

No. 692,867.

Patented Feb. 11, 1902.

M. LEHMAN.
ELECTRIC ANNOUNCER.

(Application filed June 3, 1901.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

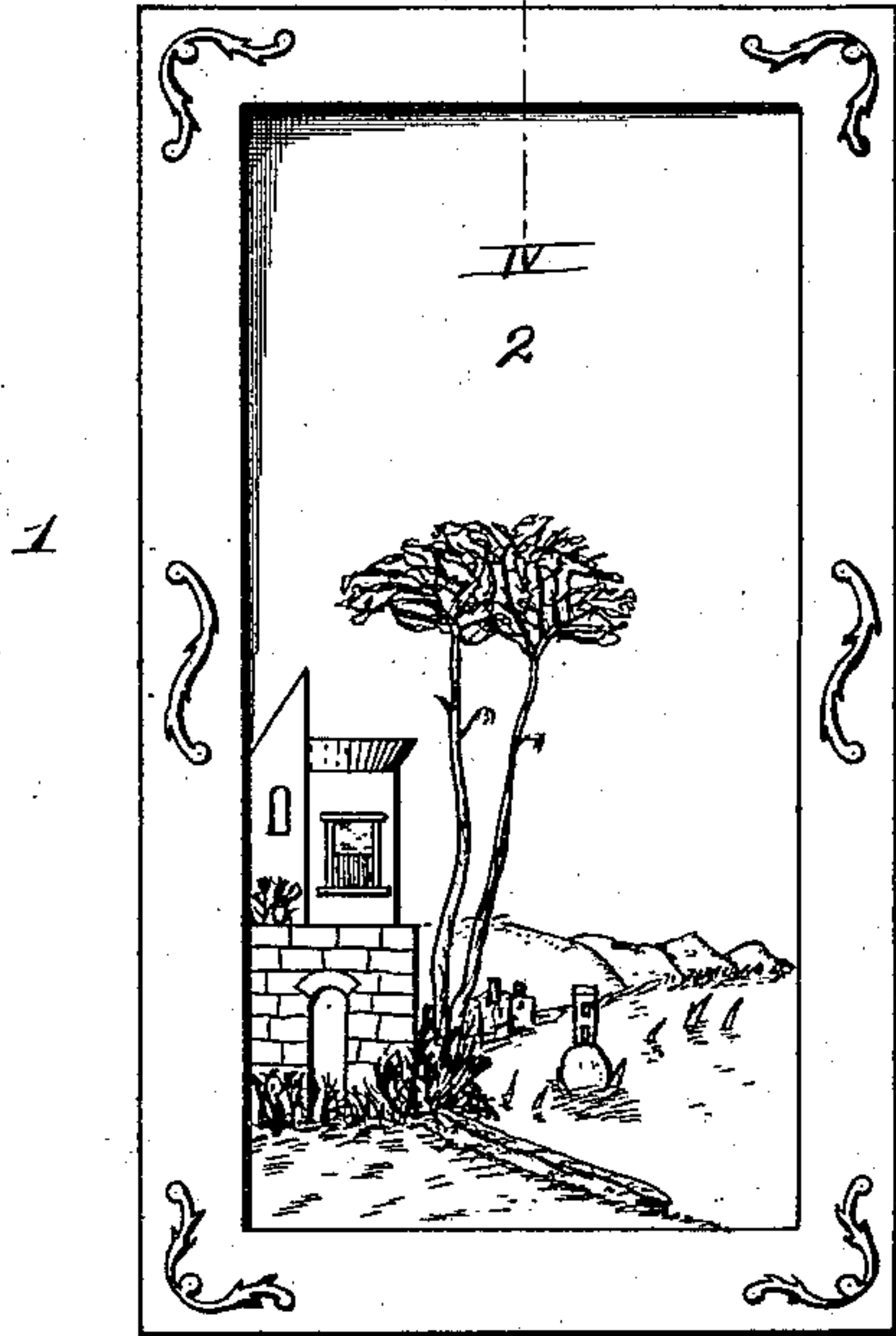


Fig. 2.

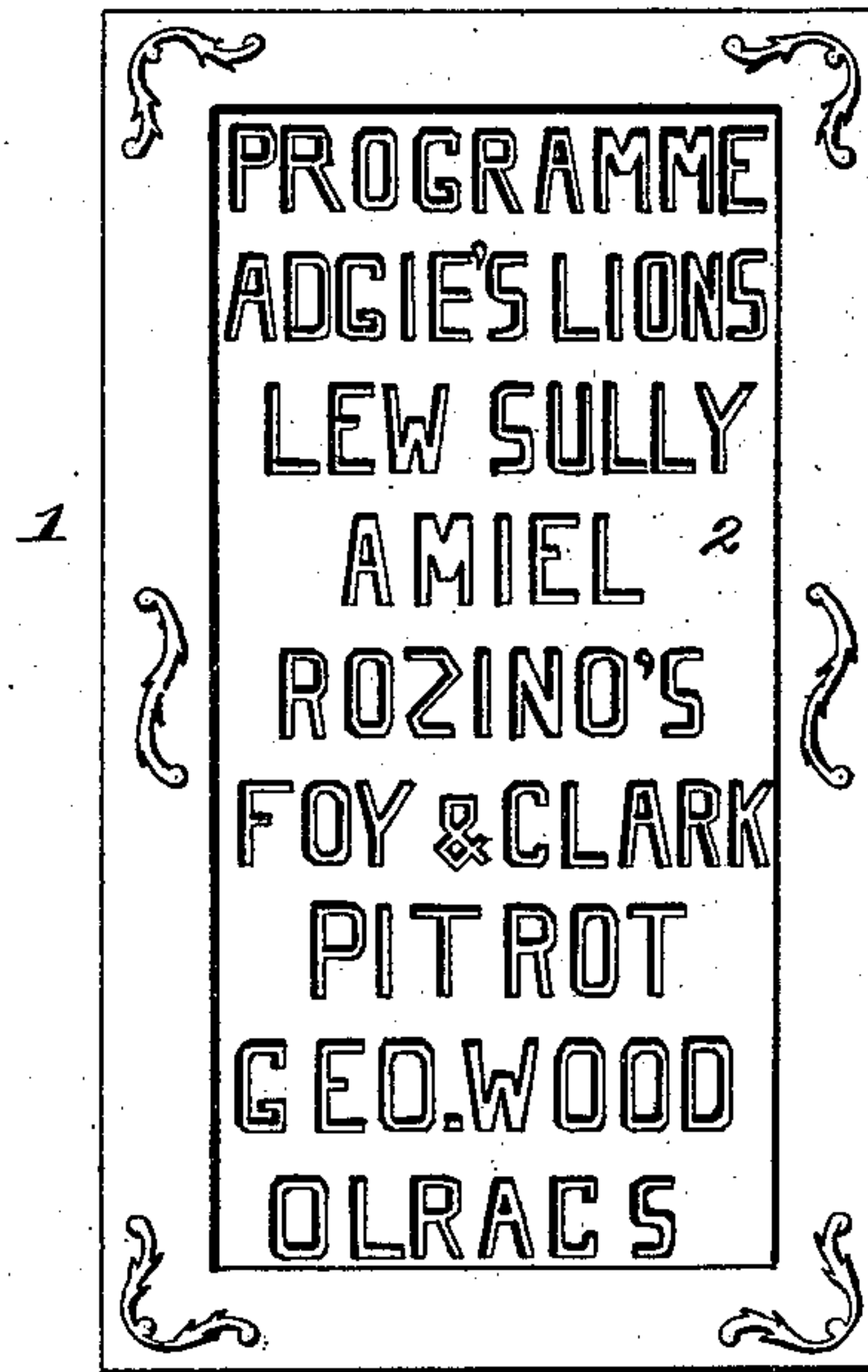


Fig. 3.

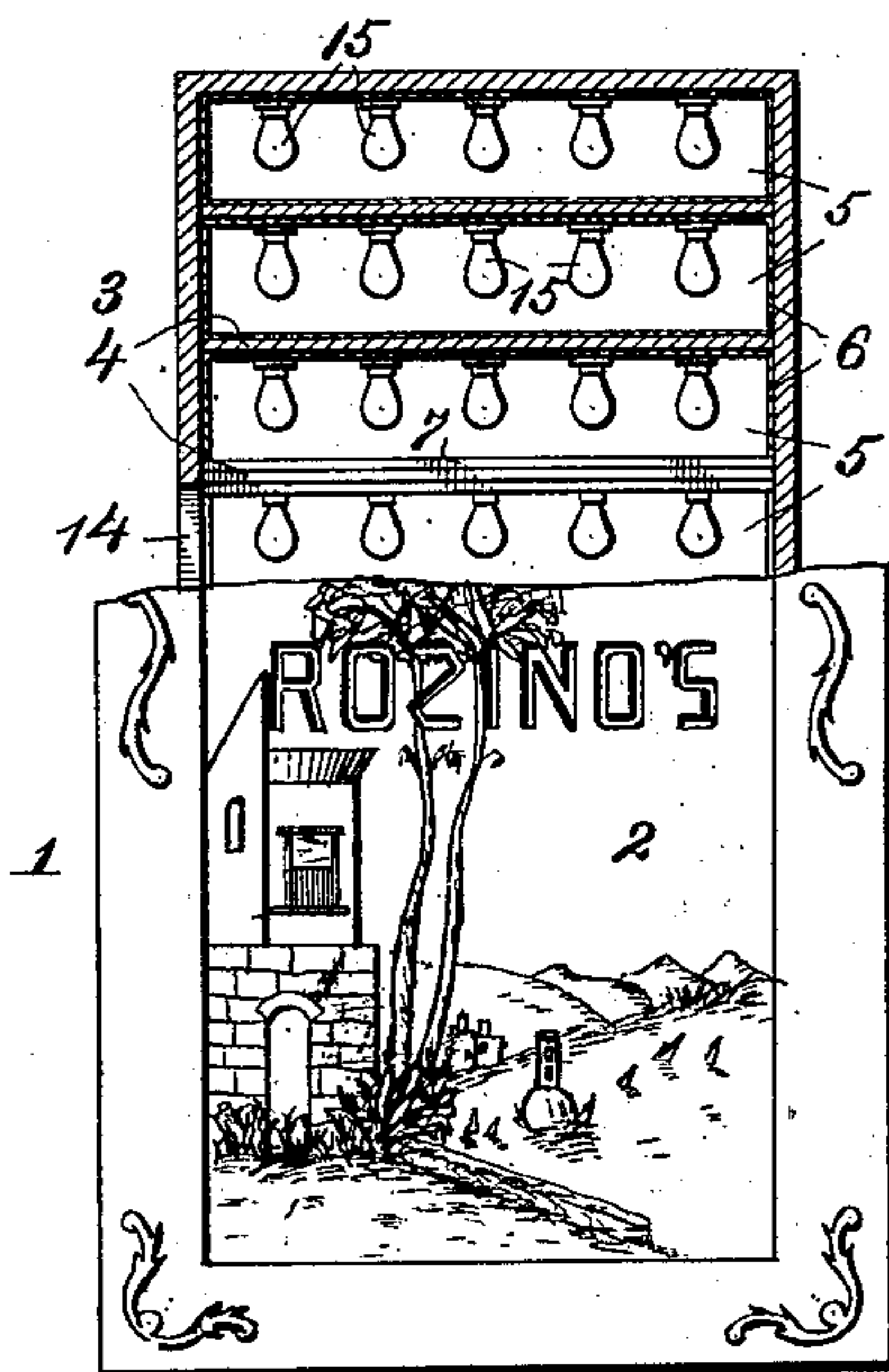


Fig. 4.

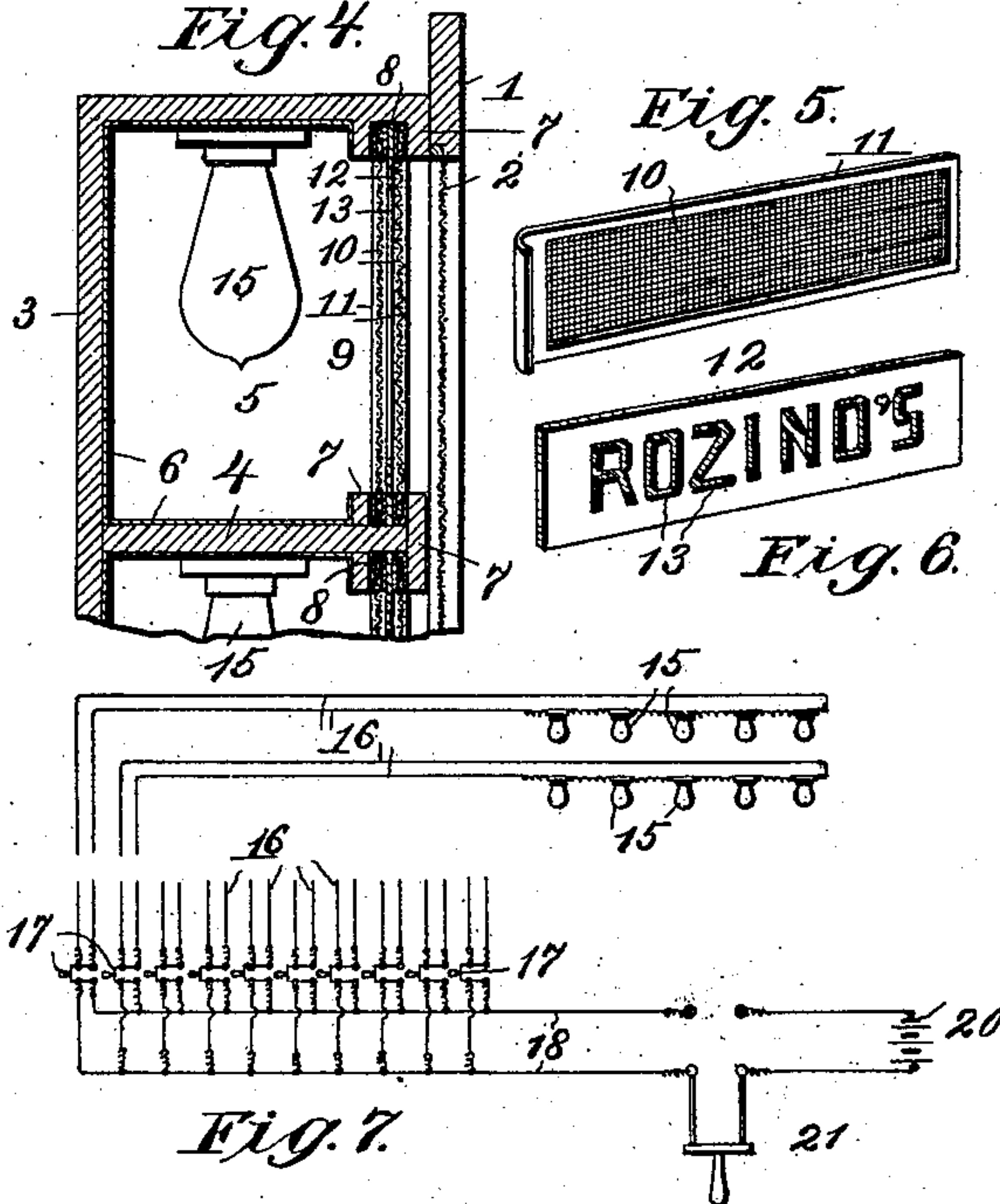
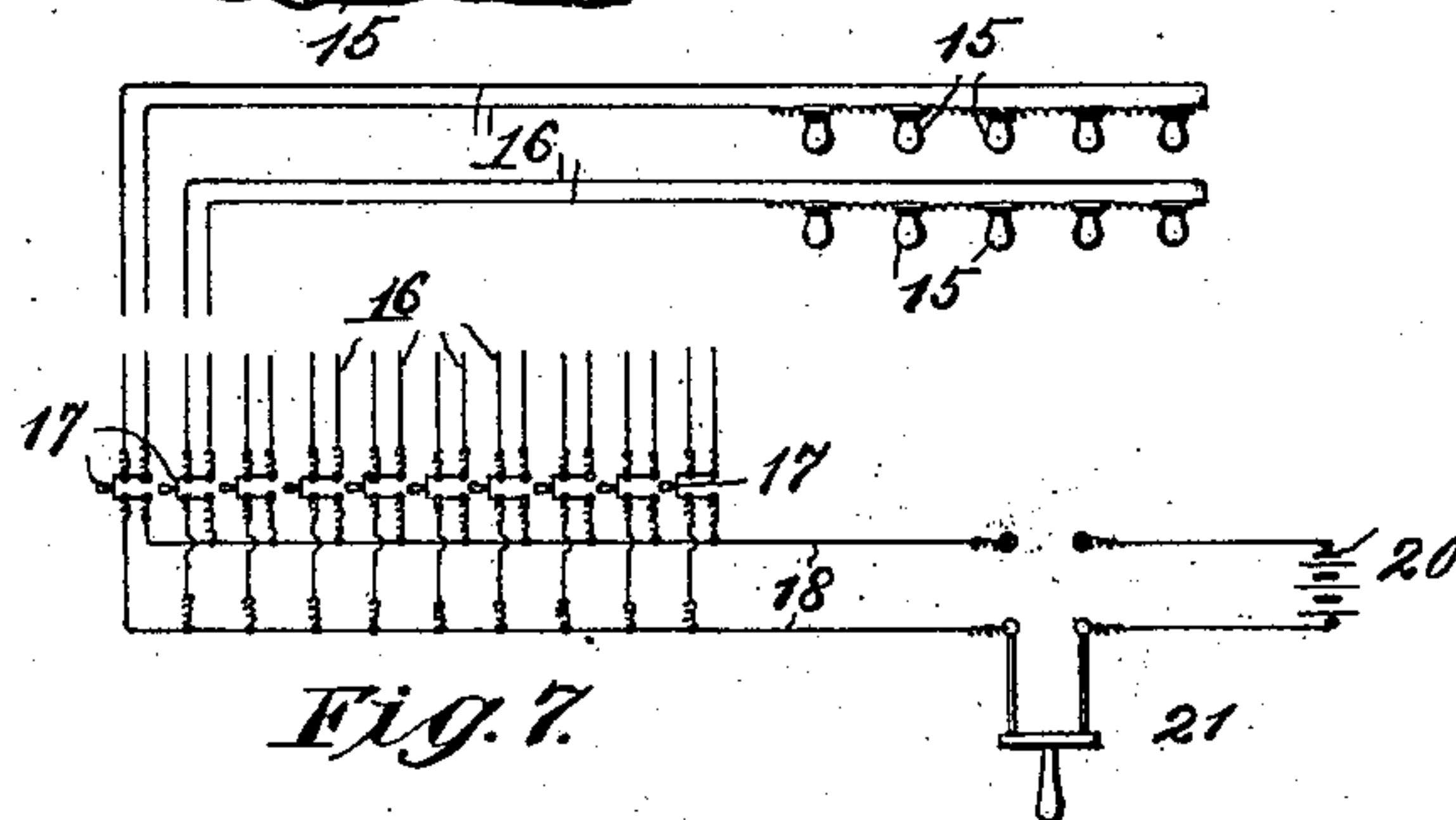


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN LEHMAN, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

ELECTRIC ANNOUNCER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 692,867, dated February 11, 1902.

Application filed June 3, 1901. Serial No. 63,035. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARTIN LEHMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kansas City, State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Electric Announcer, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in electric signs; and my object is to provide an apparatus especially adapted for use in theaters for announcing acts, the names of the actors, &c., and in practice two are placed at the opposite sides of the proscenium-arch in full view of the audience.

The chief features of the invention may be said to reside in a translucent screen having a picture or design, a box provided with a series of compartments, over the front of which said screen is placed, opaque slides having holes or openings therein in the form of display or advertising symbols, and incandescent lamps arranged in independent series in each of the compartments, so that one or more of the latter may be illuminated at will.

In order that the invention may be fully understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the invention, showing the picture on the translucent screen. Fig. 2 is a front elevation showing the picture obscured and the advertising or display symbols in view. Fig. 3 is a front elevation, partly in section, showing a number of the compartments in the box. Fig. 4 is an enlarged broken cross-section taken on line IV IV of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of one of the slides for holding the opaque card. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of one of the opaque cards containing the display-symbols. Fig. 7 is a diagrammatic view of the electric circuits.

In constructing my invention I employ an ornamental frame 1, inclosing a translucent screen 2, having a picture painted on its outer surface, which is visible when the light is strongest at the front and obscured by an excess of light from the rear. Said frame is hinged or otherwise suitably secured to the front or open side of a box 3, divided by horizontal partitions 4 into compartments 5, arranged in vertical series and rendered light-proof on all sides except the front by an asbestos lining 6. The front portions of the

partitions and top and bottom of the box are provided with parallel strips 7, forming grooves 8, adapted to receive slides 9, each of which consists of a translucent wire screen 10, secured in a metallic frame 11.

12 indicates an opaque card having suitable characters 13 cut therein and covered with a strip of colored tissue-paper for the passage of light from the rear. The front portions of the cards and strips 7 are of neutral color, and therefore invisible at a short distance from the sign. Consequently they do not detract from the appearance of the picture on the screen 2.

Cards 12 are interposed between an equal number of pairs of slides 9 and are slipped into position in their respective grooves through slots 14 in one side of the box until the front openings of all the compartments are closed.

Secured to the upper walls of the compartments are incandescent lamps 15, connected in series to branch wires 16, whose circuits are controlled by switches 17, so that each series may be illuminated or darkened independently of the other. The branch wires are connected to a feed-wire 18, which receives its current from a battery 20. Said current is controlled by a main switch 21, so that all of the lights may be simultaneously cut out or turned on when switches 17 are closed.

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

1. In an advertising or display apparatus, the combination of a box containing light-tight compartments, electric bulbs located in said compartments, individual circuits including the bulb in each compartment, a switch in each circuit, a translucent screen having a single picture or design over the entire front of said box, and a plurality of opaque slides having holes or openings formed therein in the shape of advertising or display symbols, said slides being independently and removably interposed between the electric bulbs and the screen, all as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In an advertising or display apparatus, the combination with a box containing light-tight compartments, electric bulbs located in said compartments, and a translucent screen

having a picture or design over the front of
said box; of a slide-carrier removably located
between the electric bulbs and the screen and
composed of two pieces of wire-gauze within
5 a frame of galvanized iron and an opaque
slide between the gauze pieces having display-
openings cut therein and covered with colored
tissue, all as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
name to this specification in the presence of 10
two subscribing witnesses.

MARTIN LEHMAN.

Witnesses:

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ALVIN F. WERBE.