

(No Model.)

C. FREDRICKS.
PHOTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND.

No. 453,313.

Patented June 2, 1891.

Fig: 1.

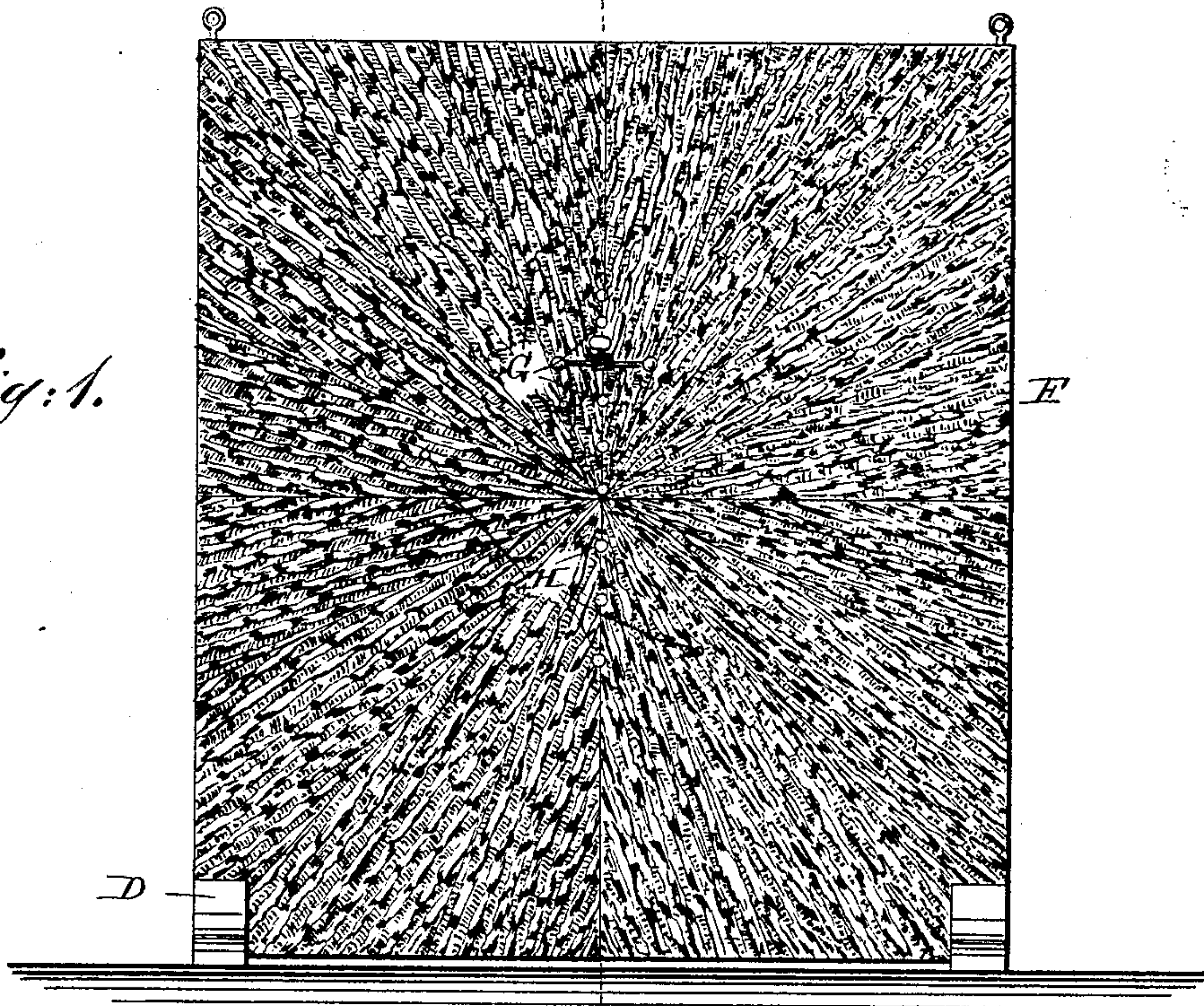
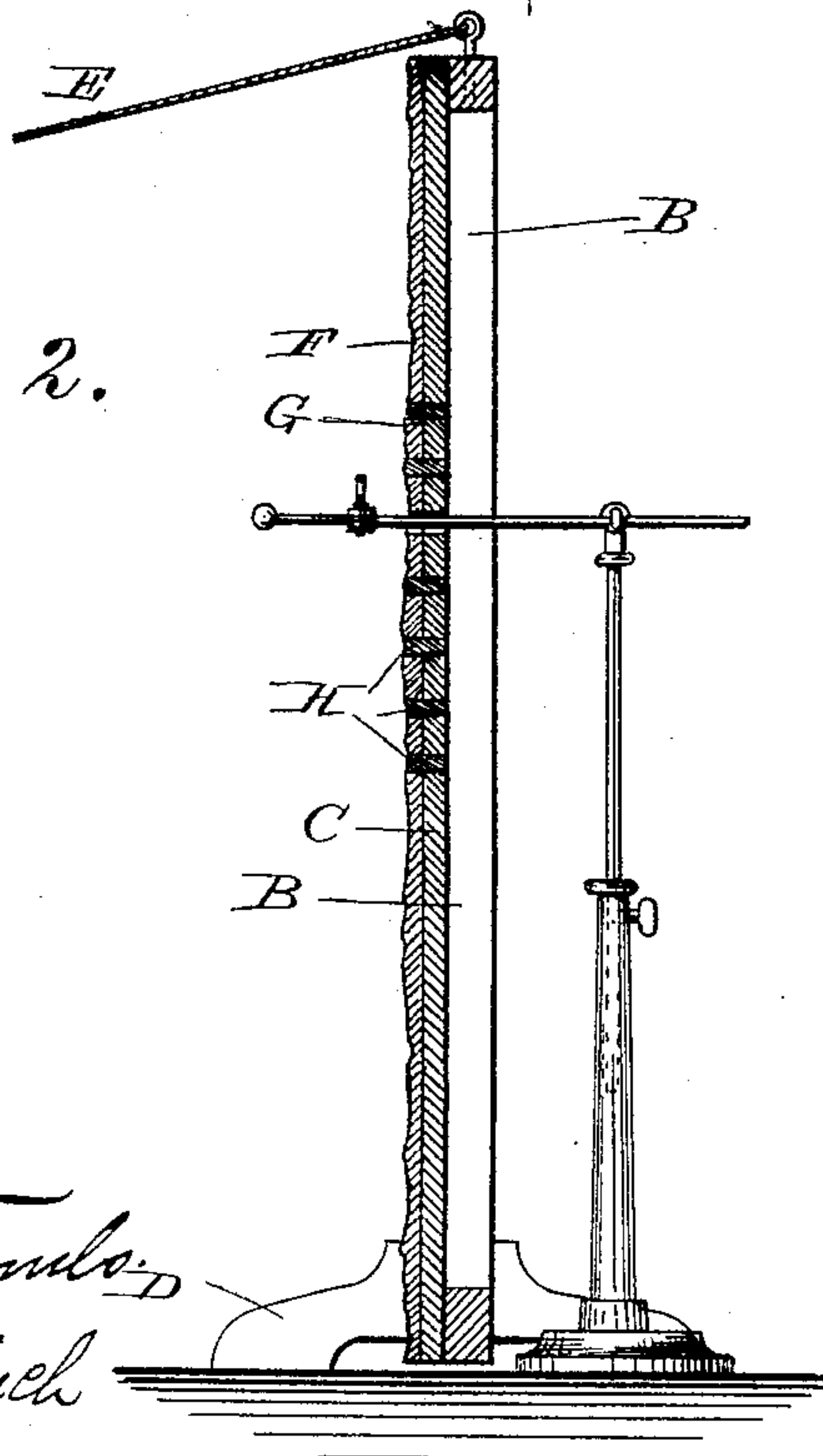


Fig: 2.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES FREDRICKS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

PHOTOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 453,313, dated June 2, 1891.

Application filed November 20, 1890. Serial No. 372,117. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES FREDRICKS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Brooklyn, county of Kings, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Photographic Backgrounds, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the screens used as artificial backgrounds for subjects in photographic studios; and the objects of my invention are to provide for the support of the subjects in all sorts of positions without exposing the nature of the supports to the camera, to give a clear and distinct outline to and thus set off the subject in the photograph, to allow of bringing the background into focus and hence close to the subject, and in general to improve the effect of the photograph, all by a simple and durable device.

The invention consists, mainly, of an artificial photographic background, preferably in the form of a solid screen, having a rough surface, which I now elect to make of overlaid strips of natural tree-bark, all substantially as and for the purpose hereinafter set forth and as claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of a photographic screen for use as an artificial background faced with natural bark according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the said screen, showing the use therewith of supports for the subject.

Like letters of reference designate corresponding parts in both figures.

The body of the screen here represented is formed of an upright frame B, the front of which is wholly covered with board C, and the whole is supported on spread legs D, and when necessary by inclined braces E.

The face of the screen-body is made rough and irregular, in this instance by flat strips F of natural bark, which are preferably arranged so that the rough prominences and irregular channels or depressions will radiate approximately in lines from the center of the screen, and are fastened upon so as to com-

pletely cover the body of the screen by nails or in any other convenient manner. With this construction the standards of the head-rests, arm-rests, and other supports used for subjects to be photographed are placed behind the screen, as illustrated in Fig. 2, and apertures G are made in the screen, through which the arms of said supports are introduced wherever necessary or desirable. The main parts of the supporting devices being completely hidden by the screen and the projecting arms thereof by the subject, nothing but the subject and the background will appear in the picture, so that subjects may be photographed in all sorts of quaint and otherwise impossible positions without disclosing the nature of their support. As the supports are withdrawn and introduced through other parts of the screen with changes of subjects, &c., the apertures previously receiving them are filled with plugs H, having heads preferably rough like the face of the screen, which, owing to the rough and irregular character of the face of the screen, will be wholly unnoticed in the picture. This rough facing moreover can be and generally should be photographed in focus, unlike ordinary painted screens which are photographed out of focus, and hence, being close to the subject, afford better and less observable supports for the subject.

The peculiar background gives a clean and distinct outline to the subject in the photograph and brings it out in relief.

Owing to the solid character of this screen the standards or bodies of the supports may be fixed pivotally or otherwise adjustably to the back of the screen itself instead of being independent of the screen.

I claim as my invention—

1. A photographic background formed of a screen made with a rough face of rigid material, as natural bark, substantially as shown and described.

2. An artificial photographic background faced with strips of natural bark, arranged radially, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

3. A solid photographic background screen having a rough rigid face provided with aper-

tures for the introduction of supports for the subjects, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

4. The combination, substantially as here-
5 inbefore set forth, with an apertured solid photographic background having a rough face, of plugs for the said apertures.

5. The combination, substantially as here-

inbefore set forth, with an apertured solid photographic background having a rough 10 face, of plugs for the said apertures having heads like the rough face.

CHARLES FREDRICKS.

Witnesses:

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