

No. 859,160.

PATENTED JULY 2, 1907.

W. A. WILKINS.

WASHBOARD.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 19, 1906.

Fig. 1.

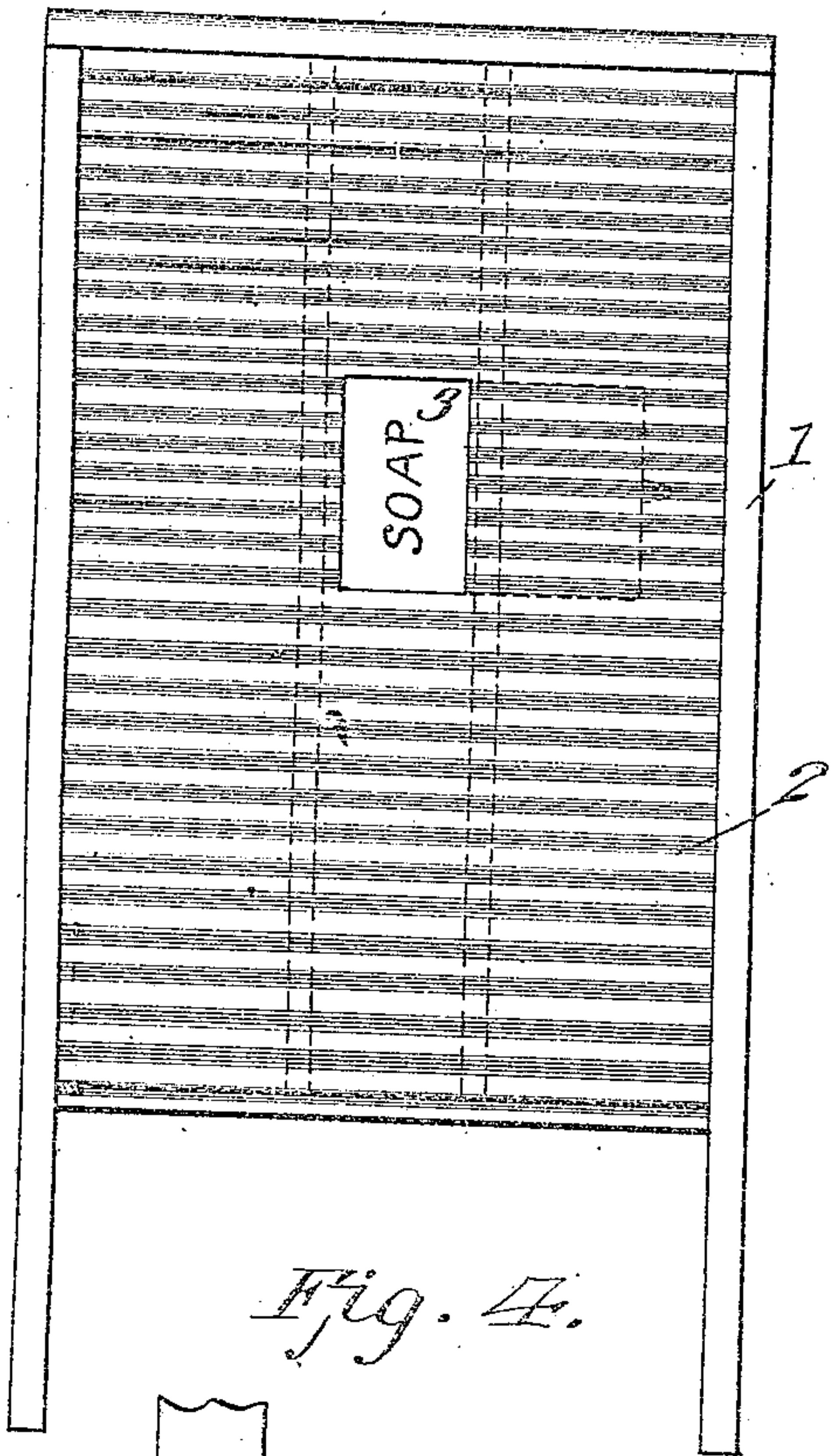


Fig. 2.

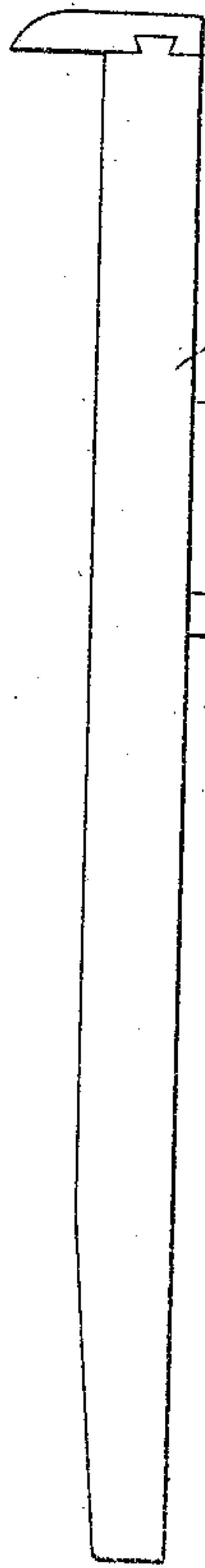


Fig. 3.

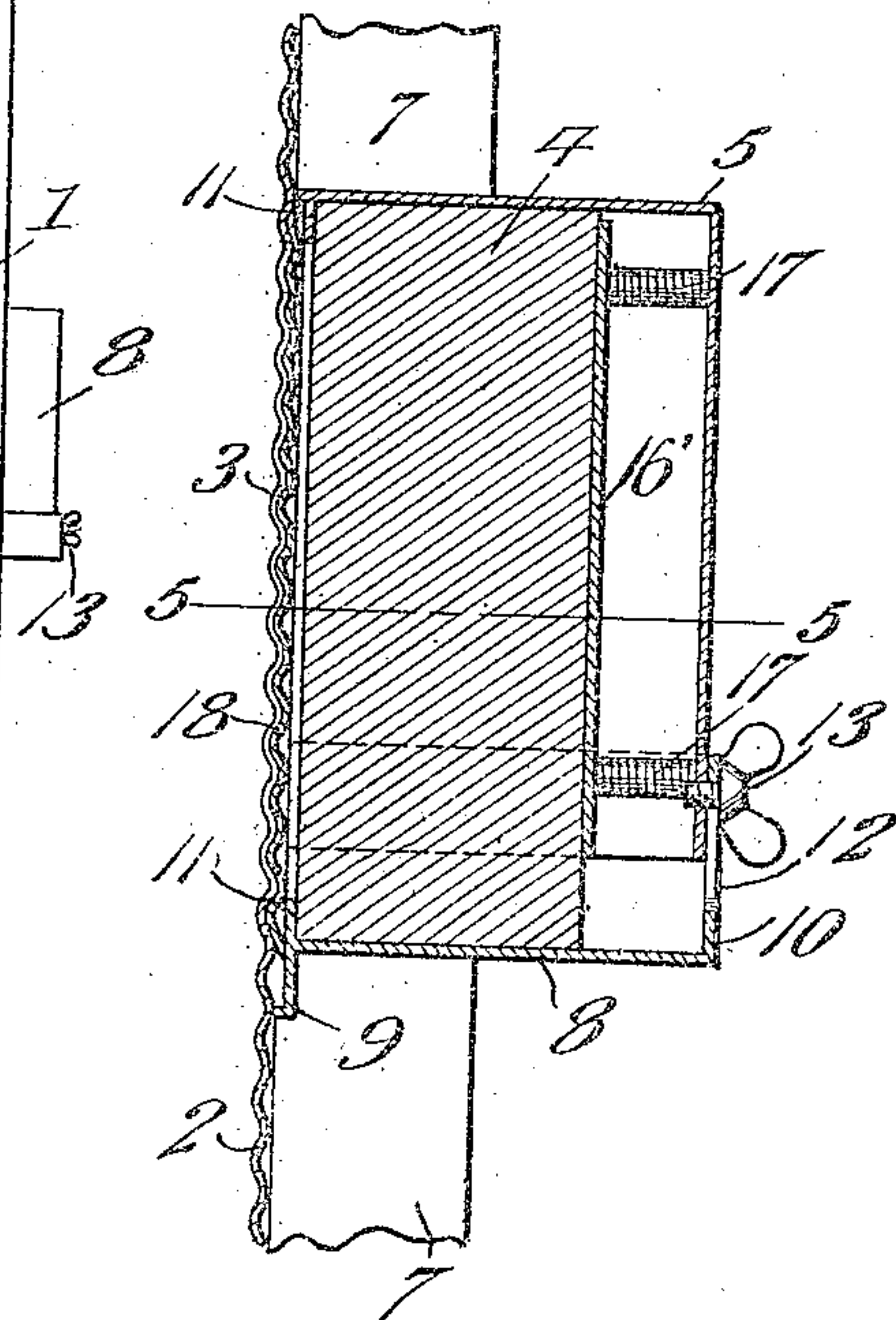


Fig. 4.

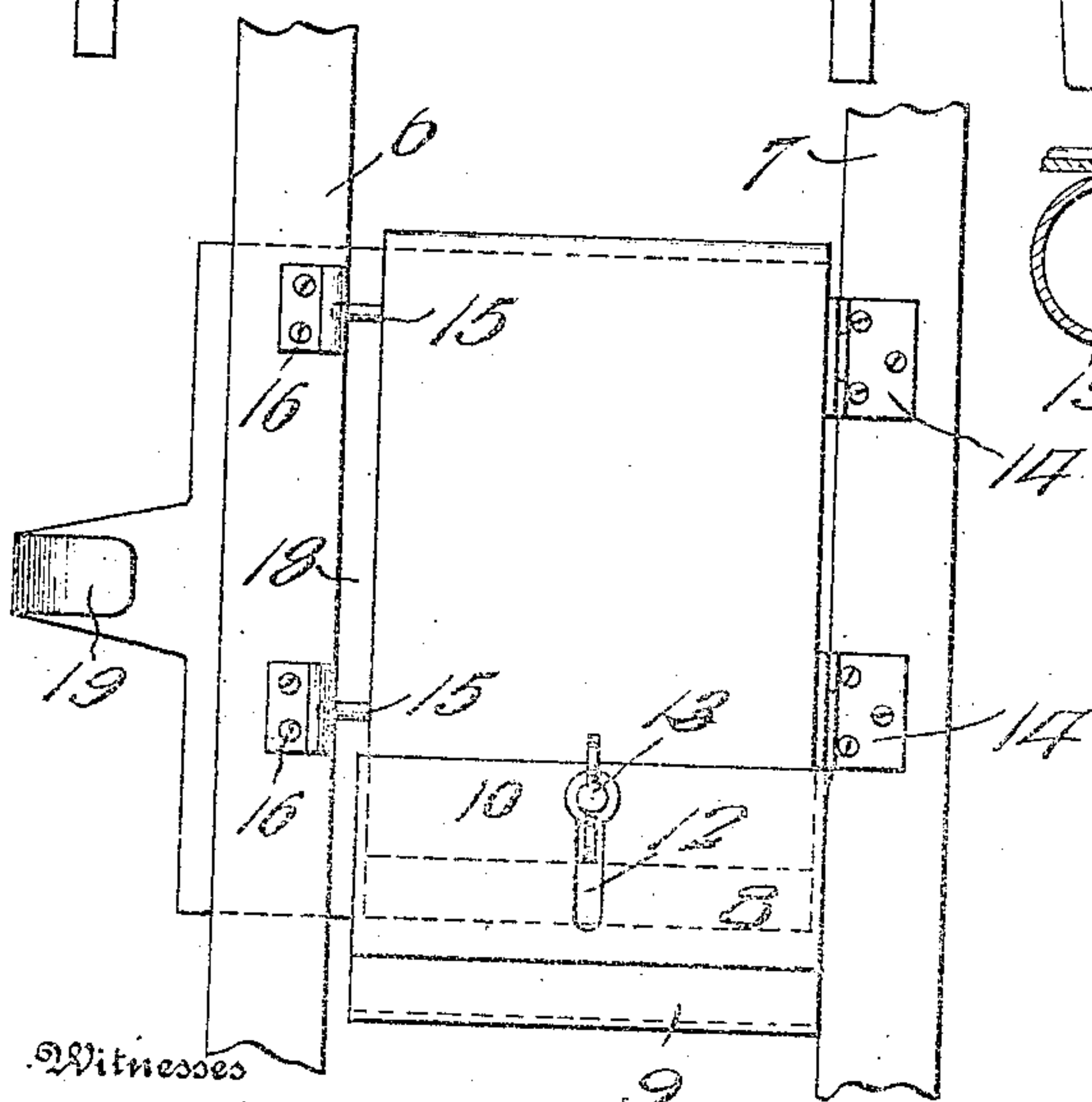
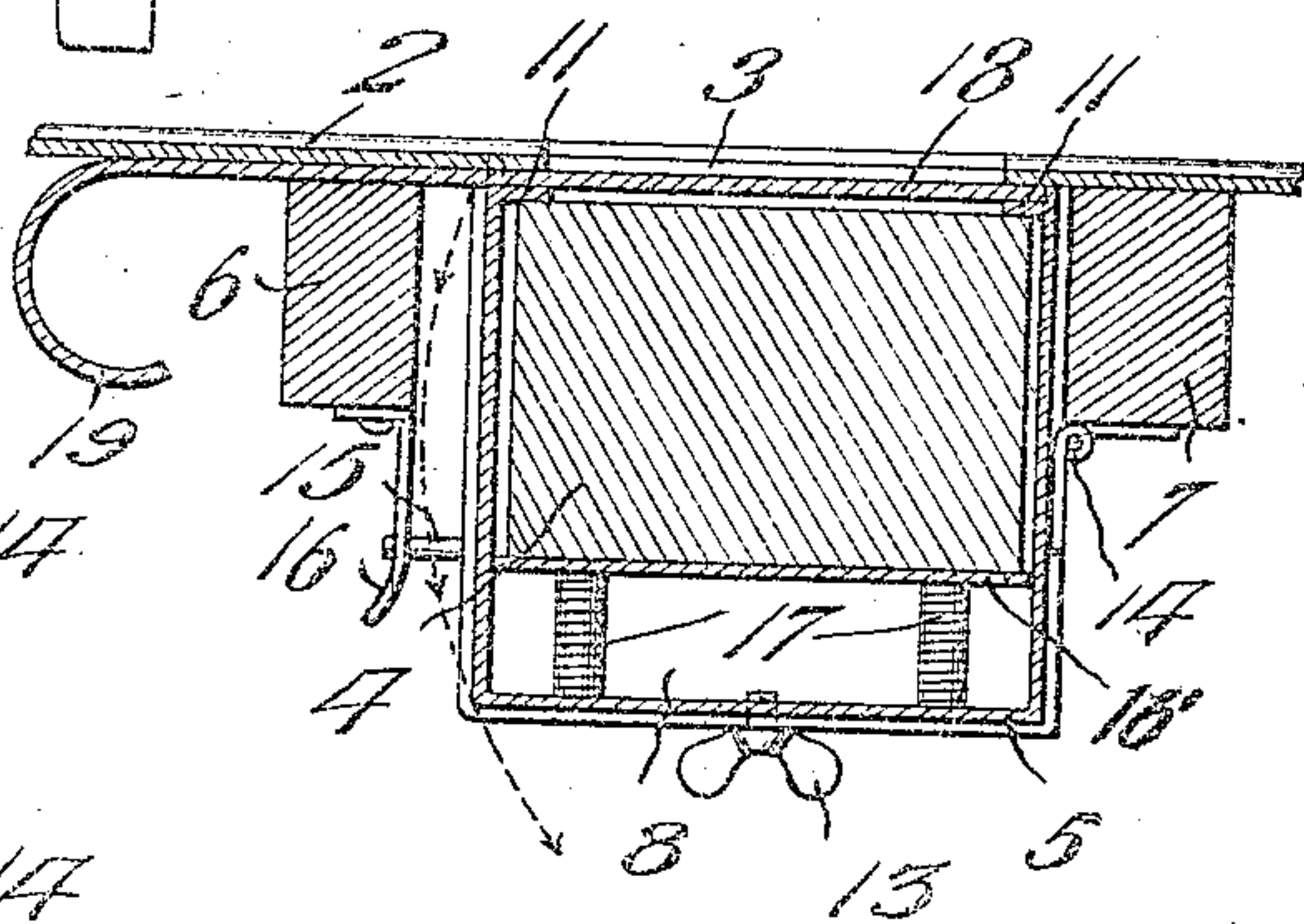


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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WILLIS A. WILKINS, OF EL PASO, TEXAS.

WASHBOARD.

No. 859,160.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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Application filed November 19, 1906. Serial No. 344,187.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIS A. WILKINS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at El Paso, in the county of El Paso and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Washboards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in washboards, and particularly to means for holding a cake or bar of soap in position for use thereon so that the clothes will be soaped for the production of suds as they are moved over the rubbing surface of the board.

The object of the invention is to provide a board having means for holding and exposing one of the surfaces of a cake of soap through an opening in the rubbing surface of the board, whereby in the operation of washing the clothes the latter will be automatically soaped by contact with the exposed surface of the cake, the construction being such as to secure economy in the use of the soap.

A further object is to provide a holder having a closure for the opening in the scrubbing surface and adapted to be readily opened and closed for the insertion and retention of a cake of soap and adjusted to receive cakes of different sizes, the closure being so arranged as to cover and conceal the soap when its use is not desired and to form a portion of a rubbing surface of the board.

In the accompanying drawing,—Figure 1 is a front elevation of a washboard embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a vertical section through the holder and adjacent portion of the washboard. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the same. Fig. 5 is a horizontal cross section through the holder and board on line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents a washboard, which may be of ordinary form and construction, except that, in accordance with my invention, its metallic corrugated rubbing surface 2 extends the full length of the board to increase the length of such surface. The surface 2 is provided with an opening 3 to expose one of the sides or faces of the cake or bar of soap 4 arranged within a holder 5 disposed upon the rear of the board.

The rear surface of the board is strengthened by a pair of vertical parallel bracing strips 6 and 7, between which the holder 5 is arranged. The holder 5 comprises a rectangular metallic casing having a removable bottom section 8 having a bearing flange 9 to rest against the rear face of the rubbing surface 2 and an upstanding flange 10 extending around its rear and sides to embrace the lower open end of the body of the holder.

The holder and removable body section are provided at the front with inwardly extending flanges or projections 11 against which the front surface of the soap cake 4 bears, the body of the holder being open at its lower end as described for the ready insertion of a new cake of soap as occasion requires.

The removable section or bottom closure 8 telescopically engages the body of the holder and forms a bottom rest for the cake of soap, and is accordingly vertically adjustable on the body of the holder to adapt the same for the reception of cakes or bars of soap varying in length.

The rear wall of the flange 10 is formed with a vertical slot 12 through which passes a thumb screw 13 engaging a threaded opening in the body of the holder to clamp the section 8 thereto, the slot 12 permitting the said bottom section to be vertically adjusted to suit the length of the cake of soap and fastened or clamped in adjusted position.

The holder is hinged or pivoted at one side to one of the strips, as the strip 7, by hinges or pivots 14 so that it may be swung outwardly and away from the rubbing surface 2 to permit of the insertion of the soap through the front of the holder, affording a convenient means of inserting the soap without the necessity of detaching the bottom section 8. The other or free side of the holder carries locking pins or projections 15 adapted to engage keeper openings in spring latches 16 secured upon the strip 6, whereby the holder may be fastened in closed position.

Any suitable means may be employed for holding the front surface of the cake pressed against the flanges 11 and to feed the cake forwardly in an automatic manner as it is consumed in use. The means shown in the present instance comprises a pressure plate or follower 16' bearing against the rear surface of the cake and forced forward by the action of coiled springs 17 disposed between the same and the rear wall of the body of the holder. As the cake decreases in thickness through the removal of portions of the front surface thereof by the clothes as the latter are rubbed over the rubbing surface 2, the spring actuated follower 16' forces the soap forward in an obvious manner to constantly present a new surface for use.

In the operation of washing the clothes by moving the same over the rubbing surface 2, it will be understood that the operator brings the clothes into contact with the surface of the cake exposed through the opening 3 until sufficient soap has been taken up to supply the required amount of suds. By disposing the soap so that only its outer face is exposed through an opening in the rubbing surface, but a small portion of the soap is exposed to the softening action of the water and only the amount actually required to thoroughly soap the clothes is removed, thus preventing waste of the soap and securing economy in the consumption thereof.

In order to close the opening 3 and shield the soap to prevent further use of the same after a sufficient amount has been removed, a closure 18 is provided. This comprises a plate arranged to slide in a guideway formed upon the rear of the rubbing surface 2 by the flanges 11 and strip 6, one end of said plate being formed with a fin-

ger piece 19 by which it may be conveniently operated. When the sliding plate or closure is moved inward it will close the opening 3, as shown in Fig. 5, and shield the soap to prevent the clothes from coming in contact therewith. Preferably the closure is formed of a corrugated metallic plate and is adapted when closed to form a rubbing surface across the opening 3.

It will be apparent that the construction described provides a simple construction of soap holder which effects economy in the use of the soap, permits of the convenient replenishing of the soap and embodies other advantageous features.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, is:—

- 15 1. A washboard having an opening, a soap holder hinged upon the rear of the board for movement from and toward said opening, said holder being provided with an adjustable section to regulate the length thereof, and means for securing the holder in operative position.
- 20 2. A washboard having an opening, a soap holder pivotally mounted upon the rear of the board for movement

toward and from said opening, said holder being open at the bottom and front thereof, an adjustable section closing the bottom of the holder, means for securing said section in adjusted position, and an imperforate plate slidably mounted for movement between the opening and front of the holder to close said opening and conceal the soap in the holder. 25

3. A washboard having an opening, a soap holder pivotally mounted upon the rear of the board for movement toward and from said opening, said holder being open at the bottom and front thereof, an adjustable section closing the bottom of the holder and telescopically engaging the same, the holder and its adjustable section being provided with flanges forming a guideway between the same and the board, means for securing said adjustable section in adjusted position, and an imperforate plate slidably mounted in said guideways, to close said opening and conceal the soap in the holder. 30 35

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses. 40

WILLIS A. WILKINS.

Witnesses:

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