

No. 781,586.

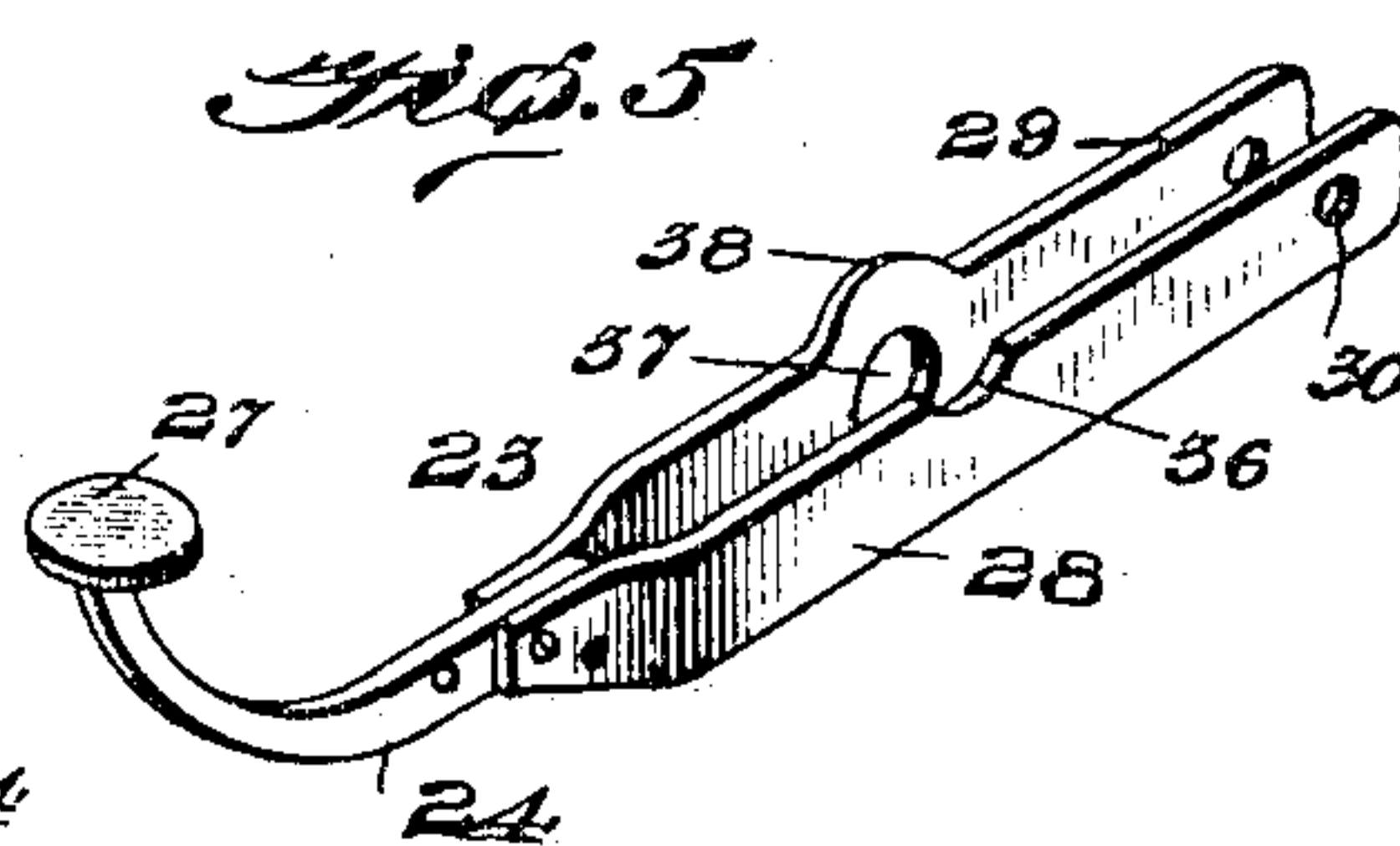
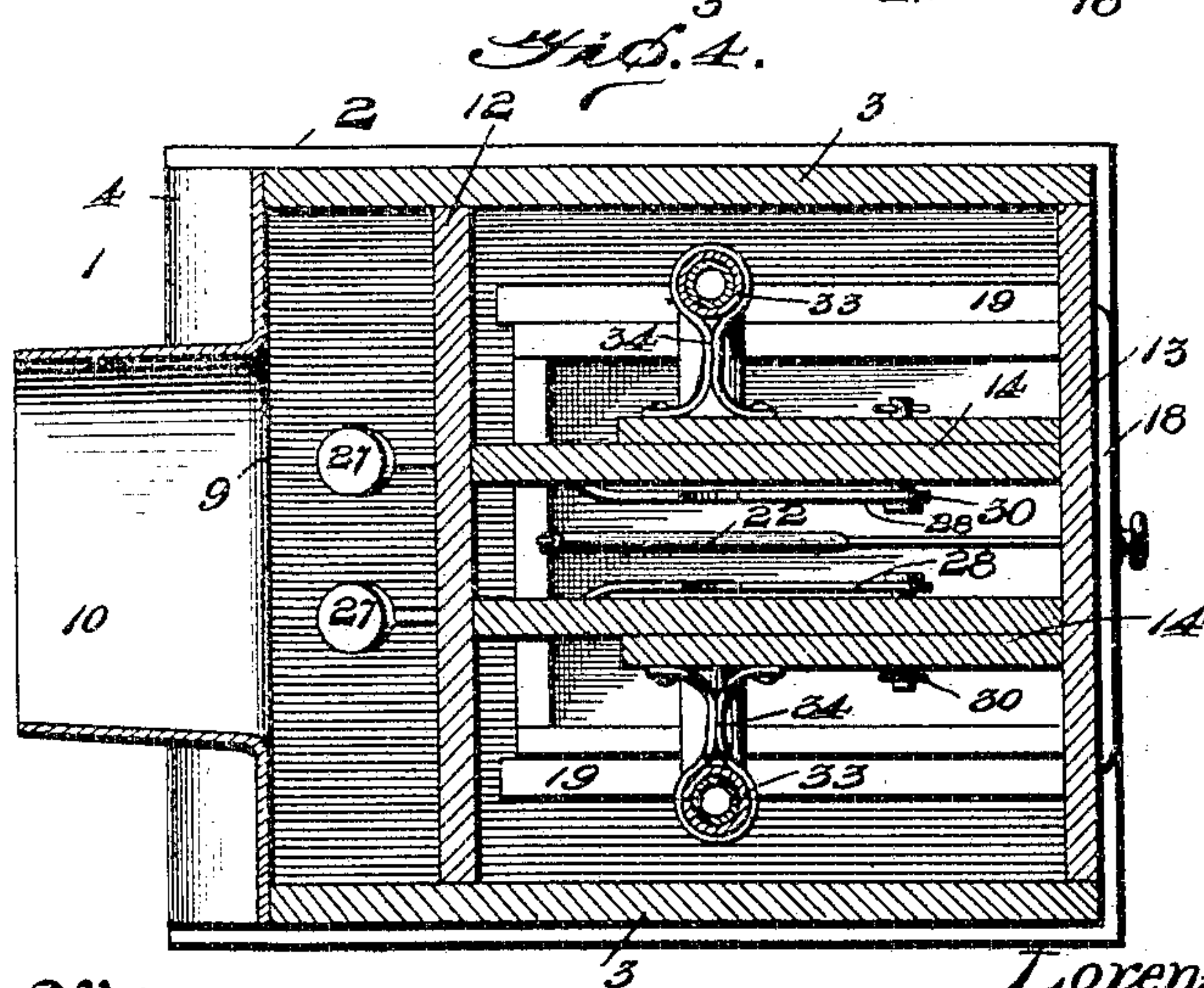
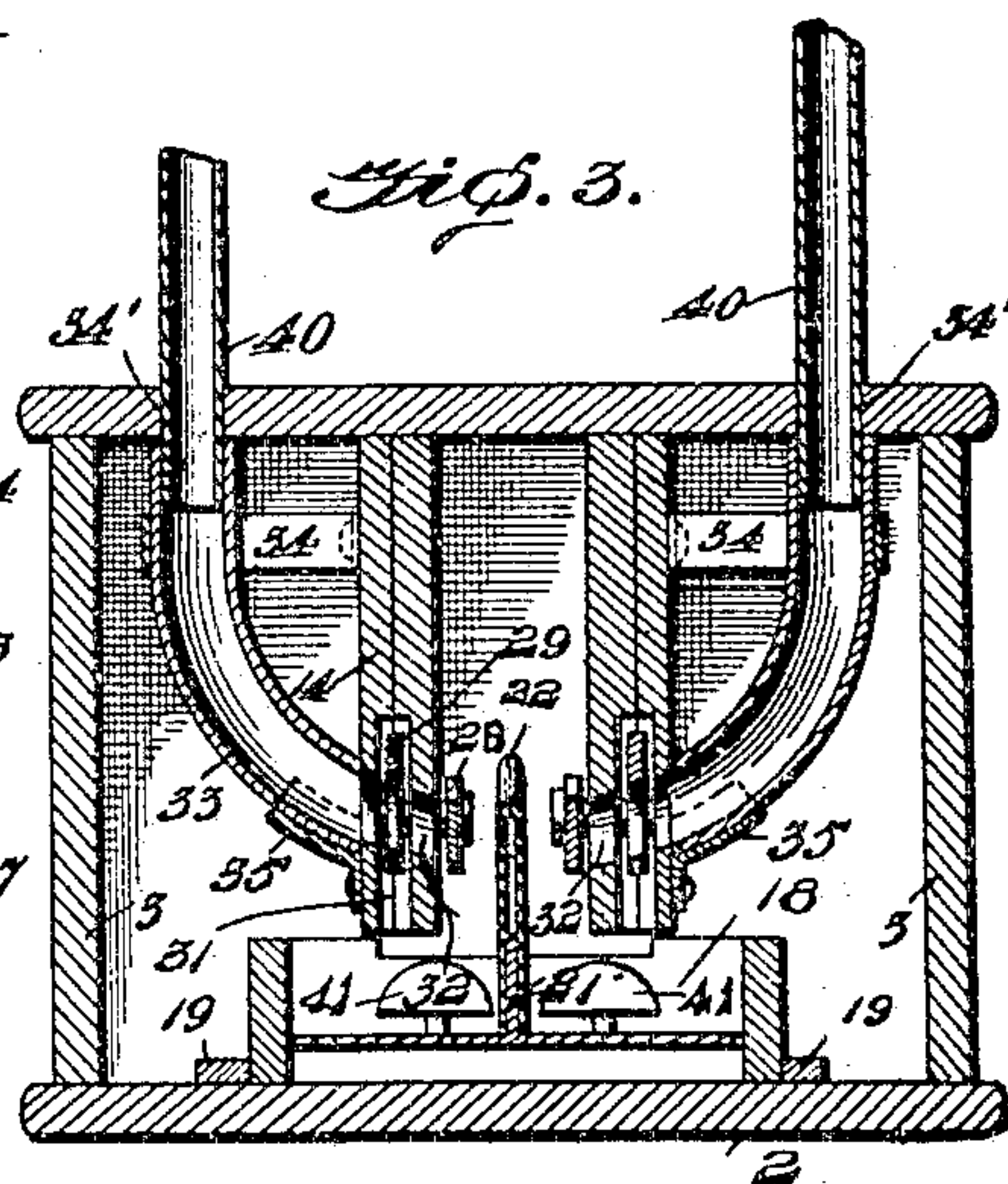
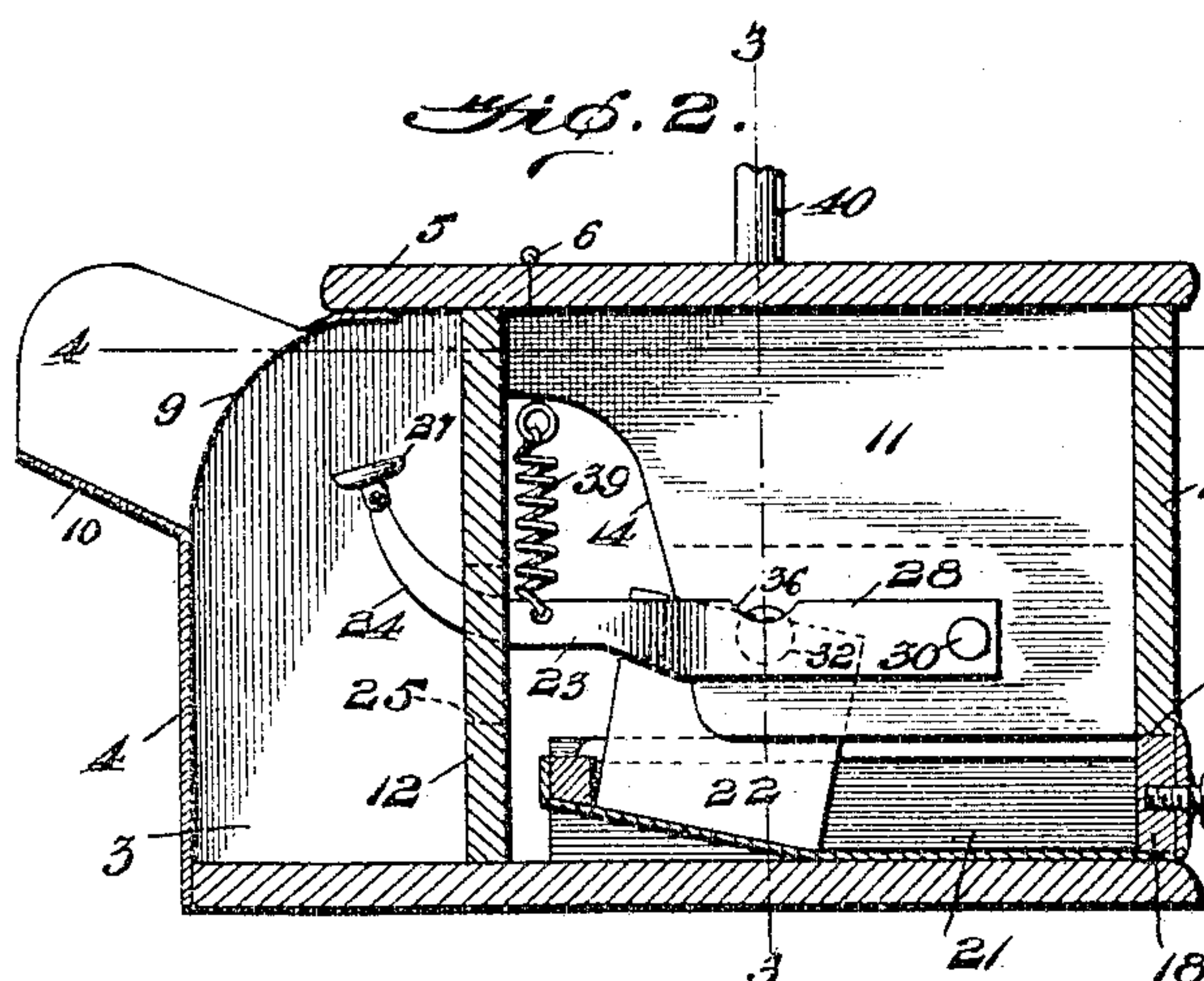
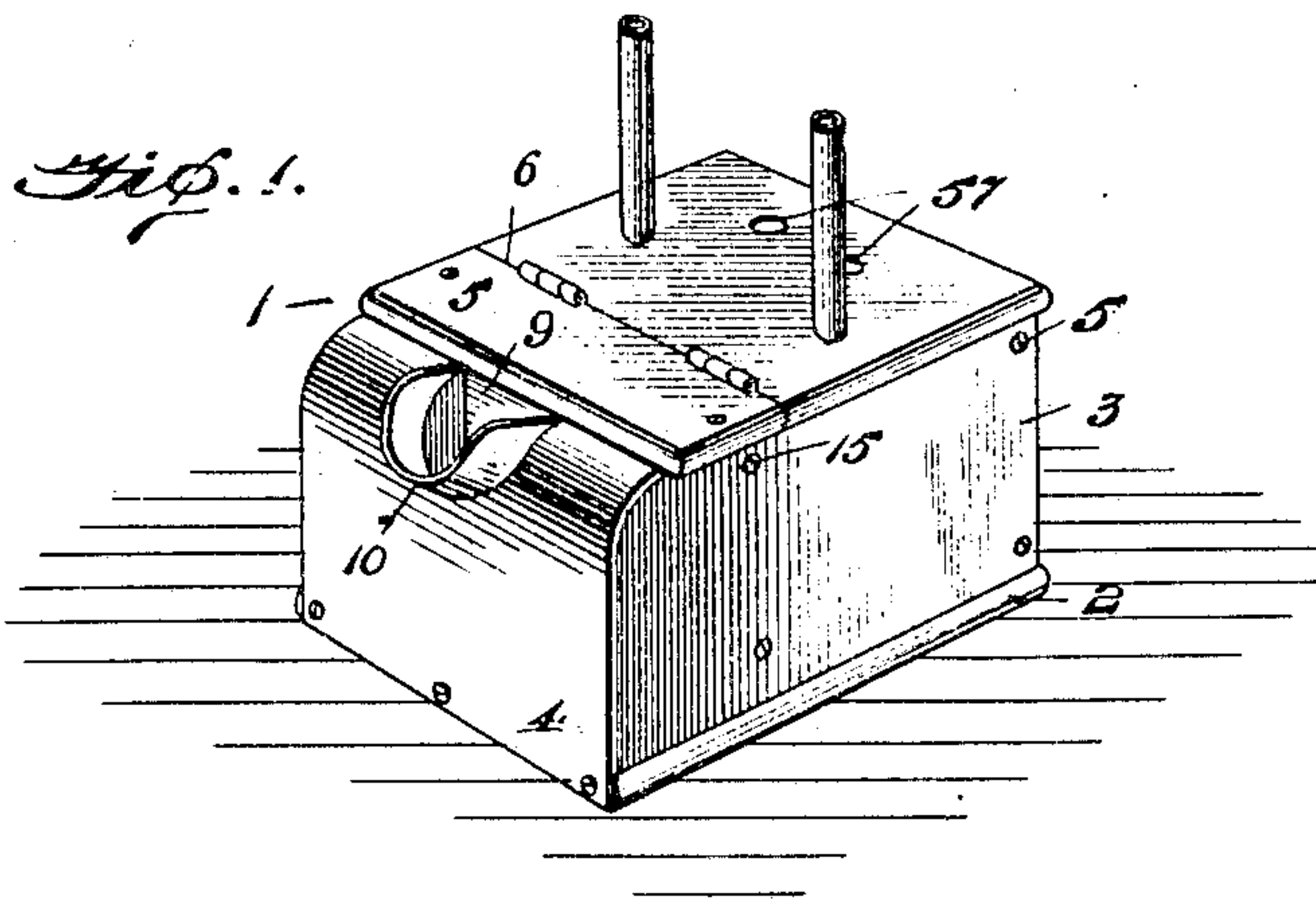
PATENTED JAN. 31, 1905.

L. F. & H. L. K. BIESEMEYER.

BALLOT BOX.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 17, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses
B. M. Offutt
C. H. Griesbauer.

Inventors
Lorenz F. Biesemeyer &
Henry L. K. Biesemeyer
by *A. B. Wilson*
Attorney

No. 781,586.

PATENTED JAN. 31, 1905.

L. F. & H. L. K. BIESEMEYER.

BALLOT BOX.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 17, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 6.

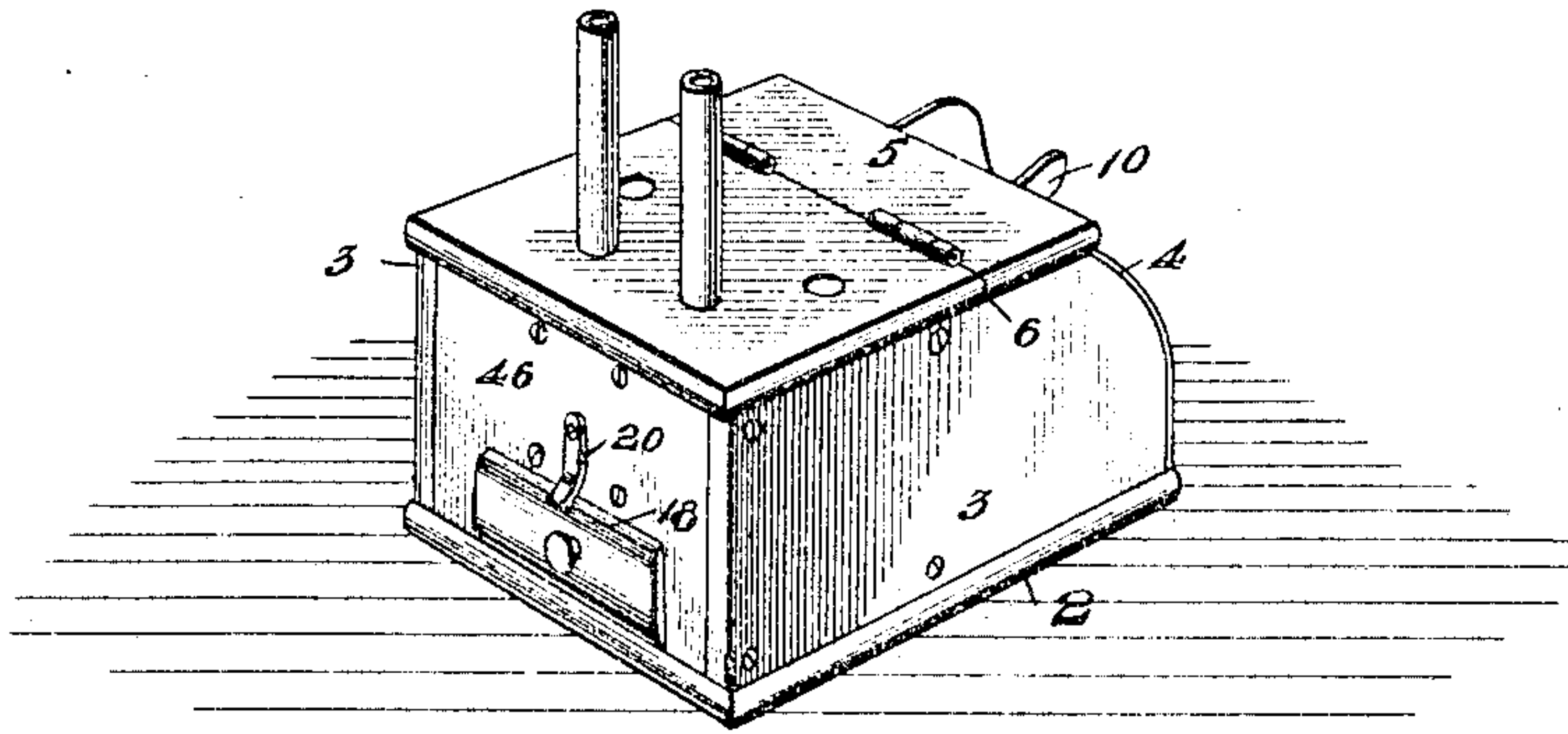


Fig. 7.

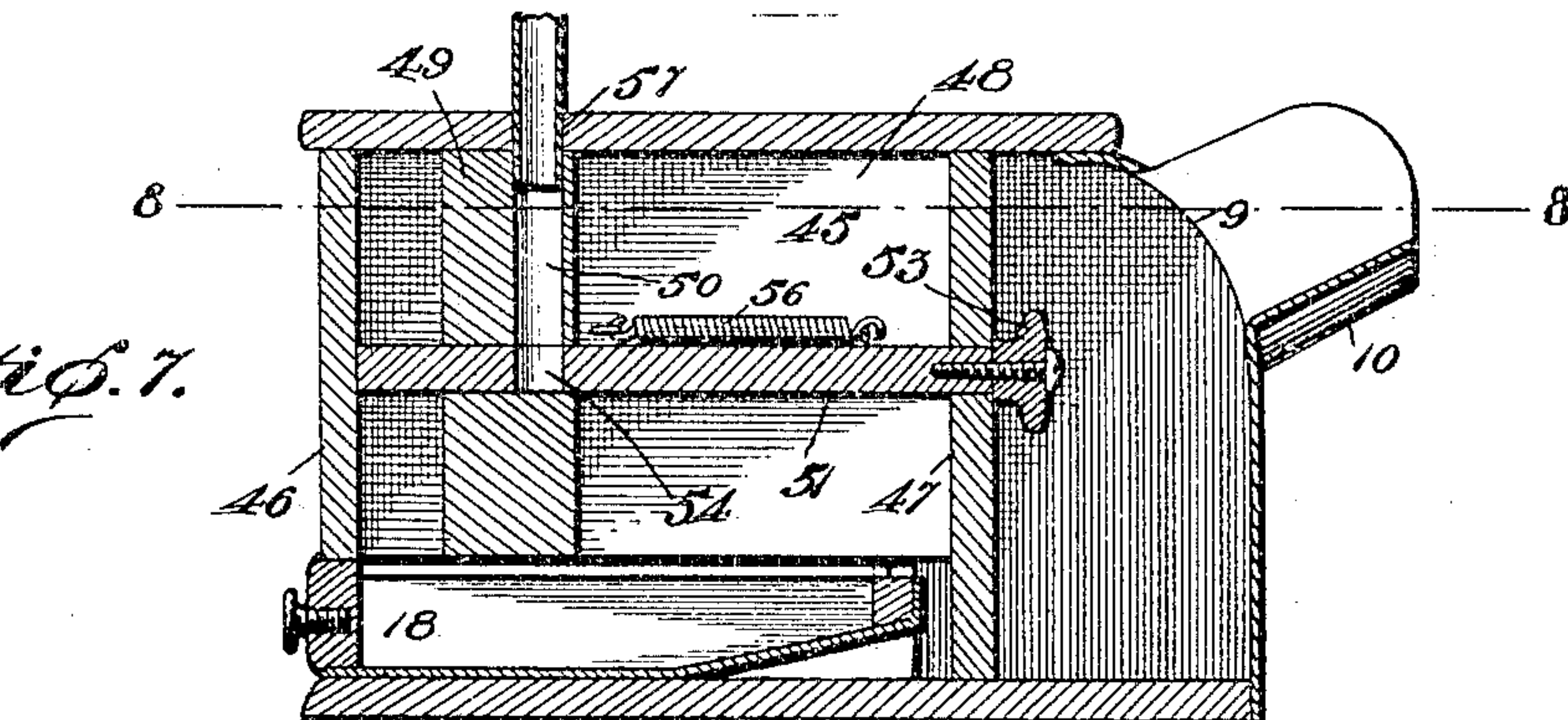
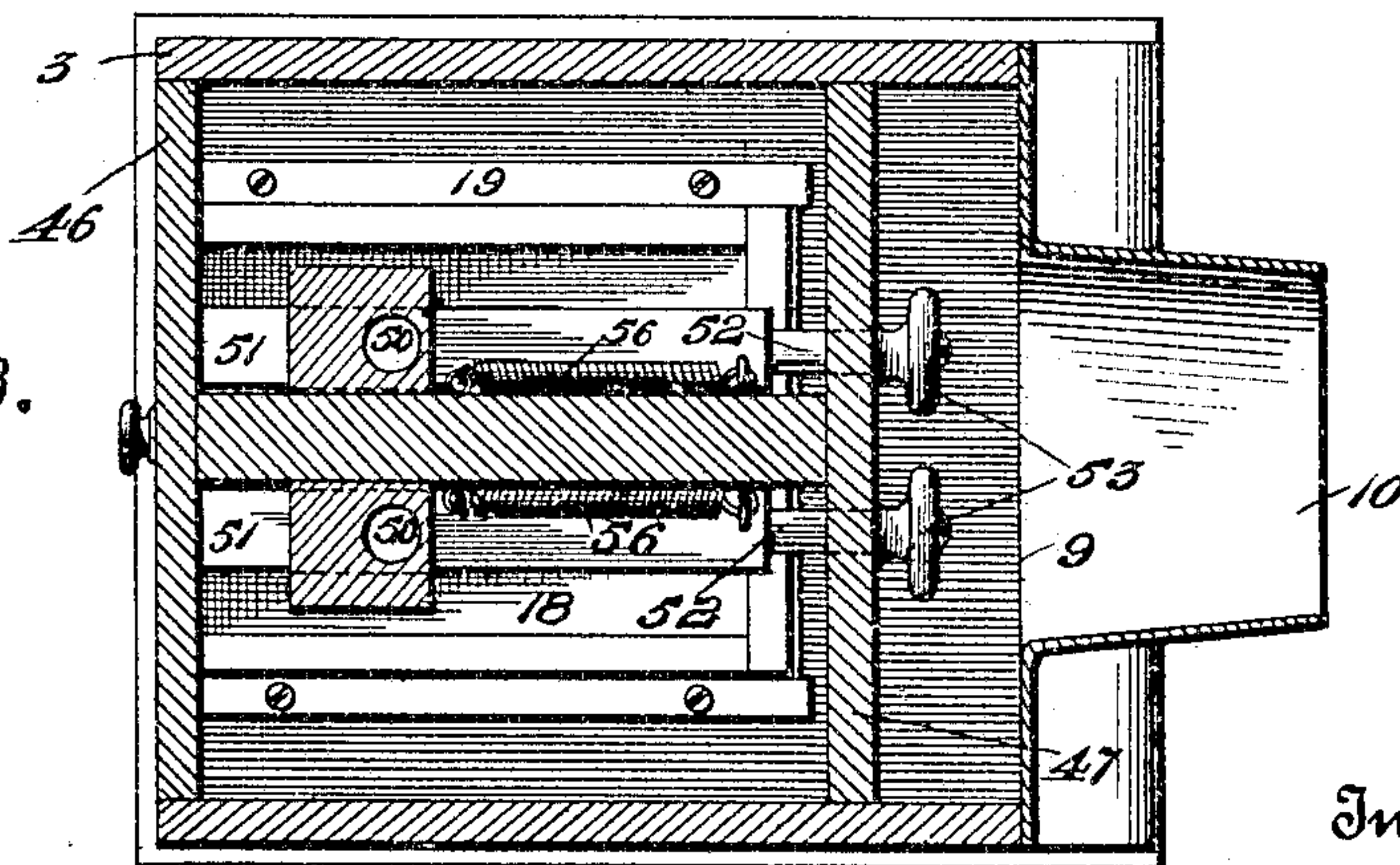


Fig. 8.



Witnesses

B. M. Offutt.

C. H. Griesbauer.

Lorenz F. Biesemeyer &
Henry L. K. Biesemeyer

by

A. B. Wilson

Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LORENZ F. BIESEMEYER, OF WESTPHALIA, AND HENRY L. K. BIESEMEYER,
OF WARRENTON, MISSOURI.

BALLOT-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 781,586, dated January 31, 1905.

Application filed October 17, 1904. Serial No. 228,825.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, LORENZ F. BIESEMEYER, residing at Westphalia, Osage county, and HENRY L. K. BIESEMEYER, residing at Warrenton, Warren county, State of Missouri, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ballot-Boxes; and we 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.

Our invention relates to improvements in ballot-boxes of the ball type for use by secret or fraternal societies in balloting or casting votes for new candidates for membership and for other purposes.

The object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which shall be simple in construction, comparatively inexpensive of production, and exceedingly useful for the purpose for which it is designed.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a ballot-box embodying our invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of one of the operating-levers. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the ballot-box with a modified form of ball-dropping mechanism mounted therein. Fig. 7 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view through the same, and Fig. 8 is a horizontal sectional view taken on the line 8 8 of Fig. 7.

Referring more particularly to Figs. 1 to 5, inclusive, of the drawings, the numeral 1 denotes the casing, consisting of a base or bottom 2, two sides 3, a front end 4, and a top 5, having a portion hinged, as at 6, to form a swinging cover or closure. The front end 4, which is preferably formed of sheet metal and curved, as shown, has a hand-opening 9

located centrally and adjacent to its upper edge and provided with a curved guard or hood 10. This guarded opening is of sufficient size to permit the hand of a voter to be inserted in the casing to operate the ballot-ball-dropping mechanism, hereinafter described, the guard 10 preventing persons standing near by from observing how the voter casts his ballot. The rear end of the casing 1 is closed by a removable frame 11, consisting of front and rear ends 12 and 13, connected by spaced vertically-disposed blocks or strips 14. This frame may be removably secured in the casing in any desired manner, but preferably by screws 15, which are passed through the side walls 3 of the latter and into the end walls 12 and 13 of said frame. The rear end 13 of said frame, which corresponds in size to that of the end of the casing which it closes, is formed in its lower edge with a recess 17, through which a drawer 18 is adapted to slide. Said drawer rests upon the bottom 2 of the casing and is guided by strips 19, secured on the latter. A swinging catch 20 or a lock of any description may be provided upon the rear end 13 of the frame to hold the sliding drawer in its closed position. Said drawer, which is disposed below the spaced connecting blocks or boards 14, is provided with a central longitudinally-extending partition 21, which divides it into two compartments adapted to receive the black and white ballot-ball from the dropping mechanisms mounted in said frame. If desired, the inner end of said partition may be provided with a removable extension 22, provided for a purpose presently explained. Two ballot-ball-dropping mechanisms are mounted in the frame 11, one for the white ballot-balls and the other for the black ones used in machines of this character. Each of these mechanisms, which are identical in construction, comprises an operating-lever 23, formed with a curved front or inner end 24, which extends through and moves in a slot 25, formed in the front end wall 12 of said frame. Said slot serves to limit the movement of said lever. Said forwardly and upwardly curved end 24 of said lever is provided with a removable key or button 27, which is suit-

ably colored, the key upon one lever being black and that upon the other being white. The rear end of said lever 23 is divided or bifurcated to form arms 28 and 29, which are
 5 pivoted, as at 30, upon one of the connecting blocks or boards 14. The outer arm 29 of said lever is disposed in a slotted portion 31 of said block 14, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings. The arms 28 and 29 of said lever
 10 coact with a transversely-extending valve-opening 32, which is formed in said block 14, in order to open and close the same. Said valve-opening 32 communicates with the lower end of a curved feeding-tube 33, which is se-
 15 cured upon the outer face of the block 14 by means of brackets 34 and 35. The arm 28 of the lever is formed with a semicircular recess 36 and the arm 29 with a similar recess 37 and a projection 38, these recesses and projections
 20 being so disposed that when the lever 23 is in elevated position one of the balls fed through the tube 33 will be permitted to enter between the two arms of said lever, so that when the latter is depressed said ball will be dis-
 25 charged through the opposite end of said valve-opening. When the lever is in its lowered position, the projection 38 will close the lower end of said tube to prevent more than one ball from passing through the valve-open-
 30 ing. The lever 23 is retracted or held in its elevated position by a coil-spring 39, having one end connected to said lever and its other end secured to a recessed portion of said block 14. The upper ends of said feeding-tubes 33
 35 aline with openings 34, formed in the swinging top or cover of the casing 1, so that ballot-ball receptacles or hoppers 40 may be passed through said openings in the cover and removably engaged with the upper ends of
 40 said feeding-tubes. These receptacles or hoppers, one of which is provided for black balls and the other for white balls, may be of any suitable form and construction; but, as shown, they consist of cylindrical tubes having their
 45 outer surfaces colored, one white and the other black. They may be of any suitable size, according to the number of balls to be used.

The operation and advantages of the ma-
 50 chine will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings. When the parts are in the position shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the voter inserts his hand through
 55 the hooded opening 9 and depresses one or the other of the two levers 23. The depression of the lever with the black button or key will cause a black ball to be dropped into one compartment of the sliding drawer, and a de-
 60 pression of the lever with the white button or key will cause a white ball to be dropped into the other compartment of said drawer. If desired, bells 41 may be provided in each com-
 65 partment of the drawer in line with the valve-opening in the block 14, so that when the ball

is discharged through the same it will strike and ring said bell to indicate that a vote or bal-
 lot has been cast. It will be seen that the ex-
 tension 22 upon the partition in the sliding
 drawer extends upwardly between the valve-
 70 openings upon the inner faces of the blocks 14, and thus causes the balls discharged from said opening to enter the proper compartment in the drawer.

In Figs. 6 to 8, inclusive, of the drawings
 75 is shown a different form of ballot-ball-dropping mechanism. The outer casing of this machine is the same as that of the one pre-
 viously described, and the frame 45, which
 80 corresponds to the frame 11, consists of front and rear ends 46 and 47, connected by a single centrally-disposed block or board 48. Upon opposite sides of said block 48 are se-
 85 cured vertically-disposed blocks 49, formed with vertically-extending bores or channels 50. Extending through each of said blocks 49 is a slide 51, formed at its front end with
 90 a reduced cylindrical portion or stem 52, which extends through and slides in the front wall 47 of said frame and has upon its outer end a knob or button 53, said knob or button upon
 95 one slide being black and upon the other white. The rear ends of said slides 51, which extend through said blocks 49, are formed with valve-openings 54, which are adapted to
 100 be moved into and out of alinement with said bores or channels 50 in the blocks 49. When one of said knobs is moved inwardly, its valve-
 105 opening alines with one of the bores 50, so as to receive the lowermost ball in the bore 50, with which it alines, and when said knob is pulled outwardly said valve-opening will
 110 be moved out of the block 49 to permit the ball contained therein to drop into one of the compartments of the drawer located beneath
 115 the same. These slides 51 are held in their retracted position by coil-springs 56, their forward movement being limited by the shoulder formed by reducing the end 52 and their
 120 rearward movement being limited by their rear ends engaging the end wall 46 of the frame 45. The upper ends of the bores or
 125 channels 50 in the blocks 49 are disposed directly beneath openings 57, formed in the swinging cover of the casing 1, so that the
 130 tubular receptacles or hoppers 40 may be passed through the same and removably engaged with said bores 50.

If desired, the swinging top or cover of the casing 1 may be formed with two sets of open-
 120 ings, as shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings, so that either form of ballot-ball-dropping mechanism may be used in the machine, the ballot-
 125 ball receptacles or tubes 40 being inserted through the proper opening, as will be readily understood.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the operation and advantages of the device
 130 will be readily apparent without requiring a

more extended explanation. The device can be made at small cost and will be found exceedingly useful and convenient.

5 While we have shown and described the preferred embodiment of our invention, it will be understood that we do not desire to limit ourselves to the precise construction herein set forth, since various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

15 Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A ballot-box having a block provided with a transverse opening, a ball-duct leading thereto, a vertically-movable lever having parallel arms movable across and on opposite sides of said opening, the arm on the inner side of said opening having a cut-off portion and an opening to alternately register with said opening, the arm on the outer side of the said opening being opposite the opening in the other arm, and a spring to normally raise said lever, substantially as described.

2. A ballot-box having spaced blocks each

provided with a transverse opening and a ball-duct leading thereto, a vertically-movable lever pivotally connected to each of said blocks, each of said levers having parallel arms movable across and on opposite sides of said opening, the arm on the inner side of said opening having a cut-off portion and an opening to alternately register with said opening, the arm on the outer side of the said opening being opposite the opening in the other arm, springs to normally raise said levers, and a drawer in the ballot-box having a partition disposed between the said levers and blocks, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LORENZ F. BIESEMEYER.

HENRY L. K. BIESEMEYER.

Witnesses to the signature of L. F. Biesemeyer:

BEN SCHAEFER,

HENRY J. HORSTDANIEL.

Witnesses to the signature of H. L. K. Biesemeyer:

C. E. SCHROEDER,

C. F. POISSE.