

No. 786,745.

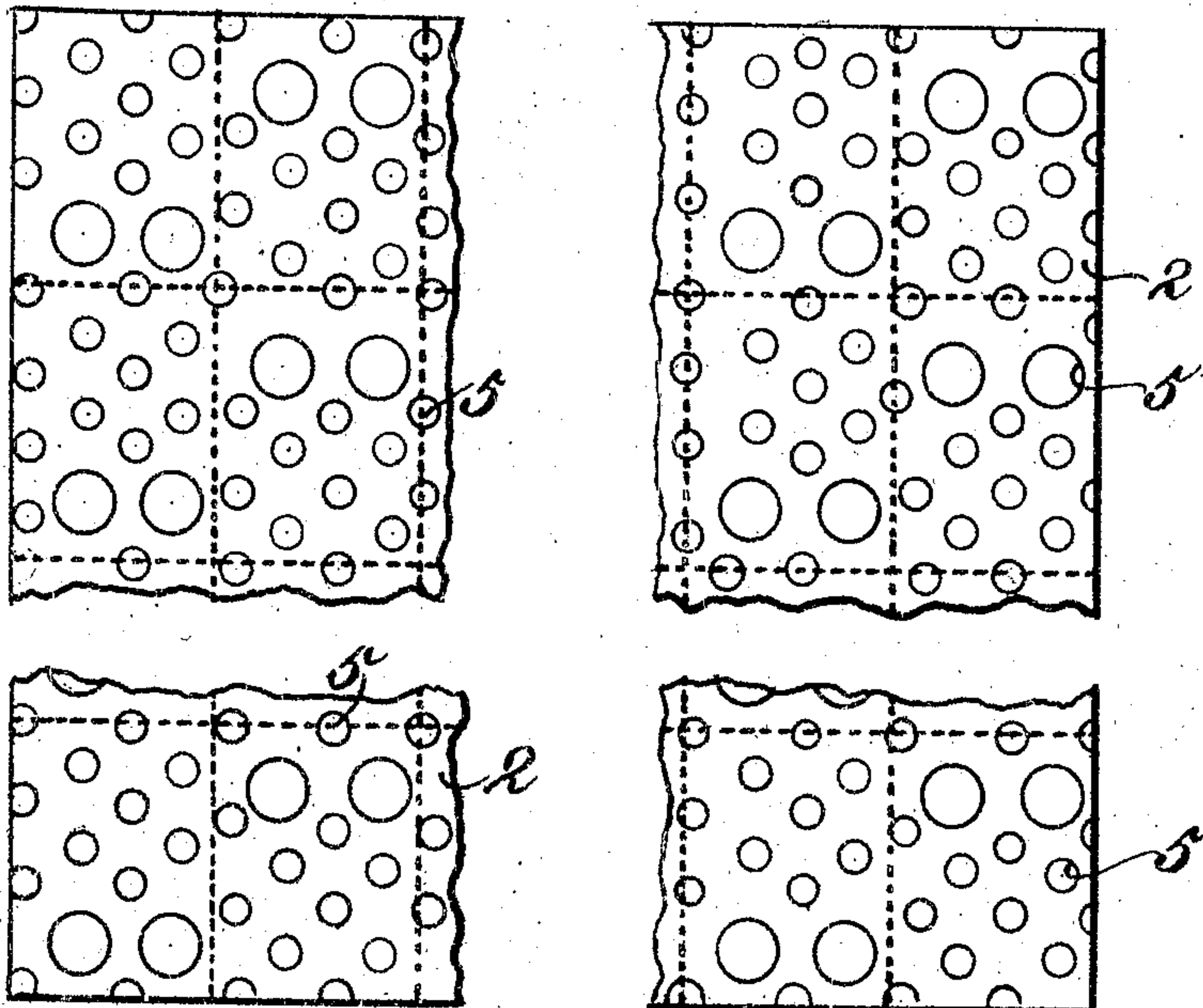
PATENTED APR. 4, 1905.

A. C. FLETCHER.  
STAMP.

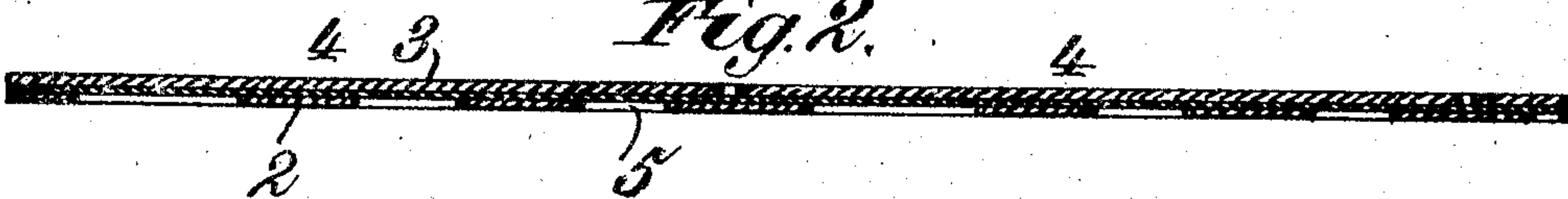
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 23, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

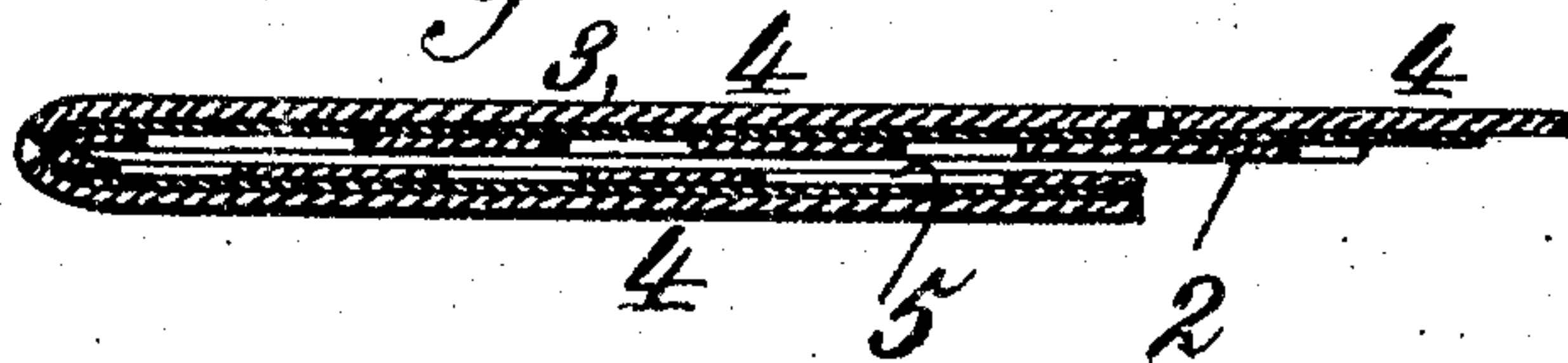
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



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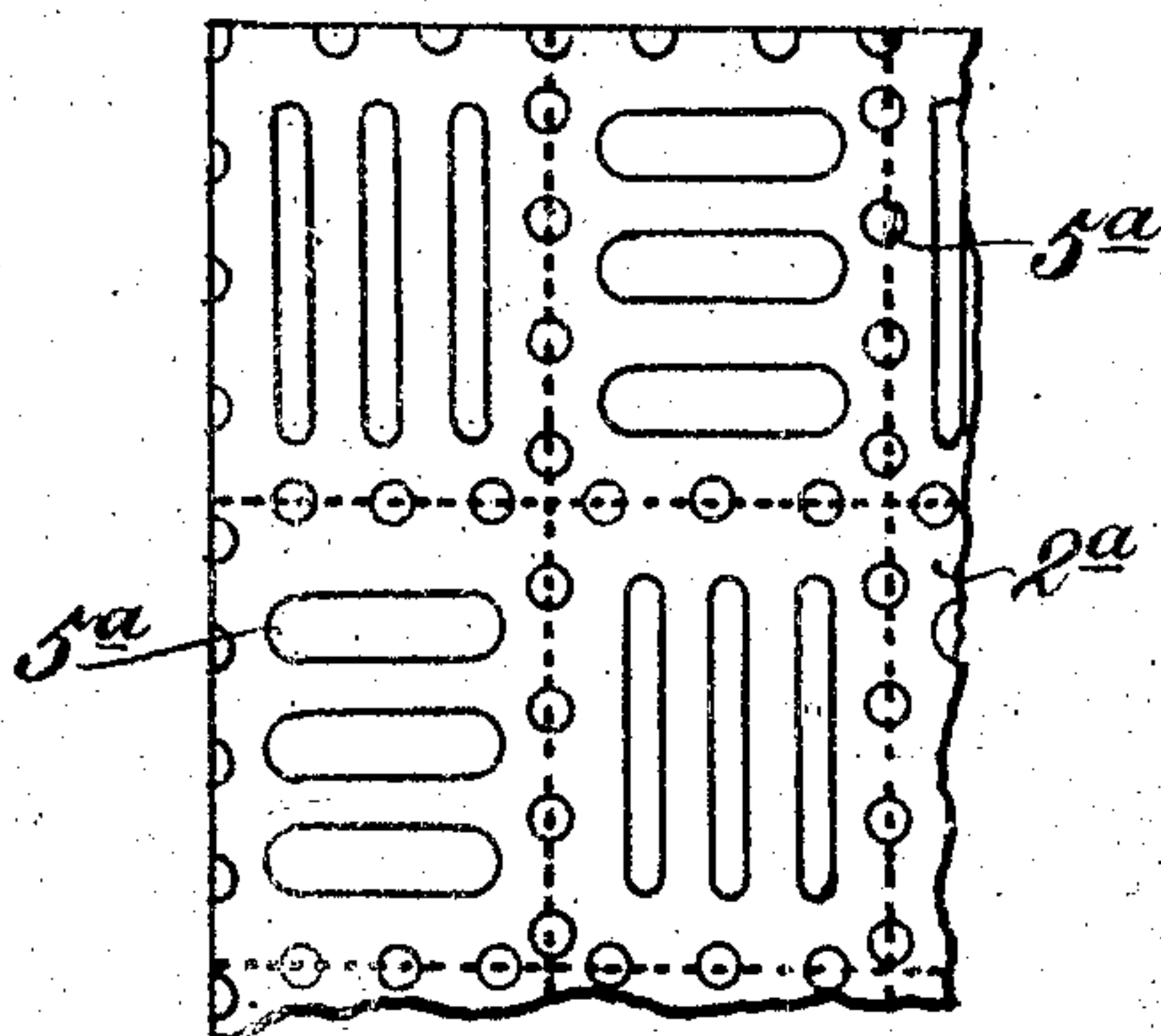
PATENTED APR. 4, 1905.

A. C. FLETCHER.  
STAMP.

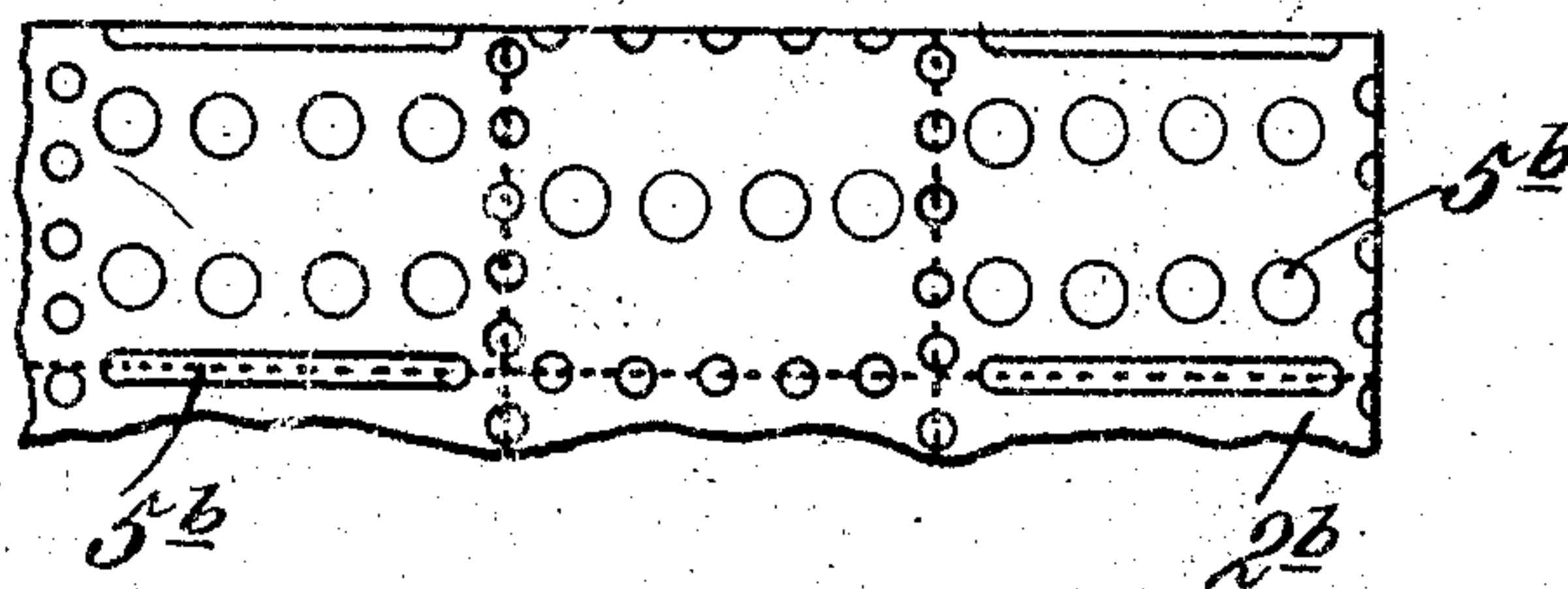
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 23, 1905.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

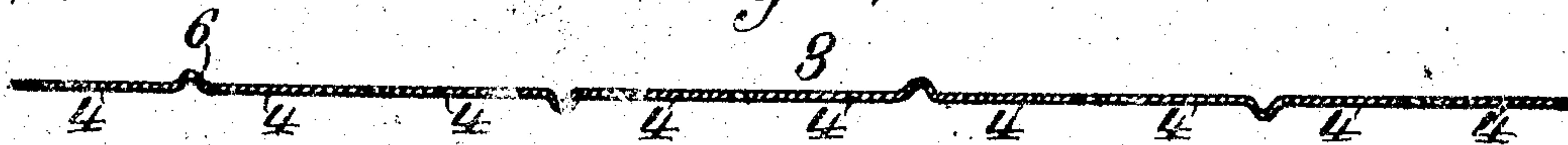
*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 6.*



*Fig. 7.*



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Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ADDISON C. FLETCHER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## STAMP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 786,745, dated April 4, 1905.

Application filed February 23, 1905. Serial No. 247,026.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ADDISON C. FLETCHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Stamps, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to stamps. I use this title simply as a convenient one, as the invention may be used in connection not only with stamps, but with substantially similar articles, such as gummed labels. The invention, however, is of particular advantage in conjunction with postage-stamps in sheets. By it a sheet of stamps embracing the invention can be safely handled without possibility of any of the stamps adhering together. A sheet of stamps or any portion thereof can therefore be safely transmitted through the mails in lieu of ordinary post-office orders and other negotiable papers. The same may be also employed as currency.

A sheet of stamps involving my invention has on its back an adhesive surface, combined with which is non-adhesive means attached to such adhesive surface in such a way as to leave a multiplicity of exposed adhesive portions, the latter being situated to be out of direct register with each other when the back of any one stamp on the sheet is folded against the back of any other stamp thereof. While two stamps can be safely under ordinary conditions folded adhesive surface to adhesive surface without possibility of the same sticking together, either of them can be applied to a letter or mail-package by wetting or dampening the exposed adhesive portion or portions thereof. The non-adhesive means may be of any suitable character.

In the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification and showing certain simple embodiments of the invention the non-adhesive means consists of a sheet of perforated paper the perforations in which may be of any desired arrangement so long as the perforation of one part of the sheet will not directly register with the perforations of another part of the sheet.

Another feature of the invention is a means for holding the bodies of the sheets out of di-

rect contact with each other when they are in pile form. This result I accomplish in the present instance by the formation on each or both faces of a sheet of a ridge or ridges, which may extend in any direction of the sheet and which when the sheets are in pile form or stacked prevent their direct contact, so as to avoid the adherence or sticking together of adjacent sheets.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a rear view of a sheet of stamps involving my invention, the intermediate portion of the sheet being broken away. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view, on an enlarged scale, of a portion of the sheet. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing a row of stamps folded upon an adjacent row. Fig. 4 is a face view of one of the stamps from the sheet. Figs. 5 and 6 are rear views of a portion of a sheet, showing modified arrangements of perforations. Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view through a sheet of stamps.

Like characters refer to like parts throughout the different views.

In Fig. 1 I have shown part of a sheet of postage-stamps or enough of the sheet to indicate that it is of the customary form so far as the arrangement of the stamps in the sheet is concerned—that is to say, the sheet involves connected rows of stamps, the rows running both depthwise and transversely and being connected by transverse and depthwise parallel lines of perforations to facilitate the separation of the stamps from the sheet. The rear or back face of the sheet of stamps is provided with some suitable adhesive substance, which may be dextrin or any other desired material.

As will be understood from what I have hereinbefore stated, there is attached to the adhesive or back surface of the sheet of connected stamps non-adhesive means, and this may be of any desired character. For example, it may be a very thin sheet of tissue-paper, as 2. The sheet of stamps is denoted by 3. The sheet of stamps and the sheet of tissue-paper are of equal superficial area, so that when attached together their margins will be coincident, or practically so. They may be united by slightly moistening or dampening the tissue-sheet 2 and then pressing it against



the adhesive surface of the stamp-sheet. In this way the two sheets can be permanently united to obtain a composite sheet.

As I have stated, the non-adhesive means associated with the sheet of stamps is of such character that when it is in place there will be presented upon the back surface of the sheet of stamps a multiplicity of exposed adhesive portions. These exposed adhesive portions will be so situated, however, that when the sheet is folded upon itself or when any two stamps thereof are folded upon themselves there will be no possibility of the adhesive portions of the two folds of the folded sheet or of the two stamps adhering to each other, this being secured by so locating the adhesive portions that they will be out of direct register when the folded relation alluded to is present.

As will be obvious, I do not limit myself to any particular way of securing the result mentioned; but I find in practice that a sheet perforated in certain ways answers my purpose in a satisfactory and inexpensive manner. I might state at this point that each stamp 4 (see, for example, Fig. 4) will have on its back or rear face one or more exposed adhesive or gummed portions which by moistening the same can be utilized to apply such stamp to a mail-package.

In Fig. 1 the tissue-sheet is perforated, each perforation being denoted by 5. The perforations are arranged in groups, each group being composed of a series of small perforations and a number of large perforations. It will be seen upon reference to said figure that the groups are arranged in rows both depthwise and transversely of the composite sheet and that in both cases the groups alternate, so that it will not be possible for any one perforation in any one row of stamps, either depthwise or transversely of the sheet, to directly register with another perforation on another row of stamps. The same statement applies when any two stamps in the sheet are arranged back to back. Should there be a direct registration of the perforations, two opposing gummed surfaces might unite with each other. By arranging the perforations, however, in the manner indicated there will when rows of stamps or stamps are folded upon each other be a portion of the tissue-sheet extending across, either wholly or partially, a perforation, so as to avoid the sticking together of the stamps. By the arrangement specified there is also provision when a sheet is folded upon itself or the stamps in a sheet are folded upon each other for the thorough circulation of air between the folds, which further guards against the sticking together of the folds.

In Fig. 2 I have shown, upon an enlarged scale, two rows of stamps, or the showing may be simply two stamps, while in Fig. 3 I have shown the two rows or single stamps folded

upon each other. In the latter figure it will be seen that the perforations of one fold of the tissue-sheet are directly out of register with the perforations of the adjacent fold. There will be presented, therefore, between the folded stamps two thicknesses of tissue, which further aid in holding the gummed surfaces out of contact. By forming perforations in the tissue-sheet 2 I leave upon the back surface of the stamp-sheet a multiplicity of exposed gummed portions. Each stamp will have on its back a number of these exposed adhesive portions, so that when the stamp is moistened to apply to a letter it will firmly stick to the latter. Some of the perforations are intersected by the dividing-lines between the rows of stamps, as clearly indicated in Fig. 1, so that the marginal portion of each stamp will present separated exposed gummed portions which when dampened assure the marginal portion of the stamp sticking to a postal package—that is, there will be no tendency of the stamp when applied to curl at its edges.

I may, as indicated in Fig. 7, form upon opposite surfaces of the sheet of stamps ridges, as 6. These ridges may extend either depthwise or transversely of the sheet of stamps, and they are formed in the composite sheet—that is, after the tissue-sheet 2 is applied to the stamp-sheet 3. The ridges coincide with the perforated dividing-lines between the rows of stamps. In Fig. 7, which is part of a sheet of stamps, I show thereupon four ridges, two being upon the front face of the sheet, while the other two are upon the rear face thereof. These ridges may be formed in any desirable way, and as they are located at the junction between adjacent rows of stamps their formation will not mutilate the faces of the stamps, but will effectually prevent the sheets of stamps from sticking to each other when such sheets are in pile order. The ridges are quite shallow, but in practice are sufficient to prevent sticking contact of the adjacent sheets.

In Fig. 5 I show a modified form of perforated tissue or protective sheet, the same being denoted by 2<sup>a</sup> and all the perforations therein by 5<sup>a</sup>. The perforations in the sheet 2<sup>a</sup> are arranged in groups and take the form of elongated slots. The elongated slots are surrounded by circular perforations, the latter being intersected by the perforated dividing-lines between the rows of stamps both depthwise and transversely of the sheet. The circular perforations in the alternating rows are of staggered disposition, so that when one row of stamps is folded upon another the perforations or parts of perforations along the edge thereof will not coincide with the perforations along the adjacent edge of the other row. The circular perforations, however, which are intersected by the dividing-lines between the rows of stamps provide on



the marginal portion of each stamp exposed gummed surfaces, so as to assure that the edges of the stamps will stick down. The groups of elongated perforations or slots in Fig. 5 are arranged in alternating order—that is, the slots on one stamp will extend in one direction, while those of the next stamp, either laterally or depthwise of the same, will extend in a transverse direction to the first-mentioned slots, so that when one stamp is folded upon another none of the slots will directly register, while the intervening double layers of tissue-sheet 2<sup>a</sup> prevent positively the adherence of the exposed gummed surfaces.

In Fig. 6 another modification is illustrated, the perforations being arranged in groups, one group including one or more elongated slots and circular perforations, while the adjacent group will consist simply of circular perforations. The sheet of tissue in said Fig. 6 is denoted by 2<sup>b</sup>, while all the perforations therein are designated by 5<sup>b</sup>. By virtue of the disposition of the perforations 5<sup>b</sup> it will be evident that when two stamps are placed back to back the exposed gummed surfaces will not directly register.

It will be understood that Fig. 7 represents a cross-section of either of the composite sheets illustrated in part by Figs. 1, 5, and 6. The parallel ridges may be formed simply by wheels of proper formation rolling against the sheets.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having an adhesive surface on its back, combined with non-adhesive means attached to the said adhesive surface to partially cover the adhesive surface and leave a multiplicity of exposed adhesive portions, the latter being situated to be out of direct registration with each other when the back of any one stamp on the sheet is folded against the back of any other stamp.

2. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having an adhesive surface on its back, combined with non-adhesive means attached to the said adhesive surface to partially cover the adhesive surface and leave a multiplicity of exposed adhesive portions, the latter being situated to be out of direct register with each other when the back of any one stamp on the sheet is folded against the back of any other

stamp, and certain of the adhesive portions being intersected by the dividing-lines between the rows of stamps. 55

3. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having an adhesive surface on its back, combined with a non-adhesive tissue-sheet attached to the said adhesive surface, the said tissue-sheet having a multiplicity of perforations to expose portions of the adhesive surface, the perforations being situated to be out of direct register with each other when the back of any one stamp of the sheet is folded against the back of any other stamp. 65

4. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having an adhesive surface on its back, combined with a non-adhesive tissue-sheet attached to the said adhesive surface and having a multiplicity of perforations to expose portions of the adhesive surface, the perforations being situated out of direct register with each other when the back of any one stamp on the sheet is folded against the back of any other stamp, and certain of the perforations being intersected by the dividing-lines between the stamps. 75

5. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having a ridge coextensive therewith and coincident with the dividing-line between two adjacent rows of stamps. 80

6. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having ridges on its opposite faces, in parallelism and each coinciding with the dividing-line between two adjacent rows of stamps. 85

7. A sheet of connected rows of stamps, having an adhesive surface on its back, combined with non-adhesive means attached to the said adhesive surface to partially cover the adhesive surface and leave a multiplicity of exposed adhesive portions, the latter being out of direct register with each other when the back of one stamp on the sheet is folded against the back of any other stamp, and said sheet having parallel ridges on its opposite faces, each coinciding with the dividing-line between two adjacent rows of stamps. 95

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses. 100

ADDISON C. FLETCHER.

Witnesses:

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GEO. W. REA.