

No. 843,326.

PATENTED FEB. 5, 1907.

J. C. CHAPIN.
TENNIS NET.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 3, 1906.

Fig. 2,

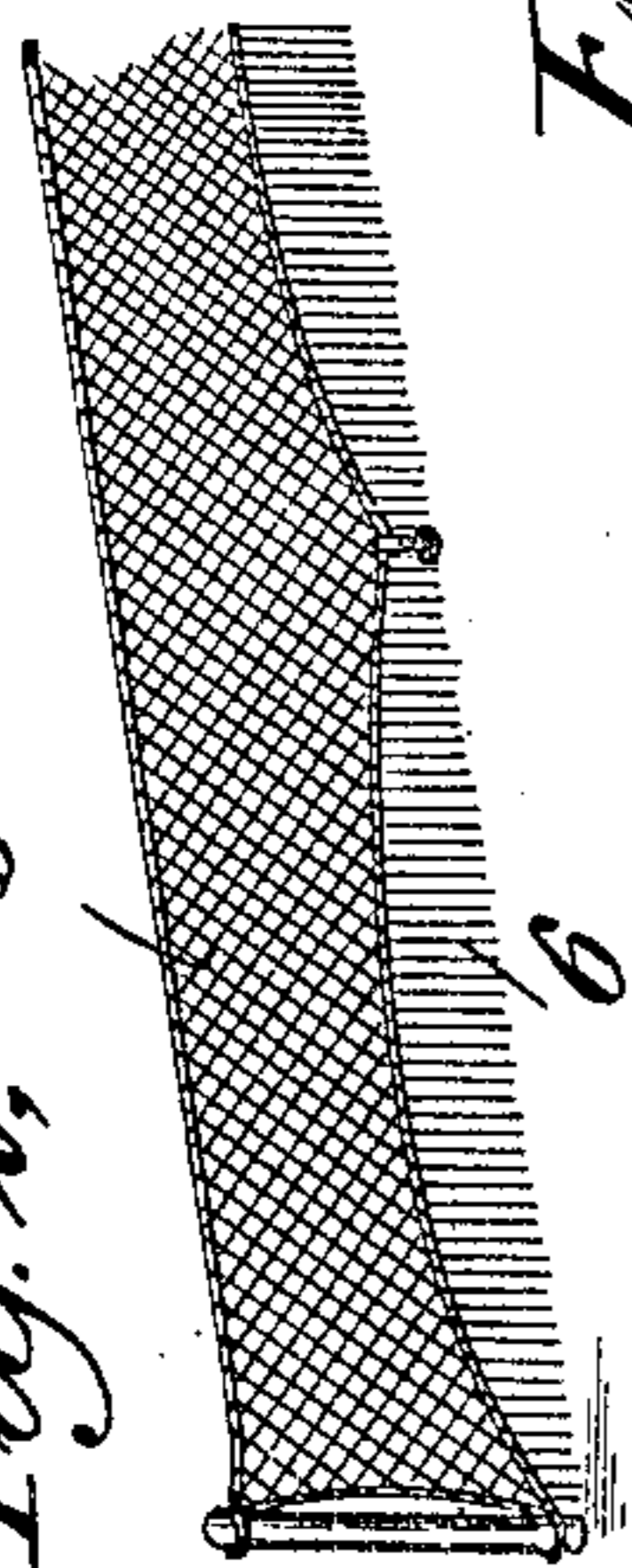


Fig. 3,

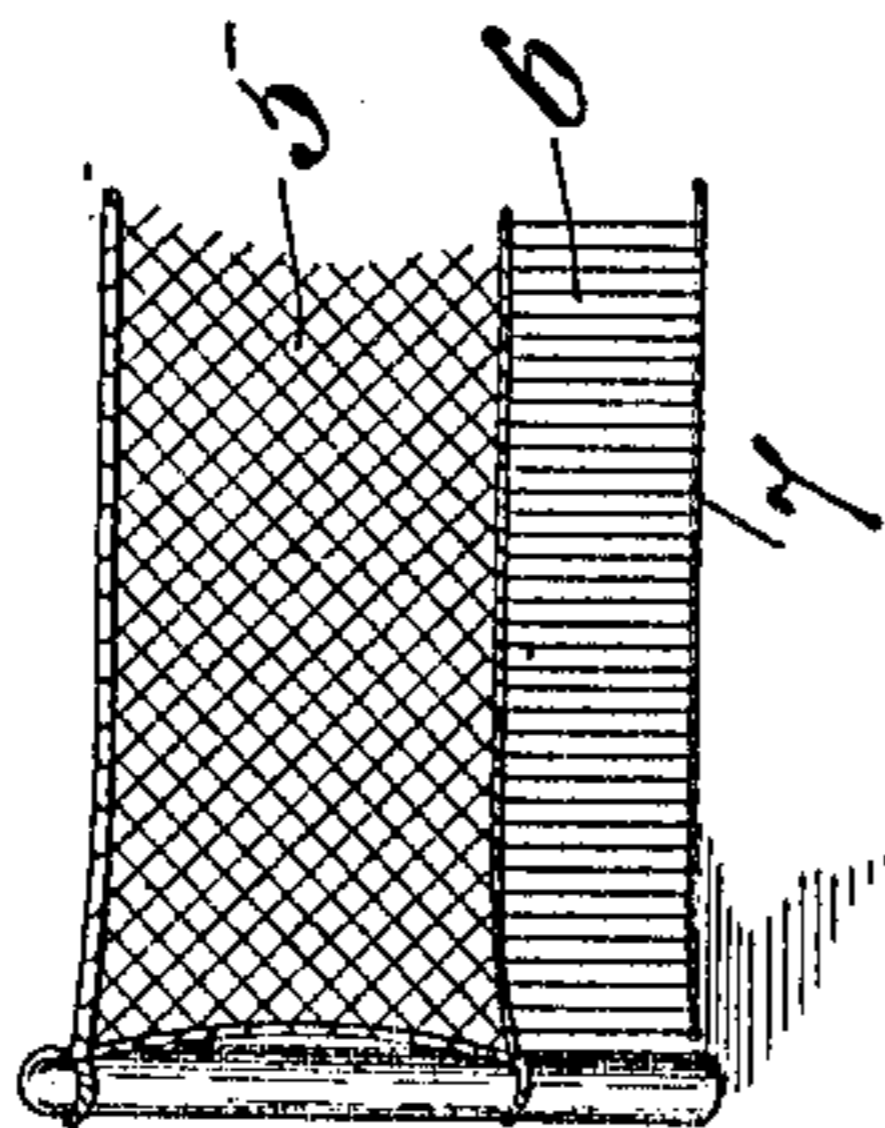
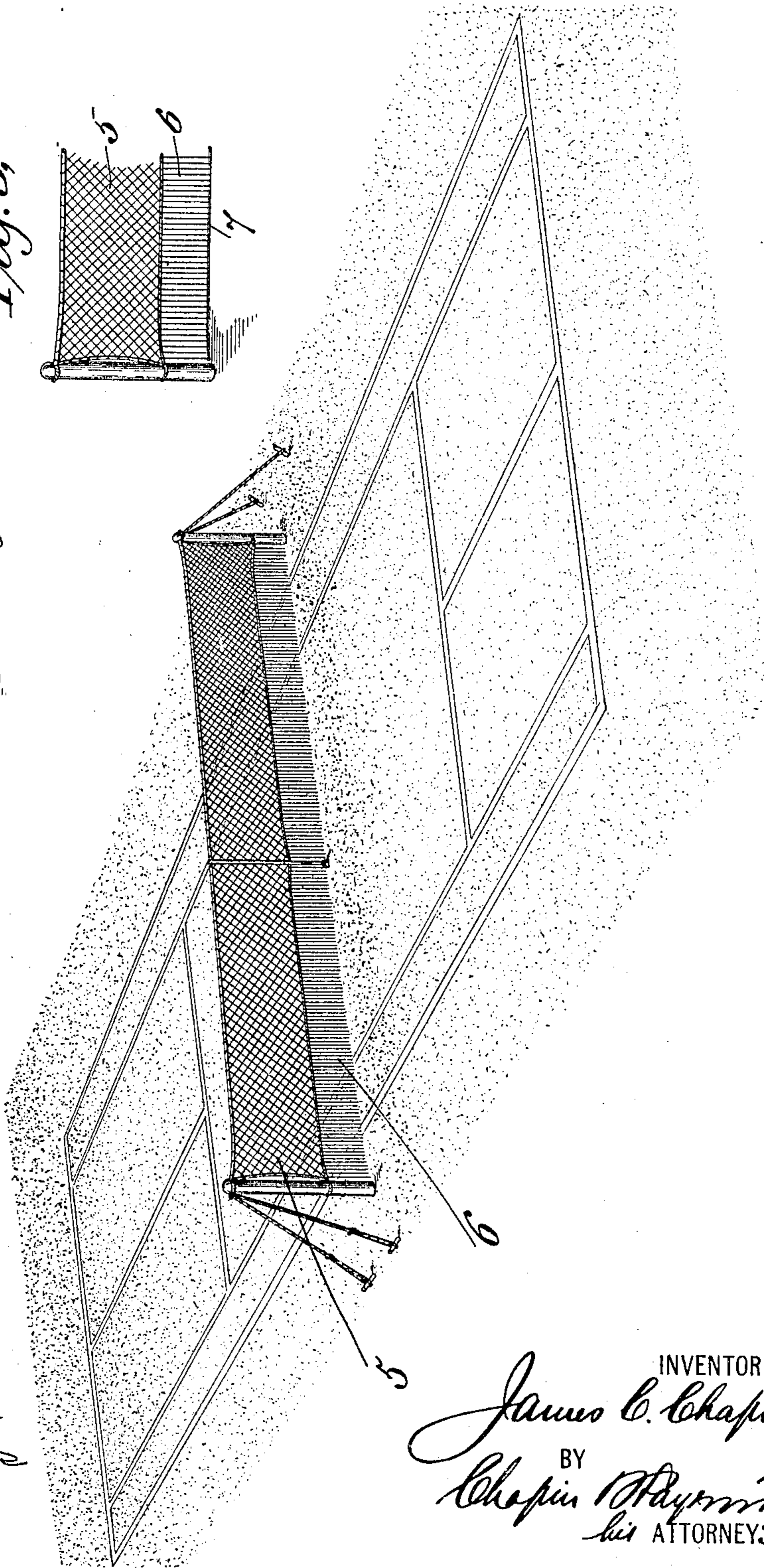


Fig. 1,



WITNESSES:

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JAMES C. CHAPIN, OF ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

TENNIS-NET.

No. 843,326.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed November 3, 1906. Serial No. 341,902.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. CHAPIN, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Englewood, county of Bergen, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tennis-Nets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof.

My invention relates to improvements in tennis-nets, and consists in a tennis-net having its lower portion so constructed as to permit tennis-balls to pass freely there-through.

In tennis as it is ordinarily played it is quite advantageous to allow balls to pass freely beneath the net, so that between plays balls may be returned from one court to the other. If, however, the net be made so as to leave an open space between the lower edge thereof and the ground for this purpose, it has been found that two serious objections result, first, it is difficult to always tell with certainty as to whether the ball has passed over or under the net; second, the player is apt to be deceived as to the position of the net, as viewed from a short distance the lower end of the net would appear to be directly on the ground and a farther distance away from the player than it really is. This would not only give the illusion of a net at a greater distance, but also of a lower net, because the height of the lower edge of the net from the ground would be gaged only from the width of the net. To overcome these objections, I have provided the lower end of the net with a portion which will yield to allow the passage of tennis-balls there-through, which portion may conveniently be a fringe of loose pendent threads. In this way the movements of the threads when a ball passes through will indicate clearly that the ball has passed beneath and not over the net, while the presence of the threads will act as a continuation of the net, so far as the sight is concerned, so as to prevent the illusion referred to.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will now proceed to describe in detail an embodiment thereof, having reference to the accompanying drawings, illustrating same, and will then point out the novel features in claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in per-

spective of a tennis-court and tennis-net thereon, such net constituting an embodiment of my invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a part of a net of slightly-modified form, and Fig. 3 is a fragmentary view of a portion of a net of still further modified form.

In Fig. 1 the net will be seen to comprise a main body portion 5 and a supplemental lower fringe-like portion 6. In this embodiment of my invention the main body portion 5, which may be of the usual or any desired form and material, extends for a distance of about two-thirds of the entire height from the ground, while the supplemental fringe-like portion occupies the remaining one-third. The exact proportions are, however, entirely immaterial, and the supplemental portion may occupy a greater or less proportion of the whole, as may be desired. The supplemental portion 6 preferably comprises a fringe of loose pendent threads, which will freely yield, as will be readily understood, to permit passage therethrough of tennis-balls. The lower ends of the threads of this fringe may be disconnected, if desired, or may be connected, as is shown in the fragmentary view, Fig. 3, a cord 7 in this case forming a means for connecting the lowermost ends of the fringe-threads together. In either case the individual threads are loose in the sense that they will readily yield to permit the passage of tennis-balls past them, but will normally hang down to form a screen.

In Fig. 2 I have shown the main portion of the net as extending practically to the ground at the posts and at the center of the net. I have shown this as illustrative of another form of net from that shown in Fig. 1 for the reason that I wish it to be understood that the specific form of net is not of any particular moment, the feature of the invention being providing a yielding barrier at the lower portion of the net to permit the passage of balls without particular regard to the form, shape, configuration, material, and the like of the net itself.

What I claim is—

1. A tennis-net having its upper part composed of netting and its lower part of loose pendent threads.

2. A tennis-net having a part composed of woven threads to form a network, and another part of free or unwoven threads.

3. A tennis-net having an upper portion which will prevent the passage of tennis-balls therethrough, and a lower portion which will yield to permit the passage therethrough of
5 such balls.

4. A tennis-net composed in part of a fringe of loose pendent threads.

5. A tennis-net having a main body portion which will prevent the passage there-

through of tennis-balls, and a supplemental to lower portion of loose threads which will spread to permit the passage therethrough of such balls.

JAMES C. CHAPIN.

Witnesses:

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