

No. 816,996.

PATENTED APR. 3, 1906.

H. E. PLASS.
ELECTRIC LIGHT FITTING.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 9, 1905.

Fig. 1.

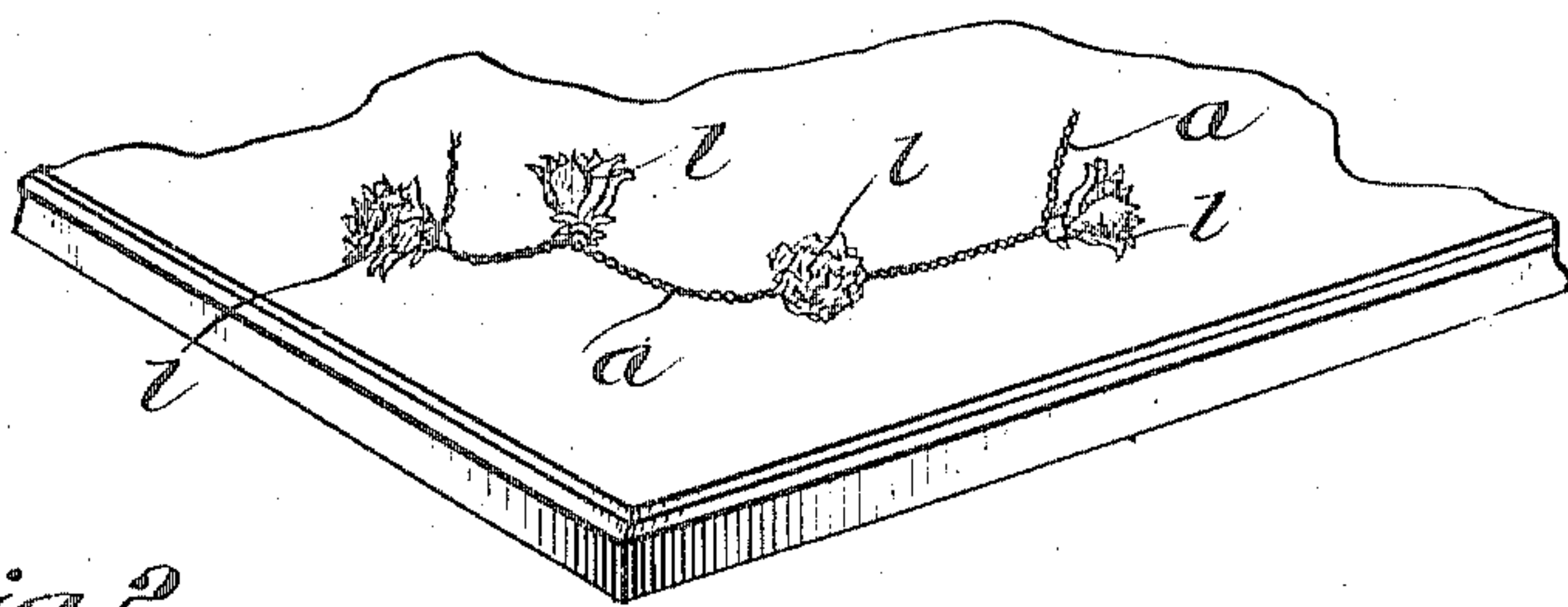


Fig. 2.

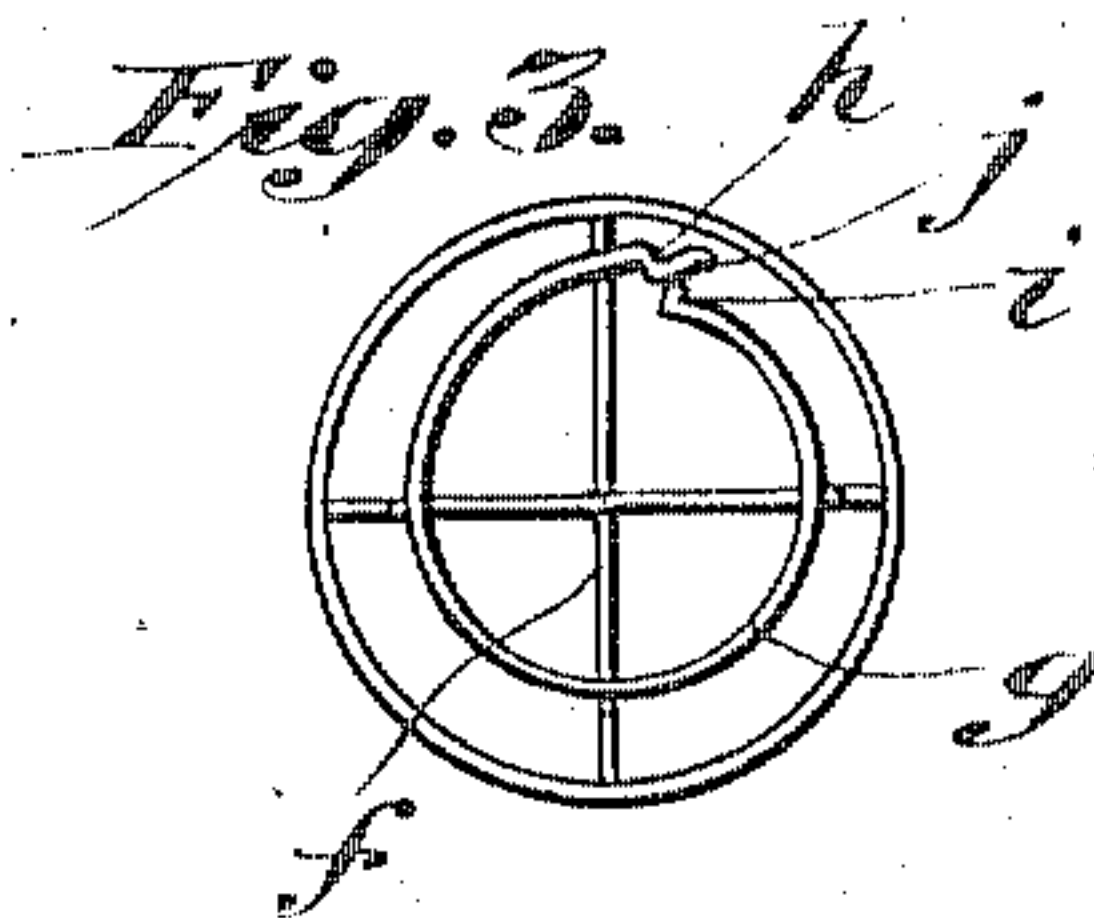
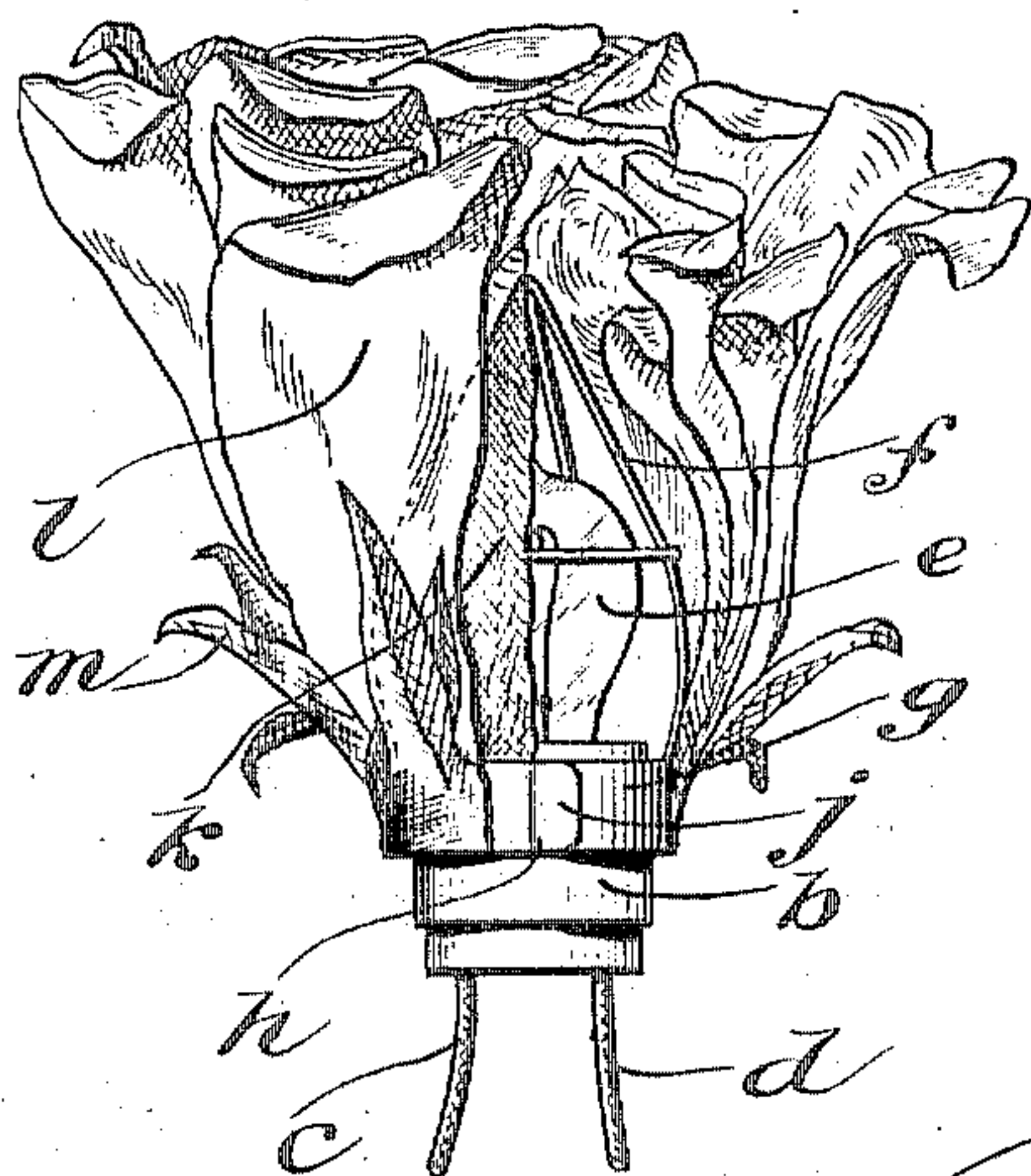
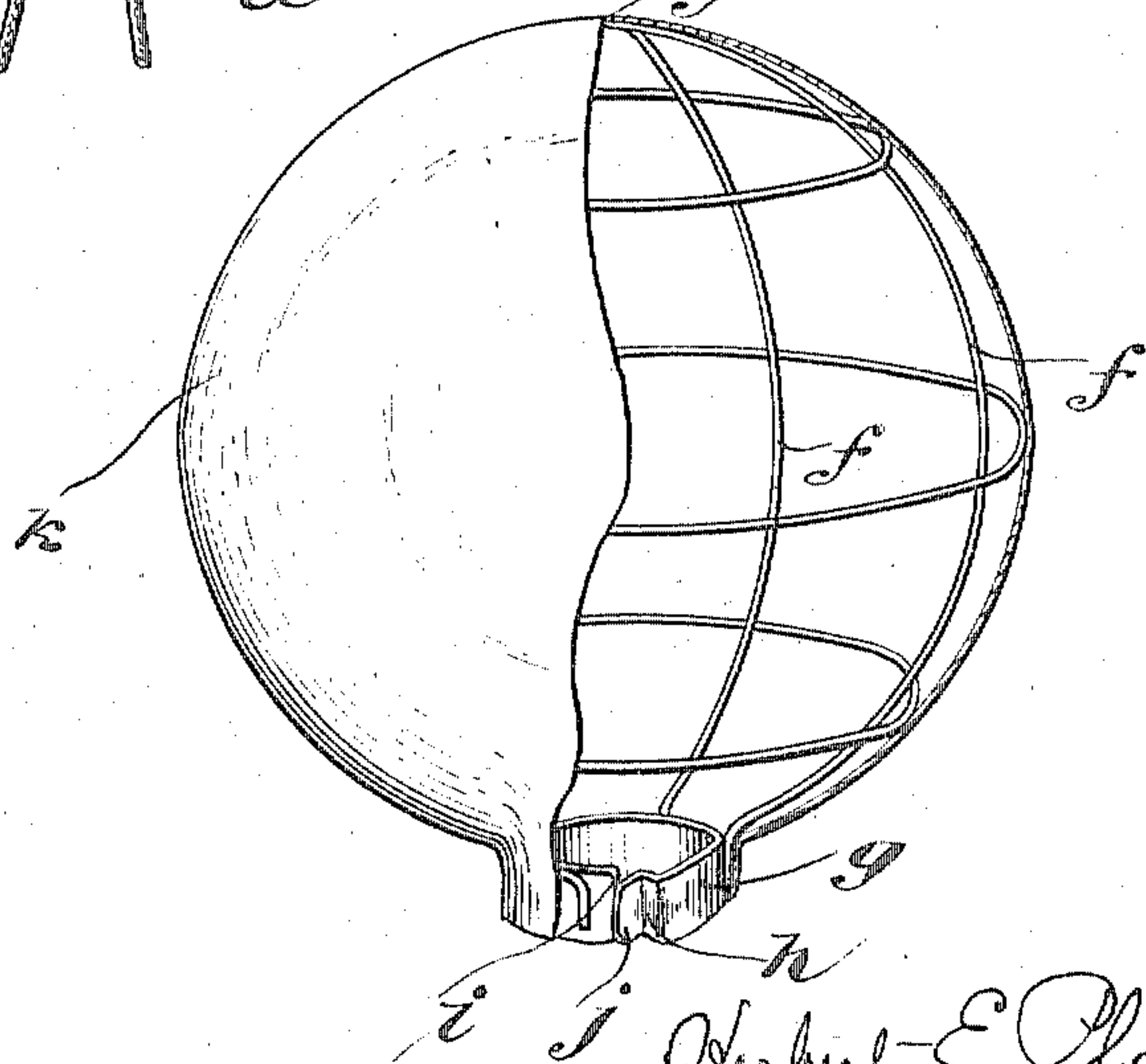


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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ELECTRIC-LIGHT FITTING.

No. 816,996.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 3, 1906.

Application filed June 9, 1905. Serial No. 264,391.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT E. PLASS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the borough of Manhattan, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric-Light Fittings, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, which form a part thereof.

My invention relates to electric-light fittings, and more particularly to a class of decorative fittings especially adapted for table and room decorations.

The main object of the invention is to provide an electric-light fitting which will permit the use of artificial flowers in a manner to entirely conceal the bulb and modify, tone, and diffuse the light therefrom, so as to produce the effect of a lustrous flower or cluster of flowers, thus providing an artistic and highly-decorative table or room effect.

A further object is to provide a fitting wherein the decorative portions will be held from contact with the lamp-bulb and protected from the heat therefrom.

A still further object is to provide an interchangeable fitting which will present no visible protuberances and be entirely devoid of all visible mechanical contrivances; and a still further object is to provide such a fitting which will be reasonably inexpensive to manufacture and simple in its manner of application and in its construction.

The invention consists, primarily, in providing, in an electric-light fitting, the combination with a lamp-socket provided with means whereby suitable electrical connections may be made therewith, and a lamp-bulb, of a frame inclosing said bulb, a translucent decorative covering therefor, and means secured to said frame whereby it is secured in relation to said socket, and in such other novel features of construction and combination of parts hereinafter set forth and described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a view of a table-corner, illustrating the application of my invention to table decoration. Fig. 2 is a view of a single floral decoration, broken away on one side to disclose the translucent heart or center covering, the frame, the collar secured thereto, and the relation of the

bulb thereto. Fig. 3 is a top view of the frame and its collar shown in Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 is a side elevation of a modified form of frame particularly adapted for use in connection with festoon or cluster decorations.

Like letters refer to like parts throughout the several views.

The invention has its field of greatest utility in connection with series lamps now commonly used for table and room decoration. As now employed the decorative effects are produced by ordinary floral decorations having dispersed or clustered thereabout a number of lamps, the light from which is shed upon surrounding objects, producing an artistic and pleasing effect. Similar effects have been produced by binding flowers upon the lamp-sockets with ordinary wire, the said sockets usually being of porcelain or other non-conductive material. While effects produced in the above manner are pleasing, they are marred by the necessary exposure of the lamp-bulbs themselves. A further difficulty is the labor and expense of decoration and the inability to repeatedly use the decorations.

In the electric-light fittings shown in the accompanying drawings I employ the ordinary wires *a*, connected with any suitable source of electrical supply and having strung thereon by means of terminal wires *c d* a plurality of lamp-sockets *b*, the internal construction of which is that now in common use. In connection with this socket I use an incandescent-lamp bulb *e* of special size, the greatest diameter thereof being substantially that of the said socket. This socket *b* may be cylindrical, presenting outwardly a smooth surface. This construction of socket and bulb is desirable as permitting the quick application and adjustment of the decorative portion of the fittings thereto.

Carried by the socket *b* is a frame *f*, preferably comprised of stiff wire soldered to a band *g* and having suitable cross-wires, which frame incloses the bulb, serving both to protect same and to prevent the decorative covering thereof coming into contact with the bulb and be charged by the heat thereof. The general outlines and shape of this frame may vary, two forms being shown in the accompanying drawings, one semiconical, like the heart of a rose, (shown in Figs. 2 and 3,) and the other spherical. (Shown in Fig. 4.)

This frame has secured thereto a band *g*, preferably of spring metal, adapted to be clamped about the socket *b* and secured in place by having the ends thereof interlocked.

5 Enveloping the frame *f* and secured thereto by stitches or in any other desired manner is a translucent decorative covering *k* of a color to harmonize with the general color scheme of the entire decoration. This covering may
10 be of silk, paper, or any desired fabric and extends downwardly to conceal the band *g* in its entirety, a suitable opening or looseness being provided to allow for the operation of said band.

15 Mounted on the band *g* and surrounding the covered frame *f* are a plurality of artificial flowers, petals, or sheets *l* and leaves *m*, which are also preferably more or less translucent to increase the effective range of the
20 light-rays. These, with the aforesaid covered frame, form a permanent decoration, which may be quickly and temporarily applied to the lamp-socket.

It will be observed that the frame *f* prevents the covering *k* collapsing so as to contact with the bulb and further protects the bulb from objects which might break it. This frame being inclosed, the lamp-bulb *e*
25 must be inserted through the ring *g*, the said bulb being of a diameter to permit such an application of the decorative portion of the fittings to the socket *b*.

To avoid a screw-clamp or other well-known contrivance for locking the ends of the band *g* in place, which contrivance would
35 require some tool to adjust same and also present an unsightly protuberance, I preferably employ a special locking contrivance which is substantially flat and which may be readily closed and released. Toward one
40 end thereof the metal band *g* is bent inwardly to form a shoulder *h*, which when the band is closed extends substantially radially of the ring formed by the band. The other end of
45 the band is bent outwardly to form an opposed lip *i*. Beyond the shoulder *h* the band is extended slightly to provide a tongue *j*, which may readily be engaged by the finger-nail to release the band when locked.

50 The spring of the metal in the band *g* is such as to impart a tendency on the part of said band to normally open and when there is no solid body within is of substantially the same circumference as the length of the band
55 between the shoulder *h* and lip *i*. This shoulder and lip are inoperative to lock the band. When open, the shoulder *h* extends at a slight angle to any radius of the circle formed by the band *g*, so that as the two ends
60 of the said band are brought together with one overlapping the other the shoulder *h* is at a slight angle to the lip *i*, thus forming a slight bevel, which aids in clamping the band upon the socket *b*. As the shoulder *h* is
65 brought over and pressed down upon the lip

i the former describes a small arc and finally engages the said lip substantially radially of the inclosed socket *b*, said shoulder and said lip being parallel to each other. The chamfered effect produced by the band between
70 the shoulder *h* and tongue *j* aids in securing the engagement of the said shoulder and the said lip.

When locked, the end bearing the lip *i* is pressed against the socket *b* and there is no
75 looseness in the band *g*. The spring in the metal tends to cause the shoulder *h* to inscribe a similar arc to that taken in locking, the parallel surfaces of the said shoulder and the lip *i* engaging each other, however, pre-
80 venting such movement and locking the two ends together, thus holding the frame *f* in position relative to the socket *b* and the contained lamp-bulb.

To lock the band in place, it is merely necessary to press the two ends together and
85 force the shoulder *h* over and upon the lip *i*, and to release it a slight upward pressure on the tongue *j* suffices to overcome the aforesaid binding action between said shoulder
90 and said lip.

The decorative frame may be quickly applied to and removed from a lamp-socket by merely slipping it over the lamp and its
95 socket and locking the band *g* in place or removed by a reversal of these steps. It is desirable to have the decoration to the lamp-bulb inclose same to avoid the handling of the said decoration in fitting the lamp to
100 the socket, the delicate colors of the translucent material being susceptible to being easily soiled and any openings in the said covering tending to detract from the finished appearance of the decoration.

In the construction herein described the
105 lamp-bulb and all its fittings are entirely concealed within the heart of the decorations, thus not only avoiding the exposure of said bulb, but causing the light-rays to pass through the various coverings and decora-
110 tions, and by toning the light therefrom to that best suited to produce the desired effect, increasing the artistic effects, novelty, and beauty of the decoration.

The colors of the translucent material employed may vary indefinitely to produce the
115 effect of different flowers. In the form shown in Figs. 1 to 3 of the drawings the effect produced is that of a rose, the heart being formed by the frame *f*. In the form shown in Fig. 4
120 the frame *f* would have secured thereto a cluster of pendent flowers. In either form the light-rays not only penetrate the covering of the frame *f*, but also all the surrounding decorative flowers, petals, or sheets, thus
125 causing the light effect to come through these decorations instead of merely illuminating same.

Unlike with the use of actual flowers it is possible with the aforesaid decorative fittings
130

to design an entire table or room decoration and use it repeatedly without loss of its effectiveness and at the cost of but a single decoration, the artistic effect and beauty of the decoration compensating for the employment of artificial flowers. The interchangeability of the fittings also permits the use of a great variety of decorations with the same wiring and without the necessity for employing a skilled decorator or electrician.

It is not my intention to limit the invention to the precise details of construction heretofore described, and shown in the accompanying drawings, as I believe it to be broadly new to provide a fine-arts decorative fitting for an electric lamp, wherein the lamp is inclosed by a frame which may be slipped over a lamp and its socket and be removably secured thereto, carrying translucent decorative material and having secured thereto or draped thereabout decorative flowers, petals, or sheets.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an electric-light fitting, the combination with a lamp-socket, means whereby suitable electrical connections may be made therewith, and a lamp-bulb, of a frame inclosing said bulb, a translucent decorative covering therefor, and means secured to said frame whereby it may be slipped over said lamp-bulb and said socket, and removably secured to said socket.

2. In an electric-light fitting, the combination with a lamp-socket, means whereby suitable electrical connections may be made therewith, and a lamp-bulb, of a frame inclosing said bulb, a translucent covering therefor, a band secured to said frame whereby said frame and said band may be slipped over said lamp-bulb and said socket and re-

movably secured to said socket, and decorative flowers petals or sheets secured to or dressed about said frame and said band.

3. In an electric-light fitting, the combination with a lamp-socket, means whereby suitable electrical connections may be made therewith, and a lamp-bulb, of a frame inclosing said bulb, a translucent covering therefor, a band secured to said frame whereby said frame and said band may be slipped over said lamp-bulb and said socket, means locking the ends of said band together whereby it may be removably attached to said socket, and decorative flowers, petals or sheets secured to or dressed about said frame and said band.

4. In an electric-light fitting, the combination with a lamp-socket, means whereby suitable electrical connections may be made therewith and a lamp-bulb, of a frame inclosing said bulb, a translucent decorative covering therefor, a circular band of spring metal secured to said frame whereby said frame and said band may be slipped over said lamp-bulb and said socket, the opposite ends thereof being respectively bent inwardly to form a shoulder, and outwardly to form a cooperating lip, said shoulder and said lip when the band is closed being extended substantially radially of the band, and a protruding end or tongue whereby said band may be unlocked, and decorative flowers, petals or sheets secured to or dressed about said frame and said band.

In witness whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature, this 5th day of June, 1905, in the presence of two witnesses.

HERBERT E. PLASS.

Witnesses:

WM. H. BLAIN,
F. T. WENTWORTH.