No. 848,237. PATENTED MAR. 26, 1907.

W. H. GLENN.

DISPLAY STAND.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 16, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

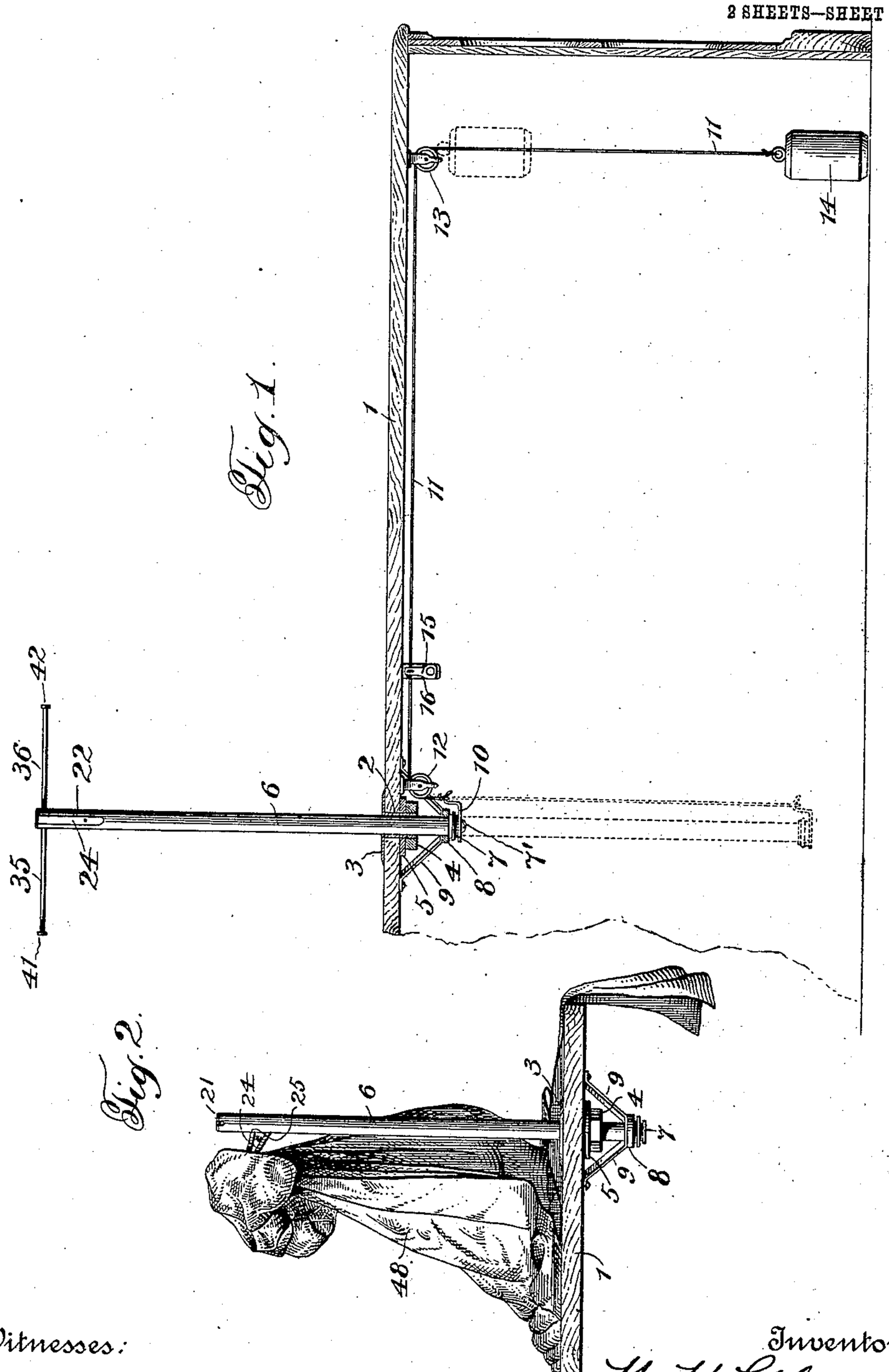

Fig. 2.

Witnesses:

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

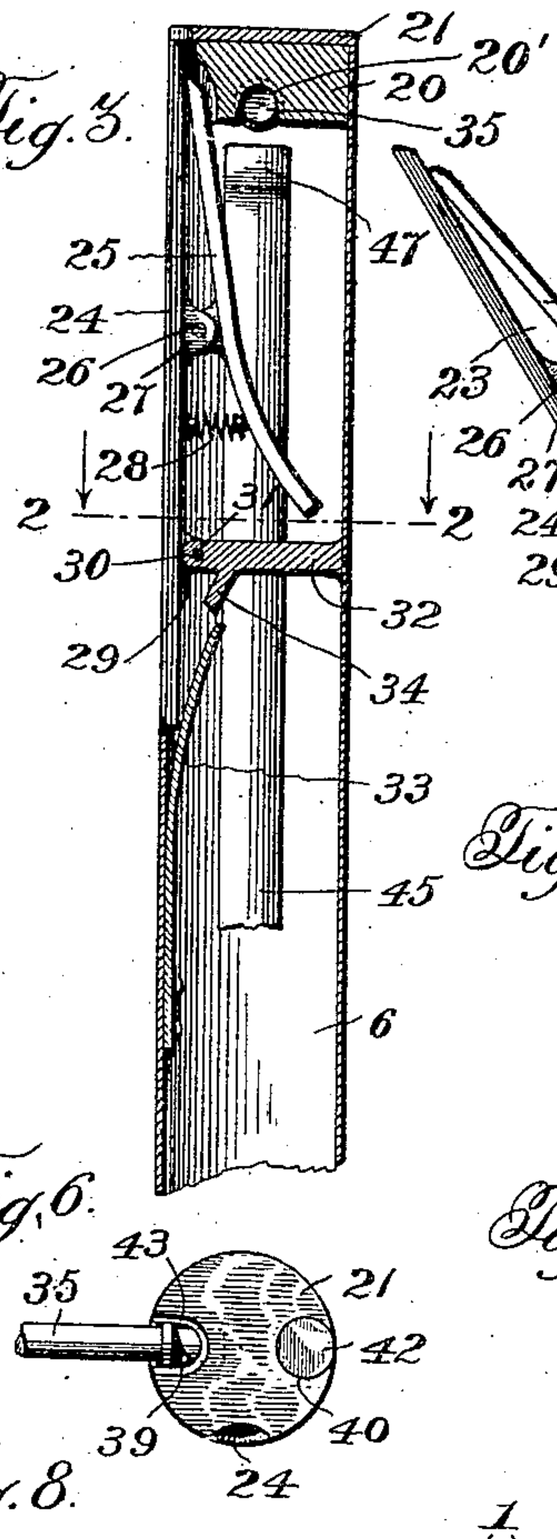


Fig. 4.

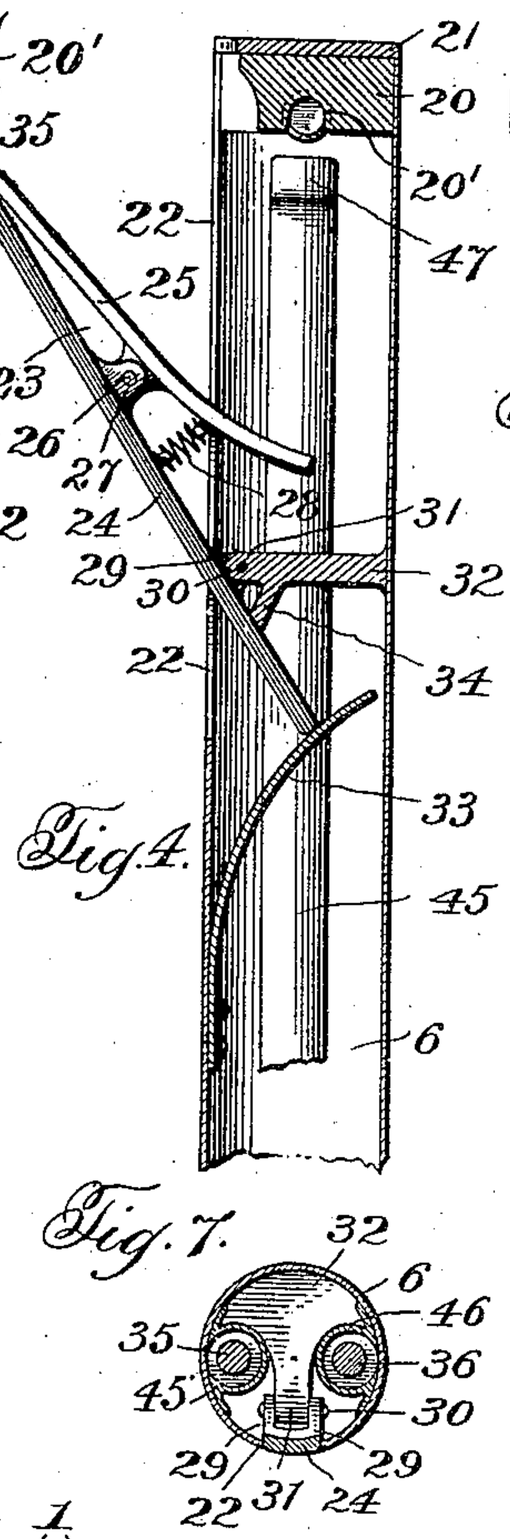


Fig. 5.

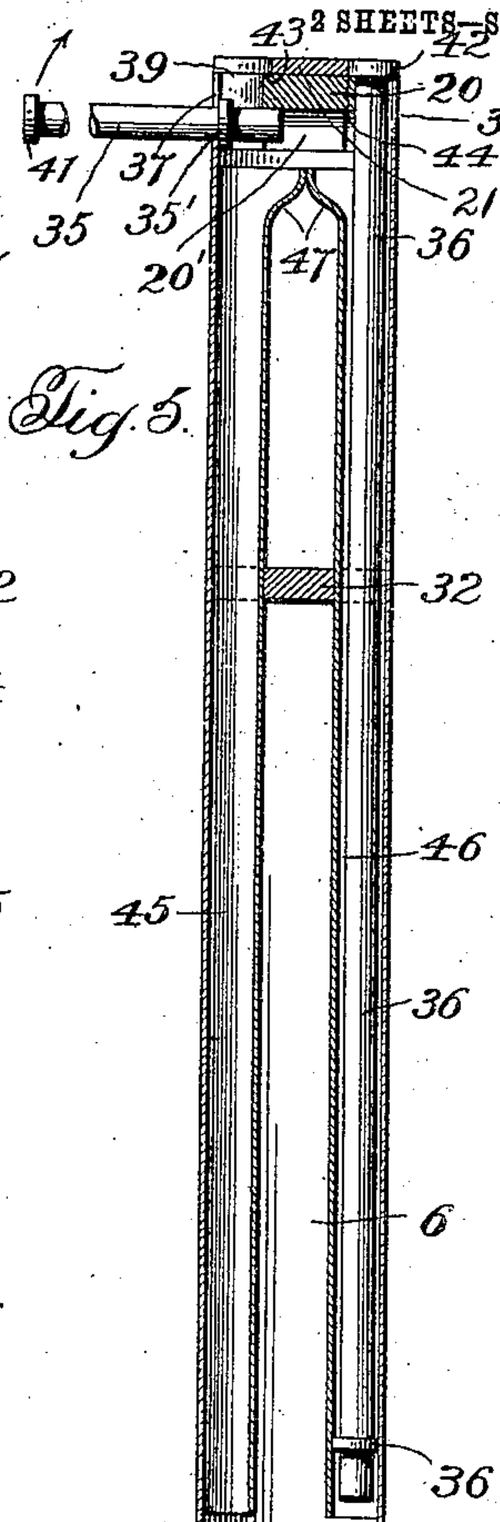


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

Fig. 8.

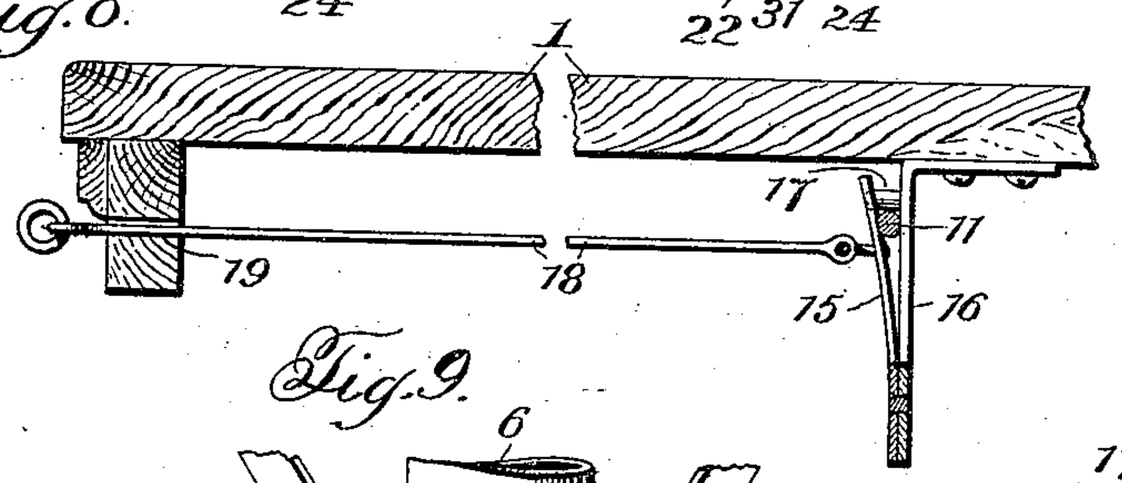


Fig. 9.

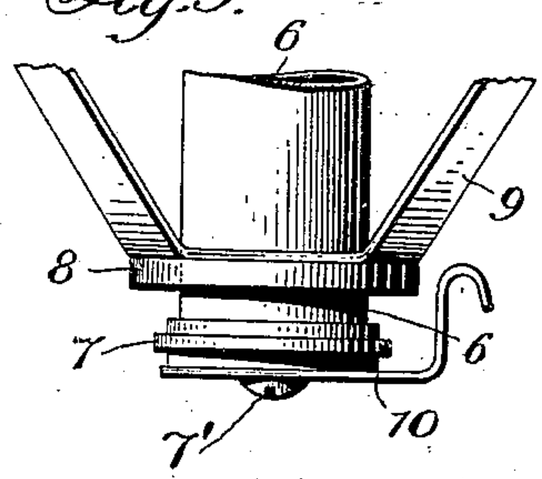
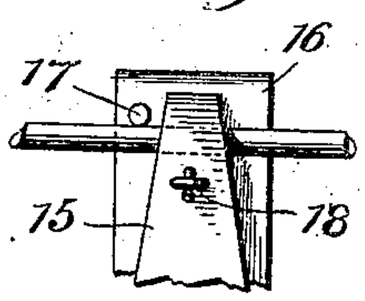


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HOLT GLENN, OF EL PASO, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO BRADFORD HARDIE, OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

DISPLAY-STAND.

No. 848,237. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 26, 1907.

Application filed August 16, 1906. Serial No. 330,822.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HOLT GLENN, a citizen of the United States, residing at El Paso, in the county of El Paso and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Display-Stands, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to devices for assisting salesmen in exhibiting dry goods, and more especially silks and dress goods, to prospective purchasers, though, if desired, the device may be used for exhibiting goods for a longer time, as in store-windows or in substantially the same way in which ordinary racks and stands are used for exhibiting goods throughout the day on counters and show-cases in stores.

In exhibiting goods, and especially dress goods, to prospective purchasers it is of the utmost importance to exhibit them in such manner as to produce the best possible effect upon the eye of the purchaser. The method usually resorted to by salesmen for this purpose is to drape the goods over the arm. This method, which necessitates the holding out of one's arm for quite a long time becomes extremely fatiguing and for this reason is often shirked by salesmen, and consequently goods are not displayed to the best advantage. Moreover, in exhibiting dress goods it is often necessary to exhibit along with the goods the trimmings to go with them. This becomes very awkward and practically impossible to do to the best advantage when the salesman has to drape the goods over one arm.

The above objections to the present method of exhibiting goods may be overcome to some extent by draping the goods over the ordinary display-stands placed upon the top of the store-counter. These stands, however, when not in actual use are often much in the way, and are also rather hard to drape goods over to produce the best effect. When not actually in the way, it often happens that these stands cannot be found just at the time they are most wanted.

The primary object of this invention is the production of a device which will hold the goods being exhibited and so arranged that the best possible draping effect may be obtained and at the same time capable of being put out of the way when not in use. Moreover, these devices are always in place, so that a salesman may know just where to look for them.

I accomplish the foregoing objects by providing, among other parts, an upright or main support, which is so mounted as to be movable up and down through the top of the counter, so that the upright may extend upward from the surface of the counter to any desired extent, within limits, and pass downward through said counter and out of the way. At or near the upper end of this upright I provide means for retaining the goods on said upright while exhibiting them, and preferably beneath the top of the counter are means controllable by the salesman for automatically raising the upright to any desired extent.

A specific embodiment of my invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of a store-counter with portions broken away, showing my invention in side elevation and partly in section, the said counter being viewed from the rear; Fig. 2, a side elevation of the stand with goods draped thereon; Fig. 3, a detail longitudinal sectional view of the upper end of the upright, showing the clamping device in the closed position; Fig. 4, a similar view showing the clamping device in the operative or open position; Fig. 5, a similar view in which the section is taken at right angles to that of Figs. 2 and 3 and in which one of the supporting-rods is shown within the upper end of the upright and the other rod in the operative position. Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the upright with the goods-retaining rods as shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 7 is a cross-section taken on the line 2 2 of Fig. 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows; Fig. 8, a detail view of the clamping device for controlling the downward movement of the weight, showing a portion of the counter-top in section; Fig. 9, an enlarged fragmentary view of the lower end of the upright and the stop-frame therein, and Fig. 10, an enlarged detail view of the clamping device shown in Fig. 8.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 represents a store-counter, and 2 a short, preferably metal, guide-tube passing through the top of the counter and provided with a flange or thin collar 3, adapted to rest upon

the top of the counter. The outer edge of this flange is preferably beveled, so that the flange will not form an obstruction on the top of the counter. Substantially the same effect may be produced by countersinking the flange in the top of the counter. The tube 2 is screw-threaded on its exterior and held in position by means of a nut 4, which binds against a washer 5, inserted between the nut and the lower side of the counter-top.

Adapted to slide vertically in the collar 3 is an upright 6, which consists, preferably, of a highly-polished or plated metal tube. Secured to the lower end of this upright is a stop or buffer 7, which is adapted to engage at the end of the upward travel of the upright 6 a stop-ring 8, through which the upright 6 passes. This stop-ring 8 is made fast to a bracket 9, secured to the lower side of the counter-top. Secured to the buffer 7, by means of a screw 7′ to allow the upright to turn on a vertical axis, is an arm 10, to which is secured a cord or its equivalent 11. This cord passes over two or more pulleys 12 13, suitably located beneath the counter, and to the end of the cord depending from the pulley 13 is secured a weight 14.

For the purpose of holding the weight 14 up in the dotted-line position shown in Fig. 1, in which position the upright 6 is down, as shown in dotted lines in the same figure, and for holding the said upright in any position intermediate between its extreme upper and lower positions, I provide means for operation by the salesman to clamp or retain the cord 11. The means which I have shown for this purpose consists of a spring-plate 15, made fast at one end to a rigid angle-plate 16, secured to the lower side of the counter-top. The cord 11 passes between the spring-plate 15 and the plate 16 and below a guide-pin 17, (see Figs. 8 and 10,) made fast to the plate 16. The pressure of the spring-plate 15 against the cord is sufficient to hold it in any desired position. For the purpose of releasing the cord, I secure a rod 18 to the outer face of the spring-plate 15 and extend this rod through a portion of the counter or any other suitable support, as at 19, to a point at or near the edge of the counter, so as to be easy of access to the salesman. Obviously any other suitable clamping device for the cord may be employed.

The upper end of the tubular upright 6 is closed by means of a plug 20 fast therein, and over this plug may be placed a metal cap 21, preferably brazed to the upright 6. Extending from the top of the upright 6 down a suitable distance is a slot 22, adapted to receive a clamping device 23 for holding the goods. This clamping device consists, among other parts, of an elongated metal plate 24, adapted to fit the slot 22, and a clamping member 25, fulcrumed, as at 26 to a lug 27 on the plate 24. One end of the member 25 is held normally in engagement with the plate 24 by a suitable spring 28. The plate 24 is hinged, by means of lugs 29 thereon and a pin 30, to an extension 31 on the plate 32, brazed or otherwise made fast to the interior of the tube 6, so that the clamping device may be closed, as shown in Fig. 3, or opened outward, as in Fig. 4. When closed, the plate 24 entirely closes the slot 22 and is flush with the exterior of the upright 6, so as not to interfere with the passage of the upper end of the said upright downward through the guide-tube 2. The plate 24 opens outward against the tension of a spring 33, made fast to the interior of the upright tube 6, the said spring acting to normally hold the plate 24 closed by engaging its lower end, as shown in Fig. 3. This spring also acts to hold the said plate in position when opened outward, as in Fig. 4. A stop 34 on the plate 32 limits the outward movement of the upper end thereof by engaging the plate 24.

In addition to the clamping device 23 I may provide supporting-arms, which consist, preferably, of highly-polished or plated metal rods 35 and 36, adapted to extend outward from the upper end of the upright 6 to support goods for display and to be dropped down into the upright out of the way to allow the upper end of the same to pass without obstruction into the collar 2. These rods 35 and 36 are adapted to pass, respectively, through openings 37 and 38 in the upper end of the sides of the tube 6, and when in the operative position (shown in Fig. 1) to rest upon the bottom of said openings. In this position the inner ends of the said rods engage the lower face of the plug 20 and are thus held horizontally, the lower face of the plug 20 being recessed, as at 20′, to receive the inner ends of said rods. The rods 35 and 36 are prevented from being pulled out of the tube 6 by collars or annular flanges 35′ and 36′, respectively, thereon near their inner ends. In order to permit these rods to be turned upward in the direction of the arrow, Fig. 5, for dropping them into the tube 6, the plug 20 and cap 21 are provided with openings 39 and 40, which communicate with the top of the openings 37 and 38, respectively. The said rods are provided with heads 41 and 42, respectively, which engage shoulders 43 and 44 in the openings 39 and 40, respectively, which shoulders support the rods vertically when dropped into the tubular upright 6. (See Fig. 5.)

I may provide for the rods 35 and 36 guide-casings 45 and 46, located within the tube 6 and preferably flared at their upper ends, as at 47. These, however, may be omitted, as desired.

When the device is not in use for exhibiting goods, the rods 35 and 36 are dropped into the end of the tubular upright, as described, and the clamping device 23 is closed—that is,

it is placed in the position shown most clearly in Fig. 3—and the upright is pushed down to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1.

When it is desired to exhibit goods, the upright 6 is made to pass upward for a short distance—say six or eight inches. This is done by pulling the rod 18 and releasing the cord 11 for a time. When the upright 6 has ascended to the desired extent, the mere releasing of the rod 18 will cause the spring-plate 15 to grip the cord, thus stopping the upward movement of the upright. If silk goods are to be displayed, I prefer to use the clamp 23 alone as the means for retaining the goods on the stand, and assuming that such goods are to be displayed the spring-clamp 23 is then opened outward. The piece of goods 48, for example, which it is desired to display, is then bunched for draping and clamped by means of the clamping device 23 by inserting the goods between the plate 24 and the member 25, the goods falling from the top of the upright down upon the counter. The salesman then pulls the rod 18 and again releases the cord and weight, when the upright will continue on its ascent. The upward travel of the upright will be limited by the engagement of the stop 8 with the buffer 7. The result of this is a natural draping of the goods from the upright to the counter, (see Fig. 2,) producing the effect practically unattainable by present methods.

In exhibiting dress goods, including wool and other heavy goods, I prefer to use the rods 35 and 36 for supporting the goods, in which case instead of opening the clamping device 23, as above described, the rods 35 and 36 are pulled up and allowed to drop to the horizontal position, (shown in Fig. 1,) whereupon the goods may be thrown over them. If desired, however, I may use both the clamping device 23 and the rods 35 and 36 at the same time for holding the goods. After the goods have been exhibited and there is no further use for the display-stand the rods 35 and 36 may be dropped into the tubular upright and the clamp 23 closed, as described, after which the whole may be placed out of the way by pushing the upright down into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1 beneath the counter. In order to do this, however, it is first necessary to release the spring-clamp 15 from the cord.

What I claim is—

1. The combination with a store-counter, of a tubular guideway made fast to and extending through the top of said counter, an elongated metal tube mounted for vertical movement in said guideway, supporting means carried near the upper end of said elongated tube to hold the goods to be displayed, and mechanism acting to cause said elongated tube to travel upward from the top of said counter.

2. The combination with a store-counter, of a tubular guideway made fast to and extending through the top of said counter, an elongated metal tube mounted for vertical movement in said guideway, supporting means to hold the goods to be displayed, said means movably mounted on said elongated tube near its upper end to be inclosed within said tube to allow the same to pass unobstructed into said guideway, and to extend outward from said upright in supporting the goods, means comprising a cord attached to the upright and a weight attached to the cord to impart vertical movement to said upright, and a catch coöperating with said cord to hold said upright against the downward pull of said weight.

3. The combination with a store-counter, of a display-stand comprising an upright mounted for movement up and down through the top of said counter, a supporting device carried by said upright near its upper end to hold the goods to be displayed, means comprising a cord attached to the upright at its lower end and a weight depending from said cord and movable to raise said upright, and a catch to engage said cord and hold said upright against the downward pull of said weight.

4. In a display-stand, the combination with a stationary guide, an upright made hollow at one end and mounted for movement longitudinally through said guide, a spring-clamp hinged within the hollowed end of said upright, supporting-rods movably mounted in said end of said upright to coöperate with said spring-clamp in holding the goods to be displayed, said spring-clamp and said rods adapted when not supporting goods to be inclosed in said hollowed end of said upright so as to not form an obstruction on the exterior of said upright to the movement of said upright through said guide, and mechanism to impart upward movement to said upright.

5. The combination with a store-counter, of a display-stand, comprising an upright mounted for movement up and down through the top of said counter so as not to extend above the counter-top when at its lower limit, means comprising a clamping device and supporting-rods to hold the goods to be displayed, said clamping device and rods being mounted on the said upright near its upper end to be inclosed in said upright to allow the same to pass unobstructed through said counter, and to extend outward therefrom in supporting the goods, means comprising a cord and falling weight to impart upward movement to the said upright, and a catch to hold said upright against the downward pull of said weight.

6. A display-stand, comprising a hollowed upright having apertures through its sides and top communicating with said hollowed portion, a rod passing through each of said apertures, a stop on each of said rods to limit

the extent to which said rods may pass outward through said openings, and an enlargement on each of said rods to support the same from the top of said upright in a depending position within said hollowed portion.

7. The combination with stationary supporting means comprising a surface adapted and arranged for the support and display of dry goods, of a display-stand mounted for movement longitudinally up and down through said surface, means to automatically impart upward travel to said stand and to retain said stand in desired positions in its longitudinal travel, goods-retaining means mounted on said stand and collapsible thereinto to permit said stand to pass unobstructed through said supporting-surface.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM HOLT GLENN.

Witnesses:
FRANCIS S. MAGUIRE,
VERNON E. WEST.