

No. 753,098.

PATENTED FEB. 23, 1904.

W. C. PARSELLS.
AMUSEMENT DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

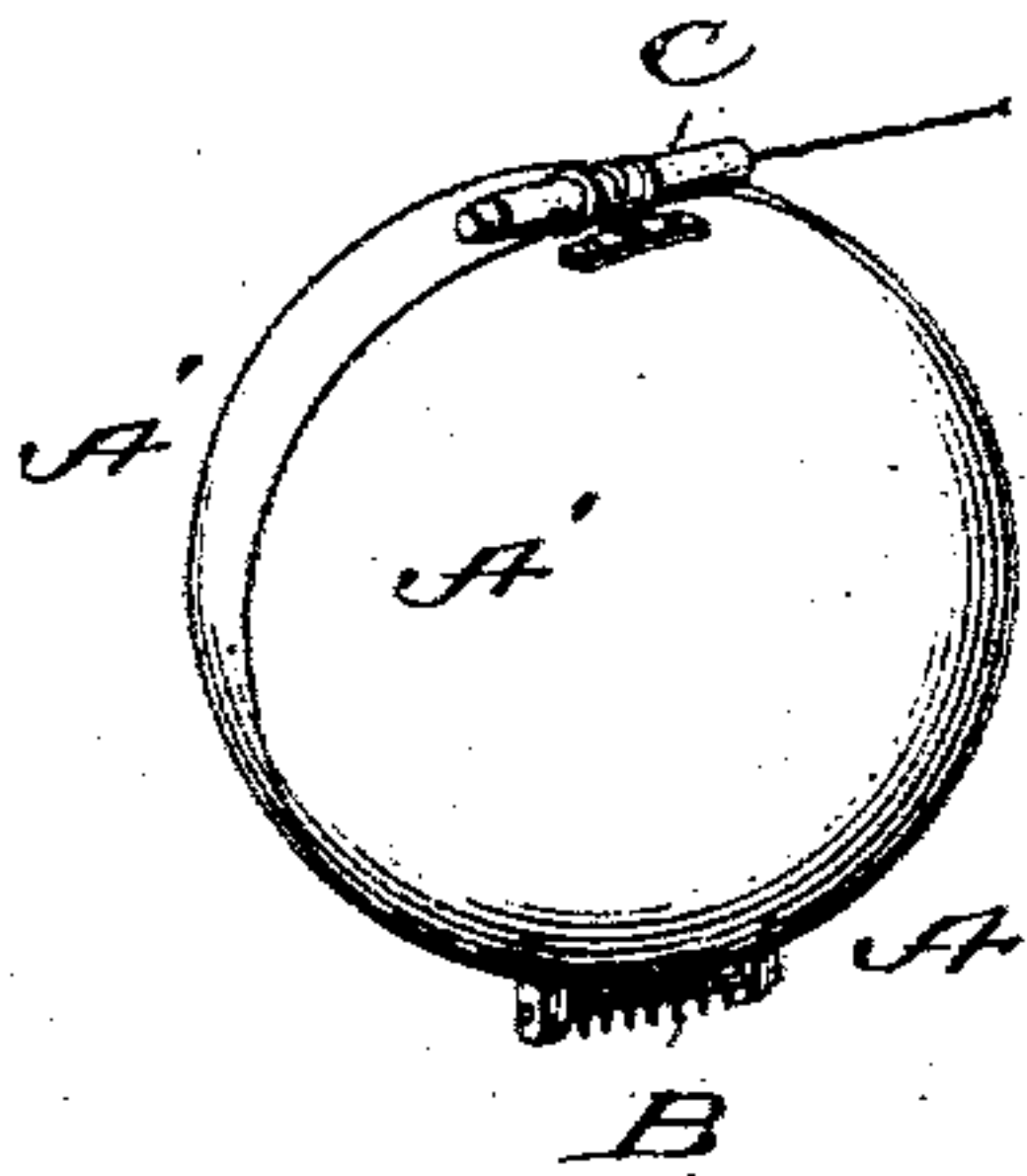


Fig. 2.

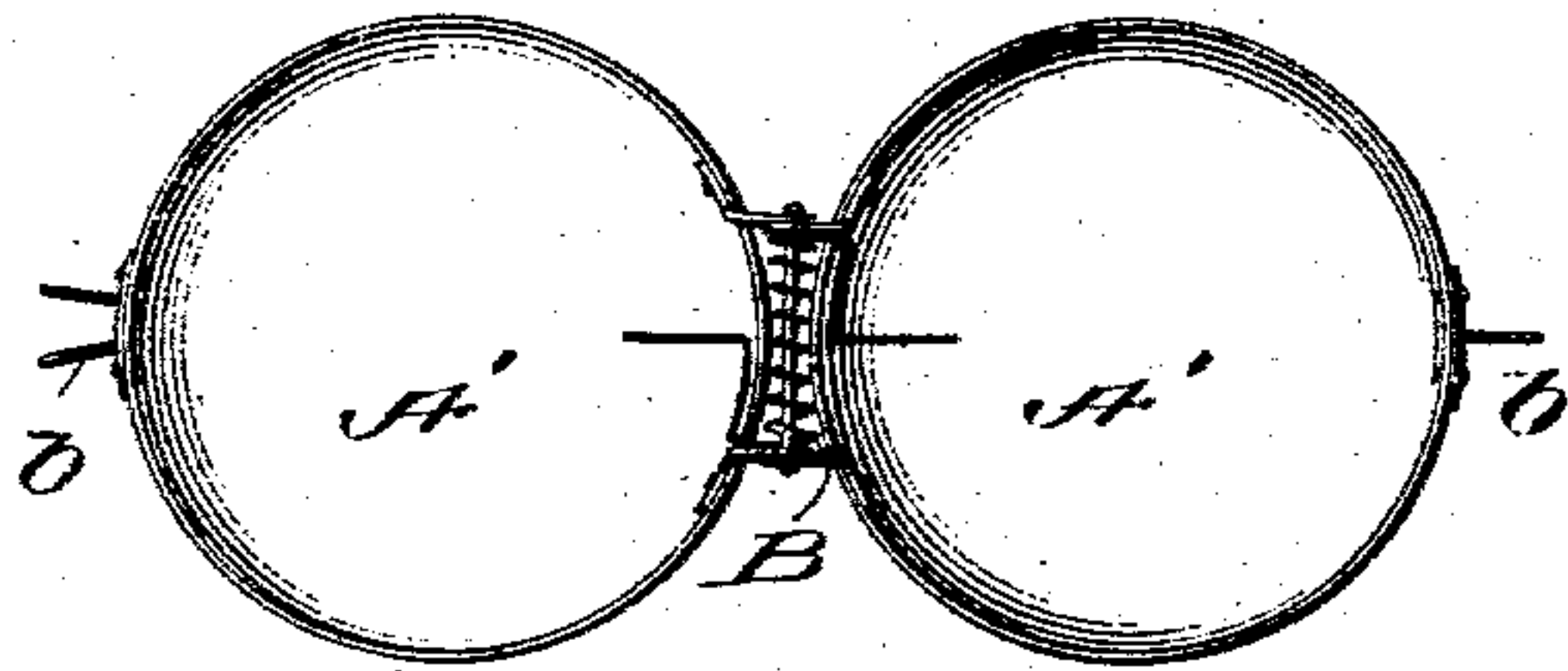


Fig. 3.

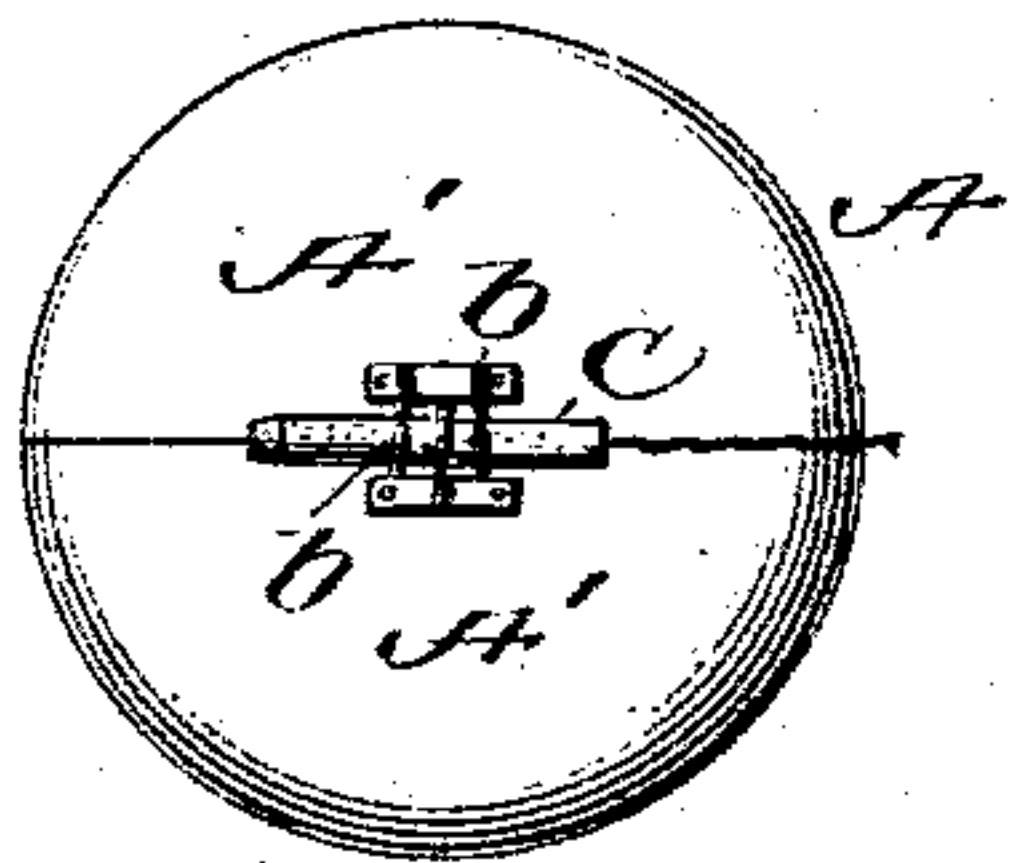


Fig. 4.

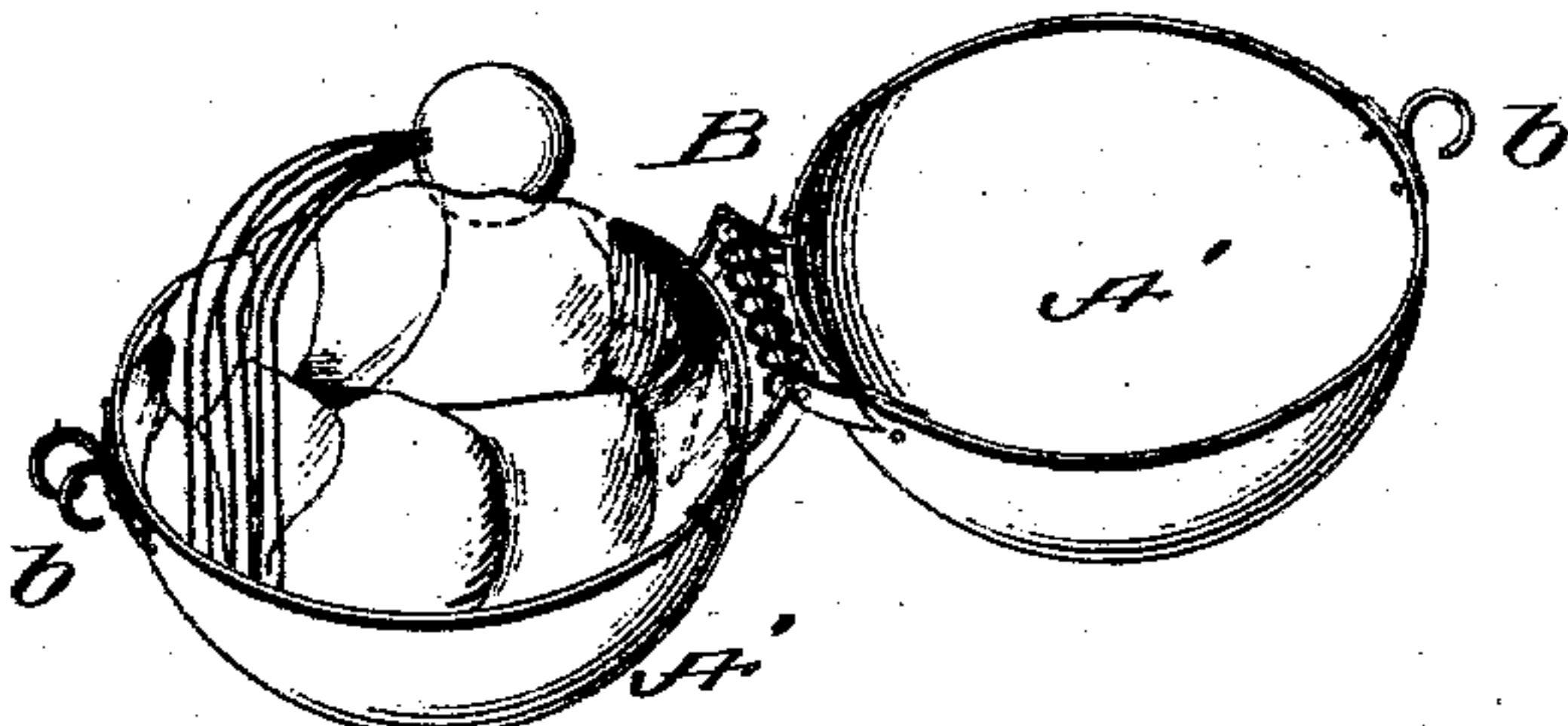


Fig. 5.

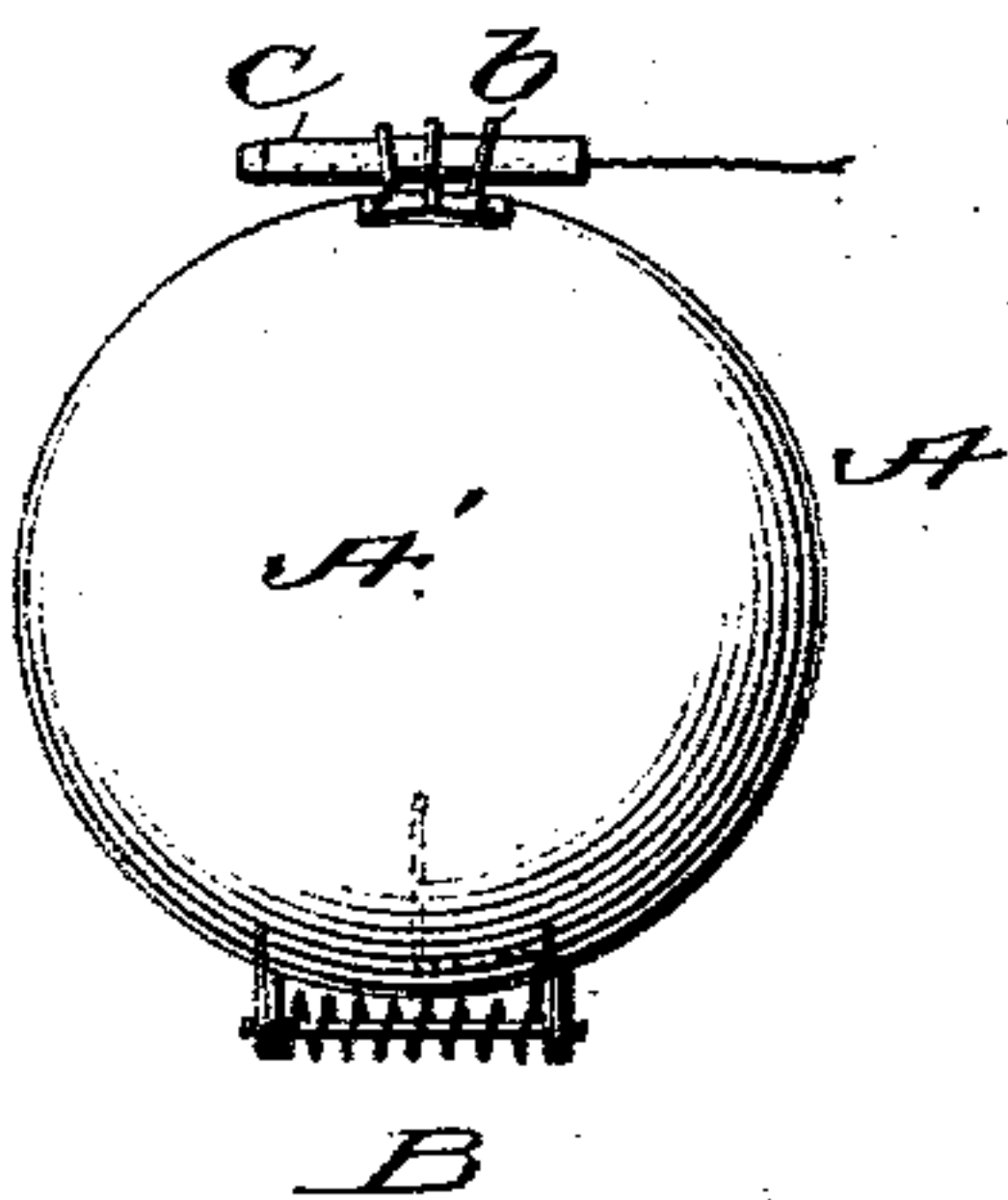
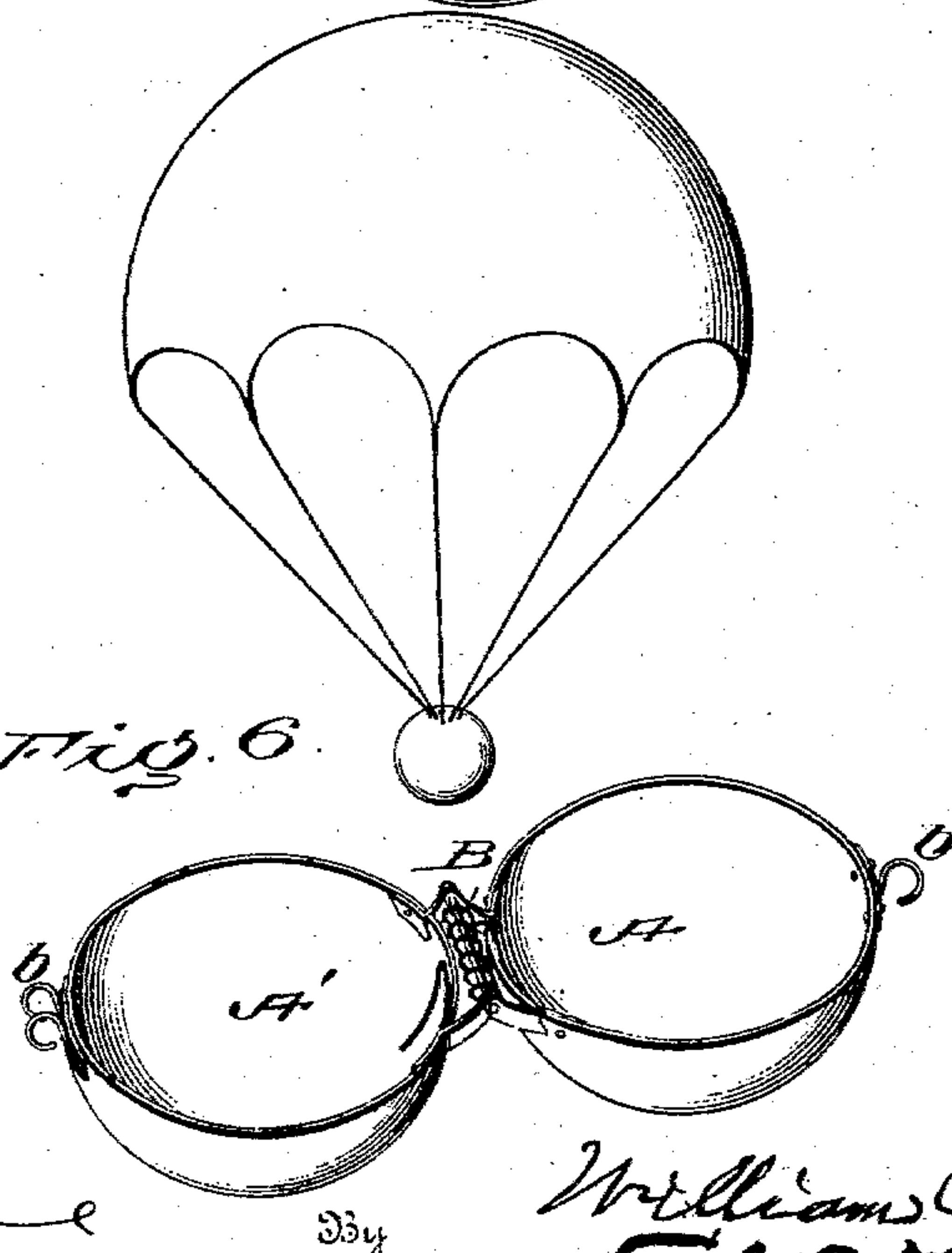


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

John M. ...
James ...

Inventor

William C. Parsells
E. M. Marble
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. PARSELLS, OF ELLENVILLE, NEW YORK.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 753,098, dated February 23, 1904.

Application filed February 7, 1903. Serial No. 142,420. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. PARSELLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ellen-ville, New York, have invented new and use-
ful Improvements in Parachutes and Casings Therefor, of which the following is a specifi-
cation.

My invention relates to parachutes and cas-ings therefor; and it consists in a parachute-
casing formed in sections and provided with
improved means whereby the casing may be
opened automatically and in a parachute
adapted to be located within said casing, but
entirely disconnected therefrom and provided
with means independent of the casing for
causing the parachute to open when the cas-
ing opens and falls away from said parachute.

The objects of my invention are to permit
the easy projection of the parachute and cas-
ing to a relatively great height, to cause the
parachute to remain in suspension in the air
when released for a relatively long period,
and to improve and simplify means for auto-
matically opening such casings.

While the parachute and casing herein de-
scribed are primarily intended as an amuse-
ment device or toy, they are not restricted to
such use.

The herein-described parachute and casing
comprises the following parts: First, a hollow
two-part shell or ball of the general construc-
tion hereinafter described and illustrated in
the accompanying drawings provided with
means for readily and quickly closing the
parts of it together in operative condition;
second, other means for automatically and in-
stantly opening it at a predetermined or de-
sired time by a time-fuse or other equivalent
device and a spring; third, a parachute of
suitable material, preferably paper, of a suit-
able diameter and length, with strings of suit-
able length, the parachute being so weighted
that all parts may be conveniently folded and
placed within the shell or ball before men-
tioned. The shell or ball may when filled
with the parachute be of such size and weight
that a child or youth can by hand throw it
to a reasonable height in the air, as, primarily,
it is intended to be thrown by hand, although

it may be elevated to a greater height than by
throwing by hand by mechanical devices. It
is of primary importance that the parachute
may be made of such material that when the
shell or ball is opened by the means provided
and hereinafter described it shall immediately
commence to fill with air and as the shell or
ball drops down float away and finally reach
the earth, the shell or ball in the meantime
having dropped to the earth not far from the
spot where it was thrown into the air by hand
or mechanical device, and thus easily recov-
erable for use again, if desired.

Various means and methods have been de-
vised for elevating parachutes and other de-
vices in the air for amusement; but no one so
far as I have been able to find has devised or
suggested the means or methods hereinbefore
mentioned and which will be more fully de-
scribed in this specification.

My invention will be hereinafter more par-
ticularly described in connection with the ac-
companying drawings, forming part of my ap-
plication for a patent, in which—

Figure 1 represents in perspective a two-
part shell or ball such as I contemplate using,
showing indistinctly a spring-hinge at the bot-
tom connecting the parts of the ball, the fric-
tion clips or catches at the top constructed so
as to interlock and to include a time-fuse or
equivalent device for opening the shell or ball
at the desired time. Fig. 2 represents a two-
part shell or ball thrown open and showing
the spring-hinge at the bottom and the clips
or catches for interlocking the parts at the
top and inclosing the time-fuse for opening
the shell. Fig. 3 represents a top plan view
of the shell or ball with friction-clips engag-
ing and inclosing a time-fuse. Fig. 4 repre-
sents a two-part shell or ball just thrown open,
showing the parachute lying loosely in one
part, the hinge connecting the parts together
at the bottom, with friction-clips on the outer
peripheries to engage when the shell is closed
and hold the same together. Fig. 5 repre-
sents a top view of the shell or ball, the top
being inclined forward to show the clips or
catches and the manner of inclosing the time-
fuse more clearly. Fig. 6 represents the shell

or ball thrown open and the parachute floating away, while the open shell is falling to the ground.

In the drawings similar letters refer to the same parts throughout the several figures.

A is a hollow shell or ball closed (shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 5) and provided with a time-fuse or equivalent device, such as a fire-cracker, for disengaging the clips or catches when it explodes, thus allowing the spring-hinge to throw open the shell or ball and permit the parachute therein to fill with air and float away.

A' A' are subparts of the shell or ball A hinged together, said hinge being provided with a coil-spring B to throw said parts A' A' open when the clips or catches *b b* are released. Instead of a coil-spring B flat steel springs or rubber springs may be used. I prefer, however, to use coil-springs like B.

The clips or catches *b b* are best shown in Figs. 3 and 5 closed and holding a time-fuse or other explosive in place to be lighted when the ball is thrown. These clips are outward-turned metal hooks, flat or round and securely fastened to the parts A' A' in such a manner as to frictionally engage when the shell or ball is closed, two of said clips or catches *b b* being on one part of A' and one clip *b* on the other part, A', and so arranged that when brought together the single clip *b* on one part will fall between the two clips *b b* on the opposite part and form a loop for the fuse C, which fuse being placed in said loop locks the parts together.

The use and operation of said amusement device or toy, hereinbefore described and shown in the drawings, will be substantially as follows: The parachute being in the shell or ball, as indicated in Fig. 3, the ball is to be thrown up by hand, either the naked hand or with a sling or by a mechanical device, such as a clay-pigeon trap. When the shell or ball has reached its time limit or distance limit, which was predetermined, the fuse—a fire-cracker or equivalent device—will explode, releasing the clips or catches *b b*, and the spring B in the hinge will then throw open the parts A' A', as shown in Figs. 2, 4, and 6, thereby releasing the parachute, as shown in Fig. 4, and said parts A' A' being heavier than the parachute will fall away from it, permitting the parachute to fill with air and float away, as shown in Fig. 6, and thus the flight of the parachute will commence and the work of the toy be finished. In order that the parachute may be filled with air quickly, I weight the lower part thereof with some suitable weight, such as a playing-marble one inch in diameter; but I do not confine myself to any particular kind of weights. Dolls or miniature animals or the like may be used for weighting the parachutes.

The shell or ball herein described and illus-

trated may be made of thin sheet-steel spun up into the shape shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 5 in two parts, or it may be made or cast from paper or rubber. These shells may be made of any desired diameter, (the parachute being of corresponding length and breadth,) according to the age of the user. A shell or ball three and one-half inches in diameter will inclose a paper parachute about thirty inches in diameter; but the shells may be made of greater or less diameter than three and one-half inches and the parachutes of correspondingly greater or less diameters and lengths.

I do not limit my invention to shells or balls divided on a median line, as I contemplate making shells or balls in which the parts shall be unequal in depth and diameter, one part being simply a segment of the other part, and I consider such construction as within my invention.

Having thus described my invention, as well as the use and operation of the same, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a parachute having a weight for automatically opening it, of a sectional casing for containing said parachute and weight, said casing entirely disconnected from the parachute and provided with means normally holding its sections together to inclose the parachute, and with automatic means for opening said casing.

2. The combination, with a parachute having a weight for automatically opening it, of a sectional casing for containing said parachute and weight, said casing entirely disconnected from the parachute and provided with means normally holding its sections together to inclose the parachute, and a fuse for automatically opening said casing.

3. The combination, with a parachute having a weight for automatically opening it, of a sectional casing for containing the parachute provided with a clasp, for holding the sections together, said clasp adapted to contain a fuse located entirely without the casing, and arranged to be opened by the destruction of such fuse.

4. The combination, with a parachute having a weight for automatically opening it, of a sectional casing for containing the parachute provided with a clasp, comprising registering loops adapted to receive a fuse and arranged to cause said fuse to act as a pin to hold the sections together.

In testimony whereof I, WILLIAM C. PARSELLS, have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 2d day of February, 1903.

WILLIAM C. PARSELLS.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM FRED VON HOENE,
ALBERT A. WEBB.