

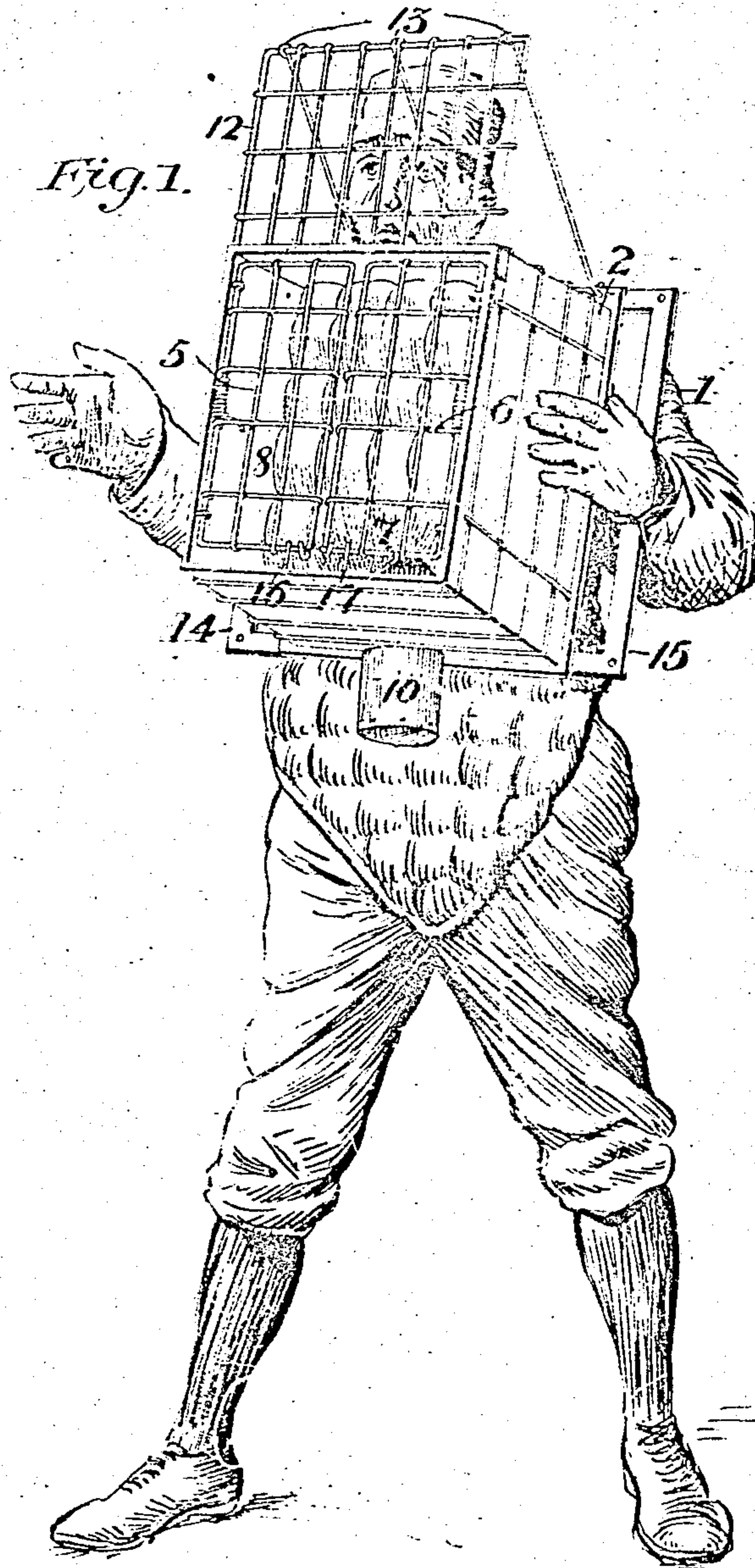
No. 755,209.

PATENTED MAR. 22, 1904.

J. E. BENNETT.
BASE BALL CATCHER.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 12, 1903.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses
H. I. Roden
B. F. Gray.

Inventor
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No. 755,209.

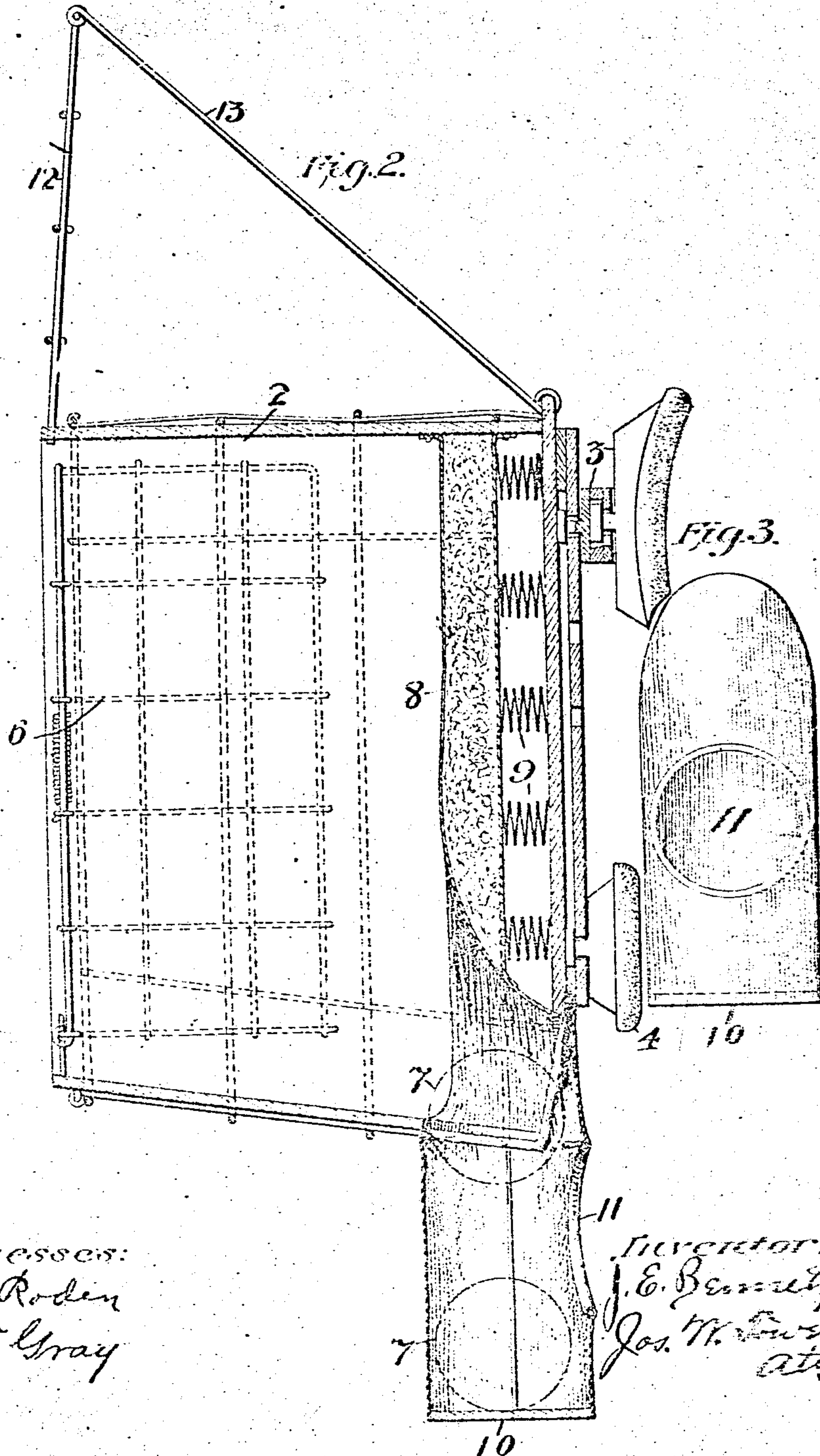
PATENTED MAR. 22, 1904.

J. E. BENNETT.
BASE BALL CATCHER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 19, 1903

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



No. 755,299.

PATENTED MAR. 22, 1904.

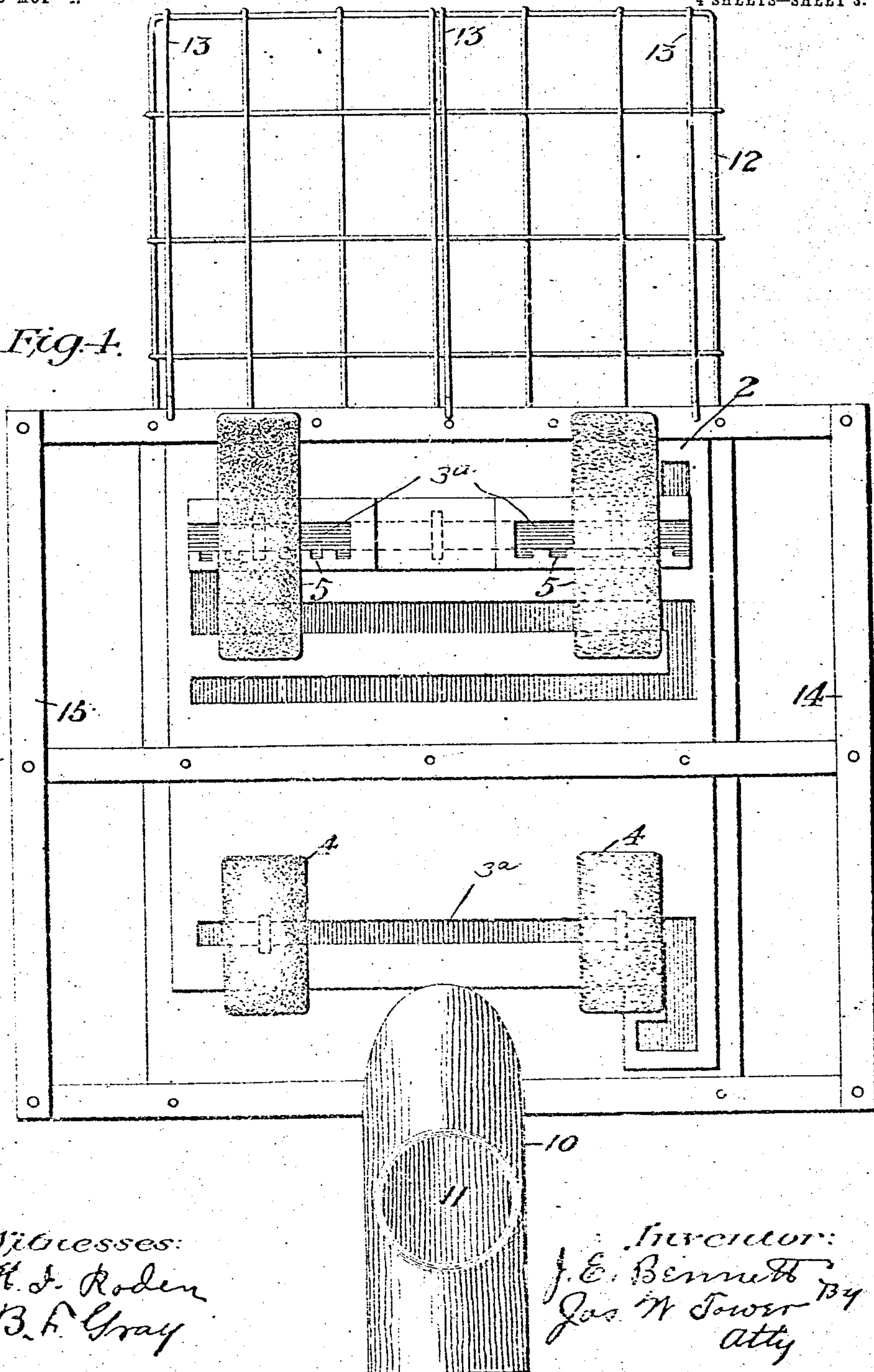
J. E. BENNETT.
BASE BALL CATCHER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 19, 1903.

NO MOP

4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.



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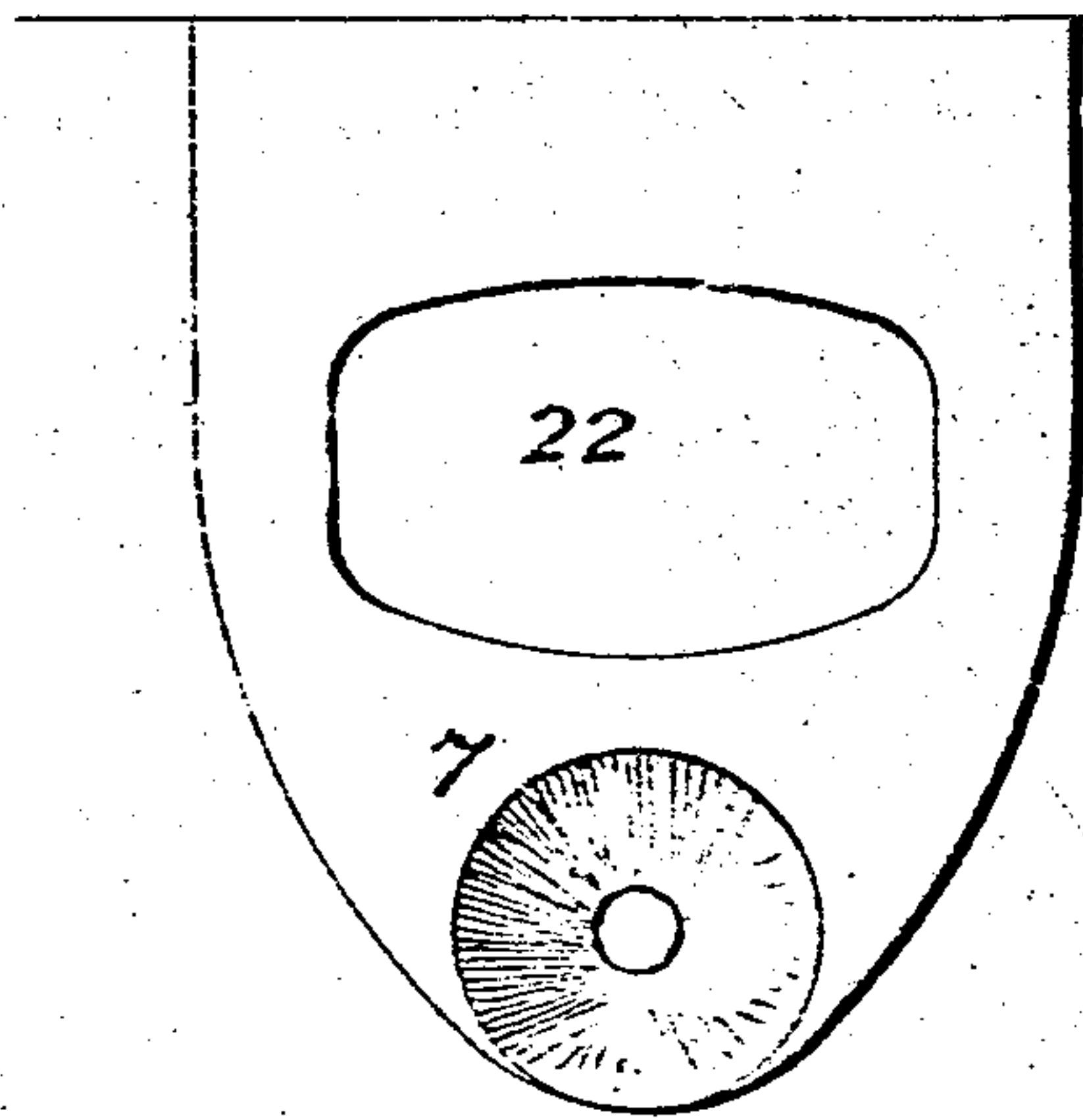
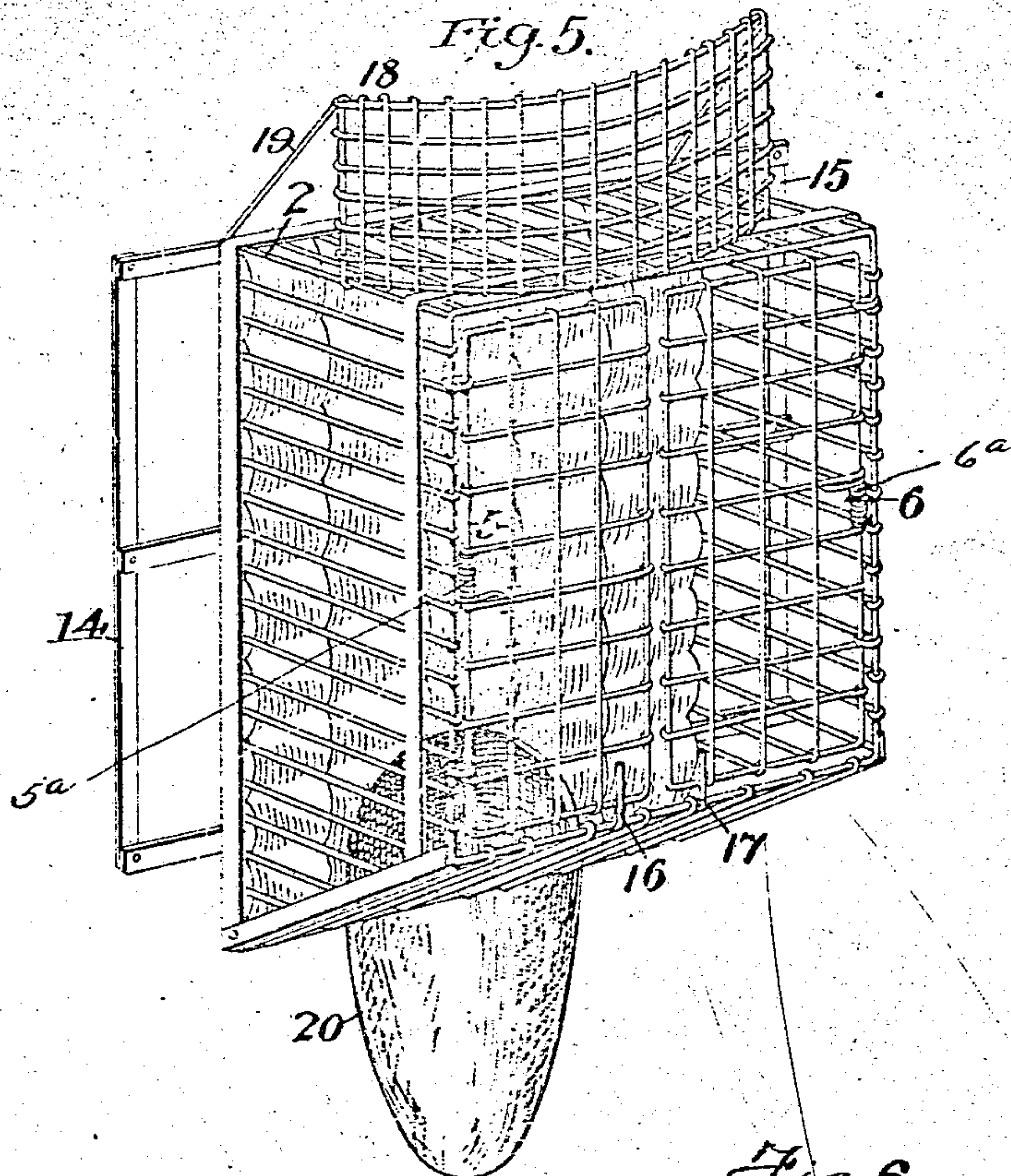
PATENTED MAR. 22, 1904.

J. E. BENNETT.
BASE BALL CATCHER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1903.

NO MODEL.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES E. BENNETT, OF MOMENCE, ILLINOIS.

BASE-BALL CATCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 755,209, dated March 22, 1904.

Application filed February 18 1903. Serial No. 144,019. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES EDWARD BENNETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Momence, in the county of Kankakee and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Base-Ball Catcher, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in devices to be used by catchers and other players which will protect the hands, the same being so constructed as to receive and retain the ball without the players' hands coming in contact therewith.

Other objects and advantages will appear in the following description and claims.

In the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals of reference indicate like parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the present invention, the same being shown in position for receiving or catching the ball. Fig. 2 is a central vertical sectional view thereof removed from the player. Fig. 3 is a back view of the pocket employed in connection with the same. Fig. 4 is a view in rear elevation of the device. Fig. 5 is a view in perspective, showing a slightly-modified construction. Fig. 6 is an elevation of the modified form of ball-receiving pocket.

The present invention comprises an approximately rectangular open-wire frame body portion. (Shown in Fig. 5.) This frame can be reinforced by slotted walls of wood or like material, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. Slidably mounted in suitable guides 3^a, secured to the rear of the frame, are the shoulder and hip braces 3 and 4, respectively, the same being adjustable in order to accommodate the attachment to different players.

5 and 6 indicate doors which close the forward end of the frame, these doors being hinged to the forward ends of the side walls and being capable of inward movement. As these doors are moved inward by the impact of a ball and the same has passed into the interior of my improvement the doors are re-

turned to their normal positions by springs 5^a and 6^a, respectively, and are prevented from outward movement by the stops 16 and 17, formed by upturned wires, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 5.

8 represents a packing or cushion between which and the rear wall of the frame are interposed springs 9, which when the ball strikes the cushion contract, thereby overcoming the shock which would otherwise be produced. Directly beneath the cushion I form an opening in the bottom wall of the frame, whereby after the speed of the ball has been broken the same will pass into a pocket 7, from which it can be readily removed by the player through the hand-hole 11.

12 indicates a wire structure which is preferably secured to the upper wall of the frame and extending a sufficient distance thereabove to prevent the ball striking the player, and in order to make this attachment firm and prevent any rearward movement thereof I provide the inclined braces 13.

In Fig. 5 I have shown a slightly-modified form of structure, the same being curved in cross-section in lieu of the straight form, as just described. This last-mentioned form is also braced from the rear, the brace-wire being in this form indicated by reference-numeral 19.

14 and 15 represent the handpieces or additional protecting means which are fastened to the back of the frame.

The pocket 20 (illustrated in Figs. 5 and 6) is similar to the pockets 10, the same, however, being of a slightly different configuration and lacking the flat bottom 10 of the first-mentioned form. The hand-opening 22 is also employed in connection with this form of pocket.

I claim—

1. A device for catching balls comprising a body having an open forward end, means for closing the same, yielding means for automatically operating said first-named means after the balls have passed into the body, a flexible means arranged in the body adapted to be en-

gaged by and give to the balls, and means whereby the player can hold the device in an elevated or operative position.

2. A device of the type set forth comprising a body portion having its forward end and bottom provided with openings, means for automatically closing the opening in the forward end of said body portion, and a depending

pocket communicating with the last-named opening, said pocket being provided in its side with an opening, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

JAMES E. BENNETT.

Witnesses:

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J. J. CLARKE.