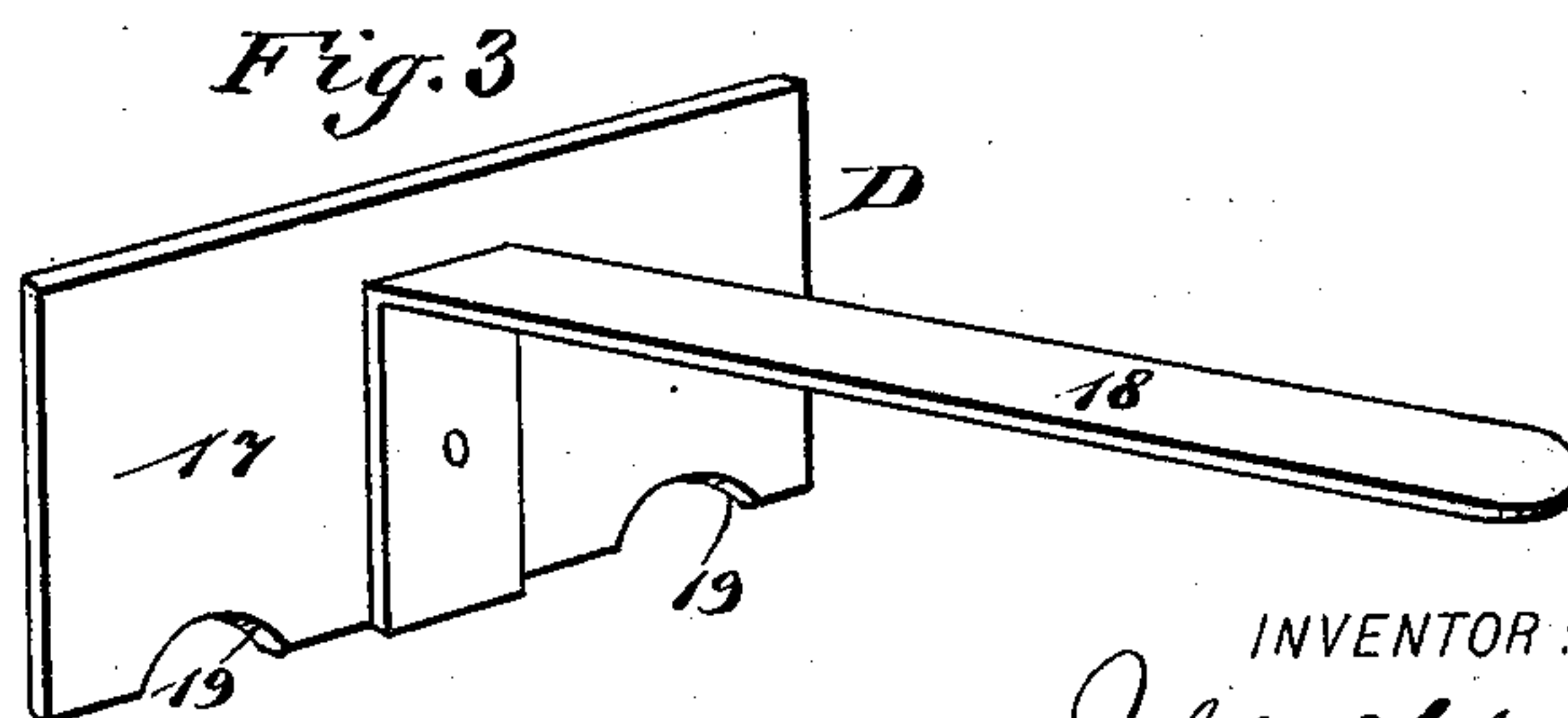
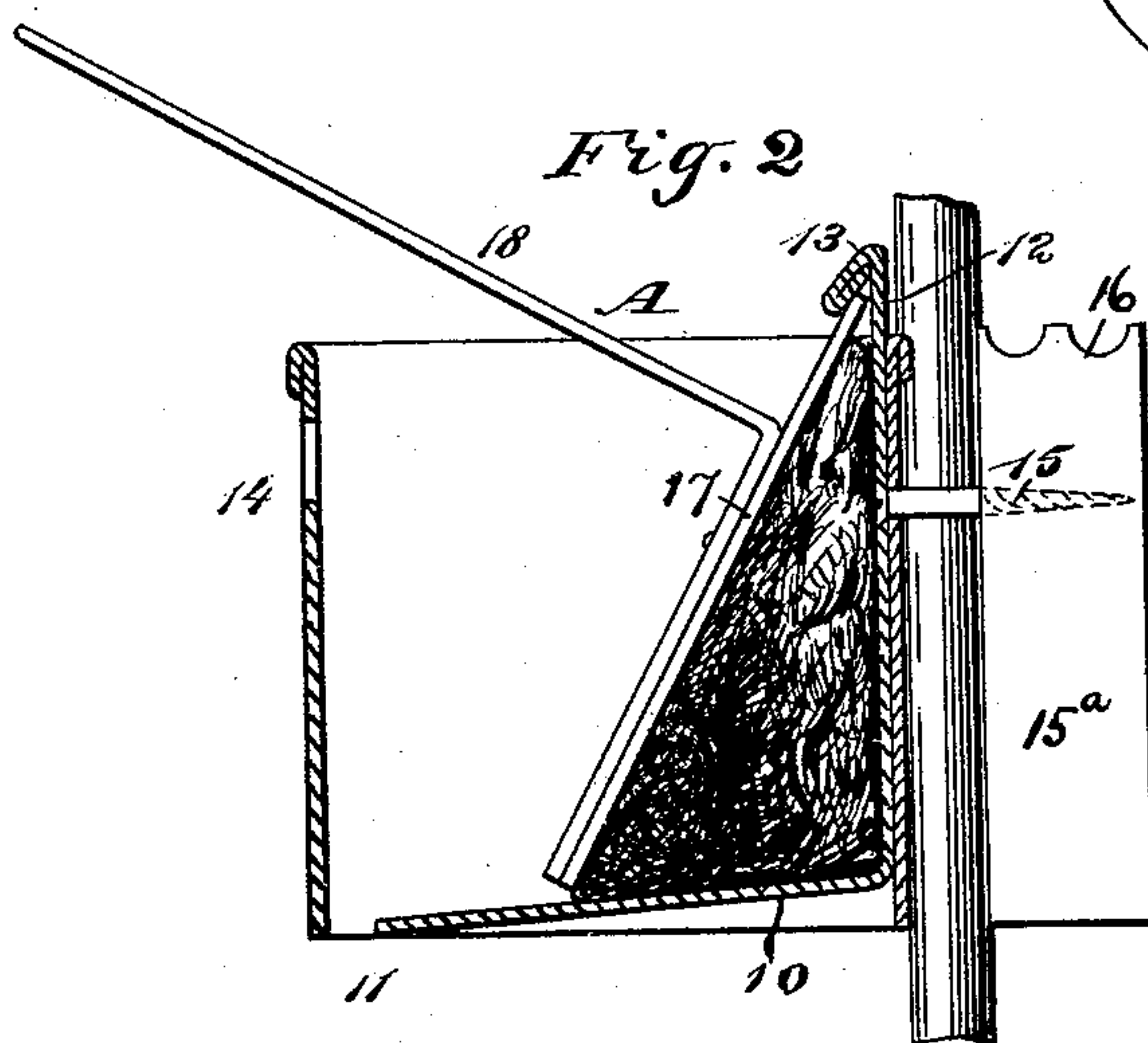
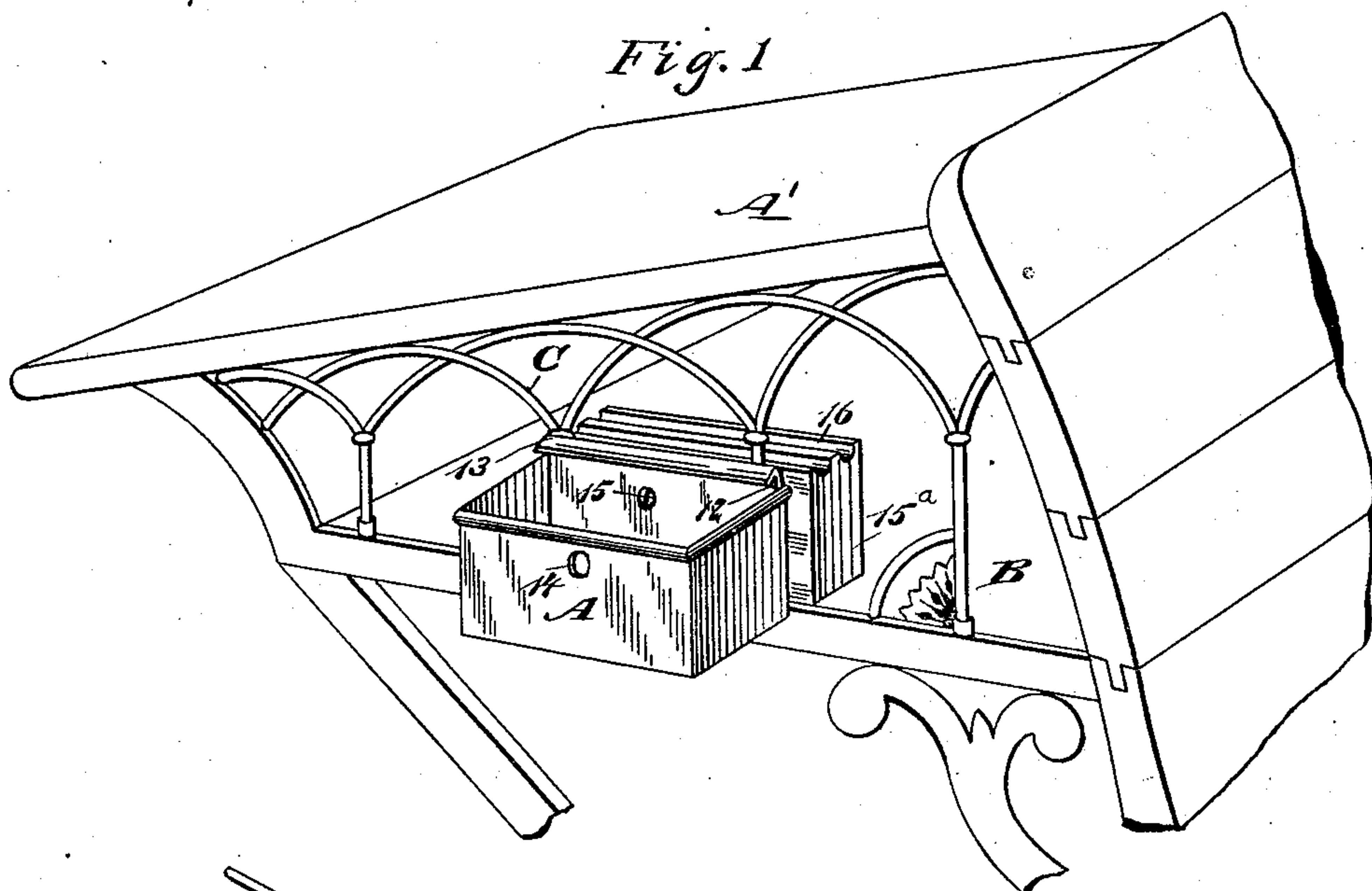


(No Model.)

J. S. McCLUNG.  
SPONGE CUP FOR SCHOOL DESKS.

No. 477,953.

Patented June 28, 1892.



WITNESSES:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES S. McCLUNG, OF PUEBLO, COLORADO.

## SPONGE-CUP FOR SCHOOL-DESKS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 477,953, dated June 28, 1892.

Application filed December 10, 1891. Serial No. 414,623. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES S. McCLUNG, of Pueblo, in the county of Pueblo and State of Colorado, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Sponge-Cups for School-Desks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to an improved sponge-cup especially adapted for use in connection with school-desks, and has for its object to provide a cup of simple and durable construction capable of being conveniently applied to any form of school-desk, and, further, to so construct the cup that a sponge contained therein may be dampened, the overplus of water pressed therefrom, and a receptacle for the overflow or overplus water provided for the same.

Another object of the invention is to provide a means whereby the support for the cup may be utilized as a rack for the reception of penholders, pencils, and other furniture in use around a desk.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar figures and letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device and a partial perspective view of a desk to which the device is applied. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section through the sponge-cup and an end view of its support, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the implement employed to press the sponge.

The cup A may be made of any desired material, sheet metal being preferably employed, and any shape that fancy may dictate may be given to the cup. Ordinarily, however, the cup is made rectangular, as illustrated. The bottom 10 of the cup is inclined from the back downward in direction of the front, and the said bottom terminates before reaching the front of the cup, thus providing in the bottom at the front an opening 11. The metal at the back of the cup is made to extend upward beyond its upper edge proper, as illustrated at

12 in Figs. 1 and 2, and this extension of the metal is bent upon itself forwardly and downwardly, forming thereby an inverted trough-like head 13. The shape of this head, however, may be changed—as, for instance, an overhanging bead may be substituted, provided in its under face with a groove or channel; but ordinarily the trough-like head is employed.

The front of the cup near the top has ordinarily produced therein an opening 14, and one or more (usually one) openings are made in the back at the center, through which a screw 15 or other form of fastening device is adapted to be passed.

The cup is preferably placed at the outer side of a desk, as shown in Fig. 1, and in the character of desk illustrated in the drawings, in which the writing-table A' is supported above the storage-table B by a metal framework C, the cup hangs at the outer side of the metal frame-work, and as this frame-work is ordinarily made up of a series of open panels a block 15<sup>a</sup> is employed in connection with the cup to facilitate the attachment of the latter to the desk. This block 15<sup>a</sup> is made to engage with the inner face of the frame-work C, and has a bearing against the columns separating and defining the panels thereof, and the screw 15 or other fastening device employed after being passed through the cup is made to enter the block.

In placing the block 15<sup>a</sup>, which is preferably made to rest upon the storage-chamber B, as shown in Fig. 1, this block not only performs the function of a support for the sponge-cup, but is also utilized as a rack for the reception of penholders, pencils, and other desk furniture, one face of the upper, lower, or outer faces of the block being to that end provided with one or more grooves or channels 16, into which such furniture may be laid.

In connection with the sponge-cup an implement D is employed, which I denominate a "presser," the said presser consisting of a plate 17 of a size rendering it capable of being readily inserted in the cup and a handle 18, which extends from one face of the plate at an angle therefrom, as shown in Fig. 3. This handle is usually applied to the central portion of the plate, and the angle at which



it is attached to the plate is ordinarily a right angle. The lower edge of the plate has produced therein recesses 19 to permit water to escape when the sponge is pressed.

5 The sponge-cups having been attached to the desks and the sponges placed therein at certain periods of time, a pupil may be delegated to dampen the sponges in all of the cups. This pupil carries a presser D and  
10 also a light receptacle capable of being hooked over the top of a cup or into the front opening 14, and when so attached of extending beneath the opening 11 in the bottom of the cup to receive any water dripping therefrom.  
15 The pupil further carries a vessel containing water, and upon reaching a desk water is poured upon the sponge, the receptacle to receive the surplus water having been previously attached to the cup. When the sponge  
20 has been sufficiently moistened to saturate it, the plate or body of the presser is inserted into the cup in front of the sponge and the upper edge of this plate or body of the presser is introduced under the head 13, as shown in Fig. 2, and  
25 by depressing the plate or body of the presser, which is accomplished by lowering its handle 18, the back surface of the plate or body is brought to bear against the sponge, and by using the head 13 as a fulcrum for the plate  
30 or body of the presser its handle is carried farther downward, and the sponge is thereby forced against the back of the cup, squeezing any surplus water out therefrom, which will run down the inclined bottom of the cup out  
35 through the opening 11 in the bottom and into the receptacle placed beneath said opening to receive it.

If in practice it is found desirable, a drip-cup may be removably secured to each of the  
40 sponge-cups.

By means of this attachment it will be observed that each and every sponge in a school may be kept in a proper condition for use, and at the same time perfect order be pre-  
45 served.

It is evident that the device is exceedingly simple, and, as heretofore stated, that it may be applied to any form of school-desk; and it is further evident that the presser may be  
50 used in different ways—as, for instance, it may be employed without a fulcrum to exert direct pressure upon the sponge either horizontally or vertically.

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

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a sponge-cup provided with an inclined bot-  
60 tom and an opening at the lowest point in the

the back, substantially as shown and described.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a sponge-cup provided with a bottom inclined downwardly from the back in direction of the  
65 front and also provided with an opening in the bottom at the front and a head located longitudinally at the back of the cup, which head is elevated above the upper edge of the sides of the ends and front, the said head ex-  
70 tending over in direction of the interior of the cup, as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a receptacle for sponges, the combination, with a box having a bottom inclined downward from the back in direction of the  
75 front and an opening in the bottom near the front, of a supporting-block having sundry of its surfaces formed as a rack and means, substantially as described, for connecting the cup with the block, as and for the purpose  
80 set forth.

4. The combination, with a sponge-cup provided with a head located at the back and extending over the interior portion of the cup and also provided with a bottom inclined  
85 from the back downward in direction of the front and an opening in the bottom near the front, of a presser comprising a plate and a handle attached to the plate, the plate of the presser being adapted to engage with the  
90 head formed upon the cup and the sponge located within the cup, substantially as shown and described.

5. The combination, with a sponge-cup provided with an inclined bottom and an open-  
95 ing in said bottom, of a presser comprising a plate and a handle projected from the plate, the plate of the presser being adapted to compress a sponge when placed in the cup, substantially as described.  
100

6. The combination, with a sponge-cup provided with a head formed longitudinally upon the back and extending over in direction of the interior of the cup and further provided with an inclined bottom and an opening in the  
105 lowest point in the bottom, of a support consisting of a block having its surfaces formed as a rack, a presser adapted to compress a sponge when located in the cup, the said presser comprising a body-plate adapted at  
110 its upper edge to engage with the head formed upon the cup, and a handle projected outward from the plate, and a fastening device, substantially as described, whereby the box or cup may be secured to a desk, as and for the  
115 purpose specified.

JAMES S. McCLUNG.

Witnesses:

T. W. JONES,  
H. J. McCLUNG.