

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

L. F. & B. G. BRAINE.
DUPLICATE WHIST BOX.

No. 548,740.

Patented Oct. 29, 1895.

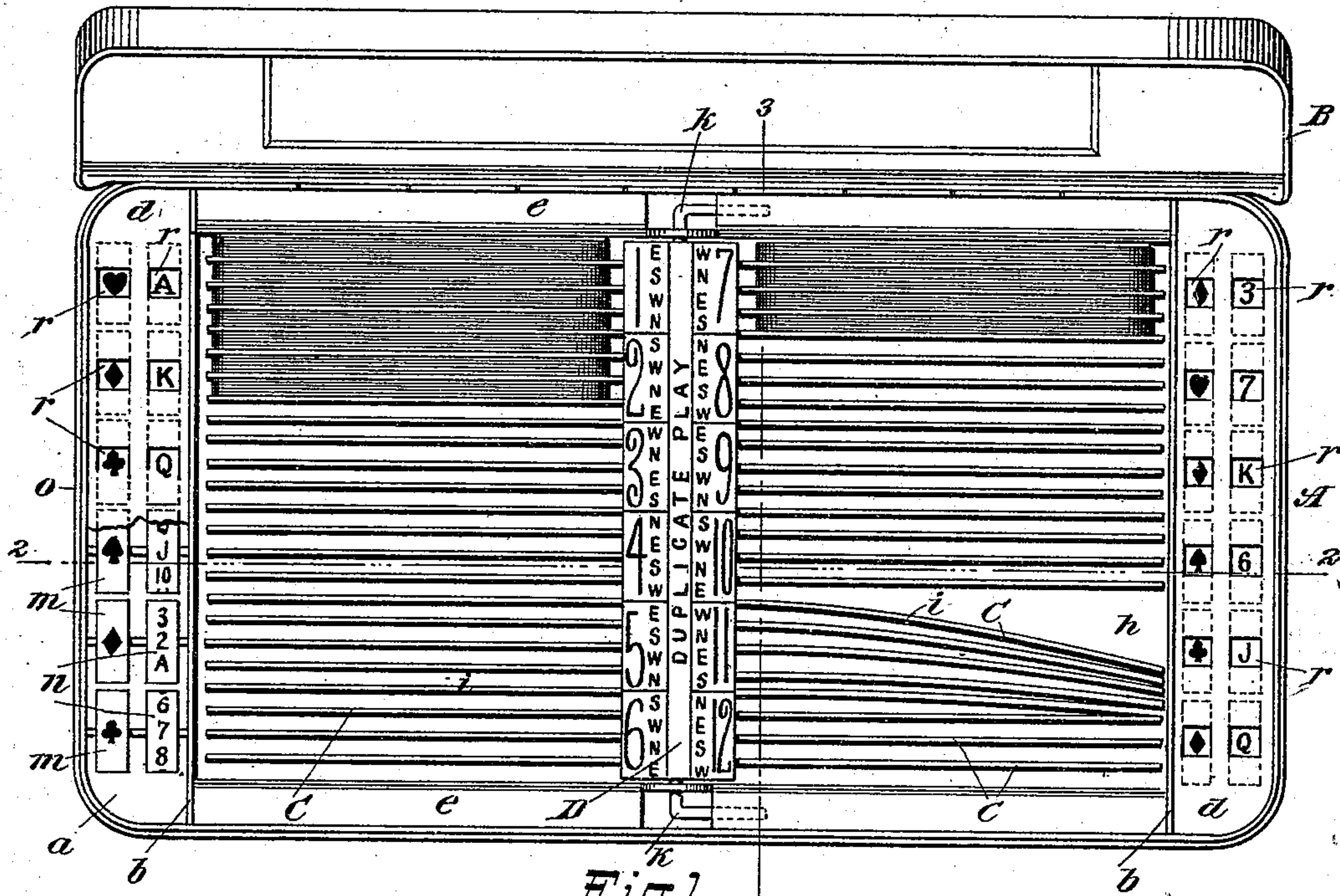


Fig. 1.

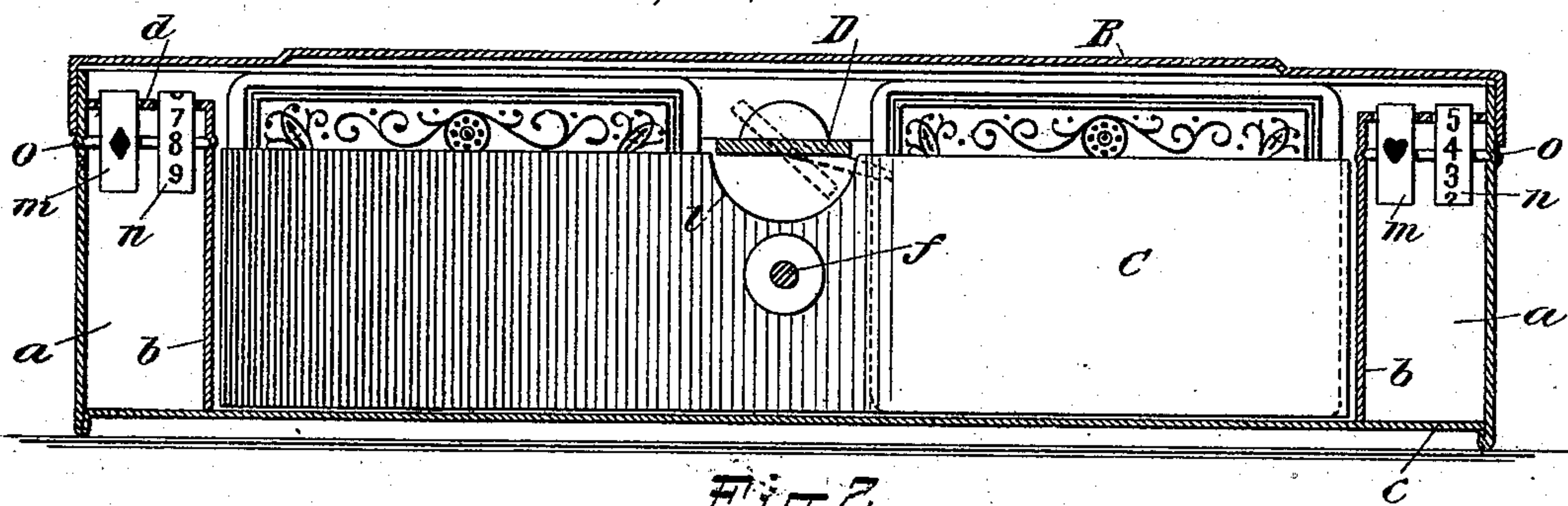


Fig. 2.

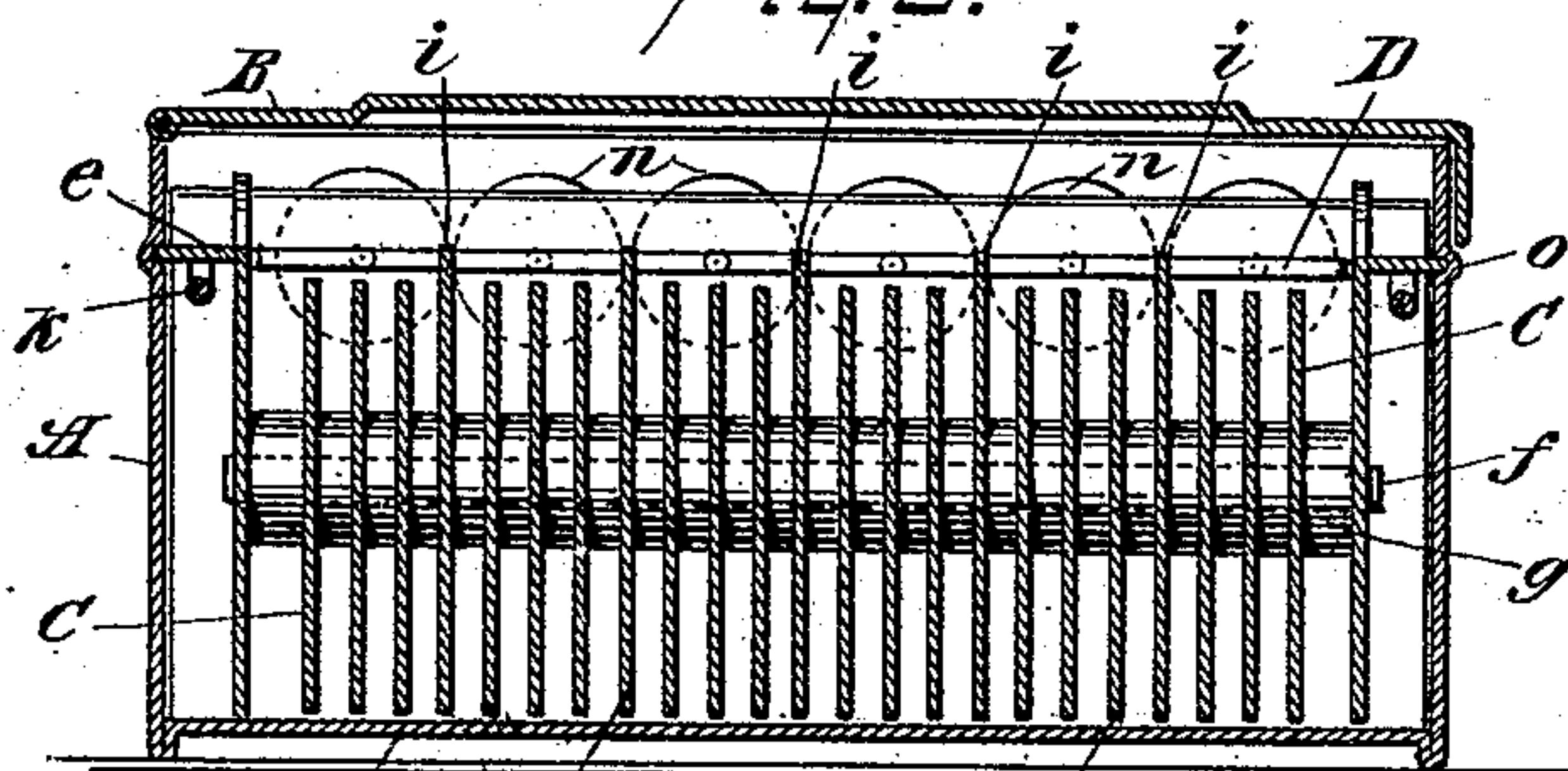


Fig. 3.

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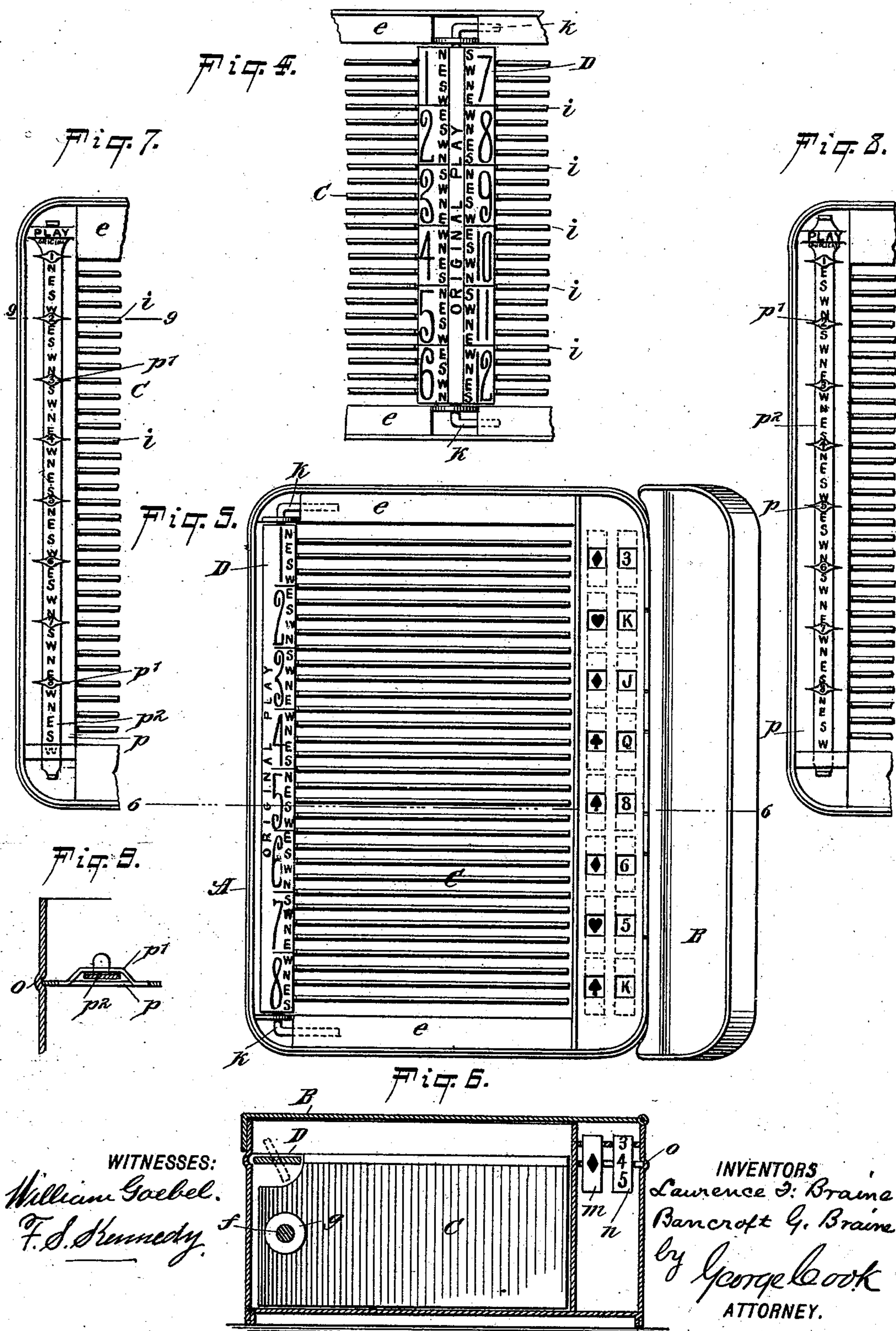
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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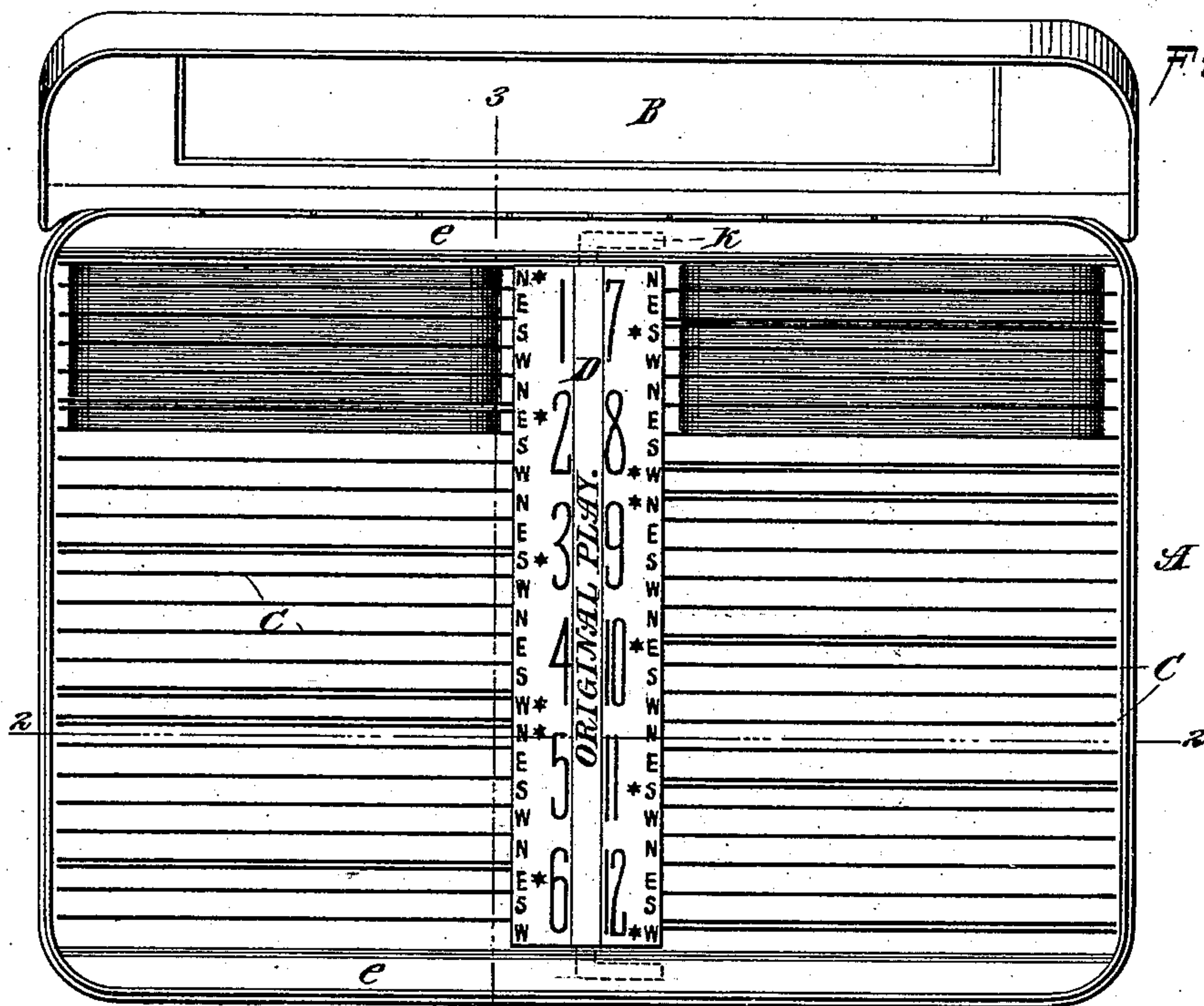


Fig. 10.

Fig. 13.



Fig. 11.

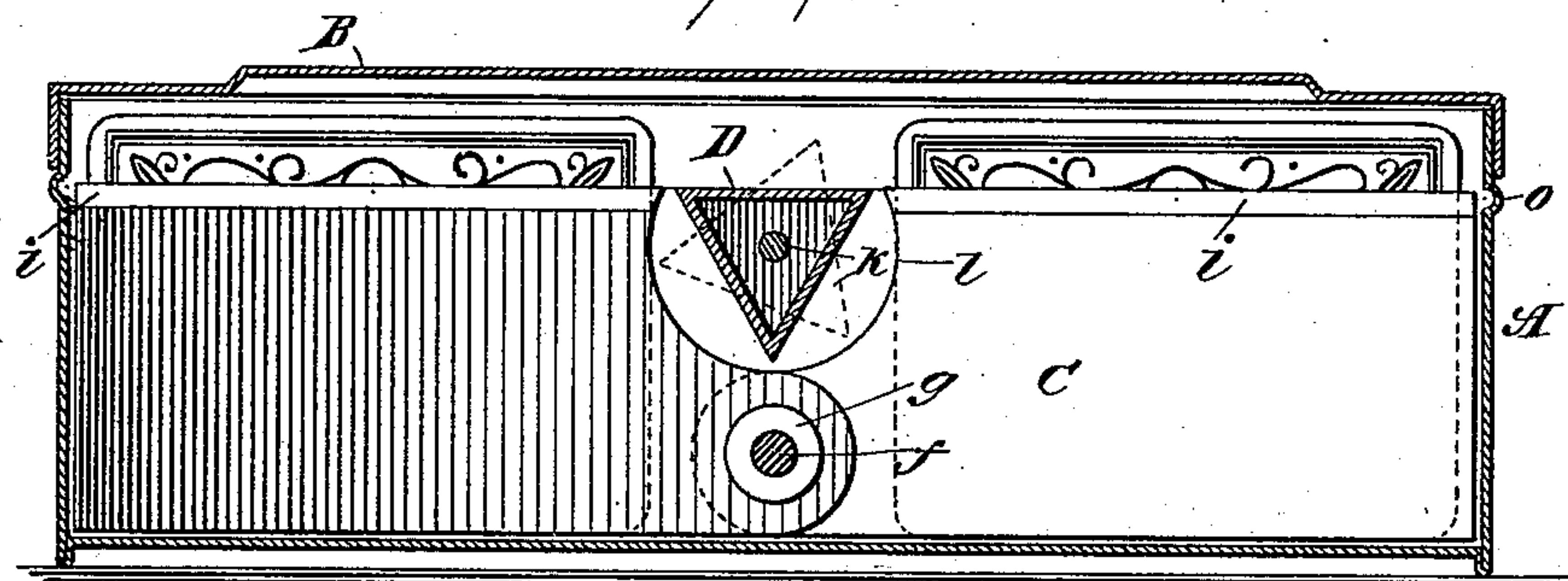


Fig. 14.

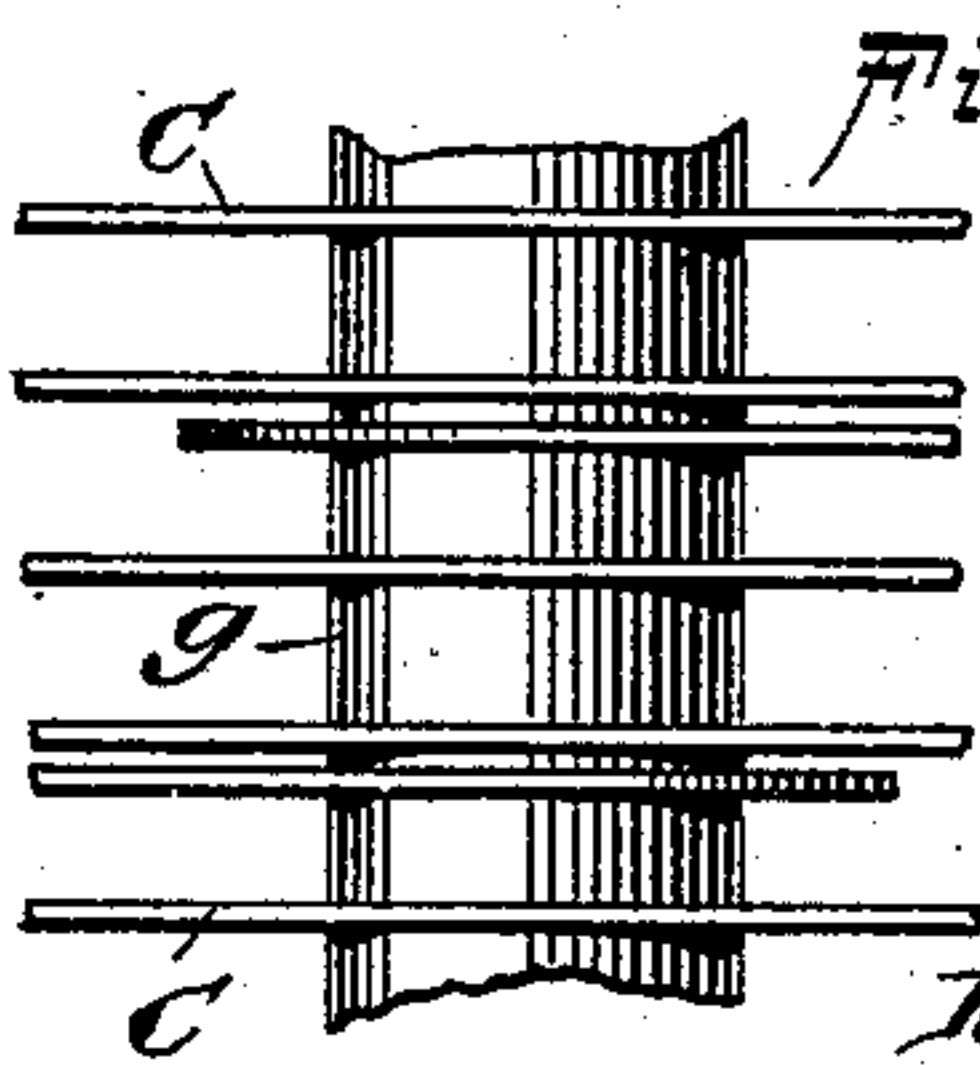
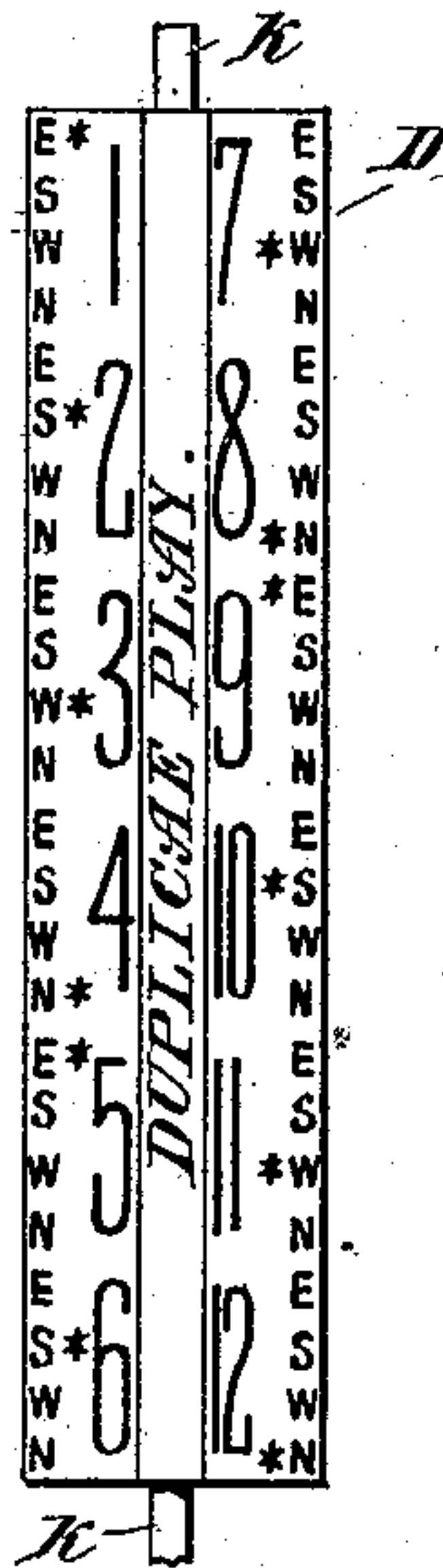
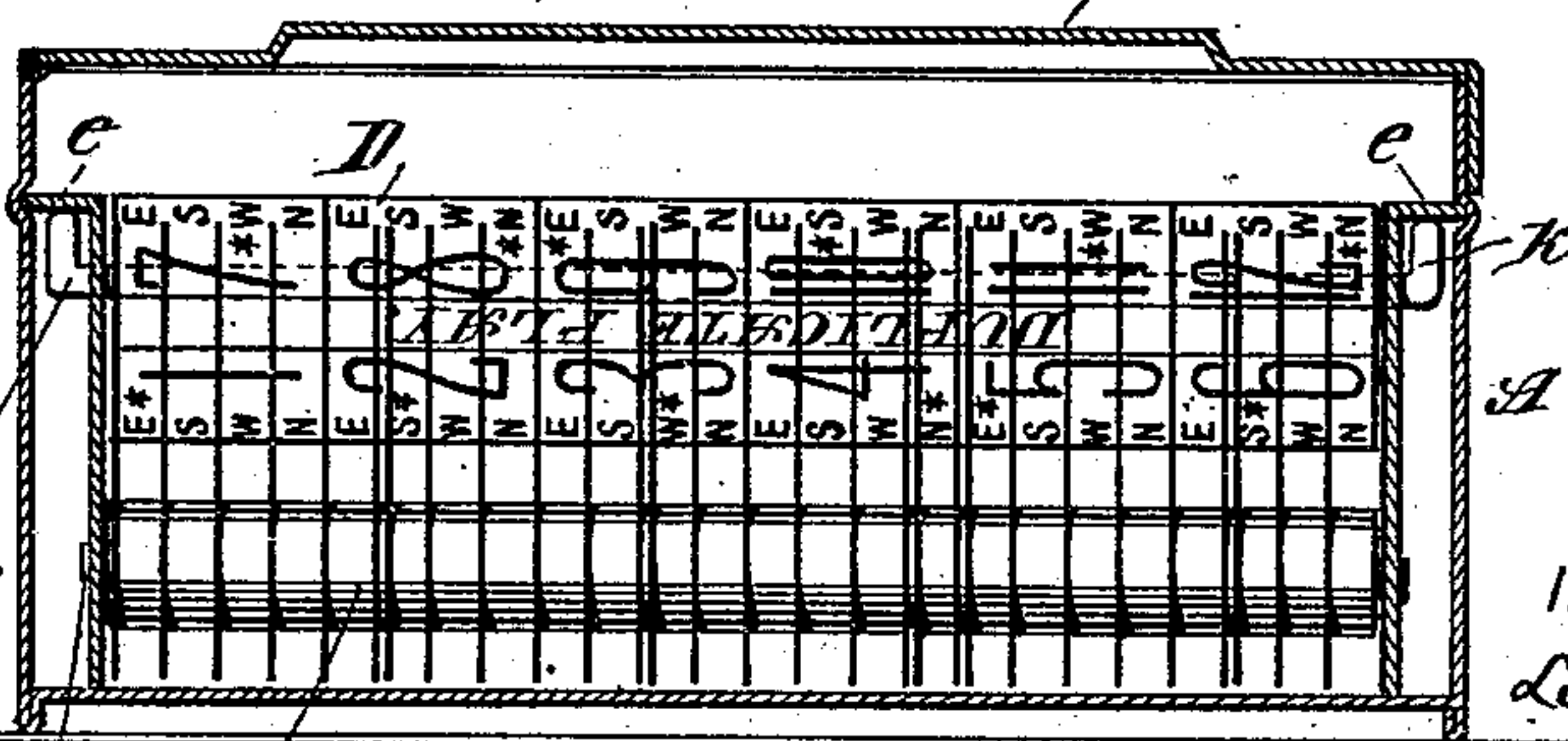


Fig. 15.

Fig. 12.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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DUPLICATE-WHIST BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 548,740, dated October 29, 1895.

Application filed January 3, 1895. Serial No. 533,714. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LAWRENCE F. BRAINE, residing at Ridgewood, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, and BANCROFT G. BRAINE, residing at Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Duplicate-Whist Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to an improvement in whist-boxes, and more particularly to boxes adapted to hold several packs or decks of cards separated in a particular manner for playing the game of cards commonly known and referred to as "duplicate whist," the object of our invention being to provide a box or receptacle of this kind or character which shall be simple in construction, cheap to manufacture, and which shall insure the proper separation of the cards during the entire game.

The further object is to so construct a box for this purpose that the players may, at a glance, ascertain the respective place or compartment in which to insert the cards or hands played by them during the original game, and by the movement of an indicator to at once ascertain the compartments from which to take the cards to play the duplicate game, thus obviating all danger of mistake in the distribution and selection of the several hands.

A further object of our invention is to provide means whereby the suit to which the trump-card belongs and the denomination of said trump may be registered opposite the cards forming the respective hand.

With these and other ends in view our invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of our improved box, the lid being open, several of the compartments being filled with cards, and having the plate covering the trump-indicator at one side of the box broken away to show the arrangement of the disks. Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the reverse side of the movable

indicator shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of the box. Fig. 6 is a sectional view thereof taken on the line 6 6 of Fig. 5. Figs. 7, 8, and 9 are views of a modified form of indicator. Figs. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 are views of modifications.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a box of proper shape and size, and constructed of metal, wood, cardboard, celluloid, or other suitable material, and has hinged or secured thereto a cover or lid B, said box, if desired, being coated or covered on its exterior surface with paint, japan, leather, or other substance.

Running across the box and about the center thereof is a rod or bar *f*, upon which are mounted partitions C, preferably made of sheet metal, the ends of said partitions being left free, as indicated in the several figures of the drawings, and separated from each other by means of the spacing-disks *g*, each of the several compartments formed by these partitions being of sufficient width to contain one hand or thirteen cards.

It will be readily understood that the above arrangement allows the cards to be easily and readily inserted or withdrawn from the compartments, the partitions being to a certain extent flexible and capable of being separated at their ends, as indicated at *h*, Fig. 1, of the drawings.

In order to separate the several decks or packs of cards from each other, we construct every fourth partition slightly higher than the remaining three, as indicated at *i* in Figs. 3 and 12 of the drawings.

Across the box and above the rod *f* is located a rod or bar *k*, the ends passing through the vertical side of the plates *e*, the upper end of the latter being bent over against the sides of the box and the lower end or edge resting on the bottom of the box. The ends of the rod *k* are bent at right angles to its length below the plates *e*. Upon the shaft or rod *k* is mounted an indicator D, adapted to revolve or turn thereon, the centers of the upper or tops edges of the partition C being cut away, as indicated at *l*, Figs. 2 and 11, to allow of such revolution. One surface or face of this revolving indicator is lettered and numbered, as indicated in Fig. 4, for the origi-

nal play and the opposite side or face lettered or numbered, as indicated in Fig. 1, for the duplicate play—that is, in both instances, opposite every four compartments is a figure to indicate the number of the pack or deck of cards, or, in other words, the number of the hand. Each compartment is a letter indicating the player or person to whom the cards in the respective compartment belongs.

In starting the game it is usual to first deal a deck or pack of cards in the regular way. After the first hand has been played the person in the original game sitting at the north end of the table will place his hand, consisting of the thirteen cards in the first compartment, opposite which is the letter "N," as shown in Fig. 4 of the drawings. The person sitting at the east will place his cards in the second compartment, opposite which is the letter "E," the person at the south in the third compartment, and the person at the west in the fourth compartment. Another pack or deck of cards is then dealt, and after the hand has been played the cards will be placed in the compartments as indicated by the several letters on the face of the indicator, and so on until all the hands have been dealt and all the hands have been played. The indicator D will then be reversed, as shown in Fig. 1, and the duplicate game started, each player extracting or withdrawing the cards from the compartments in accordance with his position at the table and in accordance with the letters as arranged on the indicator—for instance, in the original game it was shown that the person sitting at the north end of the table placed his cards in the first compartment after playing the hand. In the duplicate it will be seen that E, or east, takes his cards for the duplicate play from the first compartment; or, in other words, the original north becomes in the duplicate east, the original east becomes in the duplicate west, and the original west becomes in the duplicate north, and so on through the entire number of packs or decks of cards, this reversal of the indicator at all times insuring the proper distribution and selection of the hands without in any way disturbing the cards after once being inserted after the original play.

At either end of the box is formed a compartment *a* by means of the ends of the box proper and the vertical plates *b b* and top plates *d d*, arranged as shown in Fig. 2. Across these compartments are arranged the disks *m n*, mounted on bars or spindles *o*, the former being provided with characters indicating or denoting the four suits and the latter bearing the denomination of the suits—as, for instance, A for ace, K for king, Q for queen, J for jack, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on. These disks are arranged in pairs, upon the spindles, as shown in the several figures of the drawings, each pair of disks falling opposite every fourth compartment or opposite each deck of cards. The top plates *d d* of each of the compartments *a* have openings *r* therein, allow-

ing said disks to slightly protrude through the same, by means of which arrangement it is possible to turn or revolve said disks as desired. It will be understood from this arrangement and combination of parts that after each pack or deck of cards has been dealt during the original play the trump-card may be registered opposite the proper compartments or spaces containing the respective deck, the suit to which the trump-card belongs being shown by one disk and the denomination of said trump-card on the adjacent disk. For instance, as shown in Fig. 1, after the first deck or pack of cards has been dealt and played and said cards inserted in their proper compartments, the ace of hearts having been the trump-card, the disk *m* is revolved until the suit of hearts registers with the opening in the top plate *d* and the disk *n* is revolved until the ace or character denoting the ace is registered, thereby showing that the ace of hearts was the trump-card for the original play for said first deck and remains the trump-card for the duplicate play, and so on with the other twelve hands, or the number of hands to be played. It will, of course, be understood that the trump-card is so registered for each of the remaining decks.

While we have shown in the drawings in Figs. 1 and 2 a box or receptacle arranged to hold twelve packs or decks of cards, it will be understood, of course, that the box may be arranged or constructed to hold a greater or lesser number, as desired. Other changes will also occur to those skilled in the art—as, for instance, instead of constructing a box to hold the cards on both sides of the indicator, or, in other words, mounting the partitions on a rod running through or across the center of the box, these partitions may be mounted at one end, as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, the trump-indicator being arranged at one side of the box and the revolving indicator at the opposite side. Again, instead of having the indicator to revolve, as before described, it may be arranged to slide horizontally, as shown in Figs. 7, 8, and 9 of the drawings. This may be accomplished by slitting the metal plate *p*, arranged at one side of the box, and striking the metal upwardly, as shown in Fig. 9. On the plate *p* and under the bends *p'* slides the strip or indicator *p''*, lettered as shown, the ends of said strip or indicator being turned upwardly to prevent it being pulled entirely out of the loops or bends. In the original play the strip or indicator *p* will be lowered or pulled downwardly as far as possible, as indicated in Fig. 7. Before the duplicate play is started the strip or indicator *p* is pushed in the opposite direction until the bends or loops cover up certain of the letters on the strip and the letter "E" registers with the compartment originally having the letter "N" opposite the same, the letter "S" opposite the original "E," the letter "W" opposite the original "S," and so on throughout the entire device. Again, instead of having

two faces or sides to the indicator, as originally described, it might be constructed with three sides in a form of a triangle, as shown in Fig. 11, the three faces of the revolving indicator being numbered and lettered as shown in Figs. 10, 13, and 14. This arrangement, it will be understood, allows of a still further change in the selection of the cards after the original game has been played, for in playing the duplicate game the indicator may be turned so as to indicate first the duplicate play and then the reverse duplicate play, then back to the duplicate play, and then again the reverse duplicate play, and so on, the indicator being revolved back and forth after each hand is played during the duplicate game, the star on the faces of the indicator denoting the person who should deal. Again, instead of providing the device with the trump-indicator, consisting of the several revolving disks, as described, the compartments α and such indicator might be discarded entirely; or again, a separate partition might be used, as shown in Figs. 10, 11, 12, and 15, between which and the adjacent partition the trump-card for each deck might be inserted, thus keeping said trump-card separate from the other cards for each hand or pack dealt.

As other changes might also be made in the construction and arrangement of the several parts, we would have it understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise construction and arrangement of details shown and described; but,

Having fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A box or receptacle for holding several packs or decks of cards for playing the game of duplicate whist, constructed with partitions, dividing said parts into several compartments, and having a movable indicator therein showing the compartments into which to place the cards during the original play while in one position, and the compartments from which to withdraw the cards during the duplicate play, while in the other position, substantially as described.

2. A box for holding cards for playing the

game of duplicate whist, constructed of several partitions, having their ends free, and a movable indicator located within said box, showing the compartments into which to place the cards during the original play, while in one position, and the compartments from which to withdraw the cards during the duplicate play while in the other position, substantially as described.

3. A box or receptacle for holding cards for playing the game of duplicate whist, constructed with several compartments, a movable indicator located therein for showing the compartments into which to place the cards during the original play, while in one position, and the compartments from which to withdraw the cards during the duplicate play while in the other position, and a trump indicator arranged opposite every four compartments, substantially as described.

4. A box or receptacle for holding cards for playing the game of duplicate whist constructed with several compartments, and a reversible indicator mounted on a bar or rod, extending across said box and opposite said compartments, said indicator having faces thereon bearing numbers to indicate the number of the hand or game, and also letters or characters to denote or indicate the compartments into or from which each respective player is to place or withdraw his cards, substantially as described.

5. A box or receptacle formed with several compartments for holding cards, and having located opposite said compartment, several revolving disks bearing characters thereon as described, for indicating the suit and denomination of the suit to which the trump card belongs, for the hand or deck of cards located in said compartment opposite said disk, substantially as described.

Signed at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, this 27th day of December, A. D. 1894.

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BANCROFT G. BRAINE.

Witnesses:

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F. S. KENNEDY.