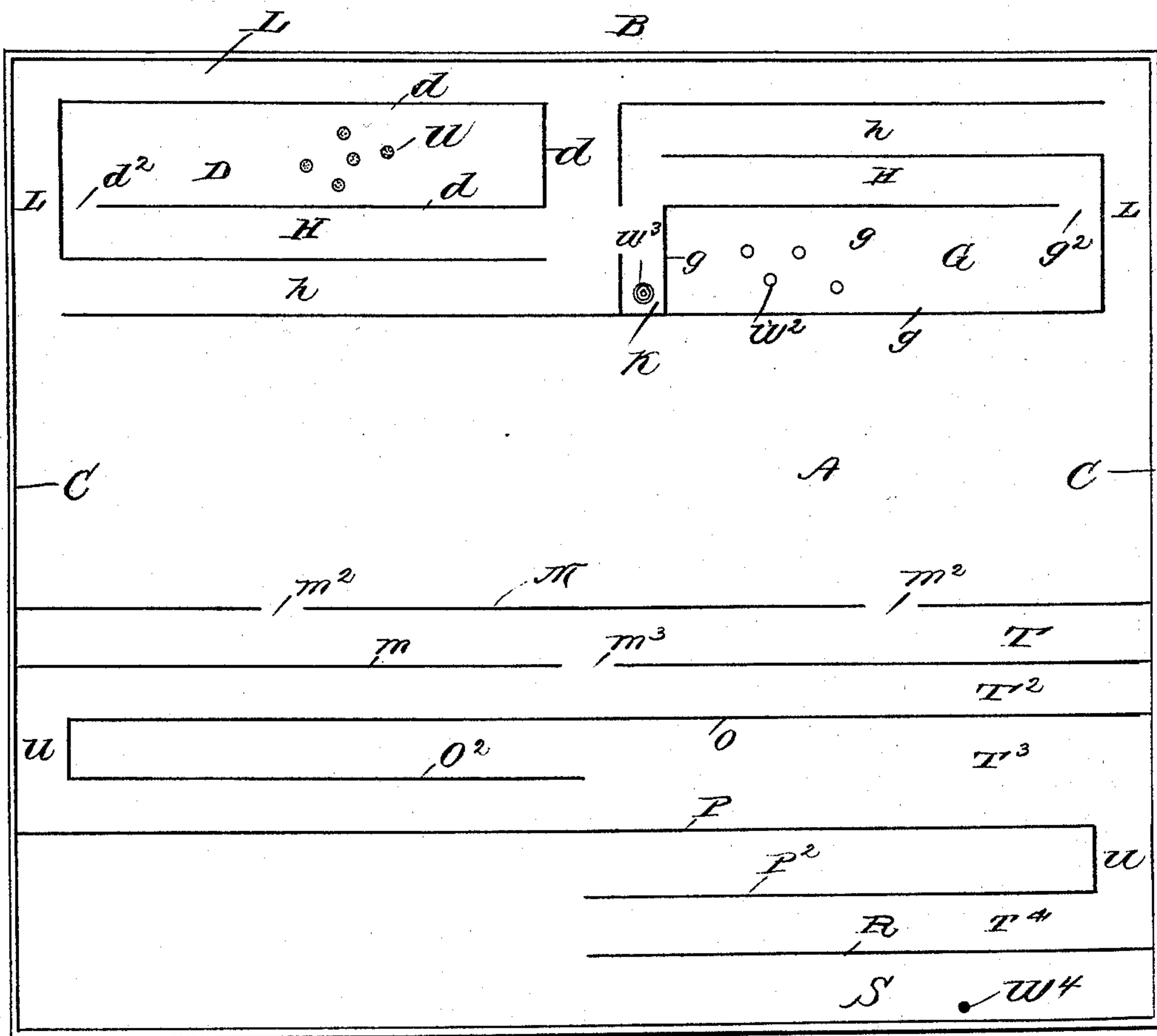


(No Model.)

I. E. VANCE.  
PUZZLE.

No. 585,801.

Patented July 6, 1897.



WITNESSES:

*M. B. Harris*  
*E. Gerst*

INVENTOR

*I. E. Vance*  
BY  
*Edgar Tate & Co.*  
ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IDA EVA VANCE, OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

## PUZZLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 585,801, dated July 6, 1897.

Application filed June 11, 1896. Serial No. 595,114. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, IDA EVA VANCE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Louisville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Puzzles, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part thereof, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to puzzles; and the object thereof is to provide a device of this class which is simple in construction, but which is difficult of solution, a further object being to provide a puzzle which represents a shepherd who is in charge of two flocks, one of goats and one of sheep, said flocks being preferably equal in number, and one of the sheep having wandered away and become lost the solution of the puzzle consists in the manipulation of the device in such manner as to cause the lost sheep to return to its proper fold.

The invention is fully disclosed in the following specification, of which the accompanying drawing forms a part, said drawing being a plan view of my improved puzzle.

In the practice of my invention I provide a box or casing comprising a bottom board A, having vertical side and end pieces B and C, and the box or casing is preferably rectangular in form.

Arranged at one side or one end of the box or casing are two folds or compartments D and G, which are formed by vertical partitions  $d$  and  $g$ , respectively, and each of these folds or compartments is provided at its outer end with gates or openings  $d^2$  and  $g^2$ , respectively, and arranged adjacent to said gates or openings are lanes or passages H, which are open at the ends opposite said gates or openings, and outside of the lanes or passages H are similar lanes or passages  $h$ , which are open at both ends, and adjacent to the inner end of the fold or compartment G is a small chamber K, which also opens outwardly or in the direction of the side of the box or casing adjacent to which the folds or compartments D and G are arranged, and entirely surrounding the folds or compartments and the lanes or passages H and  $h$  is a passage-way L, into which the lanes or passages  $h$  open at one end.

That side of the box opposite the folds or compartments D and G is provided with two parallel and longitudinal partitions M and  $m$ , and in the former of which are two passage-ways  $m^2$  and in the latter a similar passage-way  $m^3$ , and between the partitions M and  $m$  and the adjacent side of the box or casing are two longitudinal partitions O and P, the first of which is folded upon itself near the left-hand side of the box or casing and carried backward to about the transverse center thereof and the second of which is folded upon itself near the right-hand end of the box or casing and also carried backward to about the transverse center thereof, as shown at P<sup>2</sup>, and between the partition P<sup>2</sup> and the side of the box or casing is a partition R, which extends from the right-hand end of the box or casing to about the transverse center thereof, thus forming a longitudinal compartment S, and by means of the longitudinal partitions M,  $m$ , O, P, and R are formed longitudinal lanes or passage-ways T, T<sup>2</sup>, T<sup>3</sup>, and T<sup>4</sup>, and the passage-ways or lanes T and T<sup>2</sup> are placed in communication by means of the transverse openings or passages  $m^2$  and  $m^3$ , and the passage-ways or lanes T<sup>3</sup> and T<sup>4</sup> are placed in communication and in communication with the passage-way or lane T<sup>2</sup> by means of the end passages U, formed by folding the partitions O and P, as hereinbefore described.

I also preferably employ a plurality of balls or spherical bodies W, which are placed in the fold or compartment D and are designed to represent a flock of goats, and a similar number of balls or spherical bodies W<sup>2</sup>, which are placed in the fold or compartment G and are designed to represent a flock of sheep, and each of these flocks are preferably five in number and are colored so as to distinguish one from the other, and in practice one of the sheep, which preferably represents the black sheep, is placed in the compartment S and represents the lost sheep, and the shepherd of the flocks is designated by a ball or spherical body W<sup>3</sup> and is placed in the chamber or compartment K, and the solution of the puzzle consists in manipulating the device so as to take the ball or spherical body W<sup>3</sup> out of the compartment K and pass it through the various intricate passage-ways or lanes



into the compartment S and return it, together with the ball or spherical body W<sup>4</sup>, which represents the lost sheep, into the fold or compartment G. This solution is exceedingly difficult for the reason that in the operation above described the balls or spherical bodies W and W<sup>2</sup>, which represent the goats and sheep, will become dislodged from their respective folds or compartments and commingled and scattered about over the different parts of the board, and the complete solution also involves a relocation of each flock in its respective fold or compartment. The solution, however, may be accomplished by the exercise of care and skill in the manipulation of the device, and it is also exceedingly interesting and entertaining.

My invention is not limited to the exact form of the box or casing or to the location of the various compartments and the various partitions thereof and the means employed for putting the same in communication, and I therefore reserve the right to make all such changes therein and modifications thereof as fairly come within the scope of the invention.

Having fully described my invention, its construction and operation, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new article of manufacture a puzzle consisting of a box or casing comprising a bottom board, vertical side and end pieces secured thereto, folds or compartments arranged within the said box or casing by means of vertical partitions adjacent to one side or end of the same, each of said folds being pro-

vided at the outer ends of the same with gates or openings, other partitions forming lanes or passages adjacent thereto and opened at the opposite ends, other partitions forming also similar lanes or passages adjacent thereto and opened at either end, and a partition forming a chamber adjacent to the inner end of said first fold or compartment, said chamber opened outwardly, and a passage-way formed entirely around the said folds and compartments and said lanes or passages, and into which the latter open at one end, two longitudinally-extending parallel partitions secured to the side of the box opposite to the said fold or compartments having formed therein two passage-ways, other longitudinal partitions within the casings, one of which being folded upon itself and carried to the left, while the other being folded upon itself and carried to the right, and a longitudinal compartment being formed within the said box or casing, all of said compartments or passage-ways being in communication and a ball or spherical body being manipulated therein, all of the said parts being combined substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of the subscribing witnesses, this 2d day of December, 1895.

IDA EVA VANCE.

Witnesses:

HAMILTON FARWOOD,  
FRANK C. CARPENTER.