

No. 677,134.

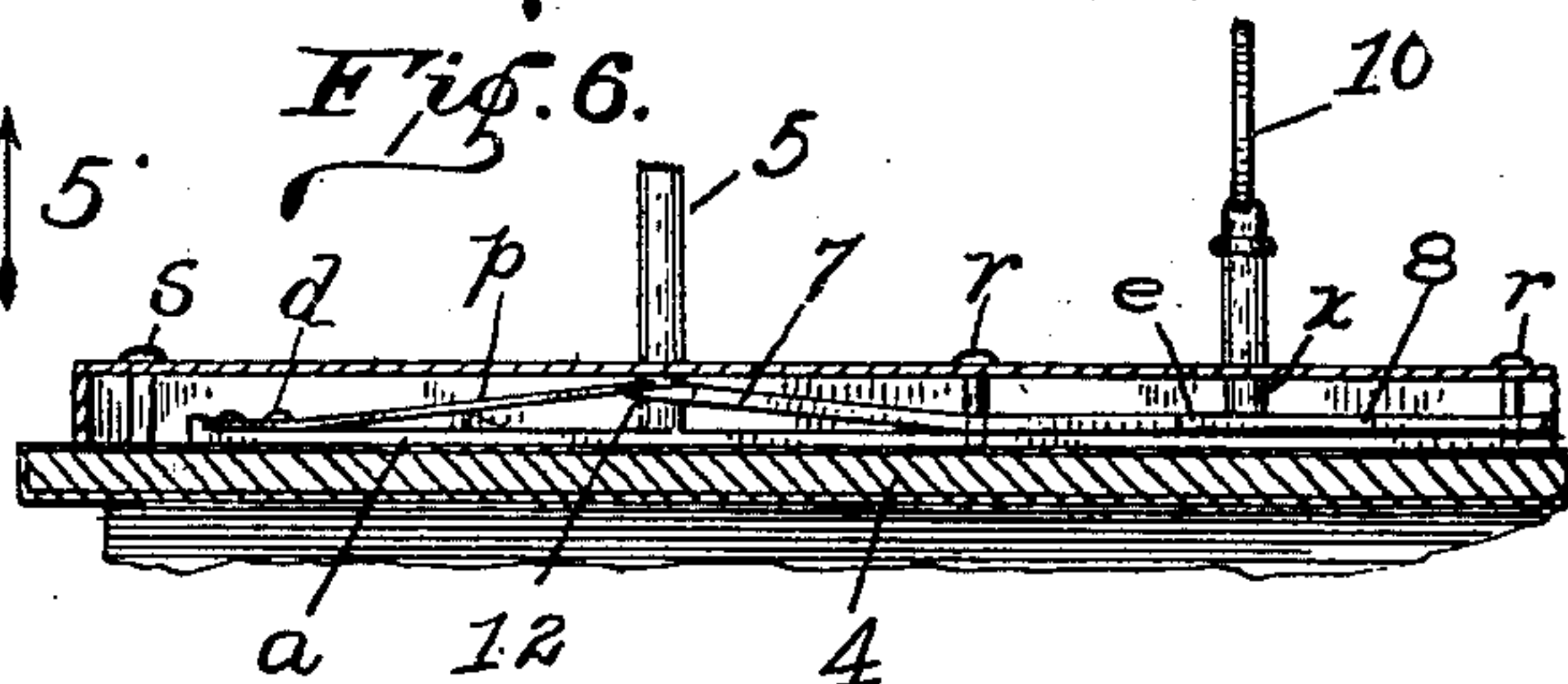
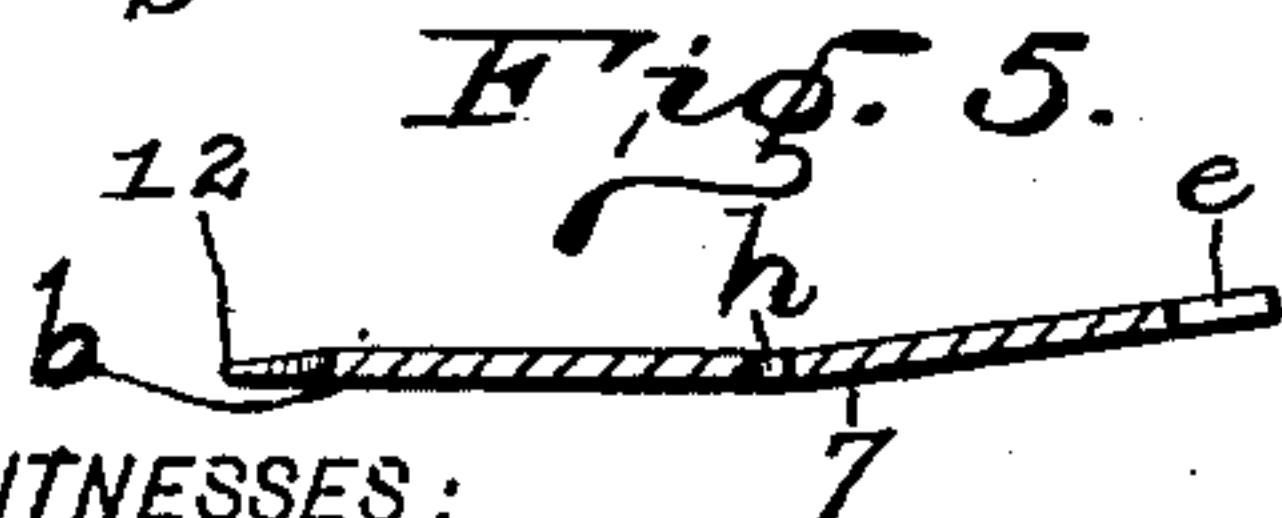
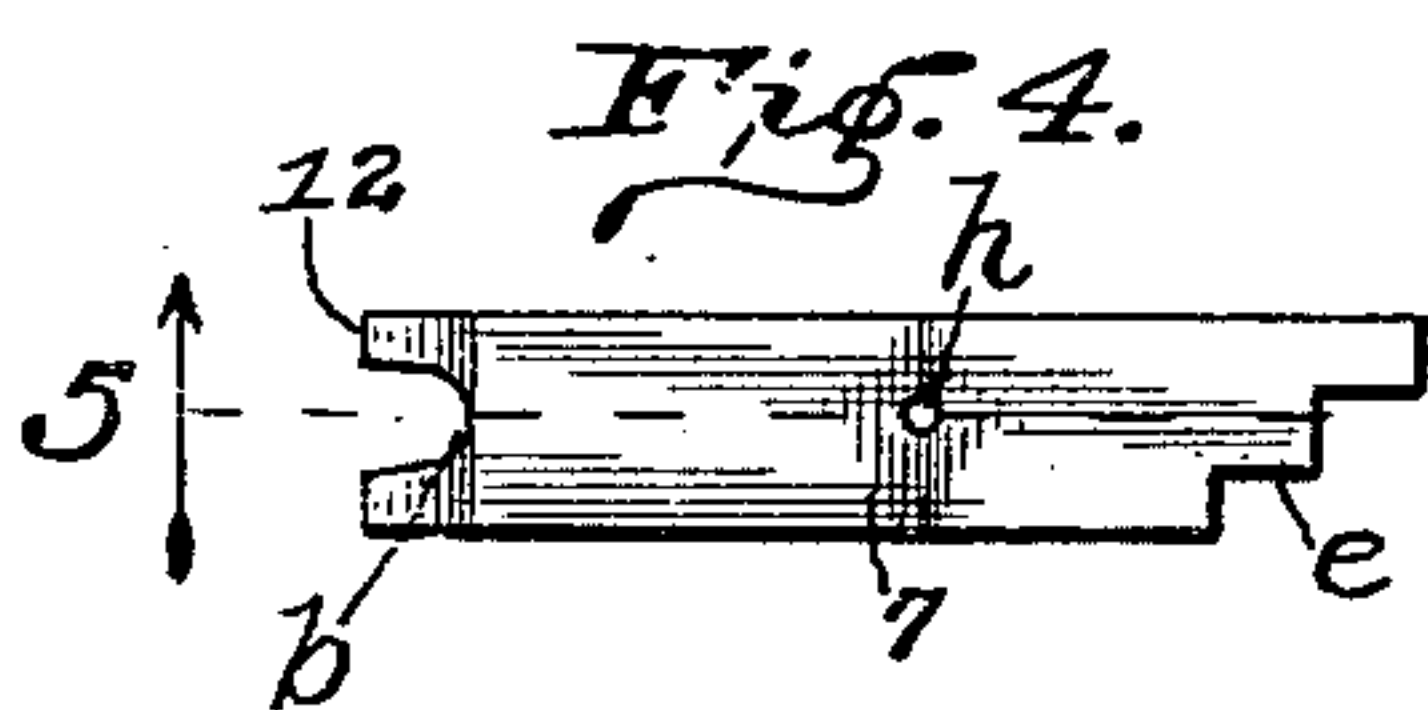
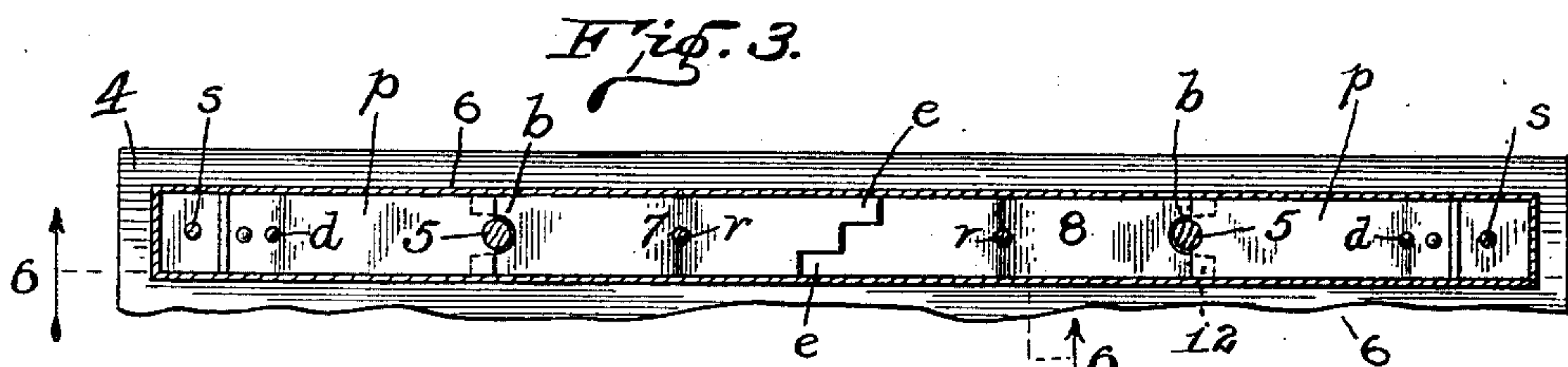
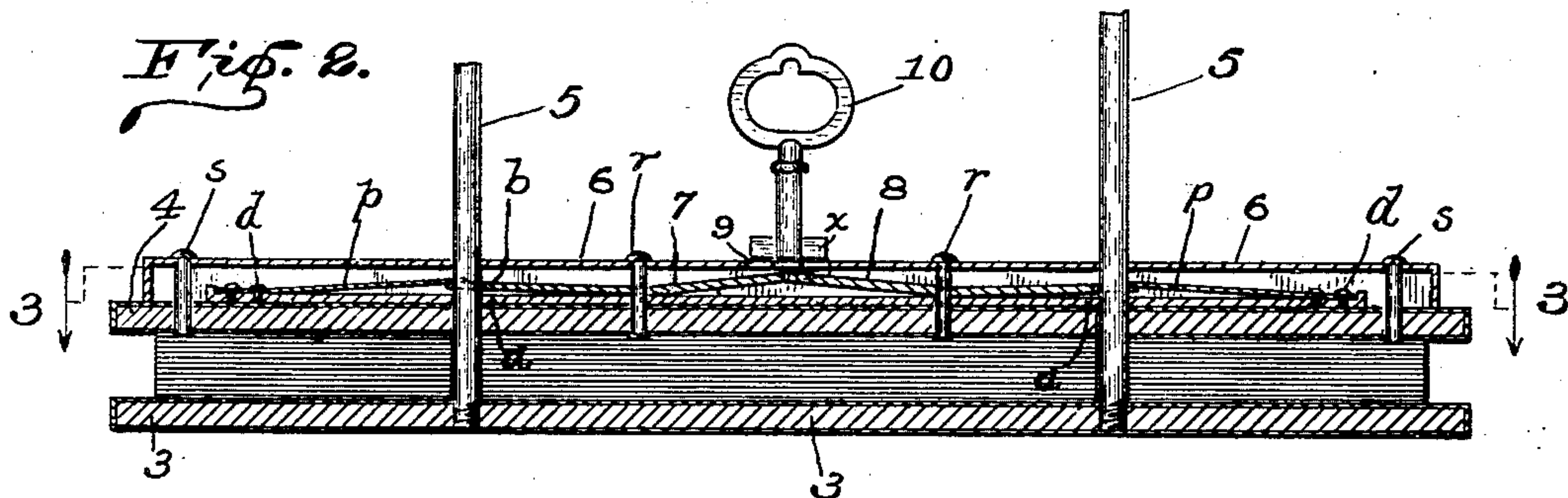
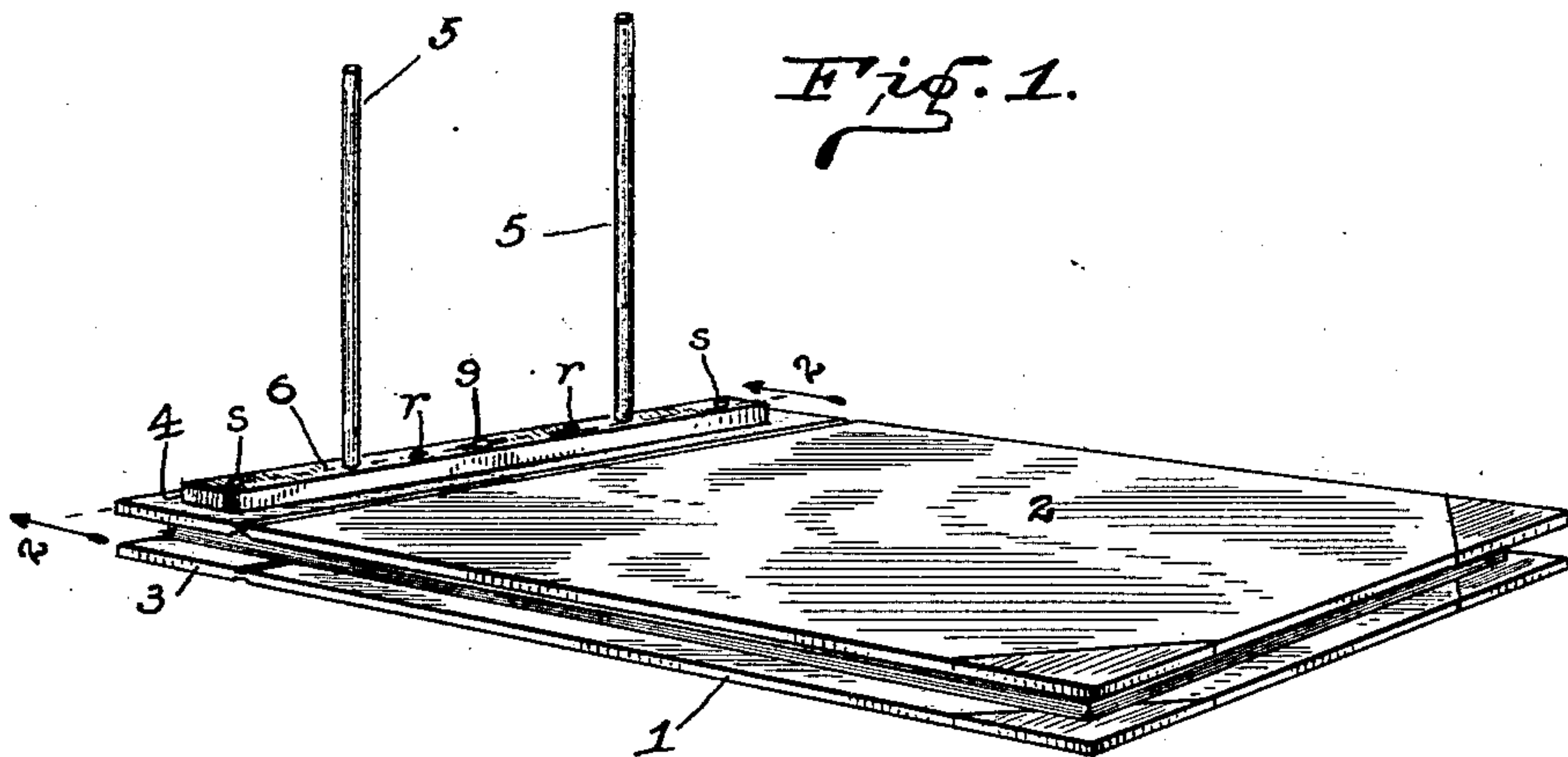
Patented June 25, 1901.

E. R. HODGES.

BINDER.

(Application filed Aug. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

C. S. Frye  
J. A. Walsh.

INVENTOR:

Edward R. Hodges-



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD R. HODGES, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

## BINDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 677,134, dated June 25, 1901.

Application filed August 18, 1900. Serial No. 27,242. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD R. HODGES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Binders, of which the following is a specification.

My said invention relates to devices for binding and retaining letters, bills, and similar papers, whereby they can be filed and locked in position; and it consists in certain details of construction and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter more particularly described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and in which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a binder embodying my said invention, the same being in locked condition. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view on the dotted line 2 2 in Fig. 1, including a key by which the binding mechanism may be released. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view taken on the dotted line 3 3 in Fig. 2 and viewed as indicated by the arrows. Fig. 4 is a plan view of one of the locking-levers. Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the same on the dotted line 5 5 in Fig. 4; and Fig. 6 is a sectional view showing the locking mechanism in elevation on the dotted line 6 6 in Fig. 3, the levers thereof being depressed by means of a key.

The covers 1 and 2 are constructed of any suitable material for the purpose, such as cardboard covered with canvas or other material of a stiff nature. Secured to one end of each of the covers are strengthening strips or plates 3 and 4, of metal or other suitable material. The posts 5 are fixedly secured in the plate 3 and are adapted to enter perforations in the papers to be filed and also to pass through perforations in the cover 2 and the locking mechanism secured to said cover 2.

The locking or binding mechanism of my device consists of the casing 6, the locking-levers 7 and 8, the spring binding-plates *p*, base-plate *a*, and rivets *r* and *s*. Said casing 6 is stamped from any suitable material and is formed to contain and hold in place the various locking parts and is provided with holes for receiving the posts 5. As shown most

plainly in Figs. 3, 4, and 5, the levers 7 and 8 are irregularly cut at their meeting ends, as at *e*, and their opposite ends *b* are semicircularly cut to adapt them to receive the posts 5, the points 12 thereof being of sufficient length to project slightly beyond the posts and beneath the ends of the binding-plates *p*. These levers are bent upwardly about midway their length, so that their meeting ends *e* are considerably above the ends which come in contact with the plates *p*. Said levers have perforations *h*, through which the rivets *r* pass, the said rivets serving to hold the levers in position.

Secured at either end of the plate *a* by rivets *d* or otherwise are the spring binding-plates *p*, which are made of any suitable spring metal and which are suitably cut away at their ends to fit snugly against the posts 5 in an inclined position, and which ends rest above and upon the ends of the levers 7 and 8, as shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 6.

The parts are readily and securely assembled by placing them in the position as indicated in Fig. 2 and securing them together by means of the rivets *r* and *s*.

By means of this construction I secure a binder which is always in locked condition, except when released by means of a key or otherwise. As will be seen in Fig. 2, the binding-plates *p*, (composed of spring metal,) being secured to the plate *a* in perfectly flat condition and raised at their free ends to rest on the ends of the levers, are at a high tension, and being in contact with the binding-posts 5 are constantly bearing downwardly against the same with a high degree of pressure, and consequently when it is attempted by force to raise the cover 2, carrying the locking mechanism, these binding-plates the more tightly bind or grip said posts. Therefore when it is desired to raise this cover 2 the binding-plates are released by means of a key 10, which is inserted in the keyhole 9, forced downwardly against the levers, and turned to the right or left, when the bars *x* on said key are thrown out of register with the keyhole-slots and held in this position between the levers and the casing by the upward spring force of said levers. When said key is thus depressed, the levers and binding-



plates are in the position shown in Fig. 6, and the meeting ends of said levers being thus forced downwardly causes the ends which are nearest the binding-posts to be forced upwardly, which lifts said binding-plates *p*, thus releasing them from contact with the binding-posts, when the cover 2 can be readily run up off the binding-posts, the key 10 serving as a handle for this purpose. Immediately the key is withdrawn the levers and binding-bars return to the position shown in Fig. 2, and, as will be readily understood, they remain in locked position until said key 10 is inserted and the levers 7 8 depressed at their meeting ends. It will also be understood that when in locked condition the structure can be run down on the binding-posts by the application of slight force, but cannot be run or pulled up until the key or its equivalent is inserted and manipulated as above described.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a binder, the combination of locking mechanism consisting of levers having irregularly-shaped meeting ends, and binding-

plates operated by said levers, substantially as shown and described.

2. The combination, with a binder, of a base-plate, locking-levers having irregularly-shaped meeting ends and bifurcated free ends pivoted to said base-plate, binding-plates secured to said base-plate and operated by said levers, and a casing within which said parts are retained in operative condition, substantially as set forth.

3. In a binder, the combination of the base-plate, levers pivotally secured to said base-plate, said levers having irregularly-shaped meeting ends and bifurcated free ends, and binding-plates secured to said base-plate having bifurcated ends resting upon and operated by said levers, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Indianapolis, Indiana, August 14, 1900.

EDWARD R. HODGES. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

ULYSSES A. JOHNSON,  
CAREY S. FRYE.