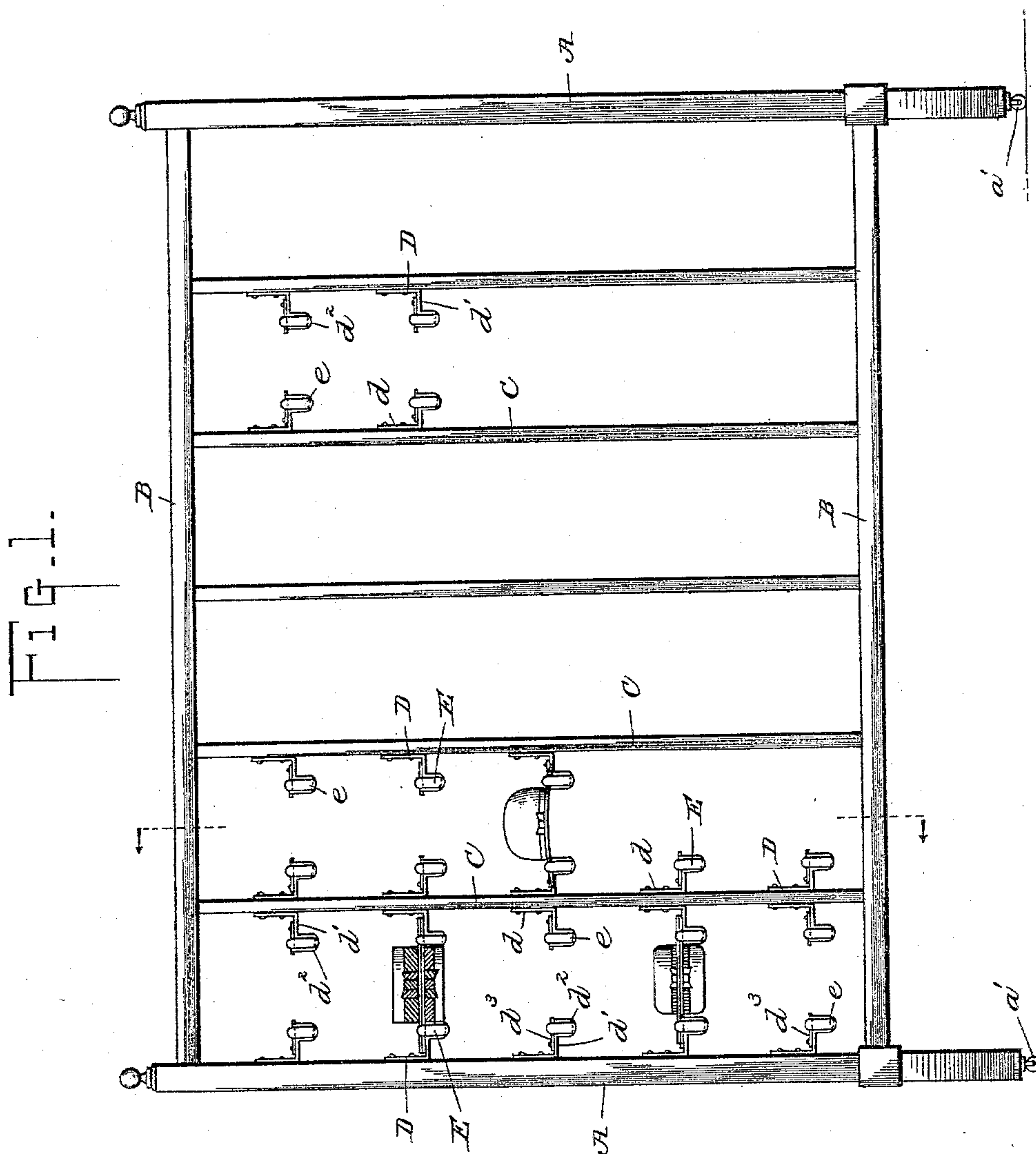


2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

HAT RACK.

Patented Jan. 18, 1898.



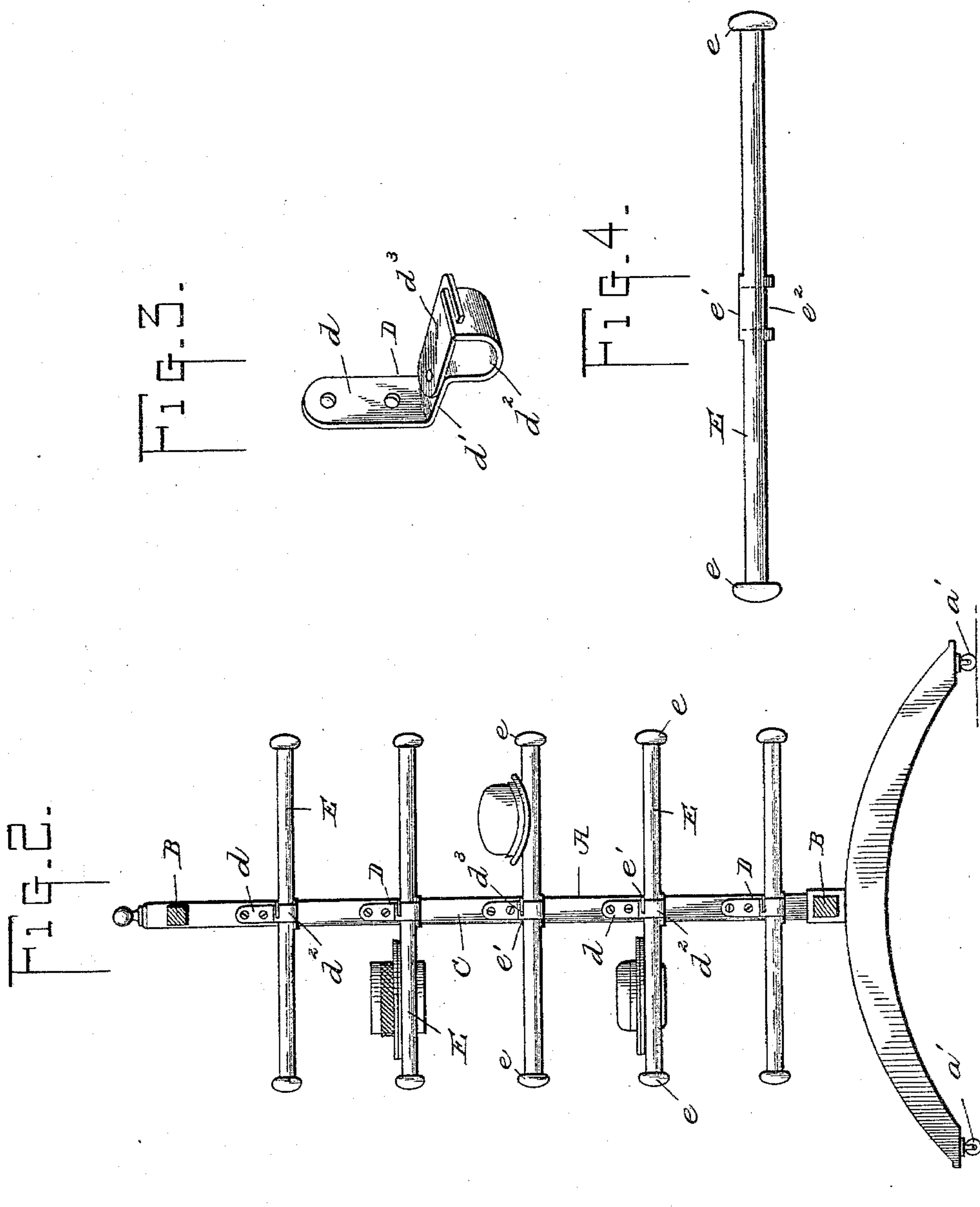
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

No. 597,522.

Patented Jan. 18, 1898.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERMAN GROTH AND FRED C. ROTHER, OF SAC CITY, IOWA.

HAT-RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 597,522, dated January 18, 1898.

Application filed October 2, 1896. Serial No. 607,677. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, HERMAN GROTH and FRED C. ROTHER, citizens of the United States, residing at Sac City, in the county of Sac and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hat-Racks; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in display-racks, and has more particular relation to racks for displaying hats in stores.

This invention consists of certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, all of which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a front elevation of a display-rack embodying our invention with a number of hats supported thereon. Fig. 2 represents a transverse central vertical section through said rack. Fig. 3 represents an enlarged detail perspective view of one of the supporting-brackets, and Fig. 4 represents an enlarged detail side elevation of one of the hat-supporting bars.

A in the drawings represents the end supporting-standard, B B the cross-bars connecting the same, and C C the vertical bracket-bars connecting said cross-bars. The standards A A may be of any desirable material, but are preferably constructed of ornamental ash or oak. Each of these standards is supported at its lower end by an ornamental base *a*, provided with casters *a'*, so that the rack may be rolled around into different positions within the store. The cross horizontal bars B B connect the said standards A at the top and bottom, respectively. The said bars B B are connected by the vertical bars C C, placed equidistant from each other. Supporting-brackets D D are mounted upon the said standards A, and said brackets D are so spaced as to correspond in position with each other, so as to afford an even support for both sides of the hat. Each of the said brackets D comprises an angular arm *d*, adapted to be secured to the standards A or bars C, and a horizontally-extending portion *d'*, provided

at its outer end with a pendent loop *d²*, adapted to receive one of the hat-supporting bars E. Each of the brackets is provided with a pivoted plate *d³*, which is adapted to be turned over the top of the pendent loop *d²* to hold the hat-supporting bar in position. Each of the said hat-supporting bars E is provided at each end and in the middle with an annular enlargement *e* and *e'*, respectively. The said middle enlargement *e'* is provided upon its under side with a recess *e²*, into which the pendent loop *d²* is adapted to fit when the said bar E is applied within the bracket. This construction prevents the bar E from slipping lengthwise within the bracket. The space between the middle enlargement *e'* and the end enlargements *e* is just sufficient to accommodate the rim of a hat on one side, the opposite rim of the hat being supported upon the opposing bar E of the adjoining vertical supporting-bar C.

It will be observed from the foregoing description that when hats are to be applied to our improved rack the first hat is turned with its crown downward and its rim resting upon one pair of opposing supporting-bars E. The next hat is placed upon the first hat with its crown upward. It will thus be observed that each pair of supporting-bars E supports four hats in such a position that any one of the same may be readily removed.

By the employment of our said improved rack the hats are always plainly in view of the customer, and at the same time are so held in position that it requires but the work of an instant to remove any one of them for inspection or sale. The device is also of such compact form that it may be readily rolled into the corner or against the wall of the room, thereby occupying very little space.

It will also be observed that our improved rack is very simple, as well as cheap, in construction and can therefore be put upon the market at a very low figure.

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

1. In a hat-supporting rack, the combination with end standards, of horizontal bars connecting the same at top and bottom, vertical spaced bars connecting said horizontal bars, and supporting-brackets mounted upon

said vertical bars and each comprising an angular attaching-plate having a loop at its outer end, a pivoted guard adapted to be turned over said loop, and a supporting-rod
5 formed with a groove near its middle and adapted to be applied in said loop with the latter lying in said groove, and be secured in position by the said guard, substantially as described.

10 2. In a hat-supporting rack, the combination with two end standards, of two horizontal bars connecting said standards at top and bottom, a plurality of spaced vertical bars connecting said horizontal bars, and support-
15 ing-brackets mounted upon each side of the

vertical bars, said brackets each comprising an attaching-plate provided with a loop at its outer end, a guard pivotally mounted so as to project over said loop, and a supporting-bar applied in said loop so as to project to
20 both sides of the same to form hat-supports, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERMAN GROTH.
FRED C. ROTHER.

Witnesses:

A. DE GARMO,
W. C. WODDELL.