

No. 737,860.

PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1903.

J. D. NIFONG.
OFFICE DOOR INDICATOR.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 4, 1903.

NO MODEL.

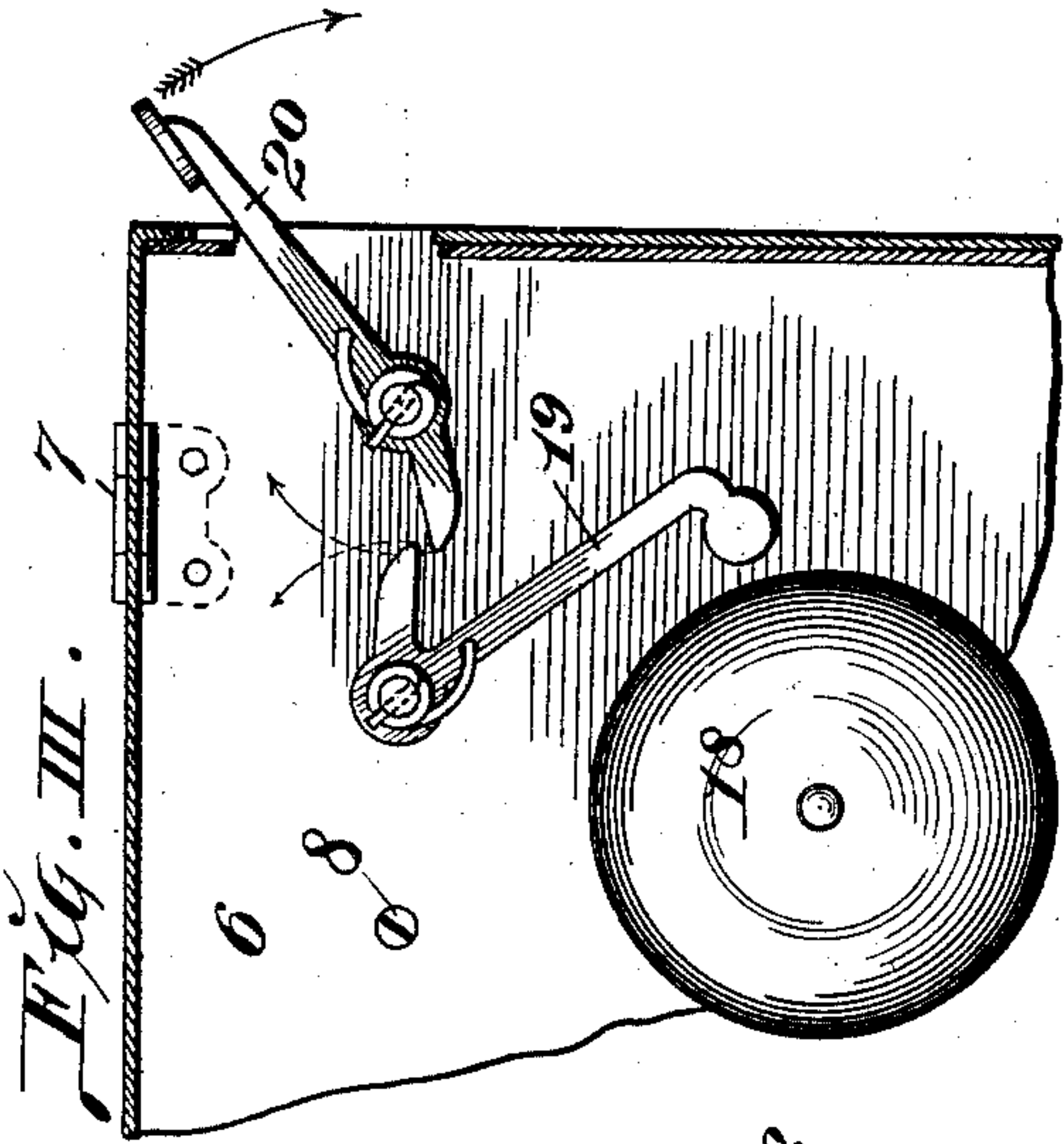


Fig. III.

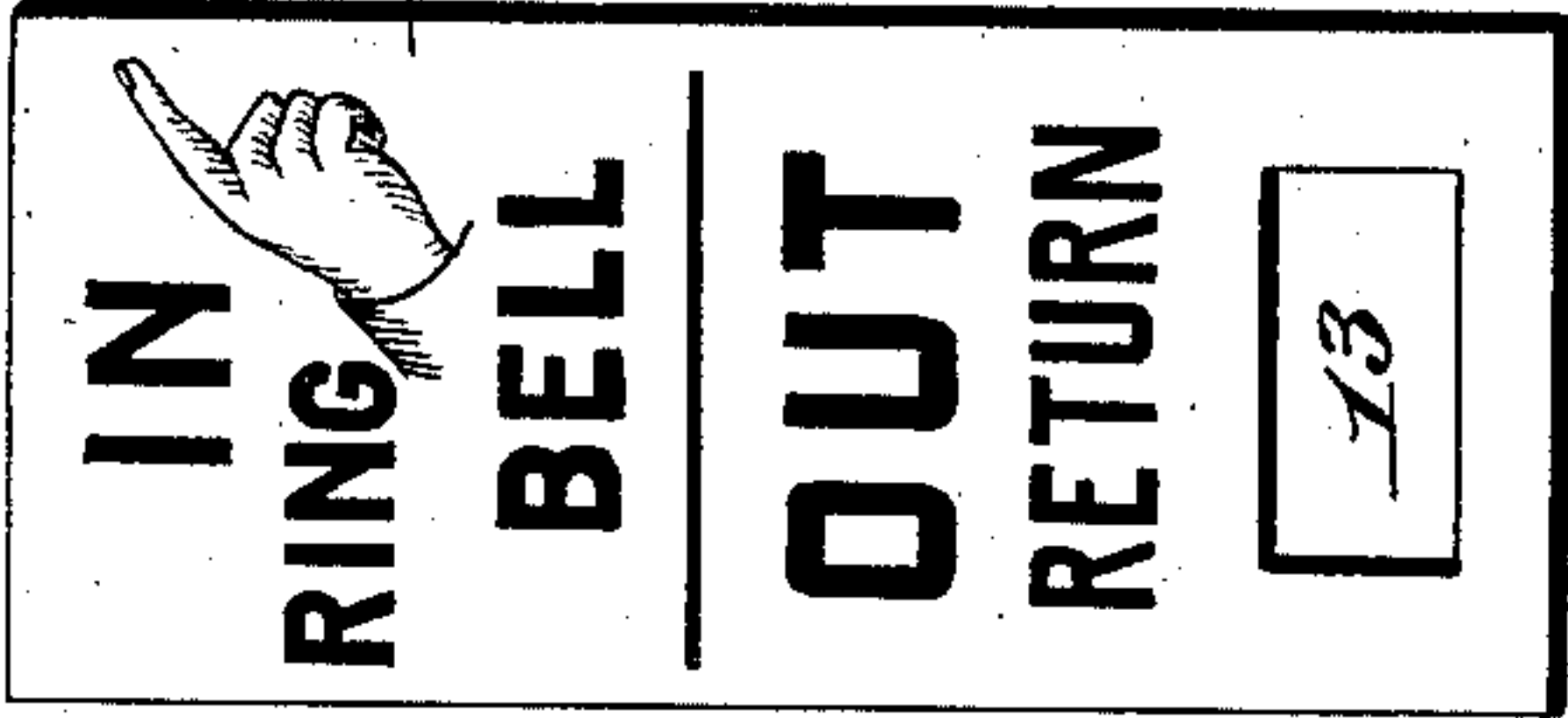
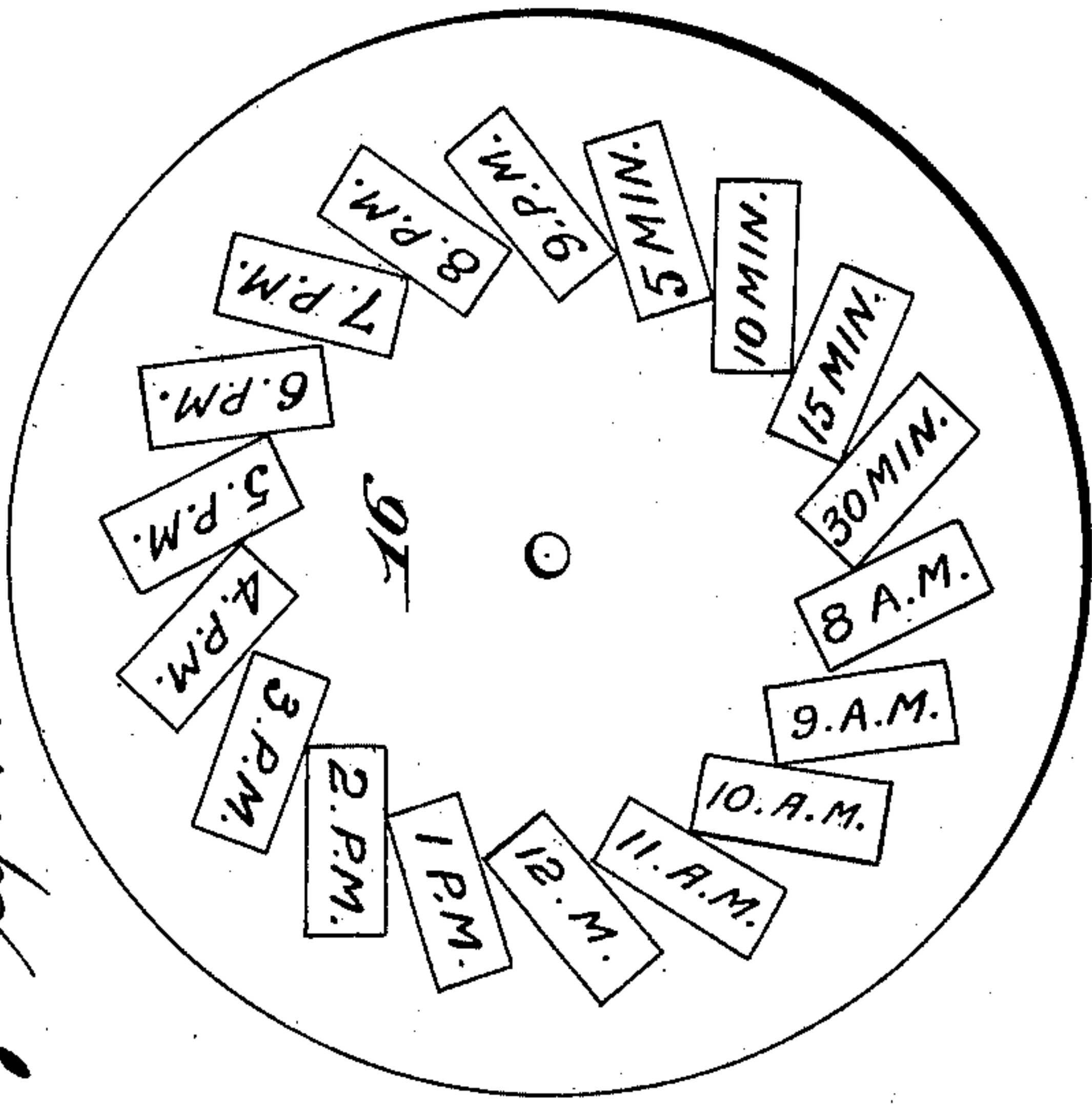


Fig. II.

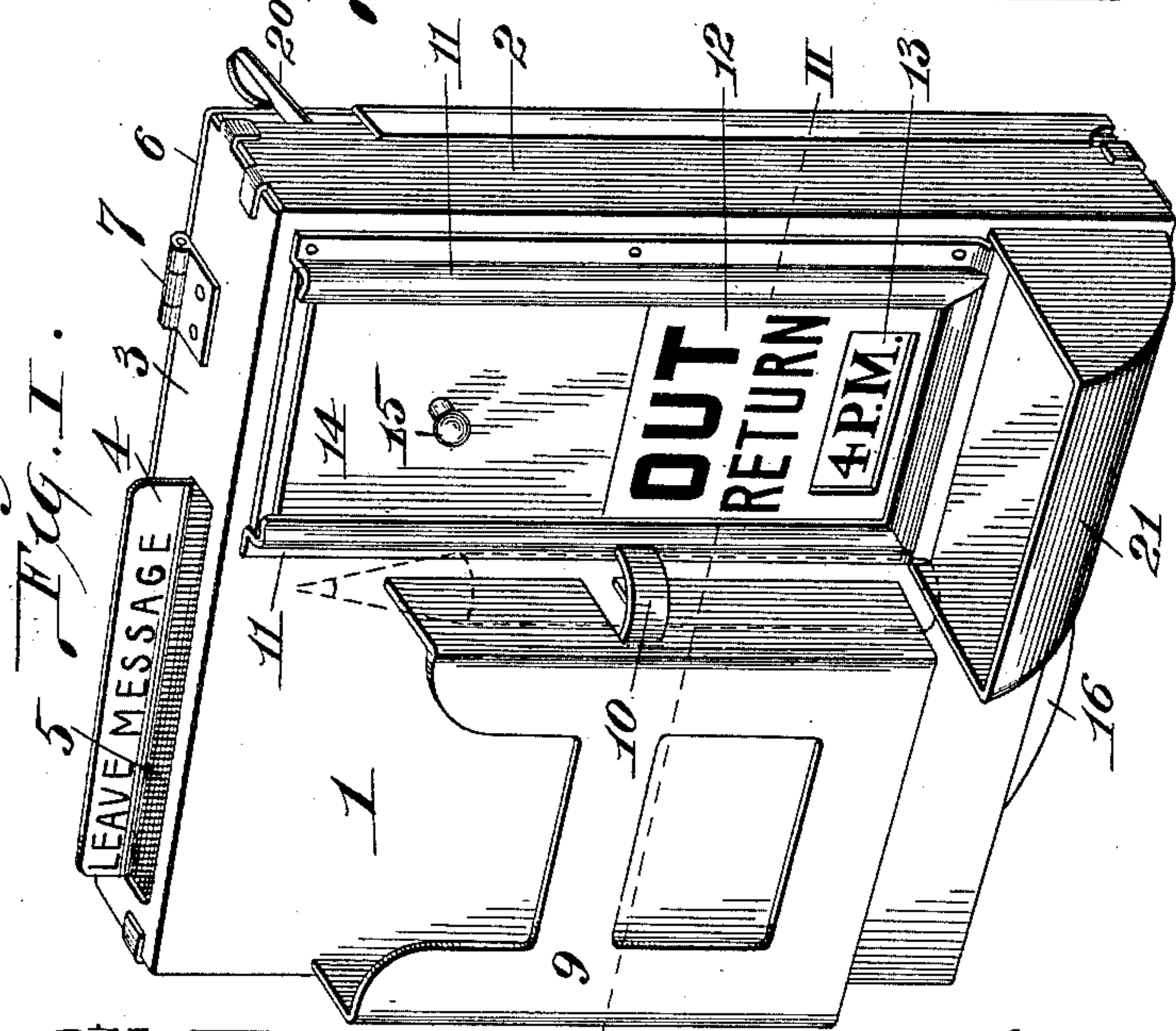
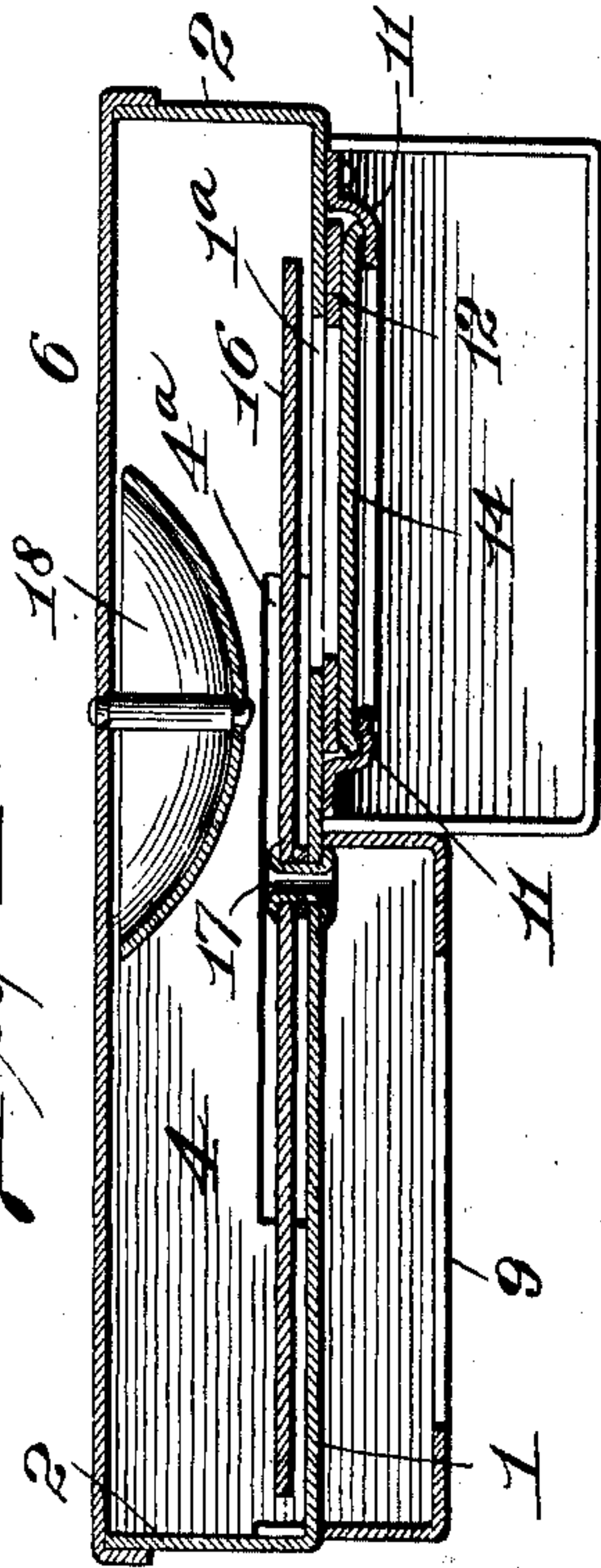


Fig. I.

Fig. II.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JEFFERSON D. NIFONG, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

OFFICE-DOOR INDICATOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 737,860, dated September 1, 1903.

Application filed February 4, 1903. Serial No. 141,812. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JEFFERSON D. NIFONG, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, have
 5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Office-Door Indicators, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.
 10 My invention relates to an indicator for application to the door of an office to furnish information to callers concerning the presence or absence of the occupant of the office and the time of return if absent.

15 The invention consists in features of novelty hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

Figure I is a perspective view of my indicator. Fig. II is a horizontal section taken
 20 on line II II, Fig. I. Fig. III is a vertical section showing a portion of the rear wall of the indicator-box and a bell mounted thereon in elevation. Fig. IV is a face view of the announcement-card located at the front of the
 25 indicator-box. Fig. V is a face view of the return-announcement disk.

1 designates a box which constitutes the main body of my indicator and is formed with rearwardly-projecting side walls 2 and top
 30 and bottom walls 3 and 4. A portion of the top wall 3 is cut out and bent upwardly in the form of a tongue 4, that bears the words "Leave message" or words of similar import. The cutting out of the tongue 4 provides an
 35 aperture 5 through which messages may be dropped into the interior of the box to be collected by the occupant of the office on his return after an absence.

6 is the rear wall of the box, which is connected to the top wall 3 by hinges 7, so that
 40 the box may be swung away from its rear wall to open it, while the rear wall remains in a fixed position against the door, to which it is connected by suitable means, such as screws,
 45 as indicated at 8, Fig. III.

9 designates a pocket mounted on the front wall of the indicator-box 1 to hold slips of paper or cards for the use of callers to write
 50 messages to be dropped into the box, and projecting from one side of said pocket is a

tongue 10 to receive a pencil, as indicated by dotted lines, Fig. I.

11 designates flanged strips secured to the front wall of the indicator-box and within which is confined an announcement-card 12
 55 bearing the words "In—ring bell" and "Out—return" or words of similar import. Beneath the words indicating that the occupant of the office is out and will return is an orifice 13.

14 is a slide provided with a knob 15 and
 60 seated within the flanged strips 11 in front of the announcement-card 12, said slide being adapted to be moved within said strips to cover either the portion of the announcement-card bearing indication of the presence of
 65 the occupant of the office or his absence and to expose the other portion of said card.

16 designates a return-announcement disk bearing a plurality of time indications, as
 70 seen in Fig. V. This disk is centrally mounted back of the front wall of the indicator-box, being rotatively supported by a pivot 17. (See Fig. II.) The time indications on the disk 16 are so positioned thereon as to
 75 traverse the orifice 13 in the announcement-card 12, a corresponding orifice 1^a being cut through the front wall of the indicator-box at the location of the orifice in the announcement-card. The announcement-disk 16 pro-
 80 jects through a slot 4^a in the bottom wall of the box, (see Fig. II,) so as to project beneath the box, as seen in Fig. I, to be engaged by a person's fingers for the purpose
 85 of rotating the disk 16 to bring indication on said disk indicating the time the occupant will return to a position back of the return-announcement portion of the card 12 when
 90 said return-announcement is exposed.

18 designates a gong mounted on the rear wall 6 of the indicator-box and adapted to be
 95 struck by a spring-controlled hammer 19, to be engaged by a spring-controlled finger-lever 20, the outer end of which projects through a slot in the indicator-box, as seen in Figs. I and III, to be engaged by the fin-
 100 gers of the caller to sound the gong 18 and announce his presence to the occupant of the office in accordance with the instructions borne by the announcement-card 12, indicating that the occupant of the office is in.

21 designates a receptacle mounted on the front of the indicator-box for the reception of matches or other small articles that the owner of the indicator may care to furnish for the accommodation of callers.

I claim as my invention—

1. In an office-indicator, the combination of a box, an announcement-card stationarily positioned at the front of said box and provided with an orifice, and a return-announcement disk rotatively mounted within said box and bearing indications that traverse the orifice in said announcement-card, substantially as set forth.

2. In an office-indicator, the combination of a box, an announcement-card positioned at the front of said box and provided with an

orifice, a slide for covering a portion of said card and disclosing its remainder, a rotatable disk bearing time indications and adapted to traverse the orifice in said card, substantially as set forth.

3. In an office-indicator, the combination of a box, flanged strips mounted upon the face of said box, an announcement-card positioned within said flanged strips, and a slide movably mounted within said flanged strips to cover a portion of said announcement-card and disclose its remainder, substantially as set forth.

JEFFERSON D. NIFONG.

In presence of—

E. S. KNIGHT,
M. P. SMITH.