

No. 709,985.

Patented Sept. 30, 1902.

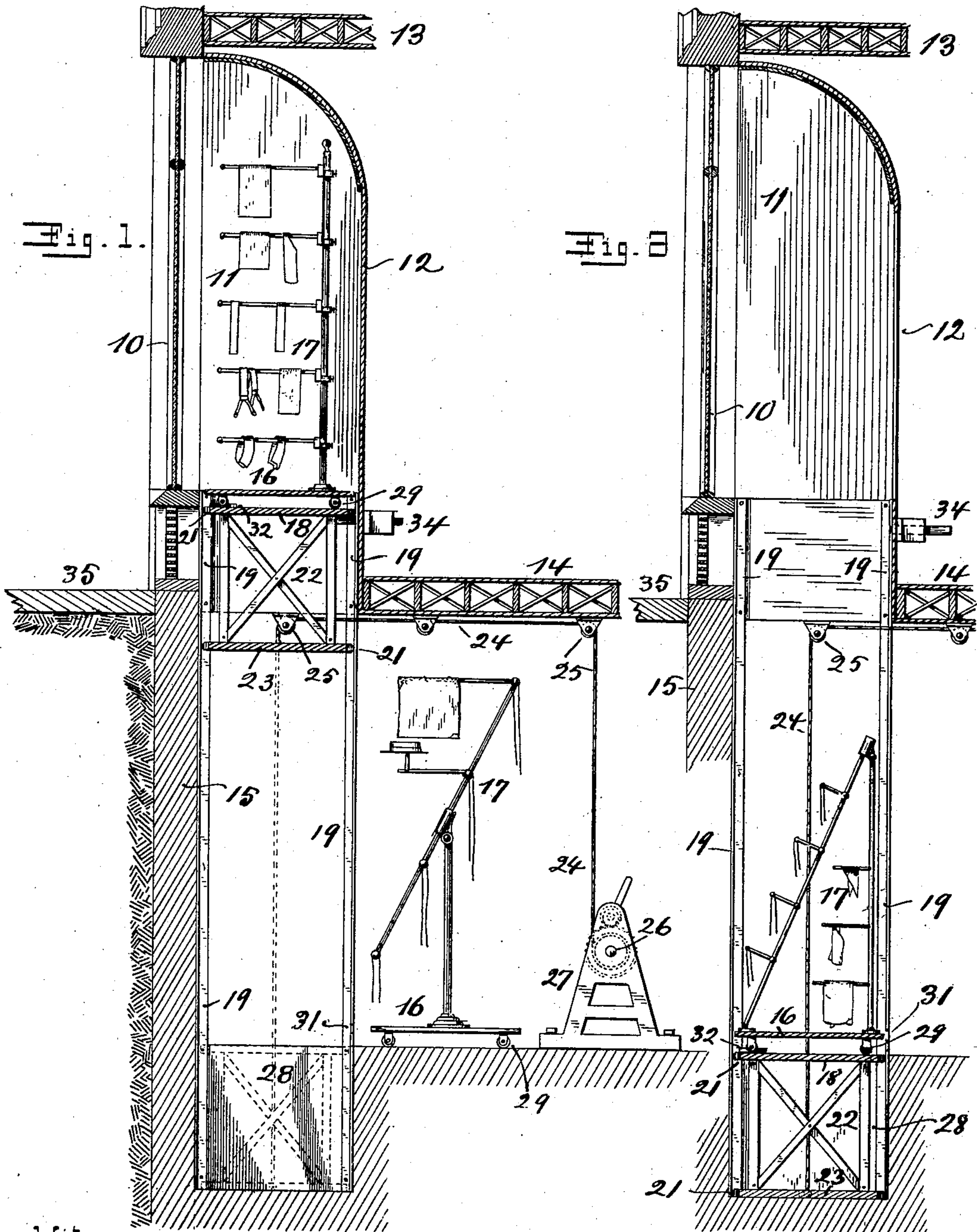
H. HUNTER.

SHOW WINDOW CONSTRUCTION.

(Application filed Nov. 4, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses
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David Kline

Inventor
Hamilton Hunter
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 3.

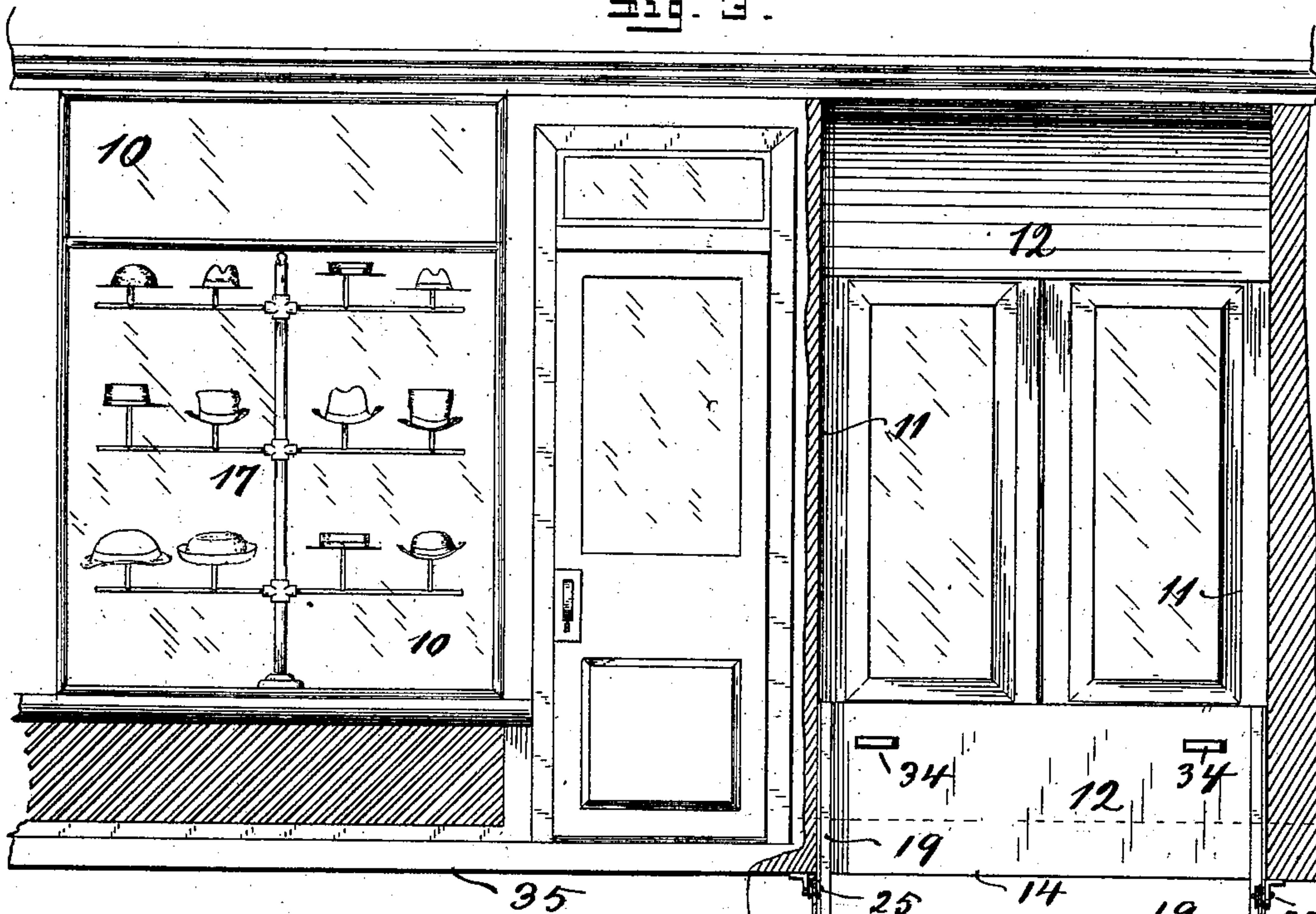
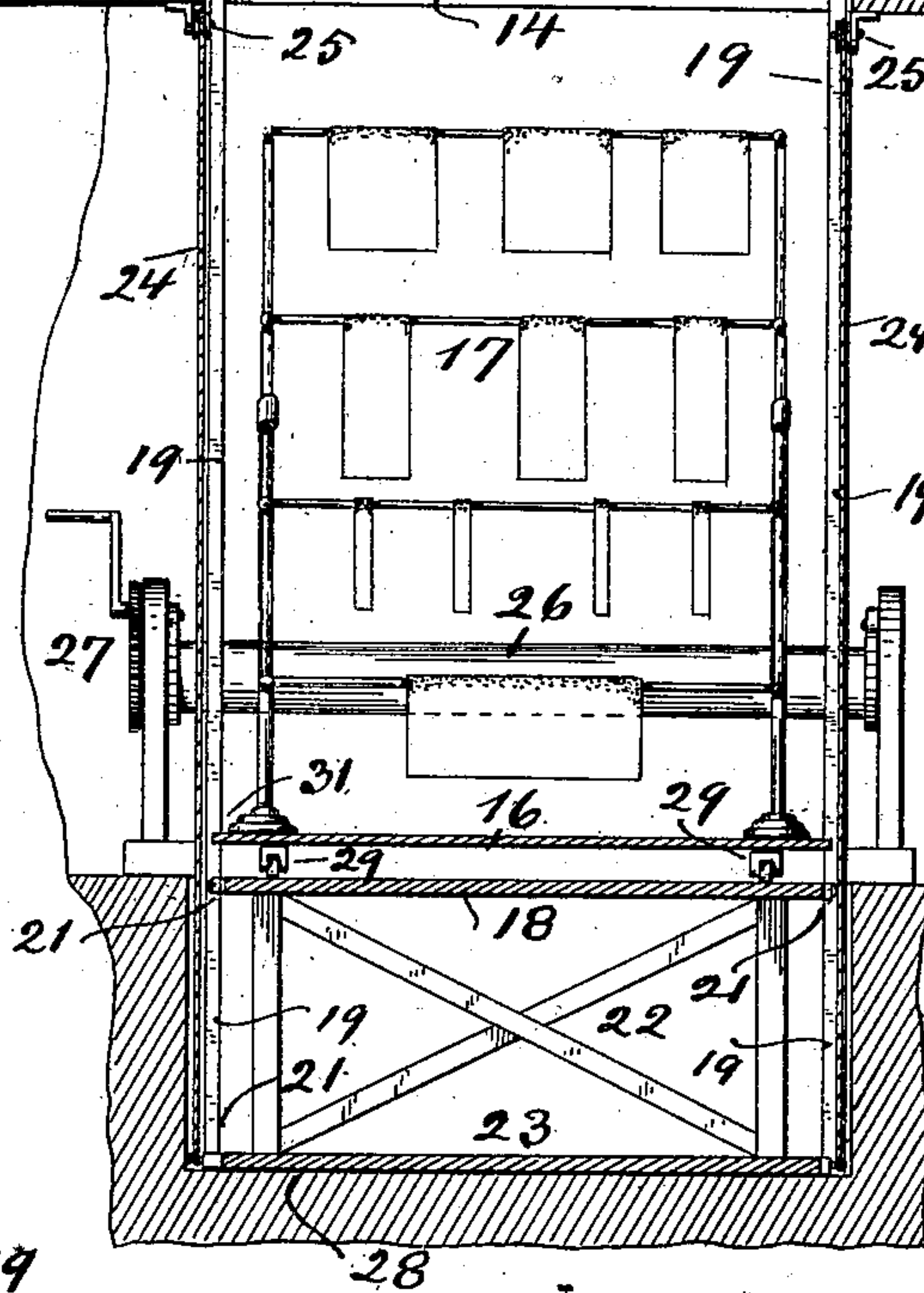
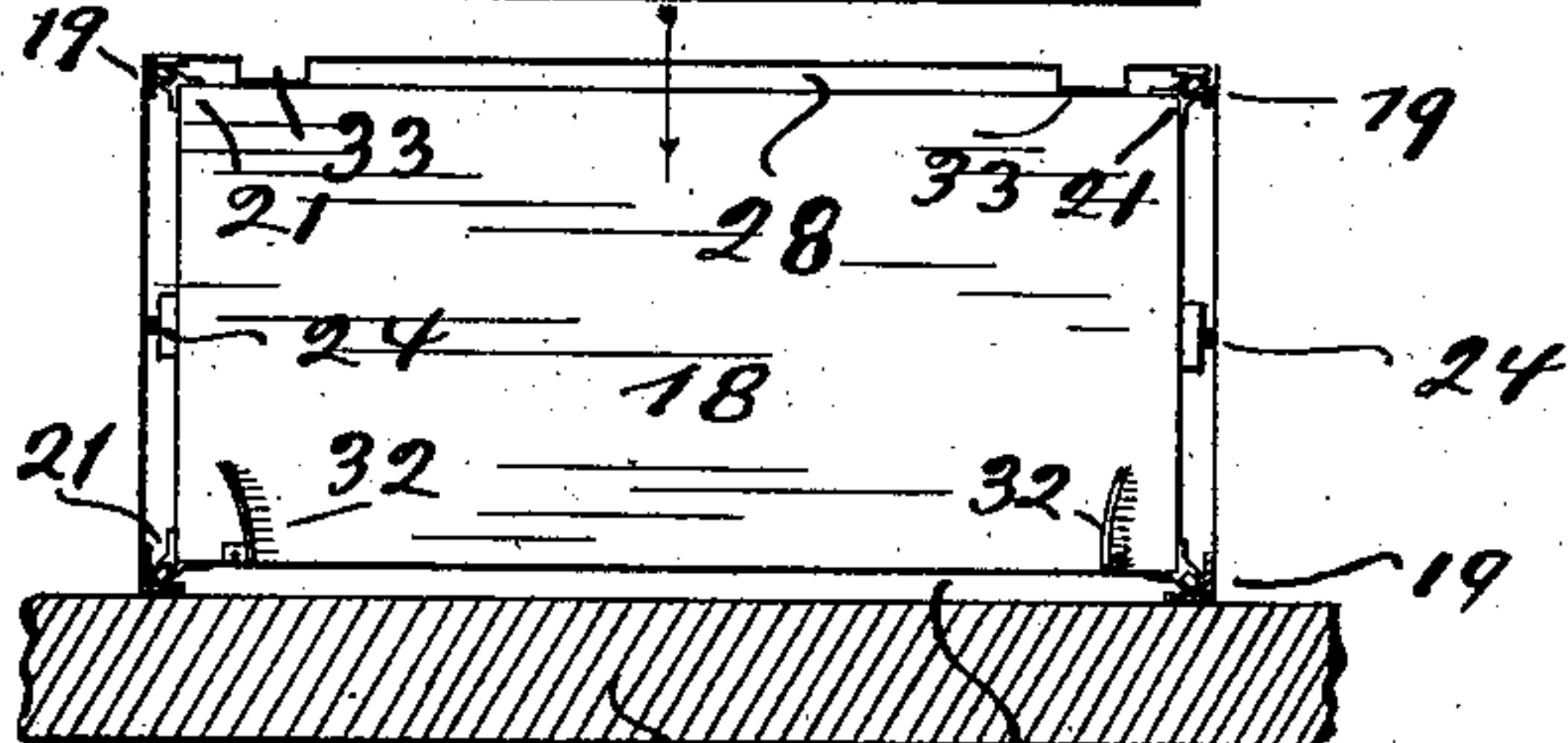
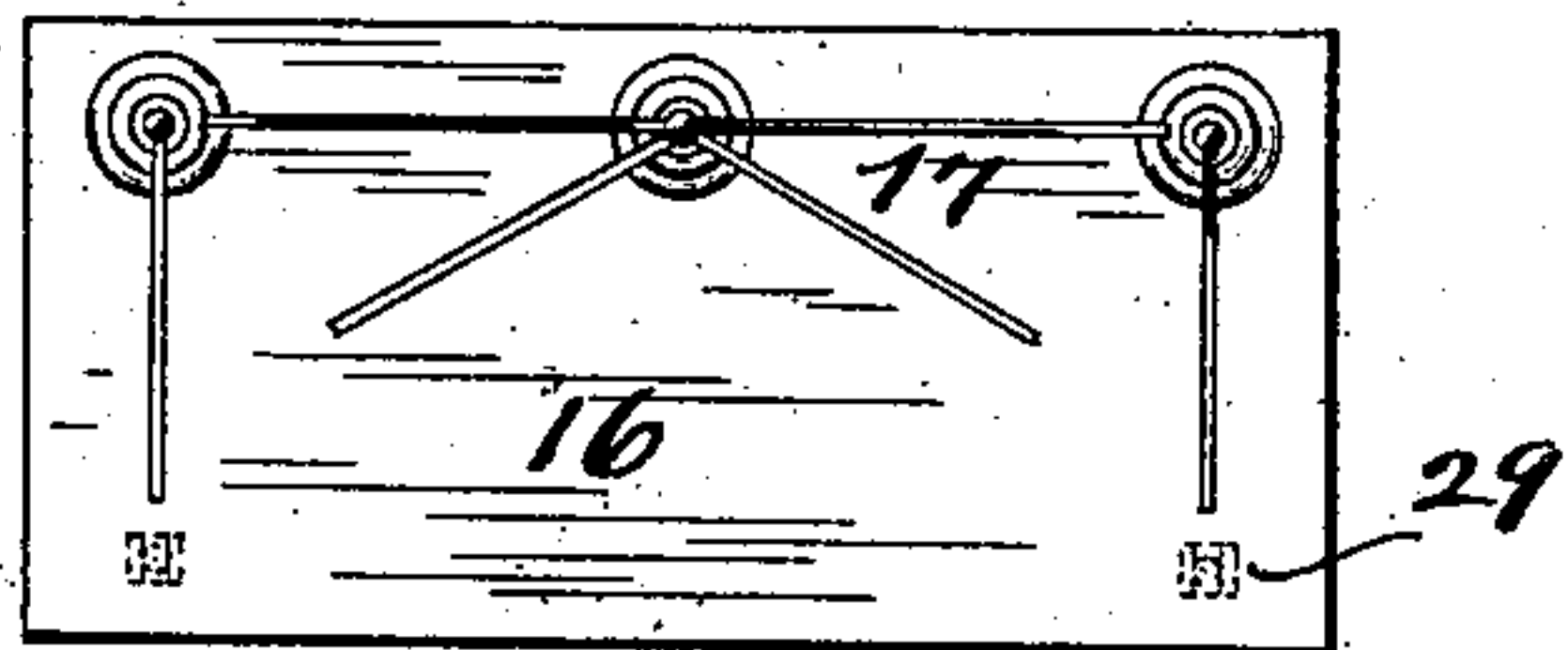
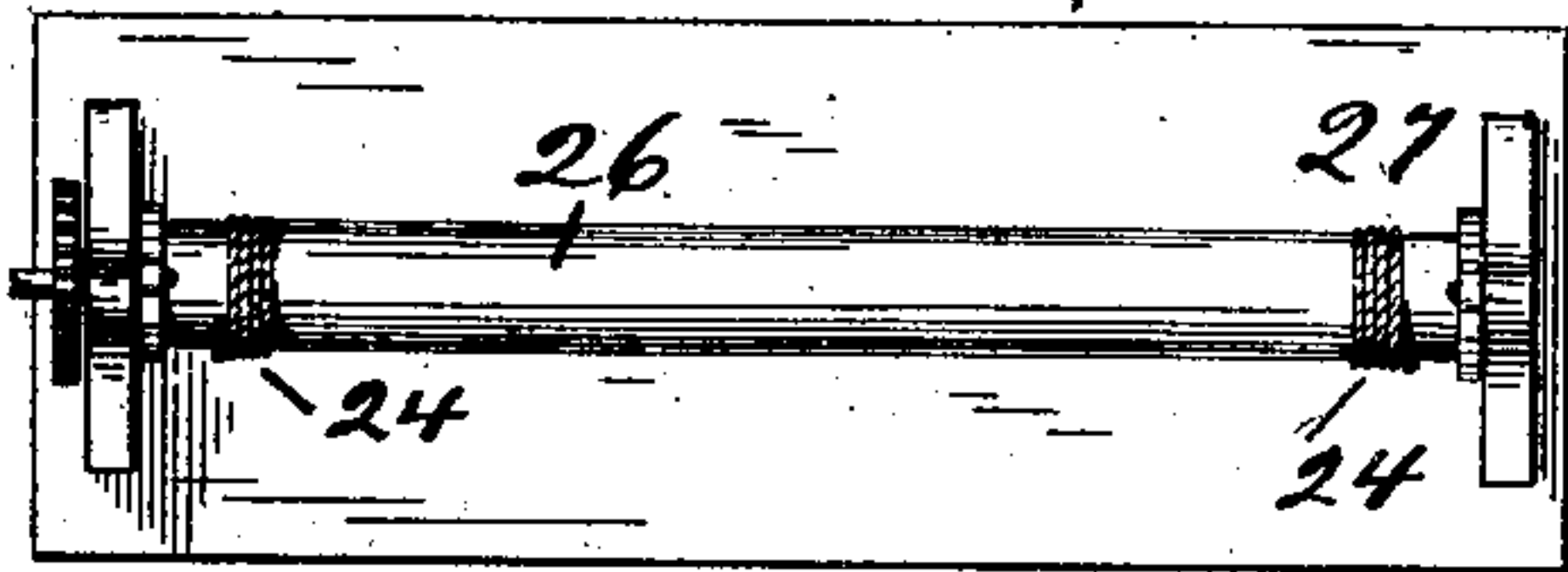


Fig. 4.



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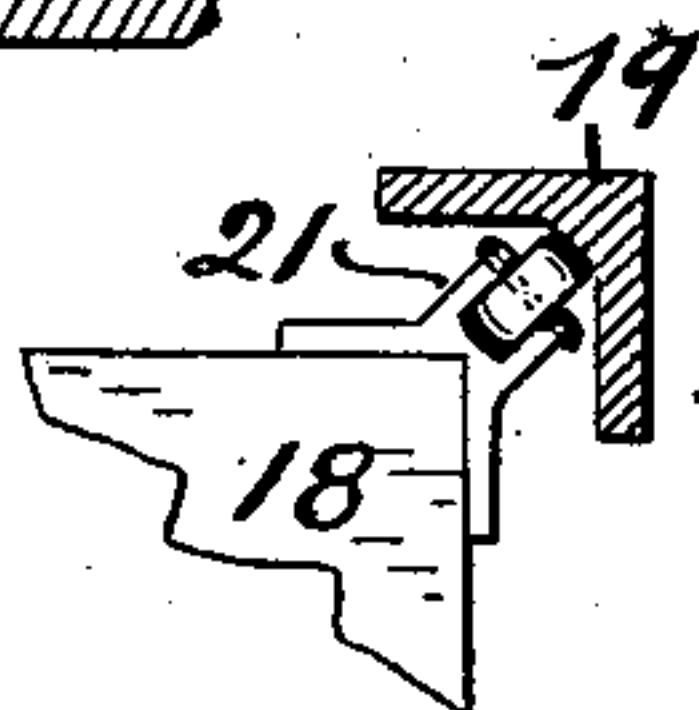


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHOW-WINDOW CONSTRUCTION.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 709,985, dated September 30, 1902.

Application filed November 4, 1901. Serial No. 81,020. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HAMILTON HUNTER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Covington, in the county of Kenton and State of Kentucky, have invented a certain new and useful Show-Window Construction; and I do declare the following to be a clear, full, and exact description thereof, attention being also called to the accompanying two sheets of drawings, with the reference-numerals marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to a particular construction and arrangement of show-windows of the kind which are connected with the fronts of stores and sale-establishments and serve for the purpose of exhibiting goods and merchandise of the various kinds. The space behind these show-windows, which is generally inclosed, is fitted out with fixtures of various kinds—shelves, brackets, hangers, rods with hooks, racks, &c.—to suit the kind of goods which is to be exhibited and for the support of which they serve. From time to time the goods so exhibited are changed, the arranging and placing of new or fresh goods in place of the previously-exhibited ones being usually called “dressing” the window and has become quite an art, requiring considerable skill and experience to obtain best effects. At present this dressing or redressing of show-windows is greatly handicapped by reason of the limited space within which the person is confined while arranging the articles. It is rendered still more difficult by the lack of ventilation and fresh air, which difficulty is aggravated by the heat due to the presence of light, since such work is often done at night to prevent loss of use of the window during the day. Another objection is the difficulty of the dresser to correctly judge the effects of his work, owing to his inability to view the same at proper distance unless he proceeds outside and in front of the window. There is finally the loss of the use of a window for its intended purpose to exhibit goods, since during dressing it is usually closed against inspection from the outside by blinds or curtains. This loss is a constant one in large establishments, where there are necessarily always a number of

show-windows more or less in the process of dressing and closed to inspection. To overcome all these difficulties, I have devised certain arrangements, parts, and constructions, all as more fully described and specifically claimed hereinafter and as illustrated in the accompanying two sheets of drawings, in which—

Figure 1 shows a vertical section through the show-window of a store with adjacent parts of the latter and the basement below. Fig. 2 is a similar view and shows certain of the operating parts in different positions. Fig. 3 is a front view of a store-front, showing two show-windows, such as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, the front of one of the show-windows being broken away. The view is also extended down into the basement, showing parts below this particular window, for which purpose it may be assumed that part of the front wall of the basement below such window, together with portions of the ground in front of it, had been removed, as if an excavation had been made. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the parts located in the basement and as they appear in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a sectional detail view of parts to be explained hereinafter.

In the drawings, 10 indicates the front, usually of plate-glass, of the show-window, the space behind which is assumed to be inclosed by a case, of which 11 denotes the side walls and 12 is the rear wall. These walls may be solid material—that is, wood or wooden frames with glass panels, or wood-lined with looking-glasses. Back of them is the store establishment proper. 13 is the ceiling, dividing this latter from the story above, and 14 is the floor, below which the basement is located. 15 is the front wall of this latter.

16 is the floor of the show-window and carries above it the store-fixtures, (indicated by 17,) they being in each view shown as of different arrangement to suit different classes of goods supported by them for exhibition.

As is now the case when change of the contents of a window is desired such has to be done in the limited space behind the plate-glass front 10 and inclosed by it and walls 11, 11, and 12 back of it. Access to this space is usually had through an opening or door in

one of these walls, through which opening also the old goods must be passed out and the other ones taken in as well as the fixtures, which are sometimes changed or rearranged.

5 The objections to this arrangement have already been outlined. To overcome these, I move the entire contents of the show-window bodily and as a whole, fixtures and all, out of the space inclosing them, change them in a

10 space affording room to move freely about, and replace them again as a whole. For such purpose the fixture-carrying floor 16 of the show-window is not permanently secured in position, but rests upon a platform 18, having a

15 vertical movement from its highest position, as shown in Fig. 1, when in proper position within the show-window, as shown at the left of Fig. 3, to one in the basement below, as shown in dotted lines in same figure and in

20 Fig. 2 and at the right part of Fig. 3. To permit such movement, there is a clear opening below the space of the show-window and in floor 14 of an area at least as large as the area of floor 16, to which is added such space necessary to

25 afford clearance for free and unobstructed movement. In order to properly maintain this movable floor and platform in position while in motion, suitable means for guiding them are provided and engage the edges of

30 each or of the platform only. The number and position of these guides (indicated by 19) would to some extent depend on the size of floor 16. There may be only two, one at each of the narrow sides or one at each corner, as

35 shown, and which guides extend up into the space of the show-window as far as the travel of the movable parts to be guided require it. It is preferable to permit only platform 18 to have guiding contact with guides 19, and

40 such contact may be an immediate sliding one or there may be friction-rollers 21 interposed, as shown in Fig. 5.

In order to prevent tilting or wobbling of floor 16 and movable platform 18 during their

45 movement, it is preferable to provide for more extended contact of them with guides 19 at points some distance vertically apart. For such purpose there is a framework 22 provided below platform 18, at the corners of the

50 lower part 23 of which similar guide-rollers 21 are provided, as shown for platform 18 above. For raising or lowering this platform-frame any suitable hoisting mechanism may be used. As shown, a rope, cable, or chain 24

55 is attached to it, one on each side, and passes over guide-pulleys 25 to the source of power, which may be the winding-drum 26 of a hand-operated windlass 27 or otherwise.

In large establishments where there are

60 many windows one hoisting apparatus might be used for all or all the winding-drums might be alined upon one continuous shaft extending through the entire length behind all the show-windows. It is necessary to provide a

65 pit 28 in the basement to receive frame 22 in order to permit platform 18 to descend to a level with the basement-floor, as shown in

Figs. 2 and 3, after which the fixture-carrying floor 16 may be rolled off, as shown in Fig. 1. In place of such pit floor 16 might be

70 rolled upon an elevated stage built upon the basement-floor and provided the height of the basement would permit such. For the purpose of such movement floors 16 are in each case provided with casters 29. It is neces-

75 sary to cut out part of guides 19 at the rear, as shown at 31, to permit floor 16 to pass out. The necessity of this depends, however, altogether on the particular shape of the guides, which in this case are angle-irons and may

80 therefore not be necessary in all cases. It is also desirable to provide means for guiding floor 16 when the same is moved onto platform 18, and for which purpose guide-stops or curbs 32 are provided on platform 18, be-

85 tween which the front casters of floor 16 pass and which insure that this latter is in proper position on platform 18 before the same is hoisted. (See Fig. 4.) 33 in the same figure shows supports bridging the clearance-space

90 between platform 18 and the edge of the pit 28 to permit the casters to pass over.

It will now be readily understood that this arrangement avoids all the difficulties mentioned at the beginning. When dressing of

95 such a window is desired, its entire contents, as shown in Fig. 1 and at the left of Fig. 3, are lowered down into the basement, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 at the right, moved rear-

100 wardly out in open accessible space, as shown in Fig. 1, rearranged without trouble or restraining obstacles and with proper light and with a chance to observe the effect before finishing. Next they are moved back again

105 upon platform 18, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and raised up into position behind the plate-glass, as shown in Fig. 1 and at the left of Fig. 3. The parts may be held in this position simply by the locking device which holds

110 the windlass-drum against rotation, or additional devices may be provided engaging inwardly platform 18 or the frame connected therewith. As shown, I provide sliding stops

115 34, which are slid from the rear under platform 18. There may also be a double set of floors 16 and fixtures for each window, one set being prepared with all leisure, while the other is in position within the show-window, in which case there takes place a mere exchange only of the lowered show-window con-

120 tents with the set prepared below in advance, so that there is practically no loss of the use of a show-window. It is obvious where such rapid change is not contemplated or where it is not necessary or desirable to do the dress-

125 ing of the lowered show-window contents in a position different from the one in which they arrive after lowered that floor 16 may be dispensed with, in which case fixtures 17 would rest directly upon platform 18. This

130 presupposes, further, that there be sufficient room below for such purpose to permit access, particularly from the front. This arrangement would be particularly favored in

cases where the basement extends also under the sidewalk 35 and where the front wall 15 of such basement would therefore not be closely up to the front guides, as now shown.

5 Having described my invention, I claim as new—

1. The combination with a show-window inclosure being open vertically in one direction, of a floor for it independent from the other 10 parts which form the inclosure of the show-window provided with casters on its under side and intended to carry the fixtures, a platform upon which this floor rests, means for moving this platform and floor thereon vertically out of the space below the show-win- 15 dow inclosure to a position where the floor with the fixtures thereon may be laterally moved off therefrom and whereby this platform with these parts may be returned again 20 to bring the floor back to its normal position within the show-window inclosure, means for detachably holding it in such normal position guides to hold platform and floor in proper position during their vertical movement, such 25 guides being cut out at 31 to permit the lateral movement of the floor to and from the platform and curbs 32 to guide the floor in such lateral movement.

2. The combination with a show-window inclosure being open below, where it communi- 30 cates with a laterally open space, of a floor for this inclosure which normally closes this opening therein, a combined platform and frame 22 upon which this floor rests in a manner to be free for lateral removal therefrom, said 35 platform-frame being capable of a descending movement into the laterally open space below and to a depth therein permitting removal therefrom and corresponding replacing 40 of the show-window floor and the goods thereon, in a lateral direction, means for raising

these parts to return the floor to its normal position within the show-window inclosure, guides extending downwardly from the lower part of the show-window inclosure into the 45 open space below between which this platform-frame travels during its movements and which are so spaced as to permit between them the lateral removal of the floor mentioned and resting on said platform, which 50 latter remains in guiding contact with and between said guides and means to hold the parts in their raised position.

3. The combination with a show-window inclosure being open below, of a floor for this 55 inclosure which normally closes this opening therein, a combined platform and frame 22 upon which this floor rests in a manner to be free for lateral removal therefrom, said platform-frame being capable of a descending 60 movement, a pit to receive this platform-frame to permit its descent to a depth bringing the show-window floor to a level with the stationary floor surrounding the top of the pit to permit such show-window floor to be lat- 65 erally moved off and on from such platform, supports 33 bridging the clearance between the platform-frame and the edge of the pit when the former is in its lowest position, means for raising these parts to return the 70 floor to its normal position within the show-window inclosure, guides between which this platform-frame travels during its movements and means to hold the parts in their raised position. 75

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

HAMILTON HUNTER.

Witnesses:

C. SPENGEL,
ARTHUR KLINE.