

(No Model.)

T. H. COSTELLO.

COIN CONTROLLED OPERA GLASS.

No. 440,248.

Patented Nov. 11, 1890.

Fig. 1.

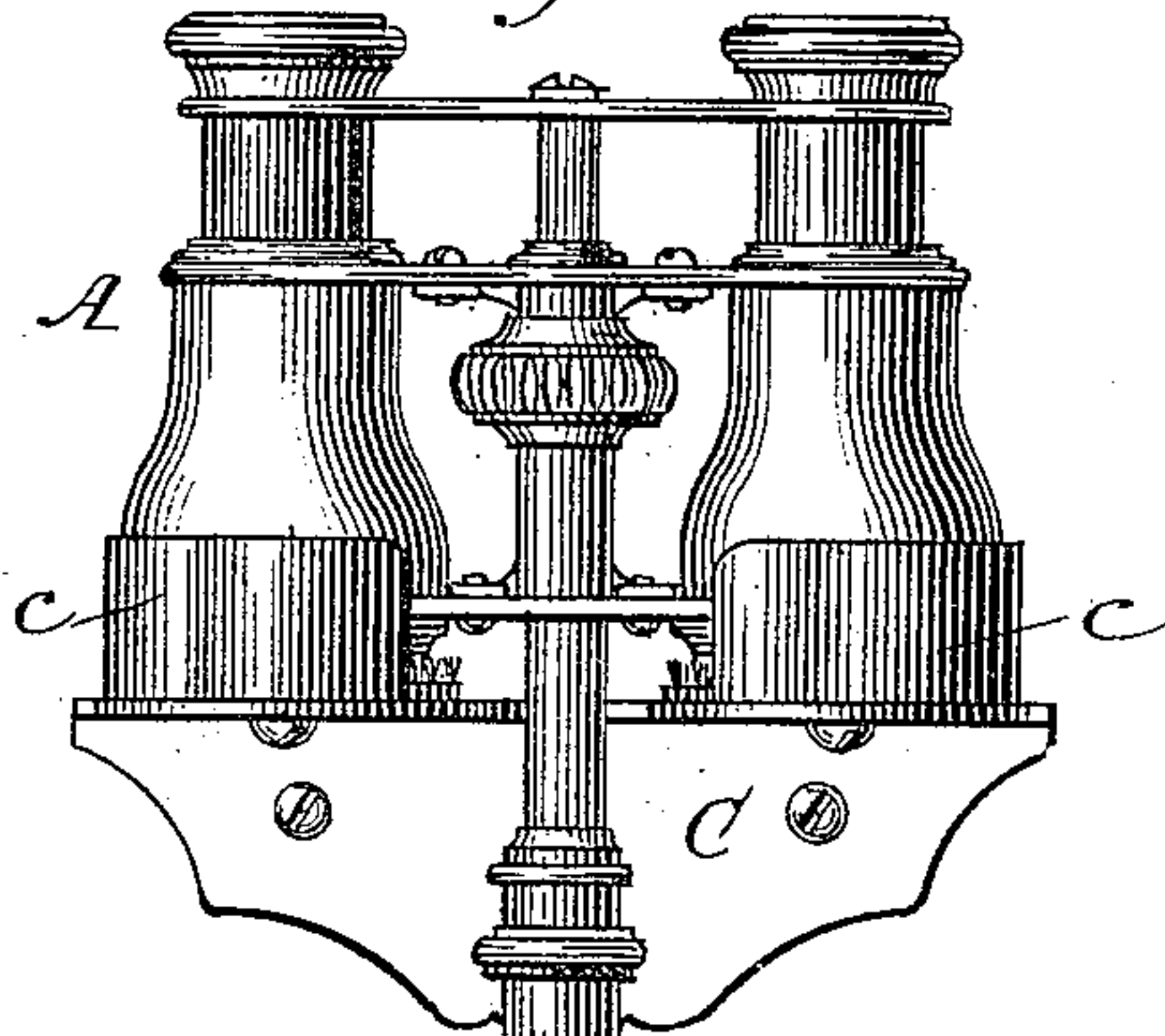


Fig. 2.

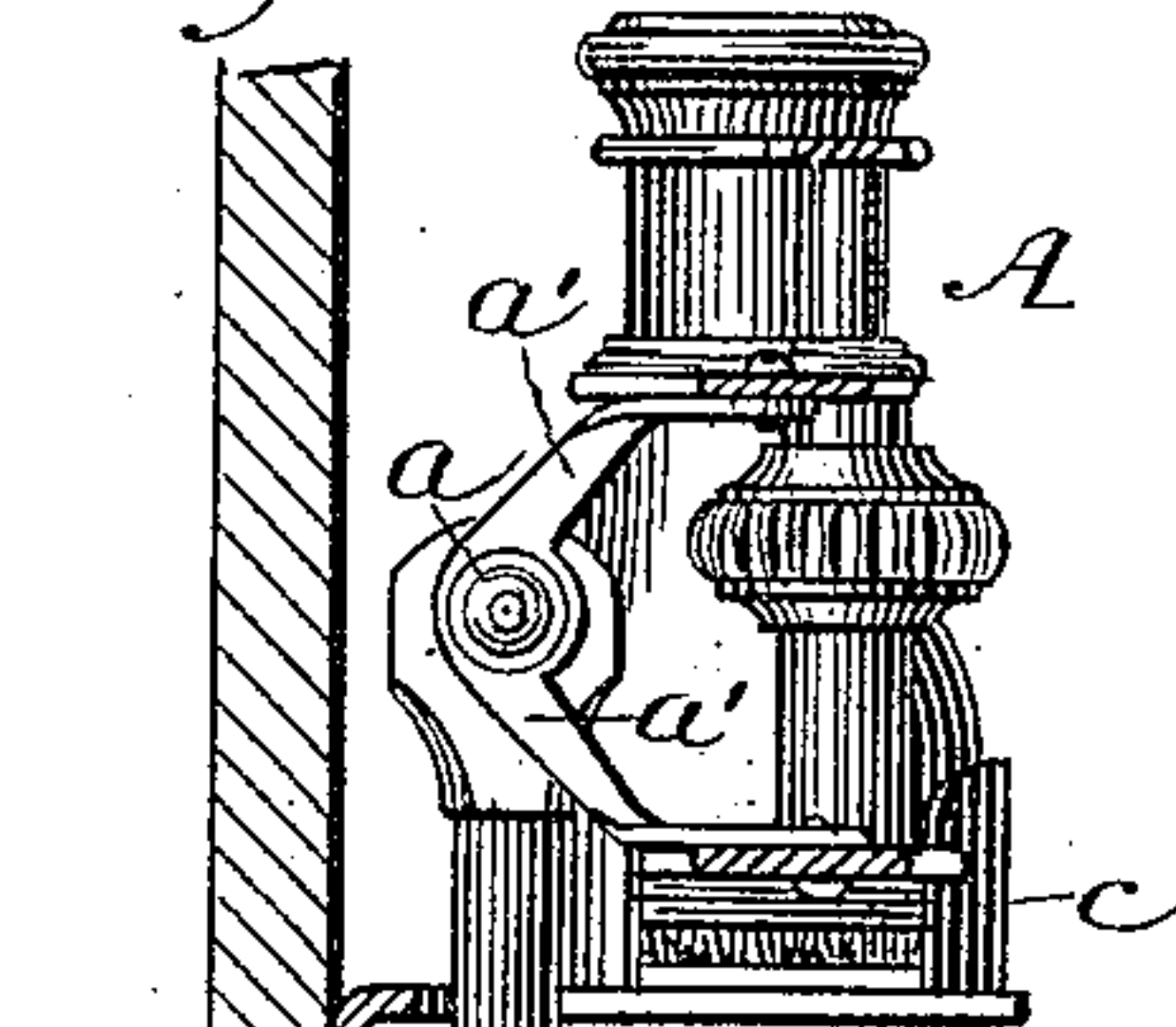


Fig. 6.

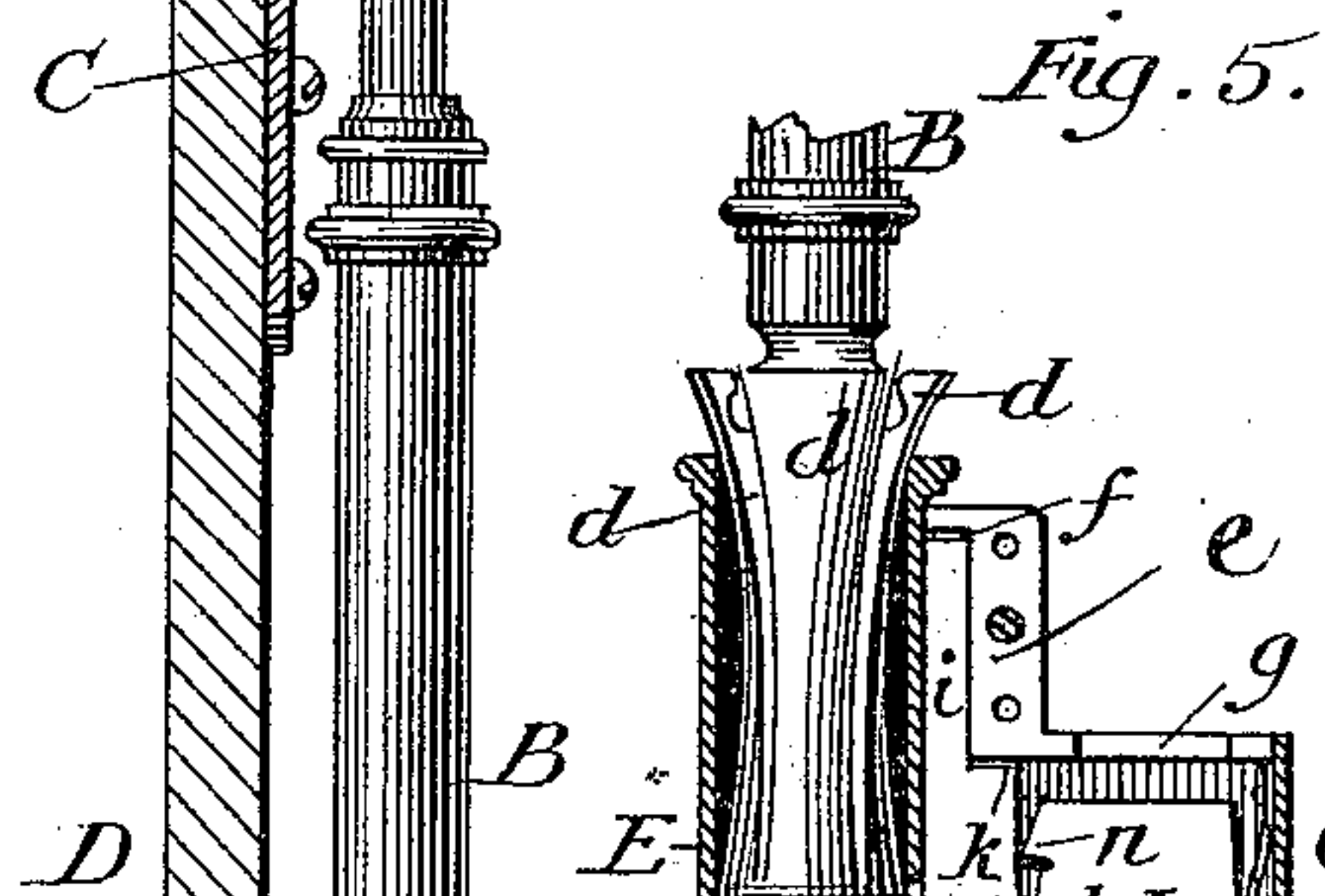
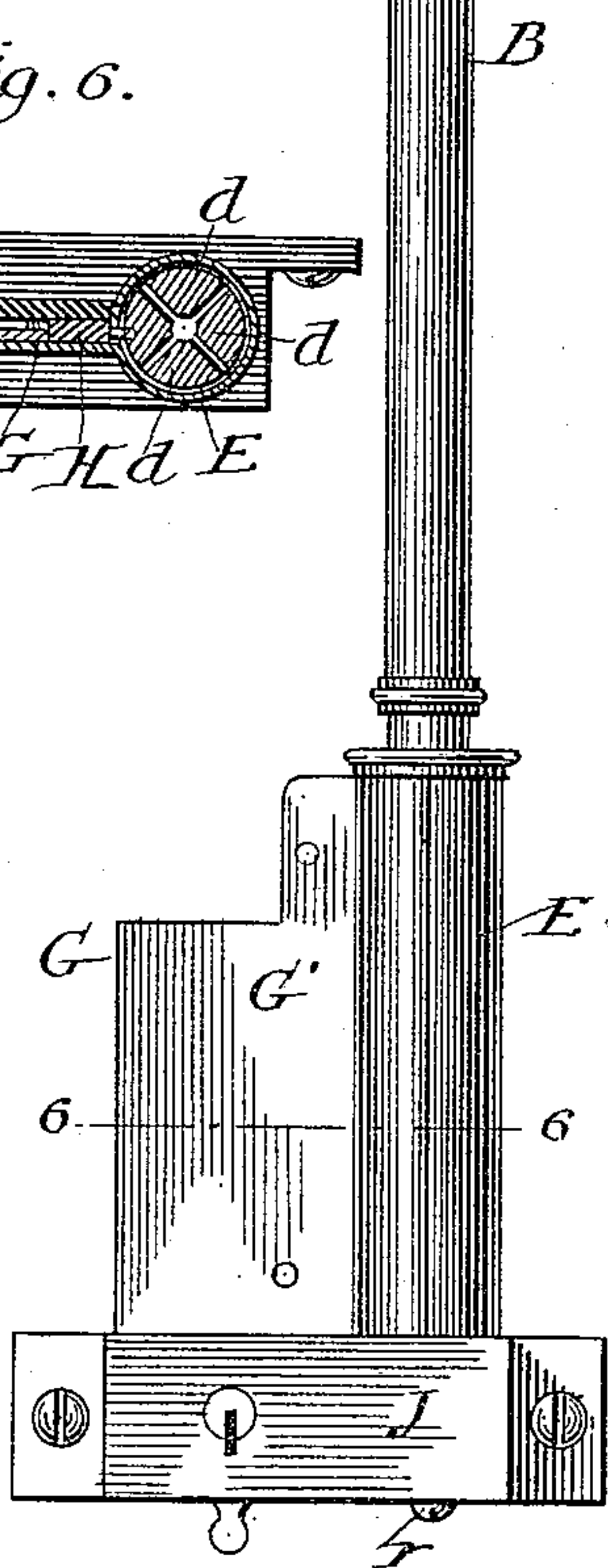
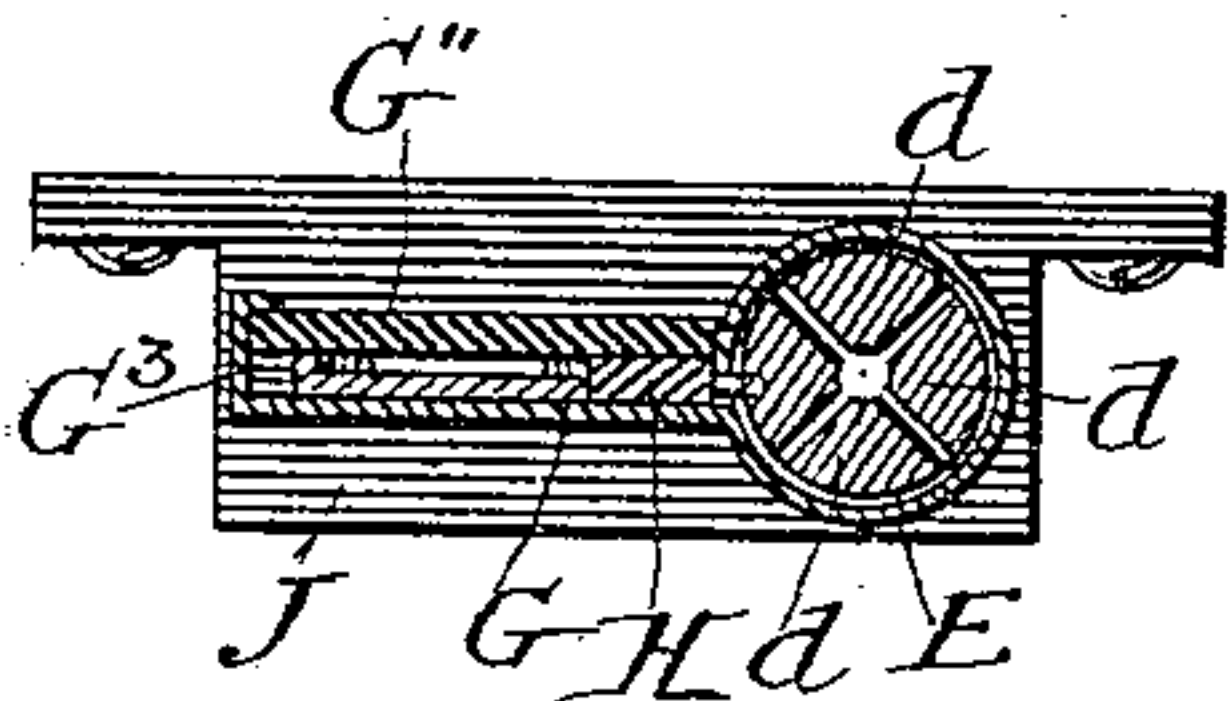


Fig. 4.

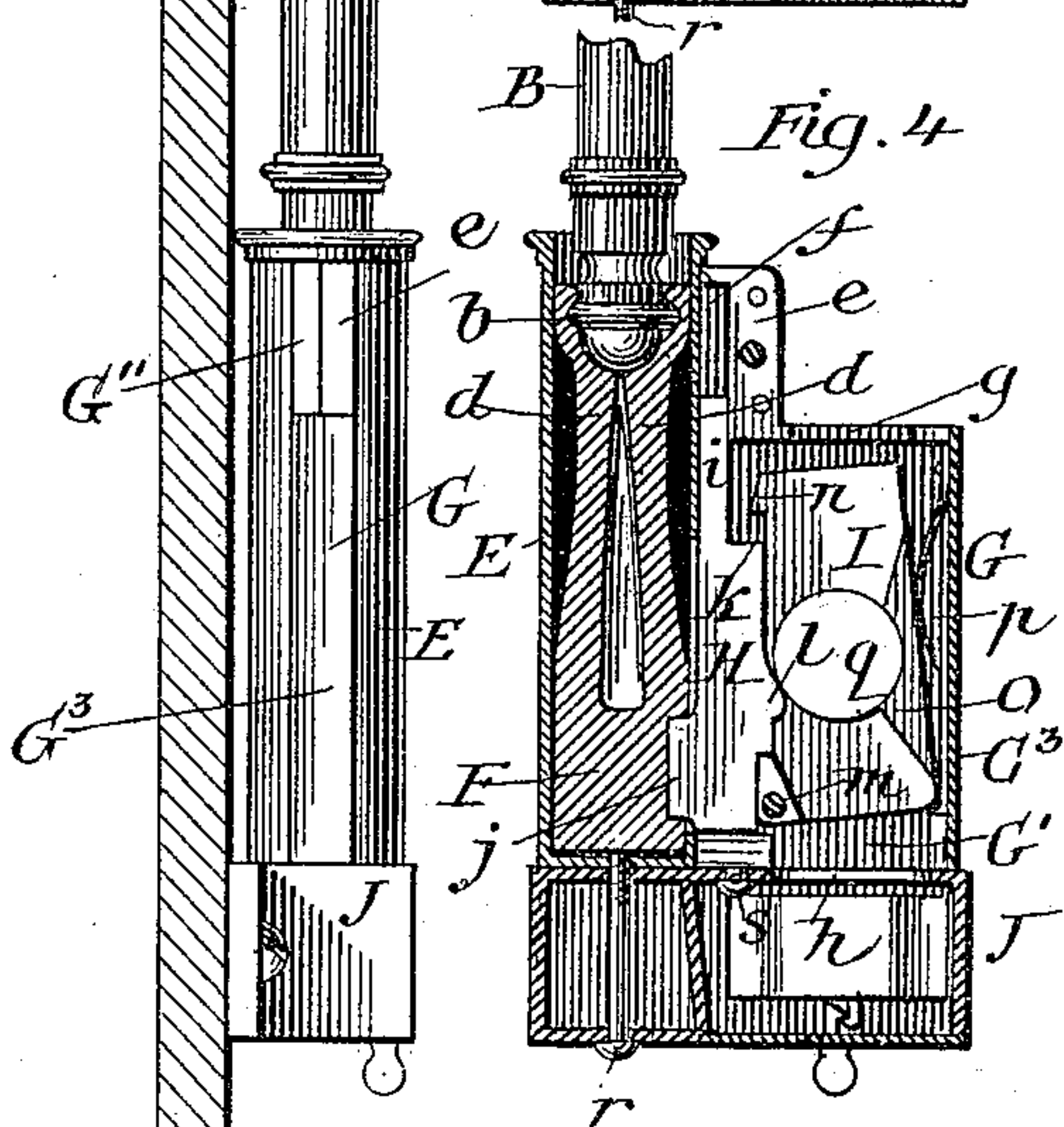
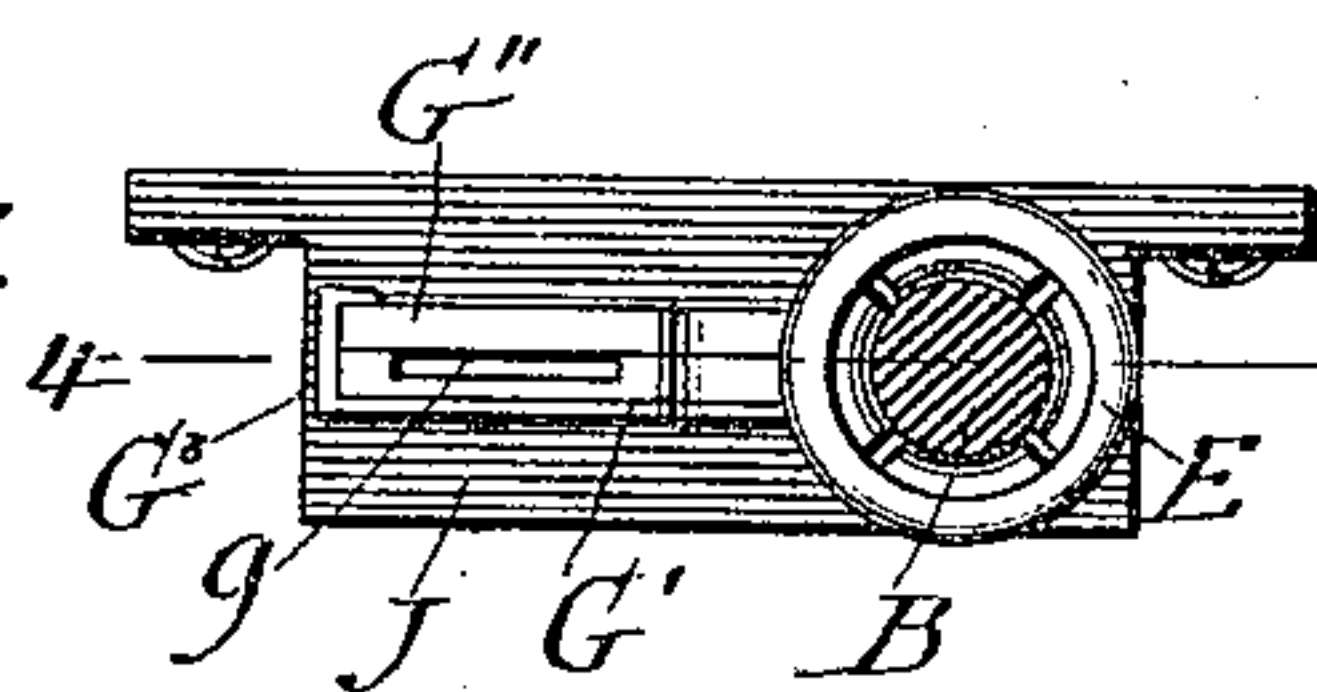


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
Albert H. Adams.
Harry J. Jones

Inventor:

Thomas H. Costello

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS H. COSTELLO, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

COIN-CONTROLLED OPERA-GLASS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 440,248, dated November 11, 1890.

Application filed October 1, 1889. Serial No. 325,712. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS H. COSTELLO, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, and a citizen of the United States, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Coin-Controlled Opera-Glasses, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is front elevation. Fig. 2 is a side elevation, one tube of the opera-glass being removed. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the retaining device for the opera-glass handle, and the coin-receptacle, the handle being shown in section. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal vertical section at line 4 4 of Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing the locking devices in position to receive and hold the handle of the opera-glass. Fig. 6 is a horizontal section at line 6 6 of Fig. 1.

The object of this invention is to provide opera-glasses for the use of patrons of theaters and other places of amusement, which opera-glasses are to be held by devices secured to the backs of the seats in such places, and can only be released for use after the insertion of a coin of the proper denomination into a slot in the box containing locking mechanism, as illustrated in the drawings and hereinafter described.

That which I claim as new will be set forth in the claims.

In the drawings, A represents an opera-glass of the ordinary construction.

B is a handle, which, as shown, is pivotally secured at *a* to arms *a'*, which are secured to the opera-glass frame. As shown, the lower end of this handle is provided with an enlargement or ring *b*, the purpose of which will be hereinafter described.

C represents a bracket, which is to be attached to the back D of an opera-chair. The horizontal portion of this bracket consists of two arms, to each of which is attached by a screw or otherwise a cup or receptacle *c*, in which one of the tubes of the opera-glass can be placed, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, when the glass and handle are in the position shown in such figures.

E represents a socket, within which is a holder for the lower end of the handle B, which holder, as shown, consists of spring

arms or jaws *d*, connected at their lower ends with a base-piece F and made integral therewith, which arms *d* are formed in the shape of a socket at their upper ends and have a groove on their inner faces to receive the ring *b* on the lower end of the handle B. The sides of the jaws *d* are cut away, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, to allow them to expand when their ends are projected beyond the end of the socket E, so as to receive the end of the handle B or permit it to be withdrawn.

G is a case, the part G' and side wall G³ of which are, as shown, made from the same piece of metal as the socket E. A portion of the upper end of the part G' next to the socket E is extended to nearly the upper end of such socket, and to this extension is attached a piece of metal *e*, leaving a narrow channel *f* between it and the socket E.

G'' is a cover for the case G. It may be secured in place by screws, as shown, or in any suitable manner.

g is a coin-slot formed in the upper wall of the case G, and *h* is a similar slot in the lower wall of the case.

H is a strip of metal in the case G, its upper end terminating in a narrow tongue *i*, which fits in the channel *f*, and thus keeps the strip H in place at its upper end. This piece H is provided on one edge with a projection *j*, which passes through a slot in the socket E and enters a recess in the base-piece F, so that when such base-piece and its jaws *d* are moved up or down the strip H will also be moved in the same direction.

k is a shoulder on the strip H, and *l* is a rounded projection on the side of such strip.

I is a plate, which lies in the case G, and is pivoted at one of its lower corners to the part G' of the case G, as shown at *m*. This plate is provided at one of its upper corners with a projection *n*, located a short distance above the shoulder *k* and adapted to engage with such shoulder. The plate I is thinner than the strip H and the rounded projection *l* on the strip H extends over such plate.

o is a piece of metal secured to or formed integral with the plate I at one side of such plate. As shown, a curved recess is cut in the inner edge of this piece *o*, which corresponds to the circle of the coin designed to be used with the device.

p is a flat spring secured in any suitable manner to the edge of the plate I or to the side wall of the case G and acting to force the plate over, so that in its normal position the projection *n* will be over the shoulder *k*.

q represents the coin employed for effecting the release of the opera-glass handle B from the jaws *d*.

J is the cash-receptacle, which is secured to the lower end of the socket E and case G in any suitable manner. As shown, two screws *r* *s* are used to connect these parts. There is a slot in the top of the cash-receptacle immediately below the slot *h* for the admission of a coin. The cash-receptacle is to be provided with a suitable door and lock.

The cash-receptacle, with the socket E and case G secured thereto, is to be secured to the back of an opera-chair by screws, as shown, or in any suitable manner, so that the socket E will be in proper position to receive the lower end of the opera-glass handle and have it held by the jaws *d*.

When the socket E, case G, and cash-receptacle J are first secured in place, the spring-jaws *d* are to be left projecting from the end of the socket in position to receive the end of the handle B, as shown in Fig. 5. To secure the opera-glass in place its handle B is turned, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and its lower end placed in the expanded jaws *d*, and by pressing down on the handle the jaws will be forced into the socket E and firmly against the enlargement or ring *b* on the handle, as shown in Fig. 4. At the same time that the handle is thus forced down the tubes of the opera-glass will be seated in the cups or receptacles *c* on the bracket C. When the handle B has been clamped by the jaws, as just described, it cannot be removed until a coin of the proper denomination has been first deposited in the case G, for the reason that the strip H, which is connected to and moves with the base-piece F and its jaws *d*, cannot be raised sufficiently to project the jaws *d* from the socket on account of the engagement of the shoulder *k* on the strip H with the projection *n* on the plate I, which plate I is held by the springs *p*, so as to lock the strip H, as shown in Fig. 4. With the opera-glass secured in this manner, it is necessary in order to detach it from its fastenings for use, to insert a coin of the proper denomination in the slot *g*, when it will fall into the position shown in Fig. 4, one edge of the coin resting in the curved recess in the piece *o* and the opposite edge resting against the rounded projection *l*, as shown in Fig. 4. The handle B is to be then pulled upward, carrying with it of course the jaws *d* and their base-piece F and the strip H, the rounded projection *l* on the strip H, during the upward movement of the strip, being forced against the coin *q*, and through the coin forcing back the pivoted plate I. When the rounded projection *l* is opposite the

center of the coin, the upper end of the plate I will have been forced back sufficiently far to prevent engagement between the shoulder *k* on the strip H and the projection *n*, allowing the piece F to be pulled up far enough to permit the jaws *d* to project beyond the end of the socket E, when they will expand sufficiently to allow of the handle B being removed. After the rounded projection *l* has passed the center of the coin the coin will be released and will fall through the slot *h* in the bottom of the case G and the slot in the top of the receptacle J into such receptacle.

The pieces F and H are prevented from being pulled upward too far by the piece *e*, with which the shoulder *k* on the strip H comes in contact.

When the handle B has been replaced in the jaws *d* and such handle and jaws pushed down into the socket E, as shown in Fig. 4, the opera-glass cannot be again withdrawn for use until another coin has been inserted, as before, for as soon as the shoulder *k* has passed the projection *n* the pivoted plate I will be forced over by the action of the spring *p*, so that the projection *n* will engage the shoulder *h* if an attempt is made to withdraw the handle B without inserting a coin.

After the opera-glass and its handle have been detached from their fastenings, as described, the glass or handle is to be turned on the pivot *a* sufficiently to bring them into such relation with each other that the glass can be used while the handle B is held in the hand of the user.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. An opera-glass having a handle attached thereto, in combination with devices for receiving and holding such handle until released by the action of a coin, substantially as specified.

2. The combination of an opera-glass having a handle attached thereto, a bracket to receive and hold the opera-glass, and devices for receiving and holding the opera-glass handle until released by the action of a coin, substantially as specified.

3. The socket E, and base-piece F, provided with clamping-jaws on its upper end, adapted to retain an opera-glass handle, in combination with a case G, and devices for locking the jaws *d* against upward movement until acted upon by a coin placed in the case G, substantially as described.

4. The socket E, base-piece F, provided with jaws *d*, and strip H, engaging with the piece F and having a shoulder *k* and projection *l*, in combination with the plate I, having a projection *n* and block *o*, and a spring *p*, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

THOMAS H. COSTELLO.

Witnesses:

ALBERT H. ADAMS,
HARRY T. JONES.