

No. 709,305.

Patented Sept. 16, 1902.

L. R. DAMON.  
SANITARY COMMODE.  
(Application filed July 18, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

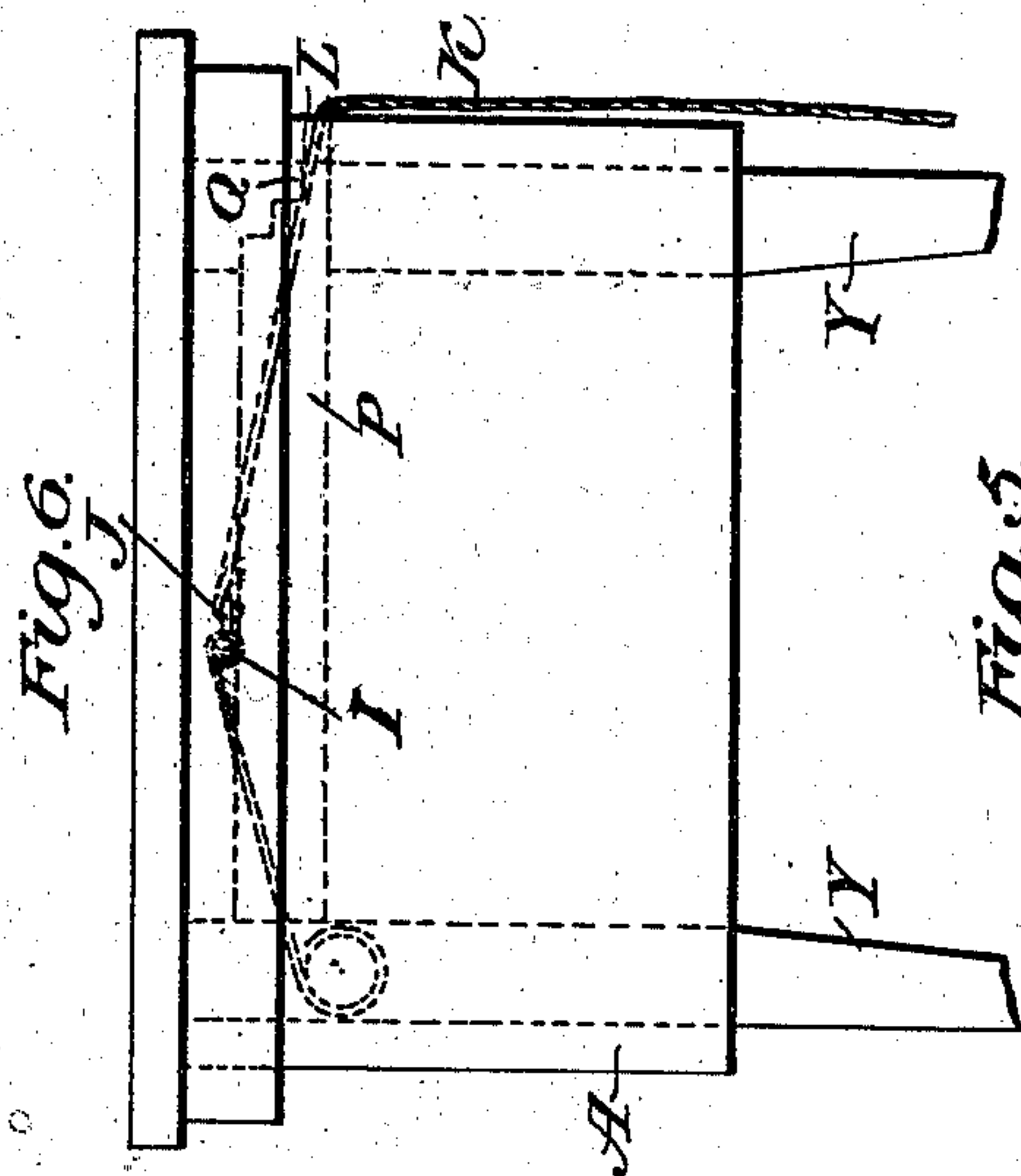


Fig. 6.

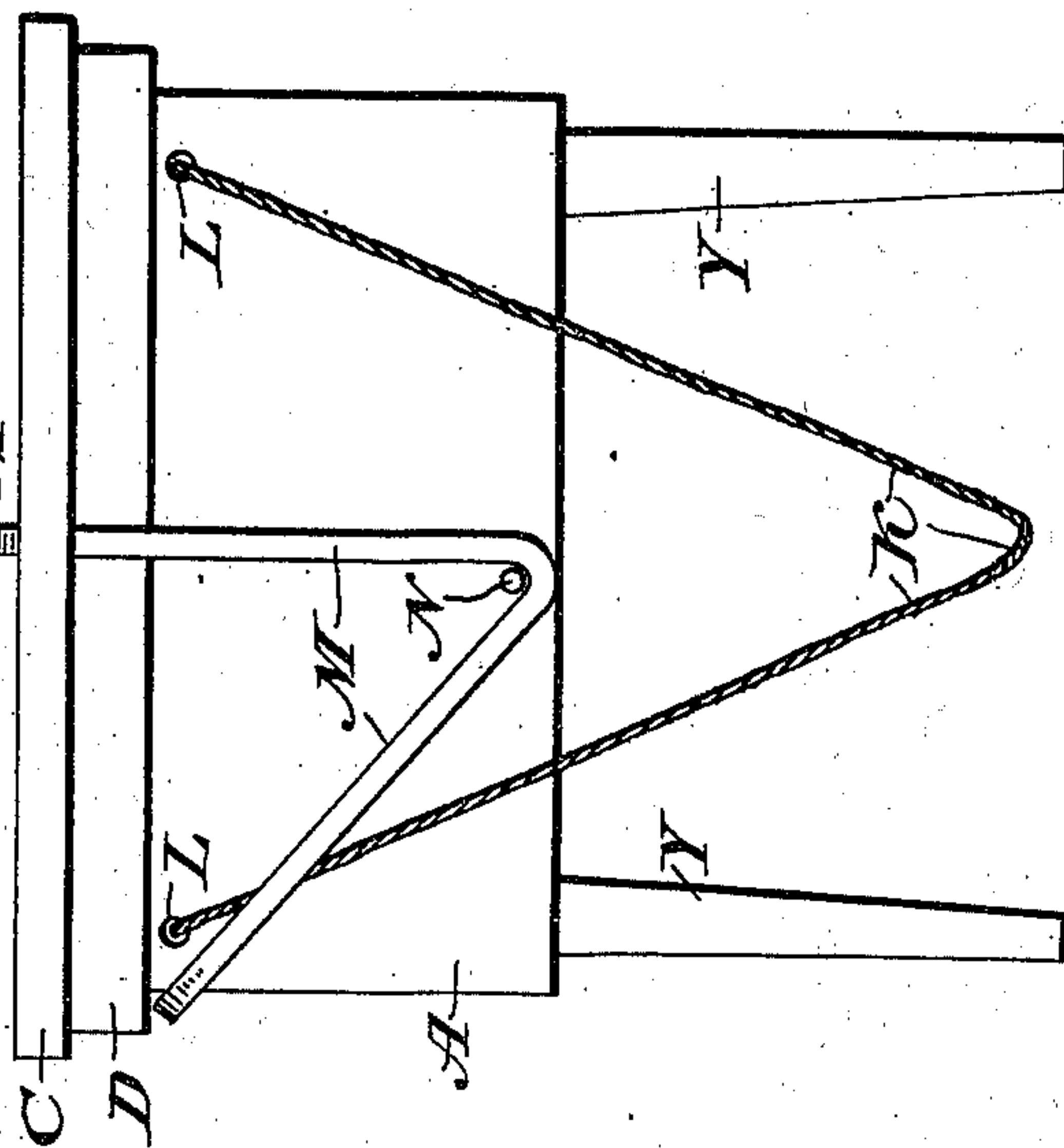


Fig. 5.

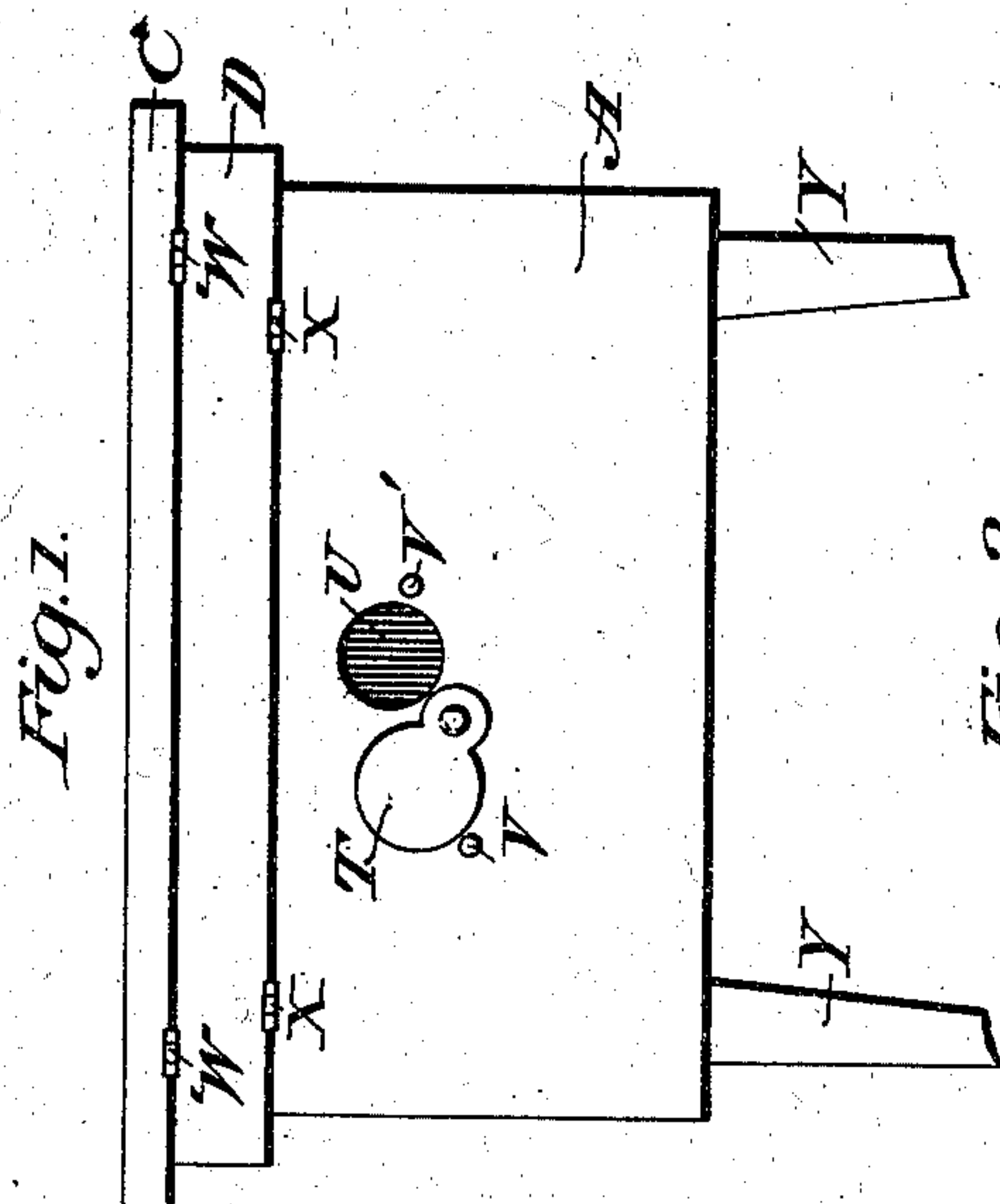


Fig. 1.

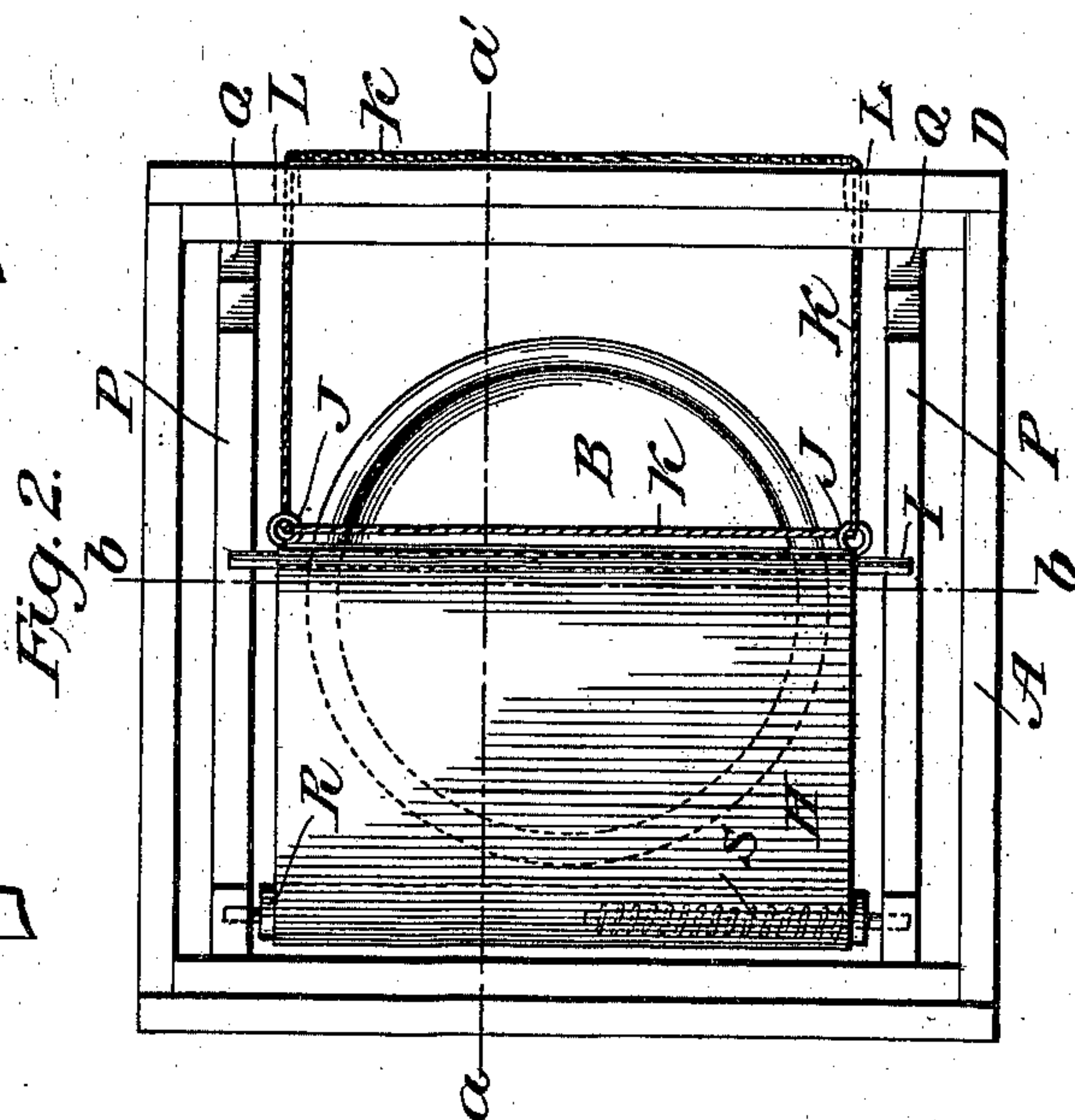


Fig. 2.

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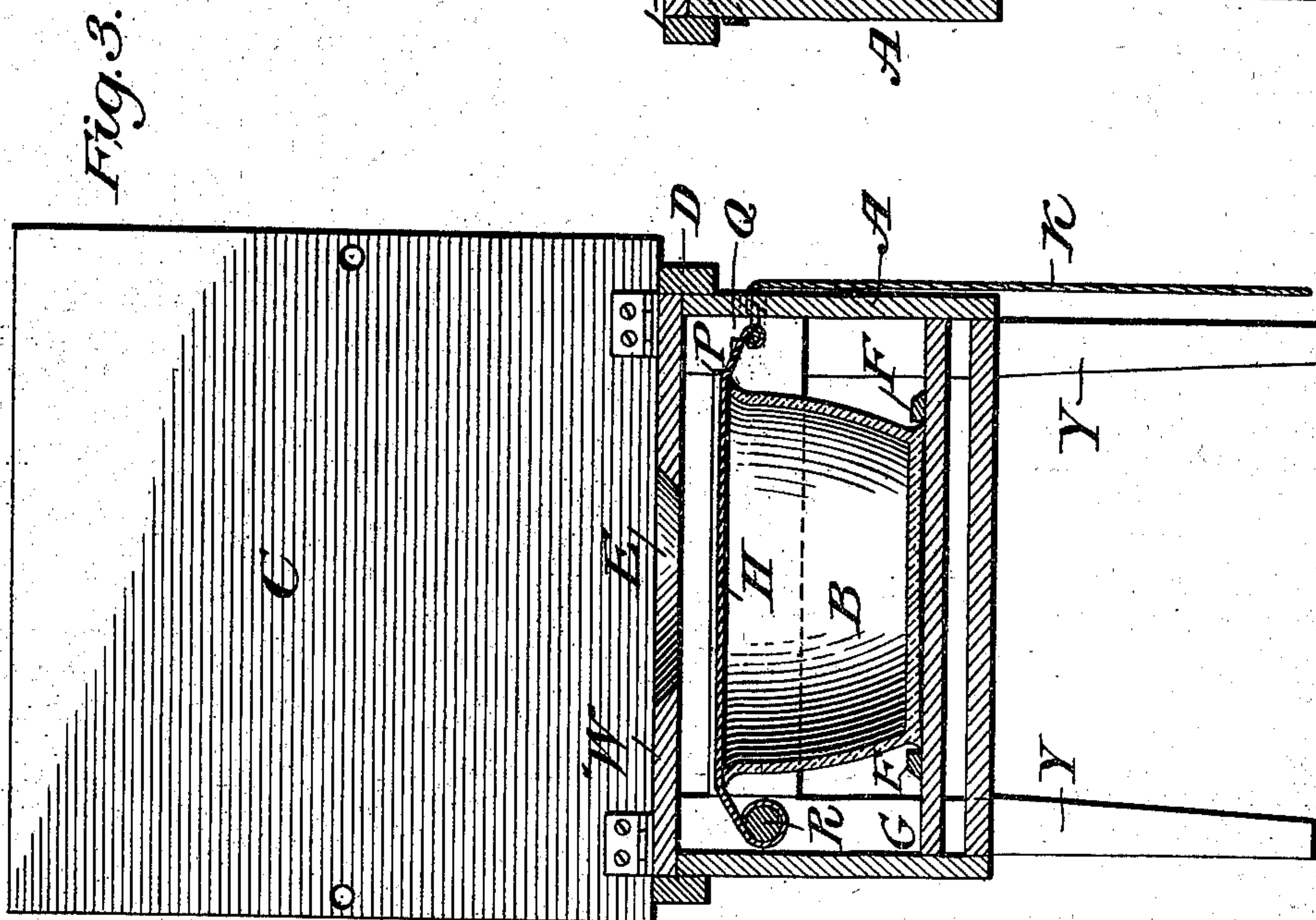
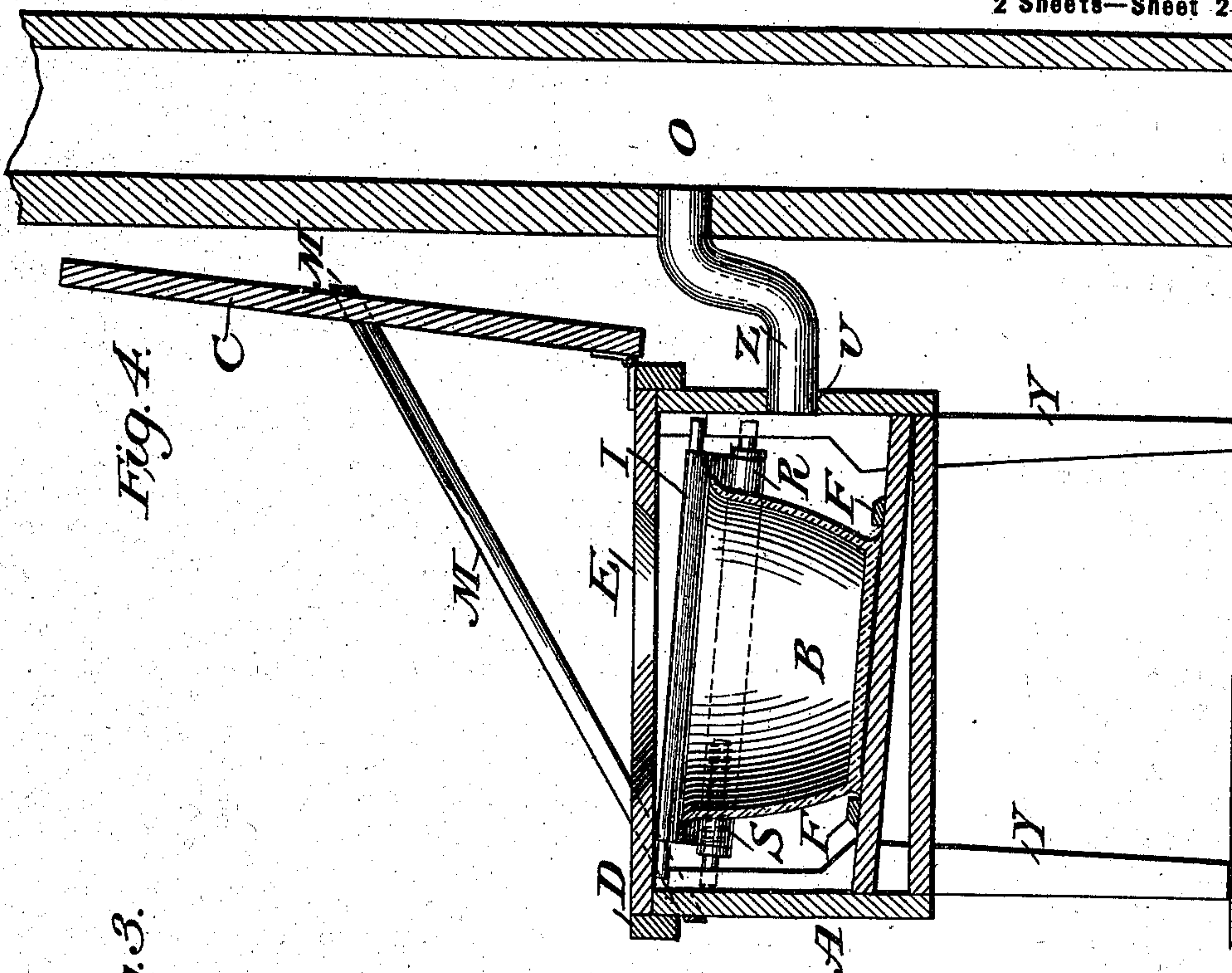
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LYMAN R. DAMON, OF DEXTER, MAINE.

## SANITARY COMMODE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 709,305, dated September 16, 1902.

Application filed July 18, 1901. Serial No. 68,786. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LYMAN R. DAMON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dexter, in the county of Penobscot and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Sanitary Commodes; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

In the drawings herewith like parts are similarly designated in the several figures.

Figure 1 is a view of the back of the commode with covers closed, showing aperture for ventilating-tube and tilting cap to cover same when not connected with tube. Fig. 2 shows top of commode with both lids removed and blanket partly drawn over vessel. Fig. 3 is a sectional front view of commode along line of *a a'*, Fig. 2, with top lid raised, showing vessel with blanket drawn completely over. Fig. 4 is a sectional view of commode from side along line of *b b'*, Fig. 2, showing inclined floor of commode, vessel in position, inclined position of blanket-roller and blanket-rod, top lid raised, lower lid and seat-aperture in normal position, strap for supporting lid, ventilating-tube connected with commode, and flue connected with ventilating-tube. Fig. 5 shows a side elevation of commode with blanket-cord drawn out to close vessel and manner of disposing the lid-strap so as to form a bail or handle for carrying the commode conveniently. Fig. 6 shows an elevation of an interior side of box at right angles with the blanket-roller, showing position of roller, the blanket-supporting rod and blanket, and the means for drawing the blanket off the roller with reference to the shoulder attached to box for supporting the rod and blanket, and the depression at end of shoulder to receive the rod and hold the blanket from being drawn back upon the roller.

The object of my invention is to provide a portable commode which can be ventilated when in use by a connection with a chimney or stove or window and in which the vessel can be securely covered by a flexible blanket without leaving the "seat," so as to prevent

further odors escaping, and having when ventilating-tube is disconnected outer lid closed, and lid-strap adjusted over pegs in the side, a convenient strap-handle across the top for carrying the commode to a proper place for emptying the vessel. I attain this object by providing a rectangular box made of any suitable material a little deeper, wider, and longer than is necessary to receive an ordinary "chamber vessel." This I mount upon legs, one at each corner, so as to raise the top of the box to a height convenient for use. In the bottom of the box I place an inclined floor, sloping from the front downward to the back, as shown in Fig. 4. The purpose of this is to bring the vessel near the seat at the front of the aperture to prevent spilling. On the inclined floor *G*, I place the shoulders *F*, Fig. 3, and *F F*, Fig. 4, in a manner to receive the bottom of the vessel between them and hold it in position at all times.

At one side of the box I place a spring-actuated roller, pivoted at the ends somewhat lower than the top of the vessel when in place and inclined in position to correspond to the incline of the vessel resting upon the floor *G*, Fig. 4. (See *R*, Figs. 2, 3, and 4.) To actuate this roller, I preferably use a coiled spring seated in an aperture bored in one end of the roller-shaft around a pivot-rod removably fixed in the side of said box at the proper point for supporting that end of said roller in a manner to prevent said rod from revolving with said roller, said spring so attached at one end to said roller and at its other extremity to said pivot-rod that the movement of said roller around said pivot-rod when said blanket is drawn forward and unrolled will be adapted to tighten said spring around said pivot, so that when the withdrawing force is released the tension of said spring will revolve said roller in the opposite direction and wind up the blanket thereon; but any other form of spring which will serve to force said roller in a direction to wind up said blanket thereon can be used in its stead. (See *S*, Fig. 2.) Extending from this roller to near the opposite side of the box and at heights on each end of the roller to correspond with the incline of the roller itself I place supporting-rails, shoulders, or bearings, as shown by *P P*, Fig. 2, which end near the side of the box opposite



the roller R in square shoulders, as shown by Q, Fig. 3, and Q Q, Fig. 2. Now to the roller R, I attach one end of a blanket H, Figs. 2 and 3, somewhat narrower than the space between the shoulders P P, Fig. 2, and also somewhat wider than the top of the vessel B, Fig. 2. This blanket by the action of the spring S, Fig. 2, is in normal position rolled up on the roller R. To the opposite end of the blanket H, I attach a rod of sufficient length to rest upon the shoulders P P at each end, thus supporting the front of the blanket when in normal position back of the vessel B and slightly higher than the top of it. To the supporting-rod I, Figs. 2 and 3, I attach the rings J J, Fig. 2, one near each end. In the side of said box A, Figs. 2 and 5, in front of said supporting-rod I, I make the apertures L L, Fig. 2, and L L, Fig. 5, in a position corresponding with the rings J J on said rod. Through these apertures I pass a continuous cord, (shown by K, Fig. 5, and K K K, Fig. 2,) which passing through the rings J J extends across the front of the rod I. This cord is of sufficient length to allow the rod I when the blanket H is rolled up on the roller R in normal position to be drawn back beyond the top of the vessel B in front of the roller R. In that position of the rod I the cord K is drawn in, so that outside of the box it simply runs close to the side of the box between the apertures L L. Now it is obvious from the position of the vessel B, the roller R, the blanket H, the rod I, and the shoulders P P, having the depressions Q Q, that if the cord K is drawn out of the box, as shown in Fig. 5, the effect inside the box will be to draw the rod I along the supports P P until the ends of the rod drop into the depressions Q Q. This unwinds the blanket H from the roller R, brings it forward over the top of the vessel B, and when the rod drops into the depressions Q Q lower than the top of the vessel B the whole blanket H is let down tightly upon the top of the vessel B, closing it securely against the escape of odors, as shown in Fig. 3.

Upon the top of the box A (see Fig. 4) I hinge a lid D, which is perforated at E for a seat. This is constructed as shown in said figure with a deep margin, so as to shut down over the edge of the box on all sides. This lid is also adapted to turn up on its hinges, so as to allow the vessel to be removed conveniently for emptying. To the top of the under lid I hinge a top lid C, as shown in said figure, adapted to cover the lower lid when closed and when raised to afford a support for the back of the person using the commode. To the front of the box below the lid D, I attach the strap M, Figs. 4 and 5, which extends continuously around the lid C to an attachment to front of box at the opposite side. On the outside of the box upon each side and near the bottom I attach a pin, as shown by N, Fig. 5. The strap M is made of sufficient length to allow the

cover C to be thrown back and held by it, as shown in Fig. 4, or when lid is closed to allow said strap to be hooked around the peg, as shown in Fig. 5, on each side, thus bringing the strap into position to be taken hold of above said lid and used conveniently as a bail for carrying the commode for cleansing. In the back of said box A, I make an aperture, as shown at U, Fig. 1, for the purpose of connecting the interior of the box when in use, if desired, by means of a flexible or other tube fitting therein, as shown by Z, Fig. 4, with a ventilating-flue, chimney, stove, or window, thus carrying off all offensive odors from the box when in use in a practical and convenient manner. When not so in use or so connected with flue, the aperture U is effectively closed by turning the pad T upon its pivot over the aperture U until it rests against the pin V'. (Shown in said Fig. 1.)

I am aware that commodes have been made with a vessel inclosed in a box and arranged to be covered after use by shutters closing over its top from each side, meeting in the middle, by a flexible screen running in grooves in side of box and operating to close the seat-aperture or the box above the vessel by contact with catches in a drawer containing the vessel, by a slide running in grooves under the seat arranged to be pushed in after use from the outside of the box, so as to close the seat-aperture or a drawer-top above the vessel, by a seat resting upon the top of the vessel with a hinged cover arranged to close down upon a ridge of "packing" upon the top of the seat-lid around the aperture, and commodes made with double-hinged lids—to wit, a seat-lid and a top or covering lid—and commodes made with a ventilating-aperture opening from inside the "vessel" out of the box without any further connection, and none of these specified things do I claim as my invention.

What I do claim as my invention, and seek to cover by Letters Patent hereby, is—

1. In a commode of the character described, an inclined floor; a vessel suitable to be used therewith adapted to be held in position on said floor; a spring-actuated roller fixed in an inclined position corresponding to the incline of said floor, at one side of said vessel, somewhat lower than the top of said vessel; supporting rails or shoulders affixed one on each side of said vessel and somewhat higher than its top, at right angles with said roller; a depression in each of said rails at its extremity opposite from said roller and beyond the top of said vessel, deep enough to reach below the top of said vessel; a side to each of said depressions next said vessel, at right angles with the top of said rails; a flexible blanket somewhat wider than the top of said vessel and long enough to reach from said roller across the top of said vessel, affixed at one extremity to said roller and adapted to be kept normally, wound thereon; a rod somewhat longer than the space between said support-



ing-rails, attached to said blanket across its other extremity, adapted to rest its ends upon said supporting-rails and slide upon them and carry the end of said blanket over the top of said vessel when same is drawn forward, and adapted to drop its ends into the depressions aforesaid lower than the top of said vessel and bring said blanket down upon the top of same, when drawn forward beyond the extremity of said supporting-rails; all in combination with means adapted to draw said rod and attached blanket off from said roller along said supporting-rails and into said depressions when desired.

2. In a commode, a box larger and deeper than the vessel used in same; a floor in said box, arranged to incline from the front downward to the back; shoulders upon said floor to hold said vessel in place; a spring-actuated roller pivoted at one side of said box lower than the top of said vessel and inclined parallel with the incline of said floor; supports attached to the inside of said box at right angles with said roller one upon each side of same in position higher than the top of said vessel, one being higher than the other corresponding to the incline of said floor; notches or depressions in said supports near the side of box opposite said roller deeper than the level of top of said vessel; a rod or bar reaching across said box and resting its ends on said supports and adapted to slide upon same from near said roller to said depressions and drop into same when drawn forward; rings upon front of said rod, one near each end; a perforation in the side of said box opposite to each ring in front of said rod or bar; a cord crossing the side of said box outside passing through each of said perforations and thence to said bar and through said rings in front of same and connected together between said rings; in combination with a vessel suitable for said purpose, and a flexible blanket narrower than the distance between said supports attached to sides of box, connected with said roller at one end and adapted normally to be kept wound thereon, and connected at its other end with said rod or bar resting on said supports, and adapted to be unwound from said roller as said rod or bar is drawn toward the opposite side of box, carried by same over the top of said vessel and when said rod drops into the depressions in said supports to be let down upon the top of said vessel; all substantially as described.

3. In a commode, a receptacle for the vessel having an inclined floor the highest part of which is at the front of same; a spring-actuated roller pivoted upon one side of said receptacle in an inclined position corresponding to the incline of said floor; a flexible blanket adapted to be held when in normal position wound upon said roller; means for supporting the loose end of said blanket higher than the top of the vessel resting upon said inclined floor when it is unrolled and drawn forward over said vessel; means for dropping

said blanket down closely upon the top of said vessel when so unwound from said roller and drawn over said vessel; means for drawing said blanket forward over said vessel from outside of said commode; means for holding said blanket in place upon the top of said vessel when so drawn forward and dropped down, until released; a vessel suitable to be used in said commode; means for keeping said vessel in position upon said inclined floor; a lid perforated for a "seat" hinged upon the top of said box; a second lid hinged to said first-described lid and adapted to shut down closely upon it; a pin or knob attached to the outside of said commode near the bottom of each side; a strap attached at its ends to the front of said commode and adapted to pass around and support the top lid when thrown back upon its hinges, and when said lid is closed, adapted to be hooked around or under said pins or knobs so as to serve for a bail or handle for carrying said commode; all in combination, substantially as described and for the purposes alleged.

4. In a commode, a close box; an inclined floor in said box; a vessel held in position upon said inclined floor; means for holding same in position; a flexible blanket wider than said vessel, normally held in position at one side of said vessel; means for supporting and carrying said blanket over the top of said vessel when desired and dropping same upon the top of said vessel; means for holding said blanket in place tightly upon the top of said vessel; means for carrying said blanket when released back off from the top of said vessel to its normal position; a tube leading from the inside of said box and a flue connected with said inside of said box by said tube; all in combination, substantially as described.

5. In a commode, a close box; a vessel suitable for the purpose contained in said box; means for covering and closing the top of said vessel normally held away from it; a spring-actuated roller adapted to hold said means for covering said vessel in normal position; supports for holding said means higher than the top of said vessel while passing over it; all in combination with means for dropping said covering down upon the top of said vessel after it is drawn over and means for holding same from being drawn back to normal position until released, substantially as described.

6. In a commode, a vessel, a vessel-cover, supports attached to the inner side of commode-box, a rod attached to said vessel-cover adapted to be held by said supports higher than the top of said vessel and to slide upon same, in combination with depressions in said supports adapted to receive the ends of said rod and let said cover drop down upon the top of said vessel, and means for holding said rod from being drawn back over said supports after it has so dropped into said depressions; all substantially as described.

7. In a commode, a vessel, and a flexible



blanket-cover for said vessel, normally held  
away from top of same, in combination with  
means for carrying said blanket over the top  
of said vessel and dropping it down upon it,  
5 and means for holding said blanket in such  
position until released, all substantially as  
set forth.

8. In a commode, a vessel, and a spring-  
actuated roller pivoted in box of said com-  
10 mode, in combination with a flexible blanket  
adapted when in normal position to be wound  
upon said roller, means for unwinding said

blanket from said roller when desired, means  
for carrying same over the top of said vessel,  
and means for dropping said blanket down 15  
upon the top of said vessel and holding same  
in that position until released, all substan-  
tially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature  
in presence of two witnesses.

LYMAN R. DAMON.

Witnesses:

J. W. CROSBY,  
JOSIAH CROSBY.