

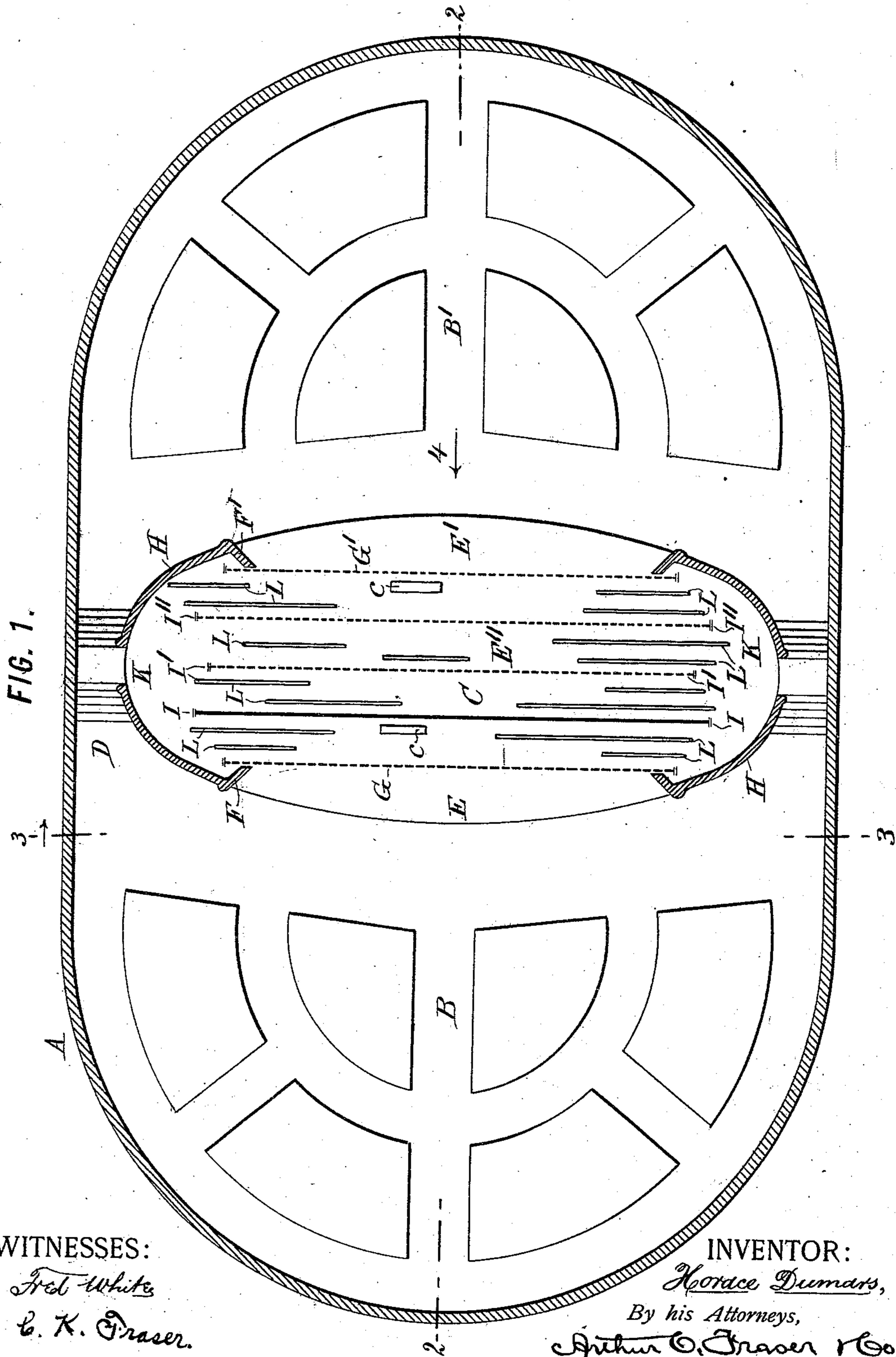
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

H. DUMARS.  
THEATRICAL DEVICE.

No. 501,647.

Patented July 18, 1893.



(No Model.)

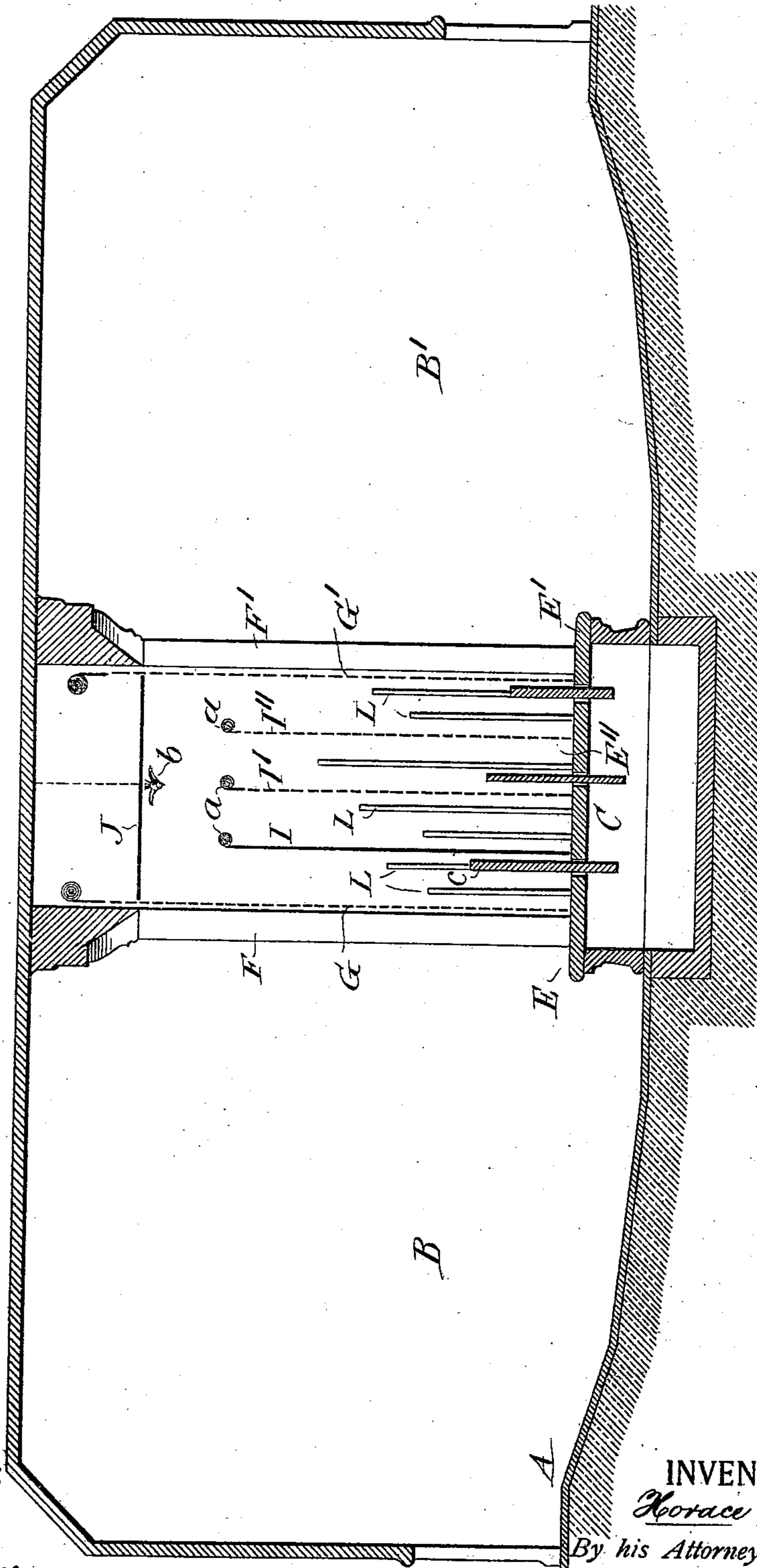
3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

H. DUMARS.  
THEATRICAL DEVICE.

No. 501,647.

Patented July 18, 1893.

FIG. 2.



WITNESSES:

*Fred White*  
*L. K. Fraser.*

INVENTOR:

*Horace Dumars,*

*By his Attorneys,*

*Arthur C. Fraser & Co.*

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 3.

H. DUMARS.  
THEATRICAL DEVICE.

No. 501,647.

Patented July 18, 1893.

FIG. 3.

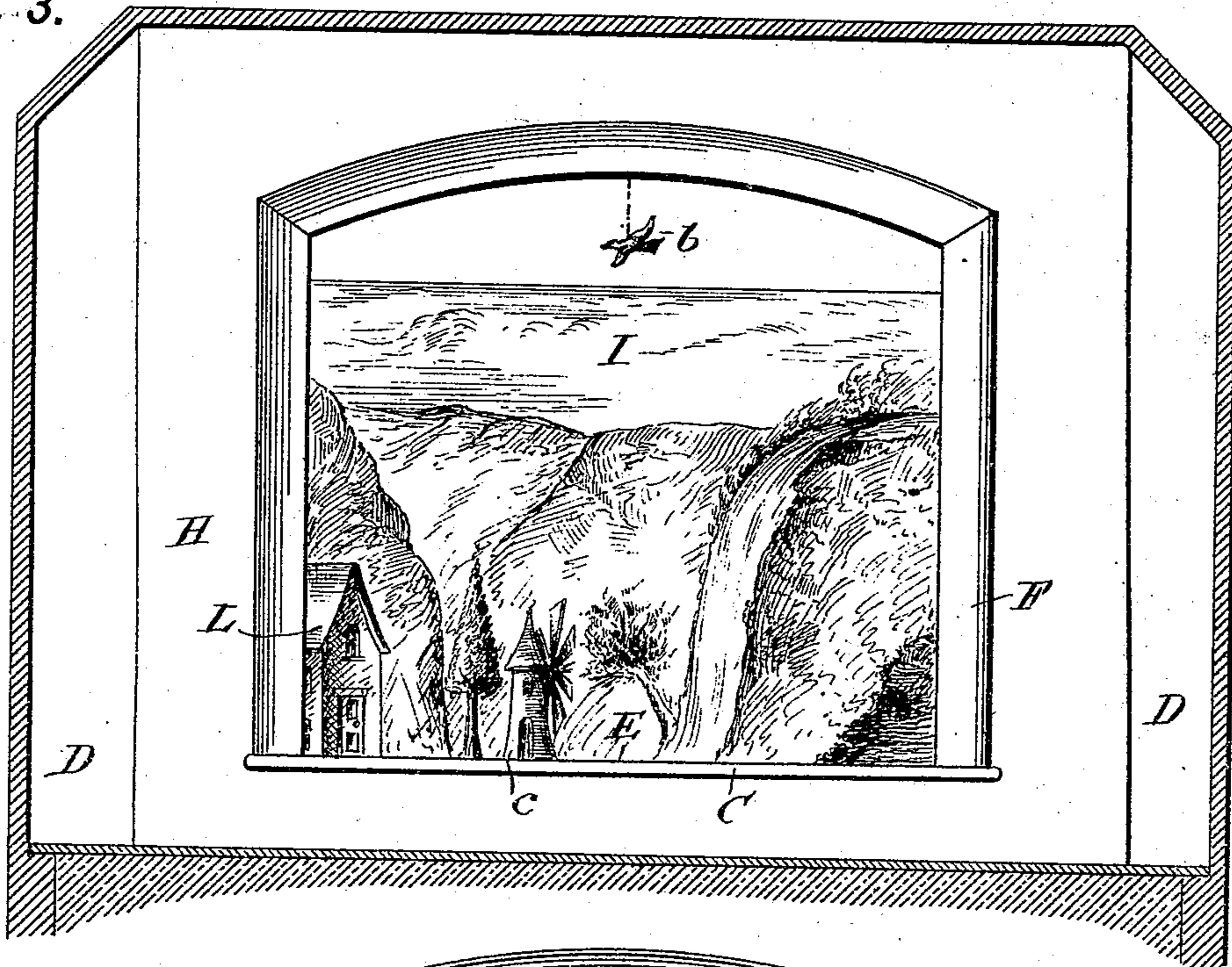


FIG. 4.

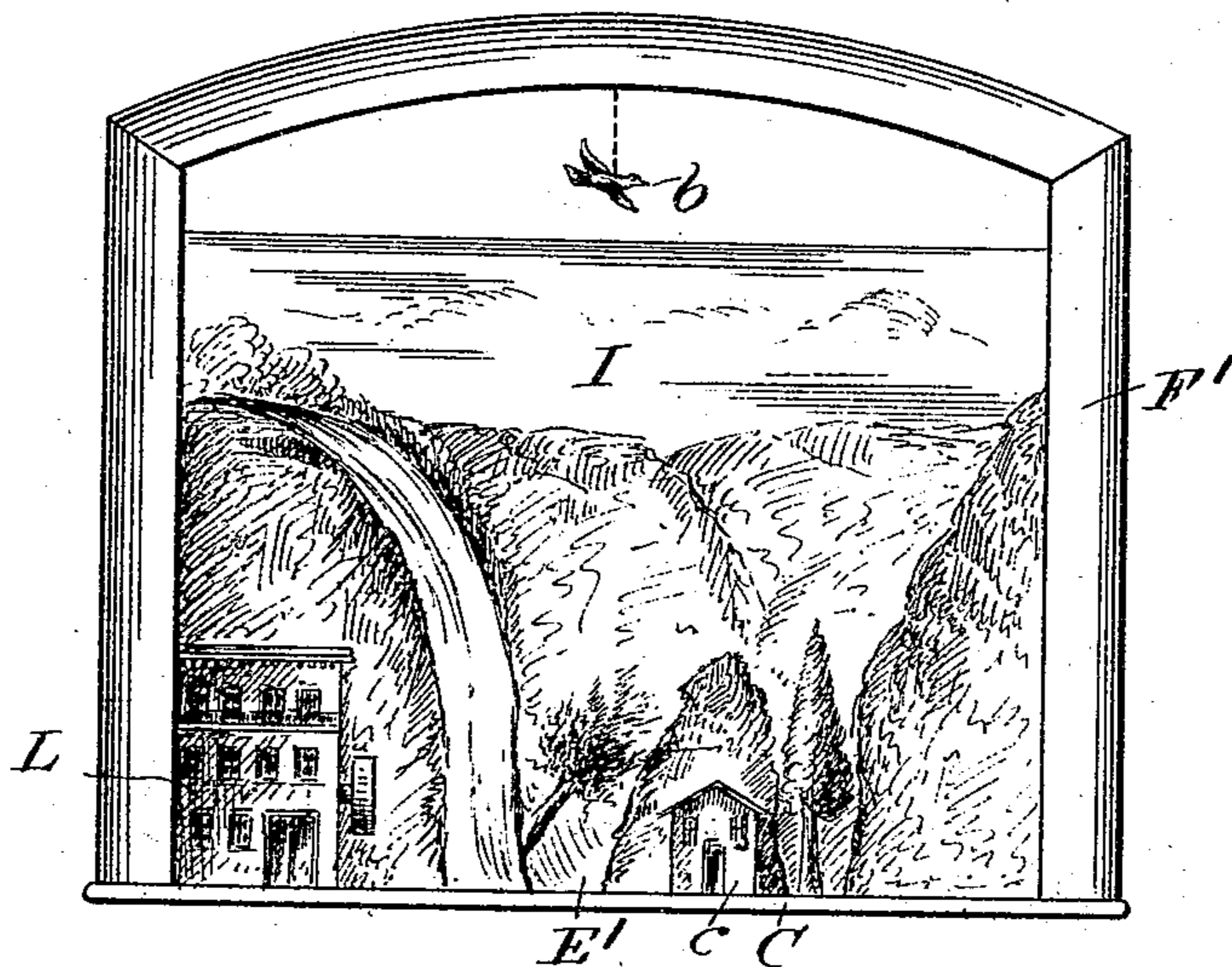
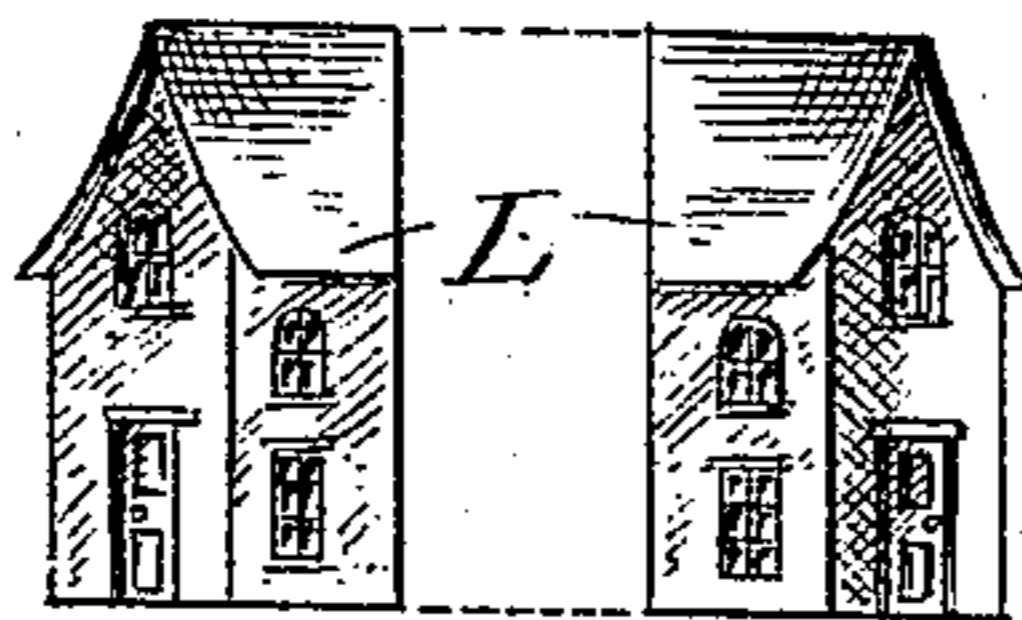


FIG. 5.



WITNESSES:

*Fred Whitey*  
*C. K. Fraser.*

INVENTOR:

*Horace Dumars,*  
By his Attorneys,  
*Arthur C. Fraser & Co.*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE DUMARS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

## THEATRICAL DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 501,647, dated July 18, 1893.

Application filed November 2, 1892. Serial No. 450,717. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HORACE DUMARS, a citizen of the United States, residing in Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Theatrical Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices, apparatus and structures for the exhibition of scenic effects, entertainments or performances of any kind, and aims to provide certain improvements in the stages or platforms on which such exhibitions are given, and in the scenery and apparatus such as the wings, borders, flies, or other such paraphernalia or properties employed in connection with exhibitions.

To this end, in carrying out my invention in its preferred form, I provide two stages or platforms upon which exhibitions can be given, and I arrange these stages on the same plane and back to back, with a space intervening between them constituting an intermediate platform having the same level as the stages, and susceptible of utilization as a rearward portion of either stage, and I provide a separate auditory for each stage, whereby two performances to two audiences may be simultaneously given from the same platform, and the latter can be utilized to give such portion of its area as a stage to either audience as the exigencies of the respective performances render desirable. Preferably the stages are open and in free communication with each other, when the auxiliary apparatus incident to exhibitions is removed, whereby at such times the platform may be used for but one performance to be observed from both auditories.

Preferably my invention provides improved scenery, curtains, wings, borders, flies, and other paraphernalia constructed to be utilized for scenic effects on either stage, or simultaneously on both stages, this being accomplished by constructing these devices with exhibition surfaces on both sides.

My invention also provides movable partitions for determining the relative proportions of the platform to be utilized for the respective stages, these partitions being ornamented on both sides and being of less height than the height of the stage, whereby above these there is left a free space communicating be-

tween the two auditories, and above this space I provide horizontal scenery disposed relatively to the partitions to intercept the line of sight of the auditor above the partitions, and give the effect of a continuation of the scenic display on the latter, whereby neither audience can see through the free space above the partitions into the other auditory.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the preferred embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a diagrammatic plan view of an inclosure comprising two auditories and my improved duplex stage intervening between them. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section thereof showing the left side of the stage in elevation. Fig. 4 is an elevation of the opposite side of the stage; and Fig. 5 is a front and rear view of one of the wings or scenic pieces.

Referring to the drawings, I will now describe the preferred form of my invention.

Let A indicate an inclosure for the display of exhibitions of any kind. This may be of any known or suitable character, that shown representing an edifice having auditories B and B' at its opposite ends.

Let C indicate a platform or stage within the inclosure A between its auditories B B'. This platform may be of any suitable or known construction adapted to exhibitions of any character. It may be disposed relatively to the inclosure A in any direction so as to substantially subdivide the latter into two opposite auditories. Preferably it is of elliptical form in horizontal section, and extends across the central portion of the inclosure at substantially right angles to the longitudinal axis of the latter, and terminates at its opposite ends out of contact with the side walls of the inclosure, thereby leaving communicating passages D D at these points between the two auditories.

According to my invention the platform C is constructed with two stages E and E', and with an intermediate portion E'', the latter and the two stages being on one uniform plane, and constituting a continuous open surface across the platform C from one side to the other thereof. The stage E faces the auditory B, and can be utilized for exhibitions to be observed in that auditory, while

the stage E' faces the auditory B' and can be used for exhibitions to be observed therefrom. The respective stages are bordered at sides and top by the usual arch F F', and are provided with the usual curtains or provisions G and G' respectively immediately within their arches for closing them against observation from their respective auditories. In the construction shown these curtains G can be rolled up and concealed above the arches of their respective stages. Preferably the platform C is inclosed by a wall H at its ends between the arches F F'.

As thus far described, the platform C consists of two stages arranged back to back, and an intermediate space capable of utilization for either stage. My invention provides means for utilizing such proportion of the platform for each stage as shall be best adapted to the exigencies of the exhibitions given from each. Preferably this is accomplished by providing a plurality of partitions I I' and I'' traversing longitudinally the platform C in such manner as to subdivide its area between the respective stages E E', and extending beyond the opening in the arches F. Preferably three partitions are used, the middle one I' traversing substantially the center of the platform C to subdivide it into equal parts between its stages, and the others I and I'' being respectively on opposite sides of the partition I' and serving to partition the normal depth of the stages E and E' respectively from the intermediate space E''. Each of these partitions is constructed with duplex faces, that is, each side of the partition is ornamented to be exposed to observation from either auditory, whereby when in position the face on one side of the partition may be viewed from one auditory, and that on the other side from the other auditory, provided the other partitions do not intervene. Thus when the partition I is in position as shown in the drawings, it serves as a back wall for the stage E, which is thus rendered comparatively shallow in depth, and also as a back wall for the stage E', which is thus of a depth equal to that of its own width and that of the intermediate space E'', it being understood that the partitions I' and I'' are removed. Thus the greater proportion of the platform C is devoted to the stage E', while the lesser portion is devoted to the stage E. During such an arrangement, an exhibition requiring great depth of stage can be given on the stage E', while one requiring a lesser depth will be given on the stage E. When the conditions of the respective exhibitions are reversed, the partition I will be displaced and that I'' brought into position. Where the exhibitions require uniform stage space, the central partition I' will be utilized.

According to my invention the partitions preferably do not extend to the complete height of the arch F, but are shown as terminating in rollers a some distance beneath the top of the arch, whereby above them there

exists an uninterrupted space between the two sides of the stage. Above the partitions, and preferably above the level of the top of the arch F, is a substantially horizontal scene J, preferably traversing almost the entire space between the two stages. The distance between the top of the partitions and the scene J is such that the line of sight from the auditory over the top of any partition I will be intercepted by the horizontal scene J, and therefore will not penetrate into the opposite auditory. Preferably the opposite decorations of the partitions I are exact counterparts of each other, and each partition at top is decorated to resemble, for example, a sky scene, corresponding in appearance with the decoration upon the horizontal scene J, whereby from the auditory the change from the top of the partition to the horizontal scene is not noticeable.

My invention also provides duplex flies L L which are distributed about the platform C as convenience dictates, and are according to my invention constructed with duplex exhibition surfaces whereby they can be viewed from either side, these surfaces being preferably counterparts each of the other, as seen in Fig. 5, which is a view of the two faces of one of the flies L. It likewise provides all the other scenic paraphernalia which can be utilized from either side with duplex exhibition faces—for example, a suspending piece b and the piece c which latter is constructed to be raised from below through the platform C. These pieces are seen in Figs. 3 and 4, in which it will be seen that the suspended piece or float b can be seen from both auditories, while the various pieces c are in this instance only seen from the auditory facing that side of the partition upon which they are disposed.

In operation the regular curtains G G' will be lowered from their rollers e e while the respective stages are being set. The stage platform will be subdivided most conveniently for the production of the respective exhibitions by one of the partitions I. The wings L, floats b and pieces c will be properly disposed, whereupon the exhibitions can proceed upon the raising of the curtains G. The performers can after their evolutions on one stage pass through the spaces K at the opposite ends of the partitions to the performance on the other stage. During these performances the flies, floats, and pieces at one side of the partition then used to subdivide the platform will be viewed from that side by the auditors there located, while those at the opposite side of this partition will be viewed by the auditors in the opposite auditory. Should the next act require a reversal of the stage spaces, another partition will be utilized to divide the platform C, whereupon the stage paraphernalia intervening between that partition and the one previously used will then be viewed from the reverse side by the auditors on that side of the partition then used.

It will be seen that my invention provides

an improved stage from which two exhibitions can be given to two separate audiences in which the partitions, flies, and other stage paraphernalia can be utilized for the one audience or the other without reversing, and in which the respective stage spaces can be accommodated to the relative necessities of the respective exhibitions.

It will be understood that I do not limit myself to the exact details of the construction herein set forth as the preferred form of my invention, as these may be modified as circumstances or the judgment of those skilled in the art may dictate, without departing from the essential features of my invention.

What I claim is, in theatrical devices, the following-defined novel features and combinations, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, namely:

1. The improved structure for theatrical exhibitions consisting of a platform, as C, having two stages, as E E', on its opposite sides, an intermediate space, as E'', between said stages, and a plurality of partitions constructed when in position to subdivide said platform between said stages, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The improved structure for exhibitions consisting of a platform, as C, having two stages as E E' on its opposite sides, and an intervening partition, as I, having exhibition surfaces on its opposite faces, whereby its one face can serve as a background for the stage on one side, and its other face as a background for the stage on the other side, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a structure for theatrical exhibitions,

a platform, as C, having two stages, as E E' on its opposite sides arranged on the same plane, in combination with stage paraphernalia having exhibition faces on its opposite sides, whereby said paraphernalia can be utilized for either stage without reversal.

4. In a structure for theatrical exhibitions, two stages, as E E', arranged back to back, arches, as F, inclosing said stages, an intervening partition separating said stages and of less height than said arches, whereby an open space above said partition and beneath said arches exists across said stage, and a substantially horizontal scene above said arches constructed to intercept the line of sight above said partition from the auditory, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In structures for theatrical exhibitions, an inclosure, as A, having auditories, as B B', in combination with a platform, as C, subdividing said inclosure, and having two stages, as E E', the one facing one auditory and the other the other auditory, whereby separate exhibitions can simultaneously be given in said inclosure.

6. In structures for theatrical exhibitions, the platform C having the stages E E', arches F F' therefor, and curtains G G', in combination with partitions, as I I', flies, as L L, and top scene, as J.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HORACE DUMARS.

Witnesses:

GEORGE H. FRASER,  
CHARLES K. FRASER.