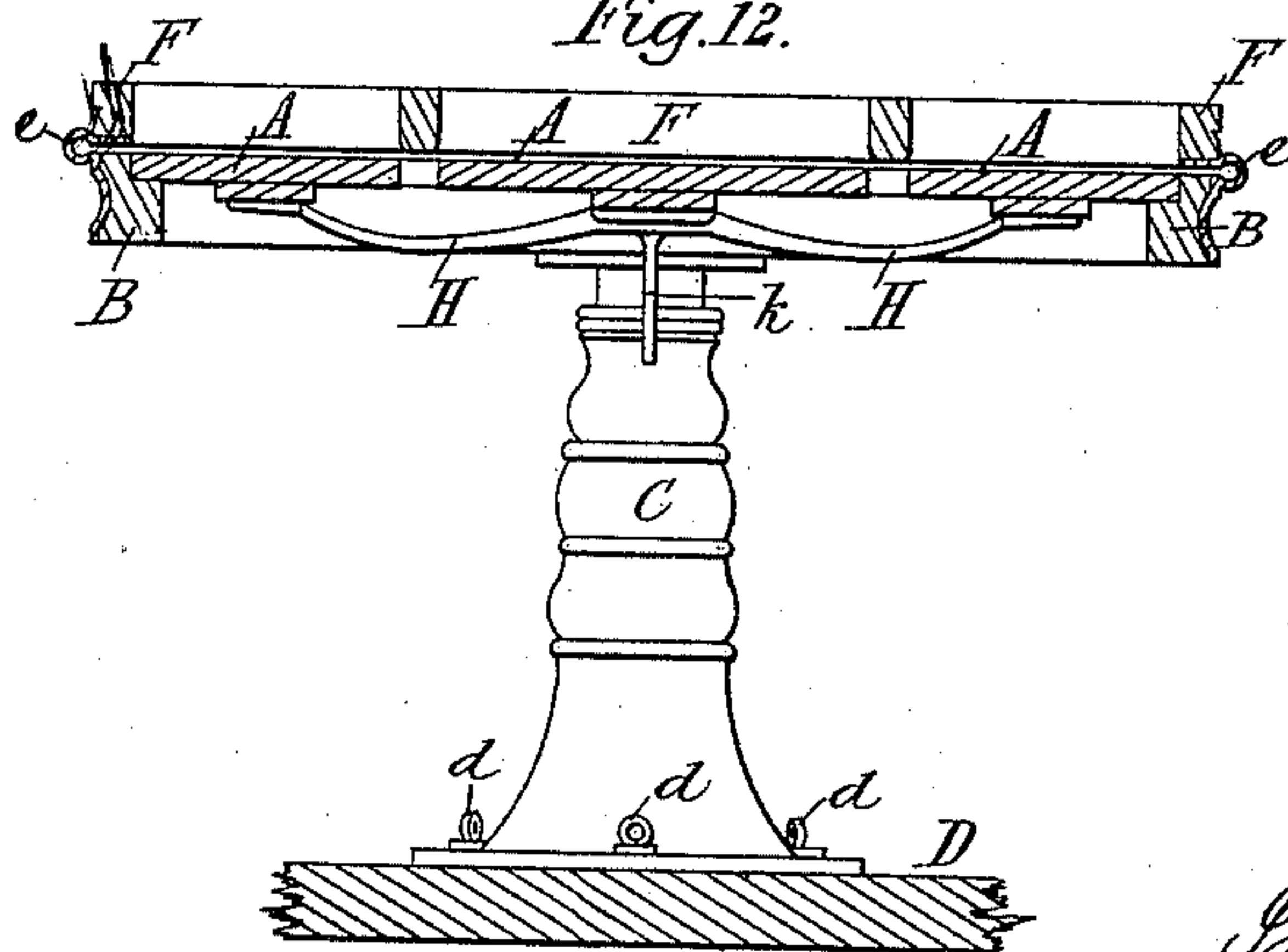


Fig. 12.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY BURRELL, OF GRAVESEND, COUNTY OF KENT, ENGLAND.

## TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 427,668, dated May 13, 1890.

Application filed December 4, 1888. Serial No. 292,666. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY BURRELL, a subject of the Queen of Great Britain, residing at Gravesend, in the county of Kent, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tables for Use at Sea, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to tables intended to be used as dining-tables and for similar purposes at sea, and more particularly to the means for preventing the undue motion of plates, dishes, and other articles placed thereon. The apparatus at present generally in use for this purpose, and known as "fiddles," consists of separate laths, and is in most cases detachable from the tables, and is only put on when the weather becomes rough, and as the detachable fiddles are often, some of them, broken, defective, or missing, and the officers and stewards at such times—viz., when the weather is becoming rough—have more demands for their services than they can attend to, there is often delay and inconvenience in placing the fiddles in position.

Now my invention consists in making the fiddles a permanent part of the table, but so arranged in relation to the top of the table that by the relative or joint motion of either the fiddles or table-top, or both, the fiddles may either be caused to lie flush with the surface of the table, so as to present a plain even surface, or nearly so, or may be caused to project above the surface of the table-top, so as to afford the necessary support or control to the plates, dishes, &c.

It will be obvious that the construction of dining-tables for use at sea with the fiddles forming a permanent and essential but adjustable part of the table, above the top of which they may be made to project or not, at pleasure, admits of considerable variety in the arrangement of the details. For instance, the fiddles may be made to lie in grooves in or through the table-top and be raised so as to project above it when required, or the fiddles may be made part of the fixed frame of the table, and the panel or panels forming the center portion or portions of the table-top may be arranged to sink, when required, within the frame, leaving the frame unmoved, and therefore projecting above the panels to perform the office of the ordinary fiddles.

The improvements are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the construction of table which I consider the best for the purpose and the most perfect embodiment of my invention, the fiddles being shown in their lowest position, and part of the table being shown in section. Fig. 2 is a similar elevation, also partly in section, showing the fiddles raised as when in use. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the table, part of the table-top being removed to show the construction of the parts beneath. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the same table with the fiddles taken down, the section being partly in the plane indicated by the line 1 2 in Fig. 1 and partly in the plane indicated by the line 1 3. Fig. 5 is a similar section showing the fiddles up. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 are plan, sectional, and end views, respectively, of a modification. Fig. 9 is a plan view, Fig. 10, an end view, and Figs. 11 and 12 sectional views, of still another modification, Figs. 11 and 12 showing different positions of the panels.

A indicates the face or surface of the top of the table; B, the frame; C, the legs thereof; D, the deck or floor, to which the table may preferably be secured by screws *d*, and F the adjustable fiddles, which consist of a frame dividing the table-top into any suitable number of spaces or panels and are made to lie when not wanted in recesses or grooves formed in or extending through the table-top, so as to lie flush with the surface of the table.

*ee* are metal brackets attached at their upper ends to the fiddles and with their lower ends working between guides attached to the frame of the table, so that they may slide up and down as the fiddles are raised and lowered. Within each leg or standard of the table is suspended a counterpoise *c*, the weight of which should preferably be just sufficient to raise the fiddles when they are otherwise uncontrolled.

*a* is a chain or cord attached to the counterpoise and passing over a pulley *b*, and thence to a ring or link *a'*, to which two branch chains or cords are attached, one of said branch chains or cords diverging to the right and the other to the left over pulleys *b'* *b''*, respectively. Thence each branch chain or cord passes over another pulley *b'''* and is at-



tached to an eye near the lower end of each of the brackets *e*. The brackets supporting the fiddles at one end of the table are thus connected to and operated by the weight in the leg or standard nearest that end of the table. It will be obvious that such tables may be constructed with more or less than two legs or standards and the arrangement varied accordingly; also, that the weights may be placed otherwise than within the legs of the table.

*e' e'* are brackets similar to those marked *e*, sliding between similar guides, but not connected with the counterpoise by chains or cords or otherwise. These side brackets serve to support the fiddles midway of their length at the sides of the table, and also to secure the fiddles in position, either when raised or lowered, by means of a bolt *e<sup>3</sup>* taking into either one or the other of two recesses *e<sup>4</sup>* in each of the said brackets. The recesses or grooves *w*, into which the fiddles may be lowered, are made with their bottoms inclining toward openings *s*, cut quite through the table-top. Owing to this construction of the recesses or grooves *w*, they can easily be cleared of any dirt or other matters which may become lodged therein.

I prefer that the counterpoises should be of such weight as just to raise the fiddles without assistance when the side bolts *e<sup>3</sup>* are withdrawn, and the fiddles may conveniently be arranged to rise a little higher than the position they are intended to occupy, in order that the cloth may be easily spread. The fiddles are then pressed down on the cloth and secured there by means of the bolt *e<sup>3</sup>*. When the fiddles are no longer required, the bolt *e<sup>3</sup>* is withdrawn, the cloth removed, and the fiddles are pressed down with the hand, the bolts *e<sup>3</sup>* being then again pushed forward to retain them.

Instead of the fiddles being raised by the action of counterpoises, they may be arranged to be raised by hand, as shown in the modification illustrated in Figs. 6, 7, and 8, in which, instead of the chains or cords by which the movements of the fiddles are governed being attached to weights, they are attached to a rotatable spindle, the rotation of which winds up or unwinds the chains or cords, or, preferably, a length of leather strap attached to such cords and supplying that portion of the length which has to be coiled on the spindle.

In the drawings, *G* indicates the handle by which the apparatus is operated, and which fits into or onto and engages with the rotatable spindle *g*, on which is keyed a spur-wheel *f*, which drives wheels *h h'* and the spindles *h<sup>2</sup>* and *h<sup>3</sup>*, to which they are respectively keyed. Leather straps, chains, or cords *i i* are attached to the spindles *h<sup>2</sup> h<sup>3</sup>*, and are coiled around them when they are caused to rotate. These cords *i i* pass under the pulleys *i'*, Fig. 7, and over pulleys *i<sup>2</sup>*, and are attached to the brackets *e*. The bolt *e<sup>3</sup>*, by which the fiddles are secured either up or

down, may conveniently be arranged to engage with the spindle *g* to prevent its rotation, as shown in Fig. 8.

Figs. 9, 10, 11, and 12 show a modification in which the relation of the fiddles and table-top is reversed by making the fiddles the fixed part and causing the surface of the table to rise and fall between them. For this purpose the table-top is divided into, say, three panels connected together by and firmly attached to brackets or supports *H*, each of which carries on its under surface a downwardly-projecting arm *k*, to which is attached a chain, cord, or the like, which passes over two pulleys and is attached to a weight, which I prefer should be nearly but not quite heavy enough to raise the panels when they are otherwise free to move. I provide flush handles *l*, one at each end of the middle panel, by means of which the panels forming the table-top can easily be raised or lowered. In this, as in the previously-described arrangements, the cloth may be spread under the fiddles, so as to lie evenly over the sunken panels. The fiddles are supported on fixed brackets *e*.

It will be readily understood that my invention will be of great advantage both to the traveling public and to the officers and stewards, inasmuch as when the sea is freshening the officers and stewards are very busy, and it is in the midst of the attendant confusion and the rolling of the ship that the fiddles are required, and the great inconvenience of getting them fixed, as heretofore, is entirely removed by my system, by which they can be brought into action in a few moments, and, moreover, a considerable saving will be effected in the breakages of the table-service.

It will be obvious that my invention admits of being embodied in modified or equivalent or nearly equivalent arrangements, and I do not confine myself to the exact arrangements described; but these are those which appear to me best adapted for developing the full advantage and utility of my invention.

I claim as my invention—

1. A table, in combination with a fiddle-frame consisting of a series of connected fiddles, said fiddle-frame and the surface of said table being relatively adjustable, the extent of said adjustment permitting a space to be left above the surface of said table and below the lower edge of said fiddle-frame, substantially as set forth, whereby a table-cloth may be inserted beneath said fiddle-frame and on the surface of said table.

2. A table, in combination with a fiddle-frame consisting of a series of connected fiddles, said fiddle-frame constituting a permanent portion of said table and being adjustable and movable above the surface of the table-top, and means for effecting said adjustment, substantially as set forth, whereby when said fiddle-frame is elevated a table-cloth may



be inserted beneath the same and on the surface of said table-top.

3. A table provided with permanent and connected fiddles, the top of the said table and said fiddles being vertically adjustable with reference to each other, in combination with a counterpoise connected with the movable part and tending to raise the same, and intermediate connections between said movable part and said counterpoise, substantially as set forth.

4. A table provided with permanent and connected fiddles, the top of said table and said fiddles being vertically adjustable with reference to each other, in combination with a counterpoise connected to and overweighting the movable part, and means connecting said counterpoise and said movable part, whereby said movable part is raised by said counterpoise, substantially as set forth.

5. A table provided with grooves or recesses in its top, in combination with a fiddle-frame consisting of a series of connected fiddles around the rim of said table and also of fiddles adapted to said grooves or recesses, whereby the upper surface of said fiddle-frame may be brought to coincide with the surface of the table, said fiddle-frame being adjustable vertically and movable entirely above the surface of the table-top, and a counterpoise connected to and overweighting said fiddle-frame, whereby when free to move said fiddle-frame is held entirely above the surface of the table-top, substantially as set forth.

6. A table provided with grooves on the edges, in combination with an adjustable fiddle-frame having fiddles around the edges of said table, said fiddle-frame being provided with brackets which slide in said grooves, substantially as set forth.

7. A table provided with grooves or recesses in its top having their bottoms inclining toward openings extending through the top, in combination with adjustable fiddles adapted to said grooves or recesses, substantially as set forth.

8. A table and adjustable fiddles, in combination with the hollow legs or standards of said table, and counterpoises within said legs or standards, said counterpoises being connected with said fiddles, substantially as set forth.

9. The table A, having grooves *w* in its top, and the vertically-adjustable fiddle-frame composed of fiddles *F* around the edges of the table and in said grooves, in combination with the counterpoise *c*, the cords or chains connecting said counterpoise to said fiddles, and the intermediate pulleys carried by the table, over which said cords or chains pass, substantially as set forth.

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