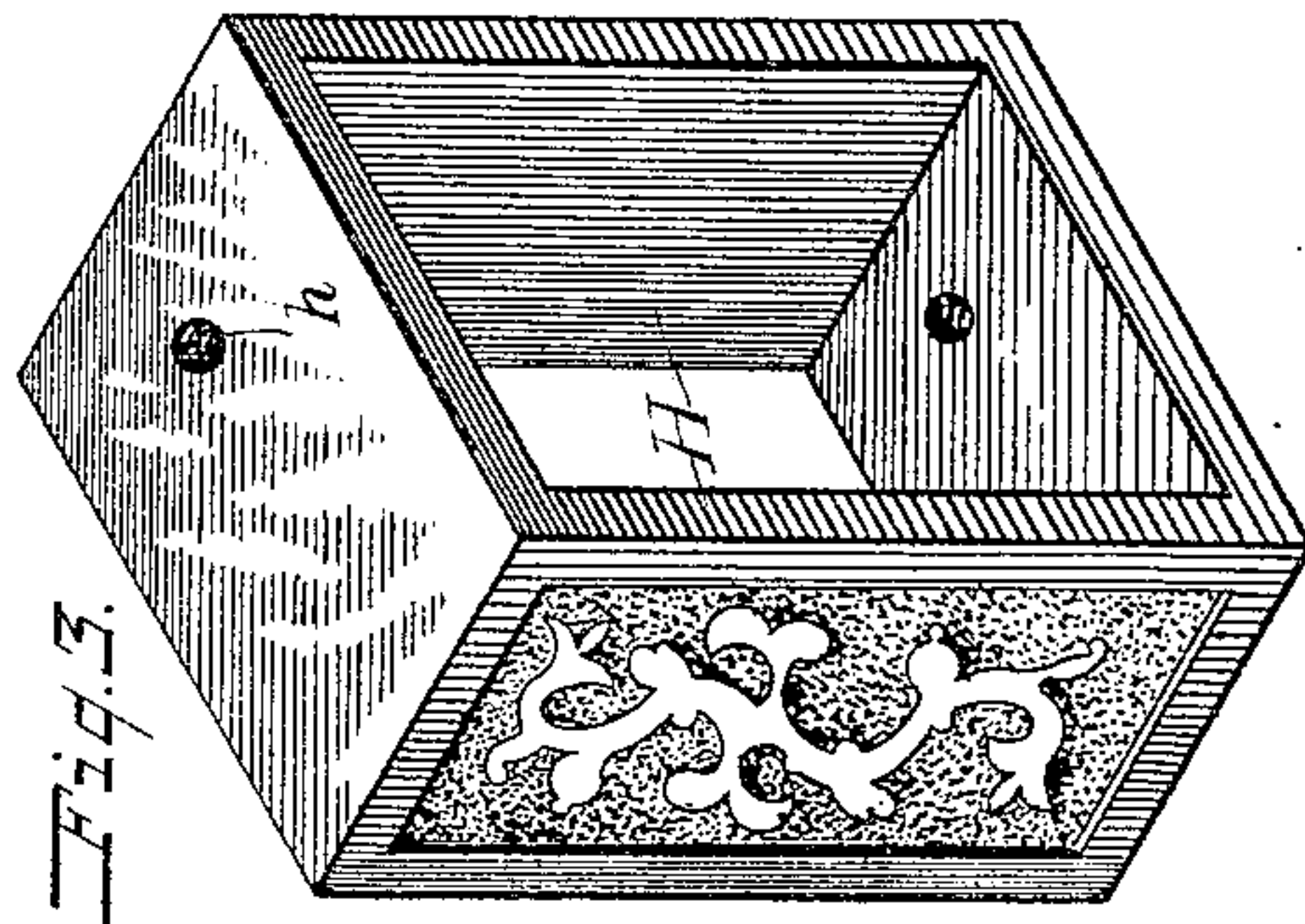
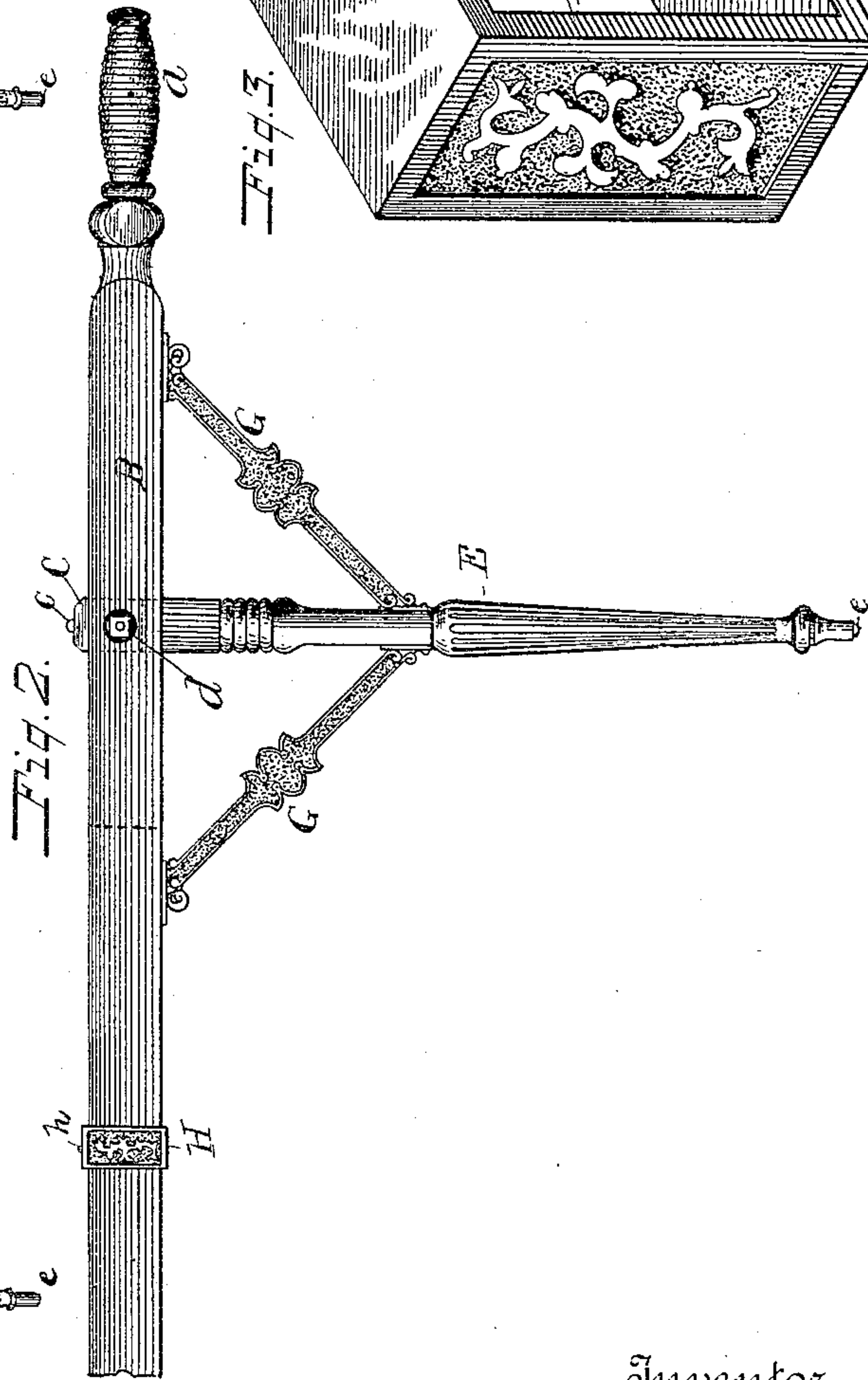
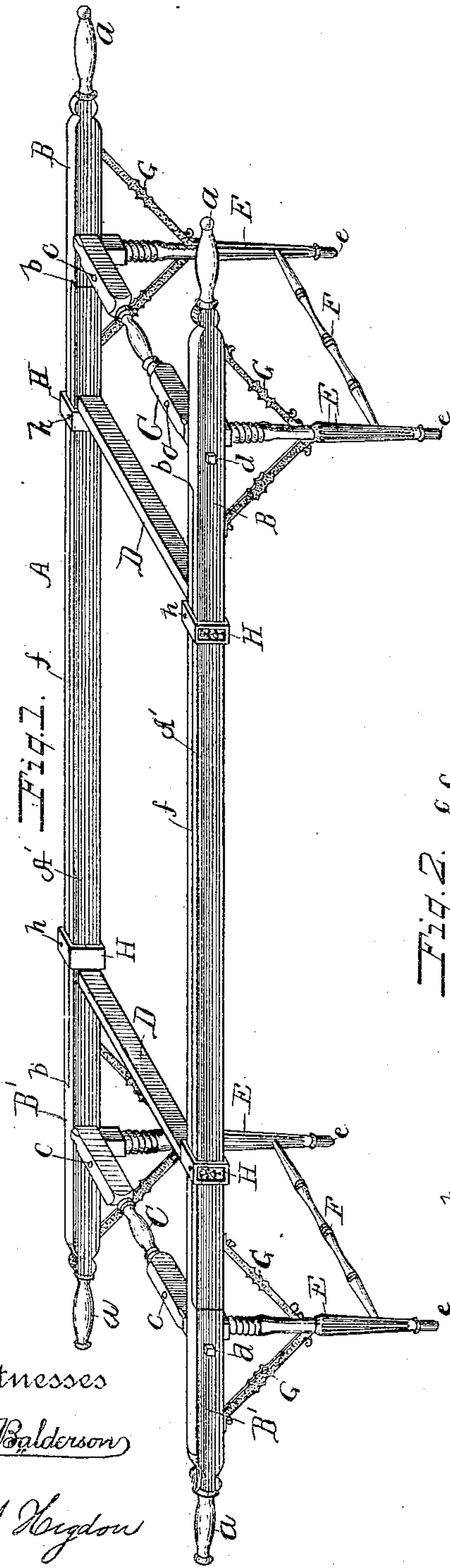


(No Model.)

T. W. LOFTON.
BIER.

No. 434,717.

Patented Aug. 19, 1890.



Witnesses
R. A. Balderson
A. A. Higdon

Inventor
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By His Attorneys
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS W. LOFTON, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

BIER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 434,717, dated August 19, 1890.

Application filed October 8, 1889. Serial No. 326,309. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS W. LOFTON, of Kansas City, Jackson county, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Extension and Contraction Hand-Biers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention relates to an improvement in biers; and it consists in the novel construction and combination of the various parts, as will hereinafter be fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a broken away view in side elevation enlarged, showing more distinctly the handles and ornamental braces, also the standards upon which the bier rests. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the rectangular iron loop which guides the side bars of the bier.

A represents my improved bier, which consists, essentially, of an upper frame-work supported upon legs located at each end thereof. Said frame is composed of side bars A' A', secured together by cross-pieces C C and D D. The cross-pieces C C are so placed that their upper surface projects slightly above that of the bars A', and consequently the casket rests only upon these cross-pieces. The side bars A' are formed in sections B B', and are provided with handles *a* at their outer ends. Each section has a portion cut away for the greater part of its length, leaving a shoulder *b* at its outer end. This is done in order that the sections may be placed together in pairs, and when so placed will form bars having the same cross-section as each of them originally had. On these sections B B', a short distance in advance of the shoulders *b*, is secured an iron frame or loop H of rectangular form, and provided with holes *h*, through which screws may be passed. Upon

one end of the bier these loops are secured to the inside rail, while upon the other end they are secured to the outside rail. By this arrangement when the bier is extended the loops will advance toward each other, thus affording support to the side bars where it is most needed.

The legs E, located one at each corner, are connected near their lower ends by a cross-rod F. They are also braced by rods G, which are secured at their upper ends to the frame. *d* represents a bolt, by means of which rod C is held in position.

The legs are provided at their lower ends with rubber tips *e*, for the purpose of preventing any unnecessary noise in moving the bier. *c* are also rubber tips, upon which casket rests.

This bier, it will be seen, can be extended or contracted, as may be necessary; but should it be desired to make it very short the casket may rest upon braces D instead of cross-pieces C, as would be the case when a casket of ordinary size is placed upon the bier.

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

An improved bier consisting of the side bars A', cut away and shouldered, as described, the cross-pieces C C and D D, connecting said side bars, the loops H, secured to the side bars, the elastic tips *c*, inserted in the cross-pieces C, and a suitable support attached to each section of the side bars, near the outer end thereof, all arranged and adapted to operate substantially as shown and described.

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

THOMAS W. LOFTON.

Witnesses:

A. A. HIGDON,
R. A. BALDERSON.