

No. 643,798.

Patented Feb. 20, 1900.

J. L. KERSTETTER.  
INK WELL.

(Application filed Aug. 2, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

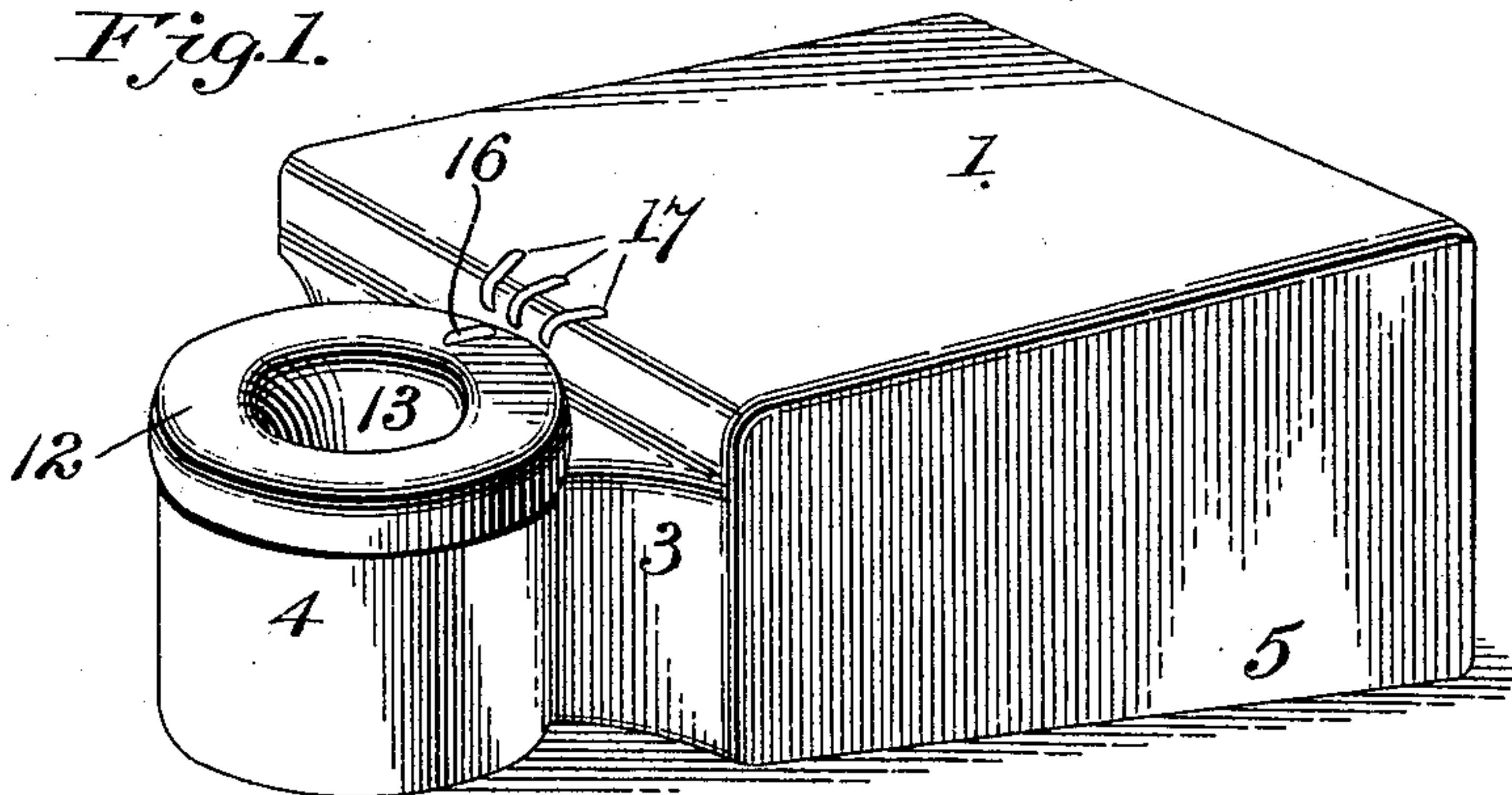


Fig. 2.

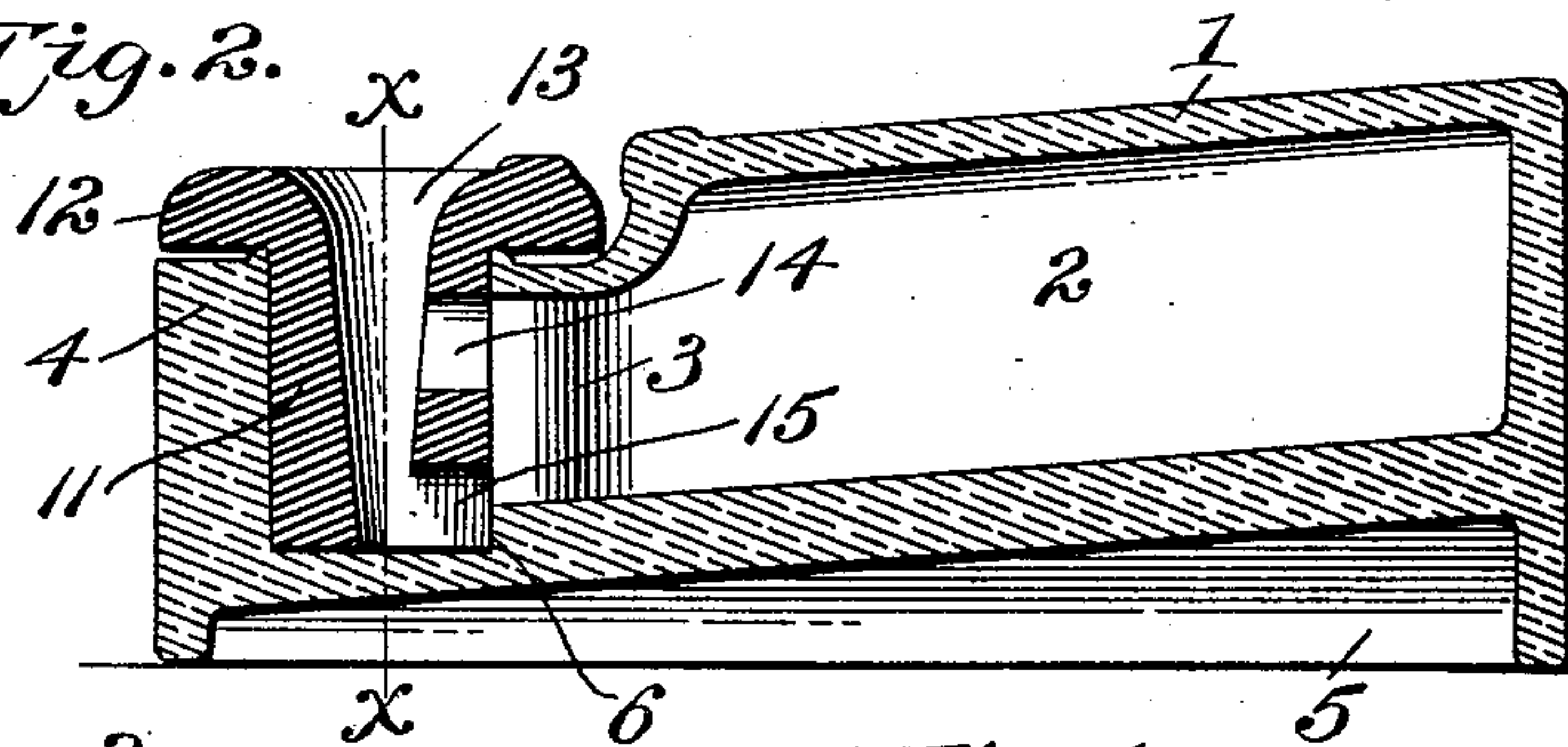


Fig. 3.

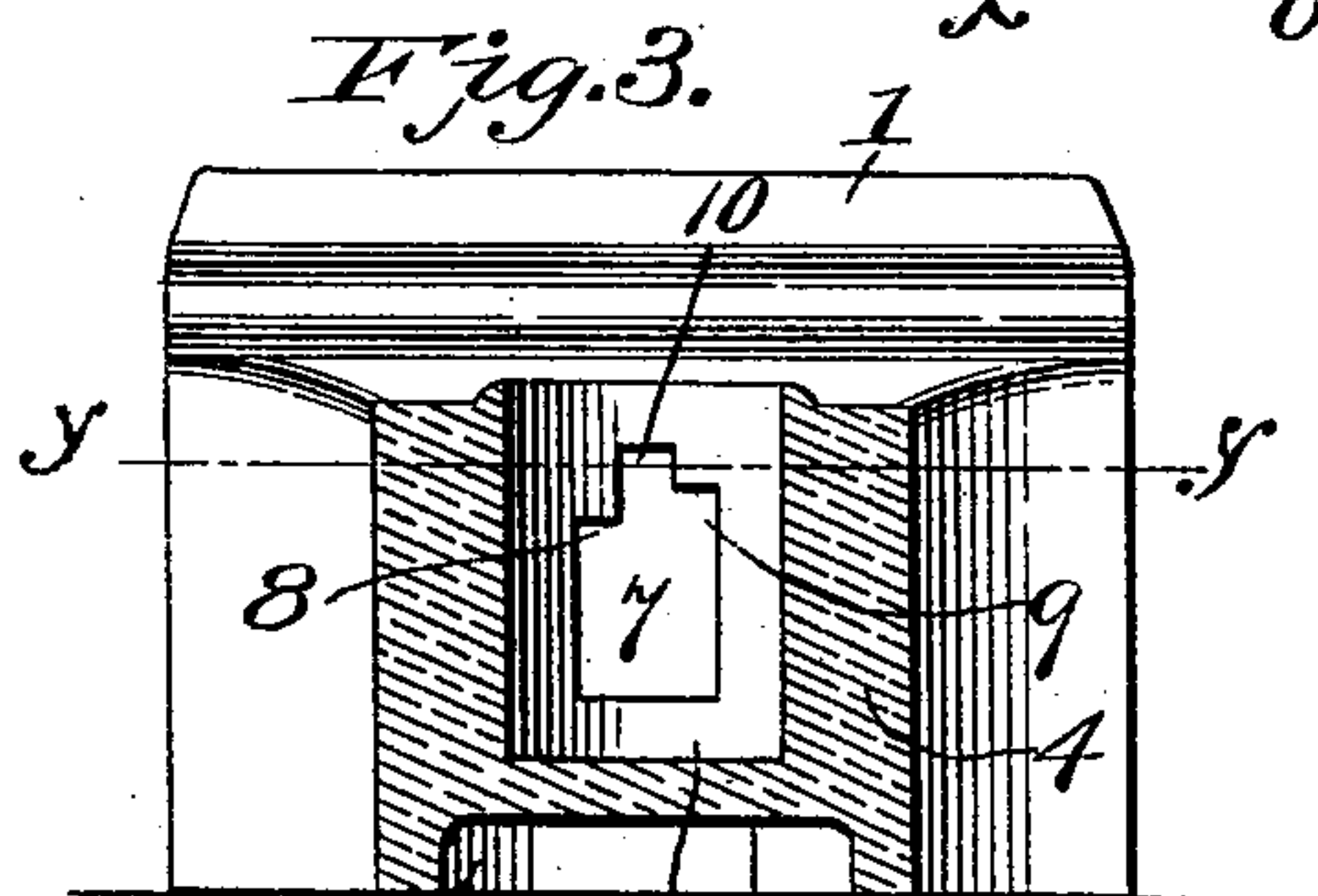


Fig. 4.

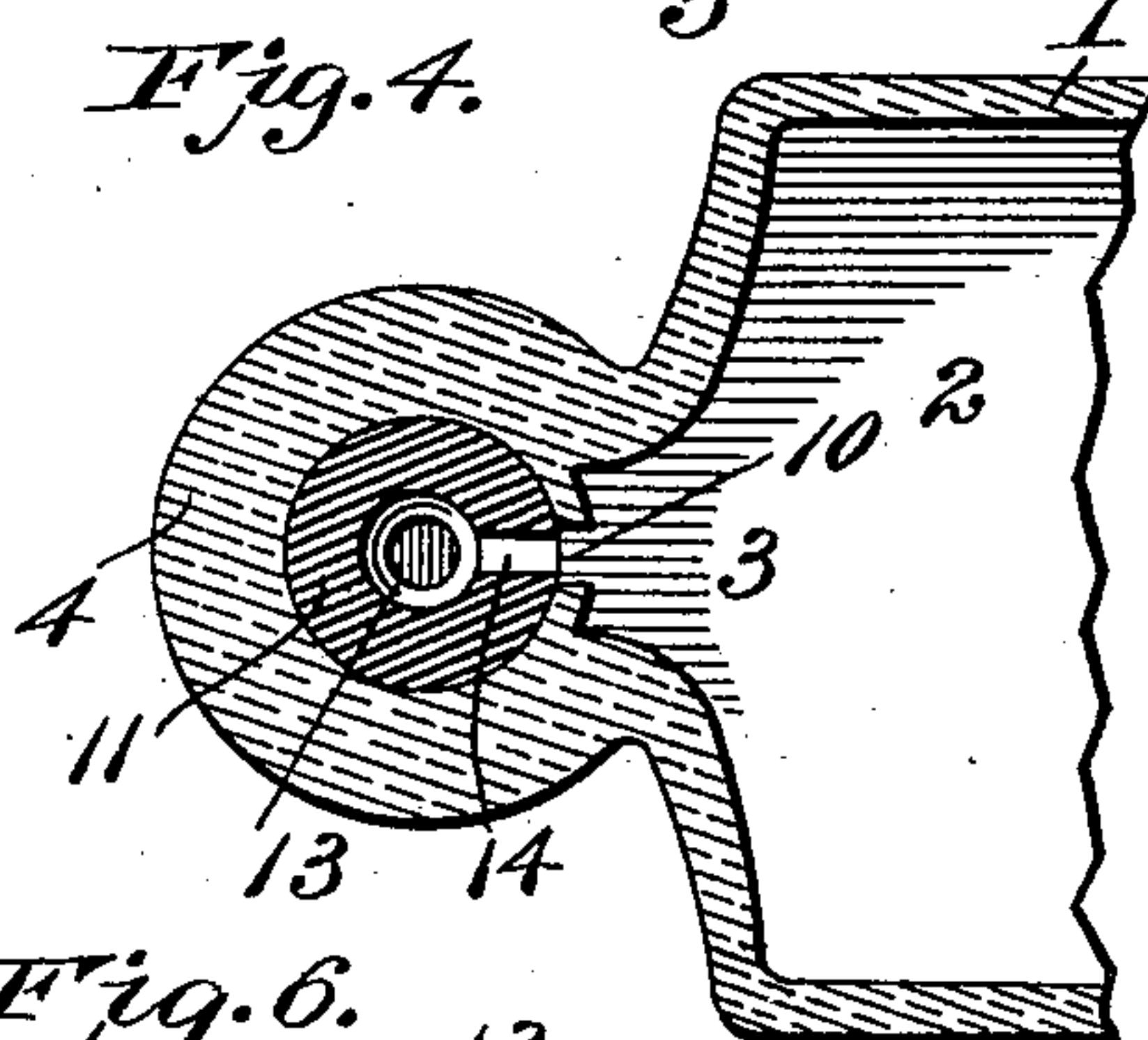


Fig. 5.

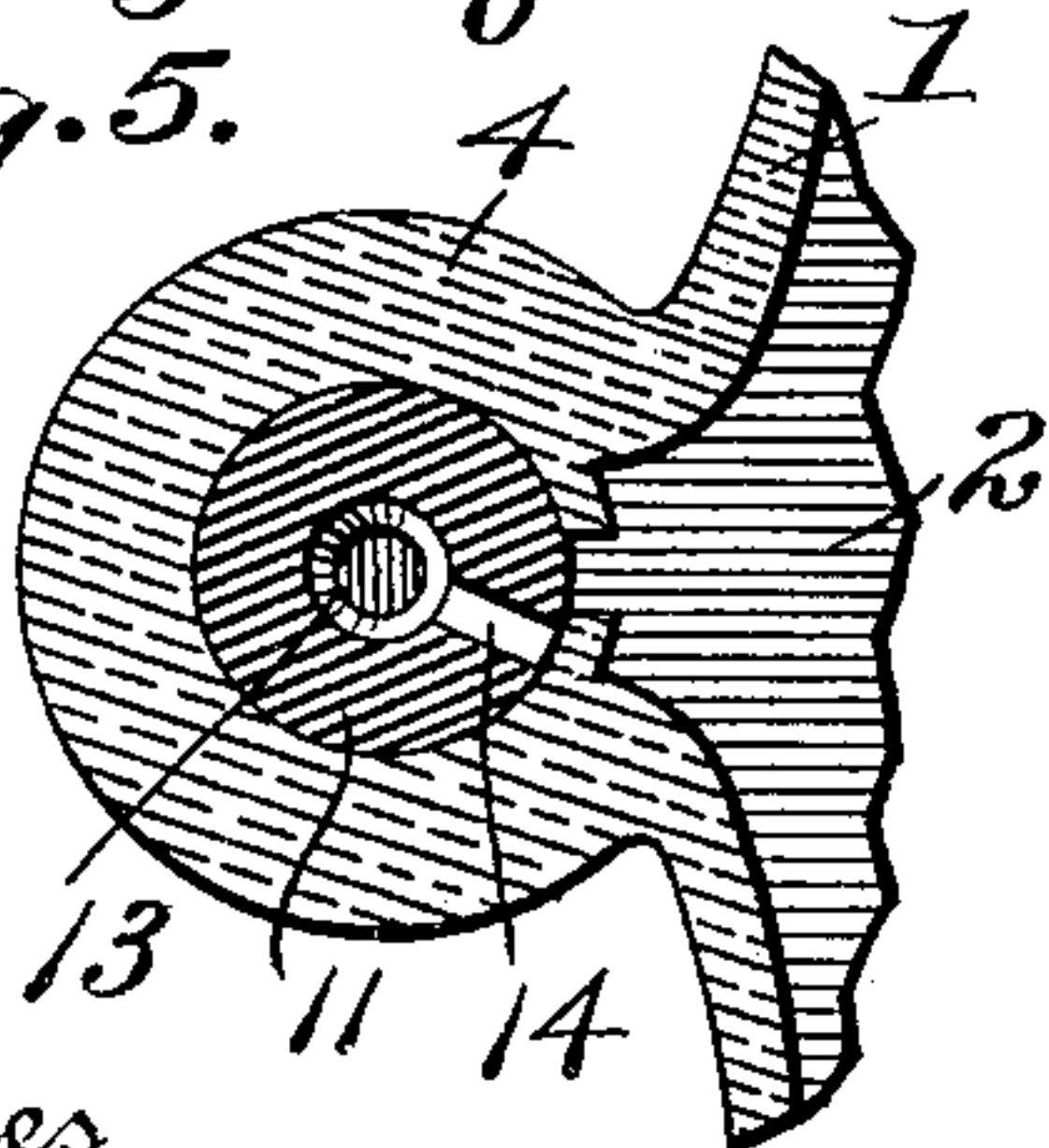
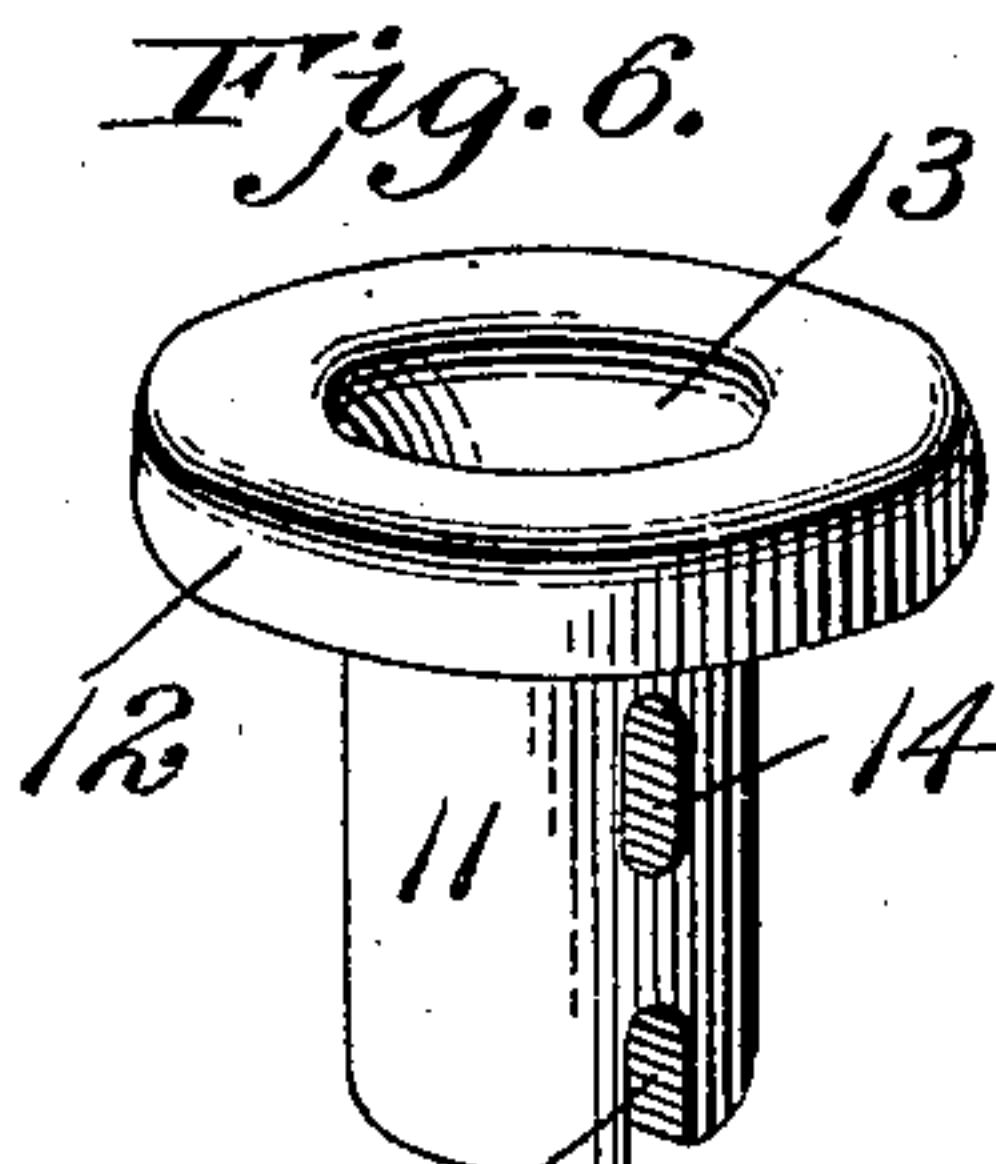


Fig. 6.



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES L. KERSTETTER, OF BRADFORD, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO W. J. RUSSELL AND F. W. WINGER, OF SAME PLACE.

## INK-WELL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 643,798, dated February 20, 1900.

Application filed August 2, 1899. Serial No. 725,900. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES L. KERSTETTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bradford, in the county of McKean and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Ink-Well, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to inkstands, particularly of the type known as "fountain-inkstands," in which ink is automatically supplied to the well from a reservoir as rapidly as it is used. Its object is to provide an efficient and inexpensive article of the class described in which the supply of ink to the well may be regulated, so that a greater or less quantity may be had, as desired; and it further includes means for cutting off the supply from the reservoir, whereby evaporation is prevented and a great saving in ink effected.

My invention further consists in the arrangement and combination of parts hereinafter more fully set forth and claimed.

In the drawings which form a part of this application, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an inkstand constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical section on the line *xx* of Fig. 2 with the plug removed. Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view on the line *yy* of Fig. 3, showing the plug turned in one position. Fig. 5 is a similar view showing the plug turned in another position. Fig. 6 is a detail in perspective of the plug.

The numeral 1 designates the main body of the inkstand, which is preferably constructed of glass. One portion of the body is formed into the rectangular closed receptacle or supply-reservoir 2, which is provided at one end with the contracted neck 3 and open-top well 4. This body is further provided with a flange 5, which extends around the lower edge of the same and is higher at the end opposite the well, whereby the body declines toward the well, as is clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The top of the well is below the level of the top of the reservoir, and the bottom is likewise extended below the plane of the bottom of the reservoir, as at 6, forming a seat for the bottom of the plug 11.

The communication between the reservoir 2 and the well 4 is maintained through the

passage 7, whose lower end is level with the bottom of the reservoir and whose upper end is of irregular formation, being provided with a series of port-forming portions 8, 9, and 10 at different elevations.

Rotatably mounted within the well 4 is the hollow cylindrical plug 11, the lower end of which is seated in the well-bottom 6 and is provided at its upper end with the outwardly-extending circular flange 12. The central opening 13 in this plug tapers from the top toward the bottom and is provided on one side with two openings 14 and 15, one directly above the other. The upper opening 14 is long enough to aline with all the port-forming portions 8, 9, and 10 of the passage 7. The lower opening 15 alines with the lower end of the passage 7 and extends to the bottom of the plug, as shown in Fig. 2.

Arranged upon the flange 12 and directly over the openings 14 and 15 is the pointer 16, and located on the top of the reservoir, directly over the different port-forming portions 8, 9, and 10 of the passage 7, are arranged register-marks 17.

In filling my ink-well the plug 11 is removed and the body held in nearly vertical position with the well at the upper end. The ink is then poured into the passage 7 until the reservoir is full, whereupon the plug is replaced with the openings 14 and 15 out of alinement with the passage 7. The inkstand is then placed in operative position, when by turning the plug until the opening 14 alines with the lowest port 8, as will be shown by the indicator 16 and 17, air will be admitted to the reservoir through the opening 14 and the ink will run into the well through the opening 15 and fill the same to a height equal to the height of the passage 7. If the plug is turned until the opening 14 alines with either of the other ports of the passage, the well will fill with ink to the level of that passage, and as fast as the ink is used it will automatically refill to the desired height.

To empty the well, it is only necessary to tip the stand backward, whereupon the ink will run back into the reservoir, and if the plug is then turned until the passage 7 and openings 14 and 15 are out of alinement the supply of ink to the well will be entirely cut off.



It will thus be seen that I have constructed a simple, efficient, and comparatively inexpensive automatic feed ink-well, in which the main body of ink is protected from the air, so that evaporation is reduced to a minimum. The amount of ink allowed in the well may be regulated or cut off altogether, thereby allowing but a small quantity being exposed to the air and preventing a great waste.

Changes in the form, proportion, size, and the minor details of construction within the scope of the appended claims may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having now described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an automatic inkstand, a reservoir, and a well communicating therewith by a single passage, the top of which has portions of different heights, in combination with a hollow plug rotatably mounted in said well and having a side opening, the upper end of which is on a level with the highest point of the passage, substantially as described.

2. In an automatic inkstand, a reservoir, and a well in communication therewith by a

single passage, the top of which has portions of different heights, in combination with a hollow plug rotatably mounted in said well and having a side opening, the upper end of which is on a level with the highest point of the passage, and a second opening below and in vertical alinement with the aforesaid opening and also adapted to be brought into communication with said passage, substantially as specified.

3. In an automatic inkstand, the combination with a supply-reservoir, of a well having a passage communicating with the reservoir, and constructed with a series of port-forming portions respectively of different elevations, a hollow plug rotatably mounted in the well and having openings in one side which are adapted to aline simultaneously with different parts of the passage and thereby regulate the flow of ink to the well, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES L. KERSTETTER.

Witnesses:

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FLORENCE E. WALTER.