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PATENTED OCT. 2, 1906.

B. F. STOLTZFUS.  
SERVICE BOX CLOSURE.  
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 12, 1905.

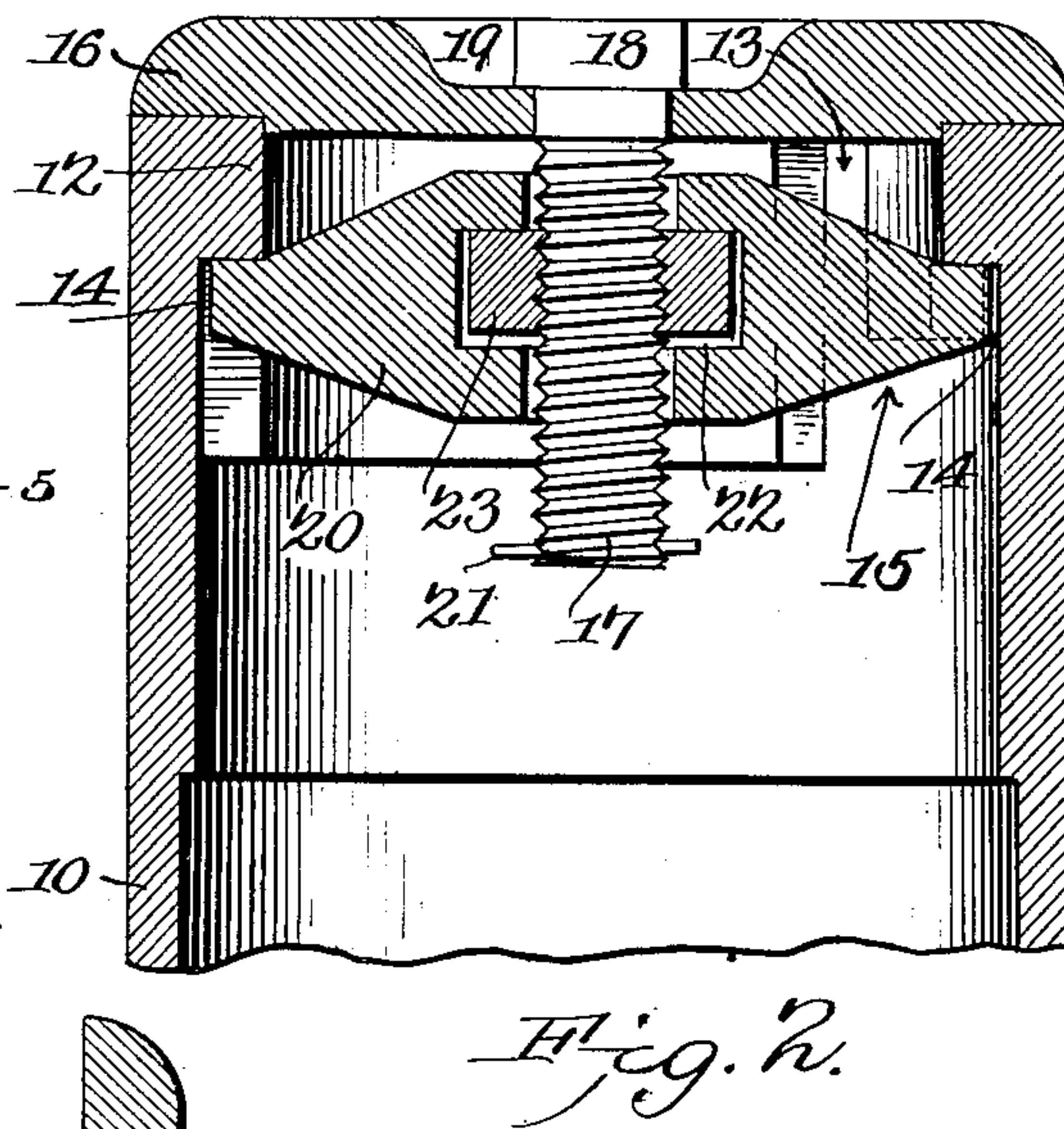
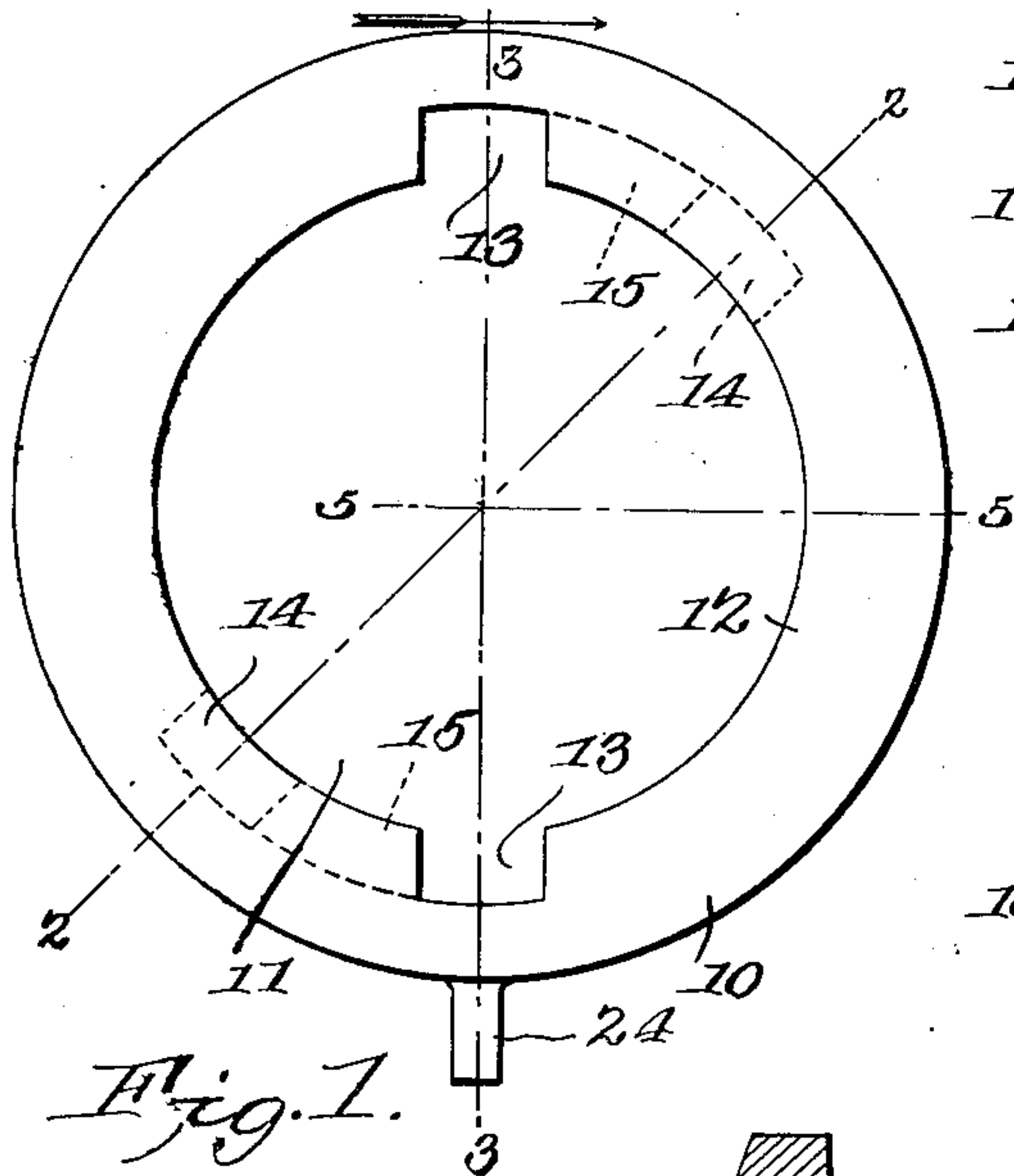


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

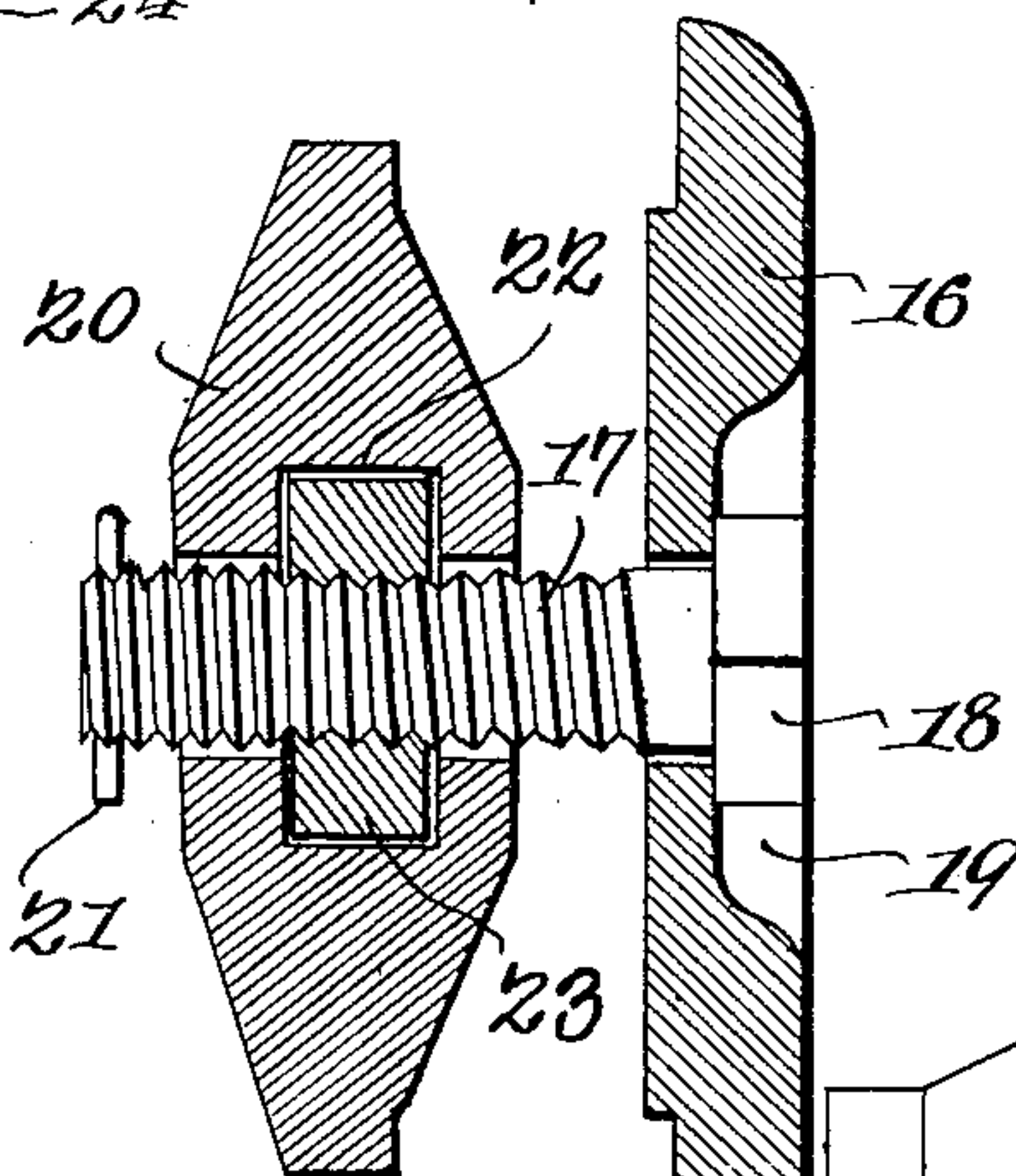


Fig. 4.

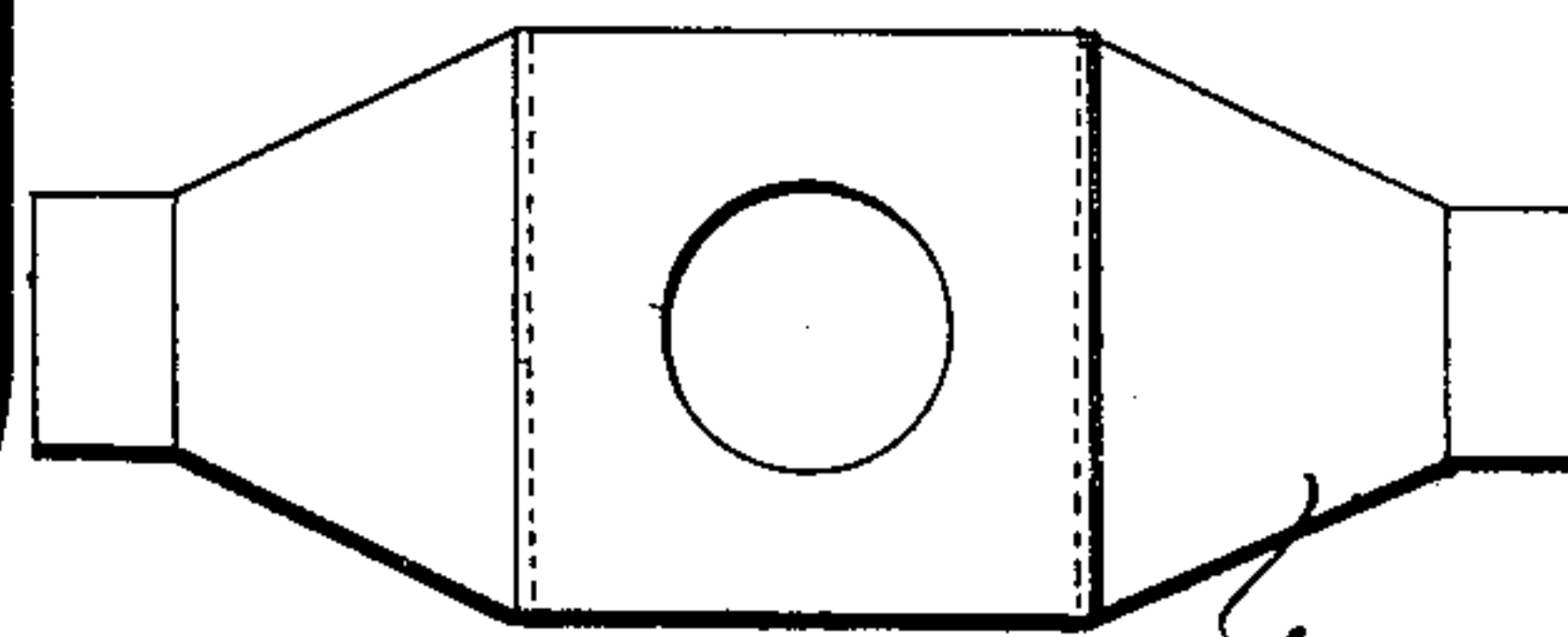
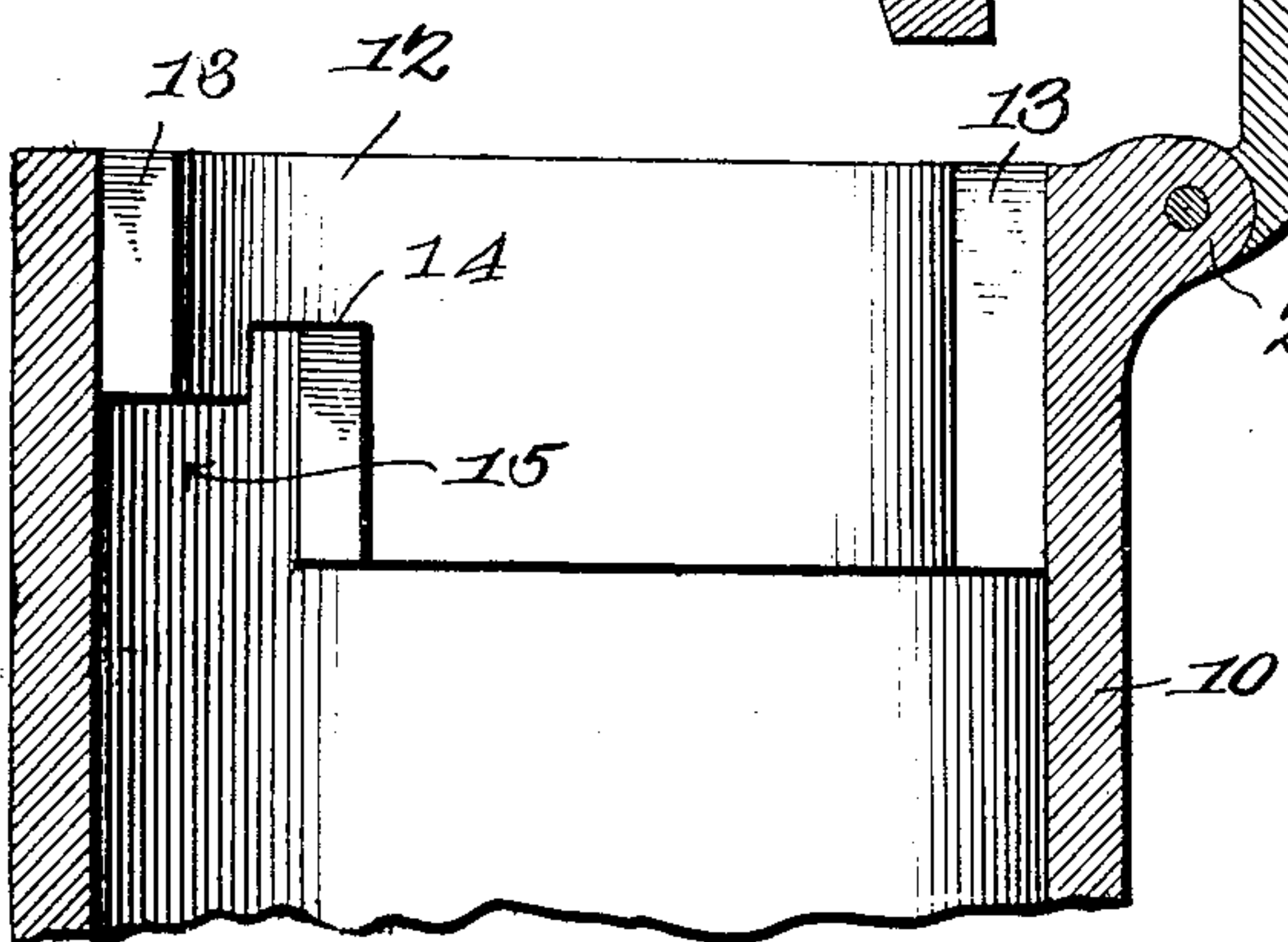
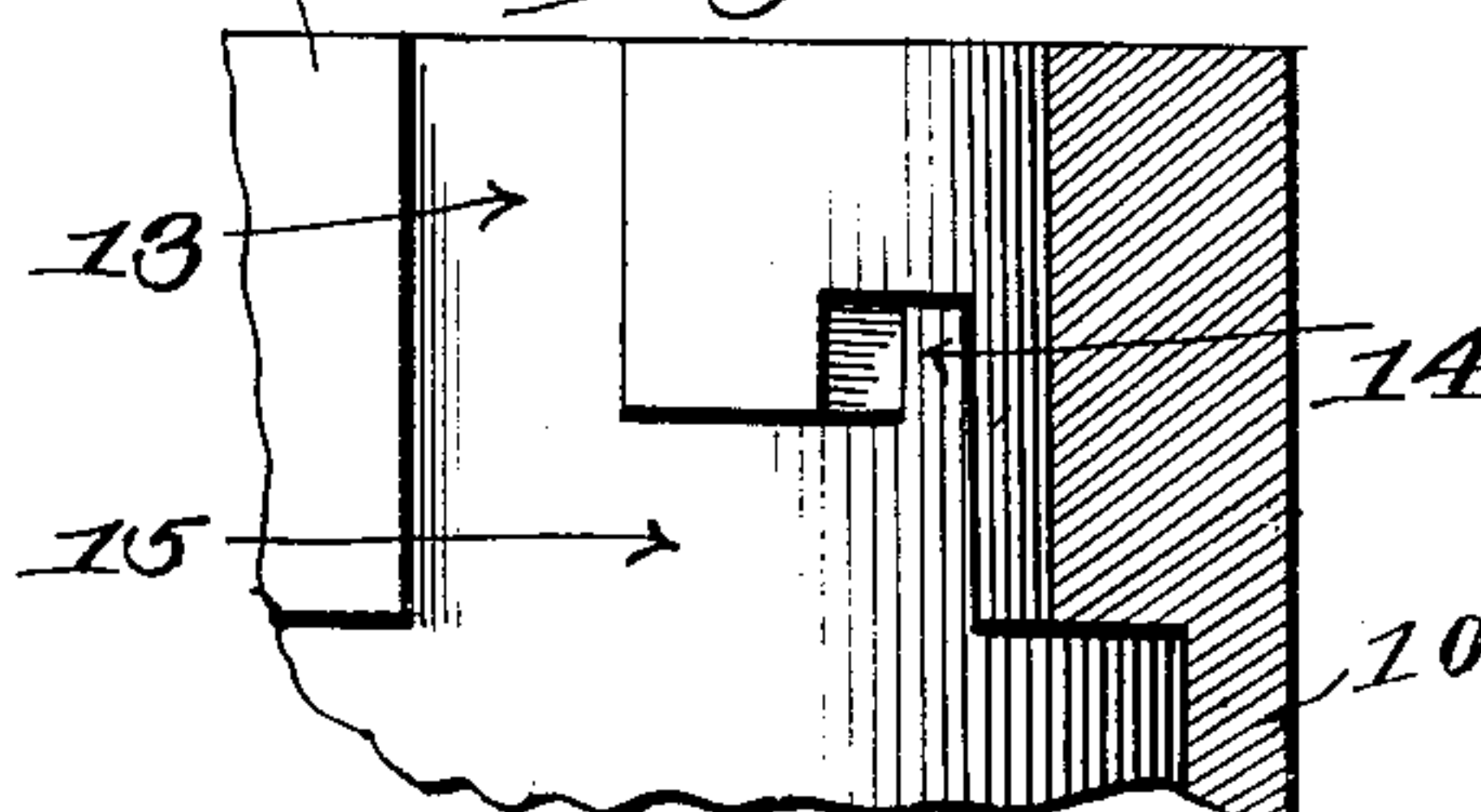


Fig. 5.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STOLTZFUS, OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI.

## SERVICE-BOX CLOSURE.

No. 832,093.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 2, 1906.

Application filed December 12, 1905. Serial No. 291,477.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STOLTZFUS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Laurel, in the county of Jones and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Service-Box Closure, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to closures for curb-boxes, valve-boxes, hand or man holes, flues, pipes, or the like, and has for an object to provide a device of the class embodying new and improved features of strength, reliability, simplicity, and efficiency.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved closure embodying a cross-bar proportioned to engage locking notches or recesses within the service-box, whereby the closure may be bound firmly and securely upon the box.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details may be made without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of a curb-box fitted for association with the improved closure. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view positioned relative to the box, as on line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view as on line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the locking cross-bar. Fig. 5 is a detail fragmentary perspective view taken on line 5 5 of Fig. 1.

Like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the figures of the drawings.

The improved closure forming the subject-matter of this application is adapted to be applied to and to close a large variety of openings and is here shown as applied to a curb-box 10, having a circular opening 11. In cases where the walls of the box are thin they will be thickened about the upper edge, as at 12, and therein are formed the diametrically-disposed longitudinal slots 13. Adjacent but spaced from the slots 13 are formed the locking notches or recesses 14, substantially parallel with the slots and connected by a passage 15 circumferential to the box and

communicating with the bottom of the recess in such relation that the upper extreme of the recess extends above the passage.

To cover the box, a closure member 16 is provided having a screw 17 inserted axially therethrough and with means, as the head 18, external of the closure for engaging a tool and preferably disposed within a cavity 19. Upon the screw is mounted the cross-bar 20, having its ends proportioned and positioned to slide within the slots 13 and to be rotated by the screw to and raised within the recess. Through the lower end of the screw is inserted a transverse binding-pin 21, and instead of having the cross-bar screw-threaded to engage upon the screw it will be found in many or most cases desirable to provide the bar with a mortise 22, in which is placed a nut 23 of some non-rusting metal. When the use makes it desirable, the closure will be connected with the box by a hinge, as 24, though this is not necessary to the complete and satisfactory operation of the device.

With the parts assembled as shown in Fig. 2 the cross-bar is seated within the locking-recesses 14 and the closure securely locked. To unlock and open the closure, a tool is applied to head 18 and the screw turned, dropping or forcing the cross-bar downward until it enters the passage 15. A continued-turning will bind the pin 21 against the under side of the cross-bar and rotate the bar until the ends register in the slots 13, when the closure may be lifted off or turned back upon the hinge, as in Fig. 3, leaving the entire opening unobstructed. To close and lock the box, the cover is returned with the cross-bar sliding within the slots. The screw is then turned in the reverse direction, and the bar being bound by the pin is rotated therewith until it encounters the walls of the recesses 14, when a continued turning will disengage the pin from the bar and raise the bar into the recesses to their upper extremes, where the cover member will be firmly and securely locked.

For use upon streets and in like public places the head 18 will be given some odd or peculiar form, whereby it may be conveniently manipulated only by a key or wrench formed for the express purpose and whereby malicious or mischievous interference is reduced to a minimum. For use on curb-boxes and in like locations the nut 23 will



preferably be made of brass, whereby the screw will not be broken by reason of being united thereto by rust.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. In a device of the character described the combination with a casing having oppositely-disposed longitudinal slots and a locking-recess spaced from and communicating with the slots; of a closure for the casing and adapted to conceal said slots, a screw rotatably mounted within the closure, a cross-bar engaged thereby and adapted to be moved by said screw from the slots into the locking devices, and means upon the screw for binding on the cross-bar.

2. In a device of the class described a tubular casing provided internally with diametrically disposed longitudinal slots and with

substantially parallel locking-recesses communicating with the slots by circumferential passages, a closure for the end of the tube, a screw inserted through the center of the closure and having a tool-engaging head upon the exterior, a cross-bar engaged upon the screw and with its opposite ends positioned to slide within the slots and move circumferentially through the passages into the recesses and means carried by the screw to contact with and move the cross-bar.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STOLTZFUS.

Witnesses:

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J. M. CONSLEY.