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PATENTED JULY 9, 1907.

C. H. MOLYNEUX & M. BRAUNSTEIN.
HYGIENIC TELEPHONE APPLIANCE.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 12, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

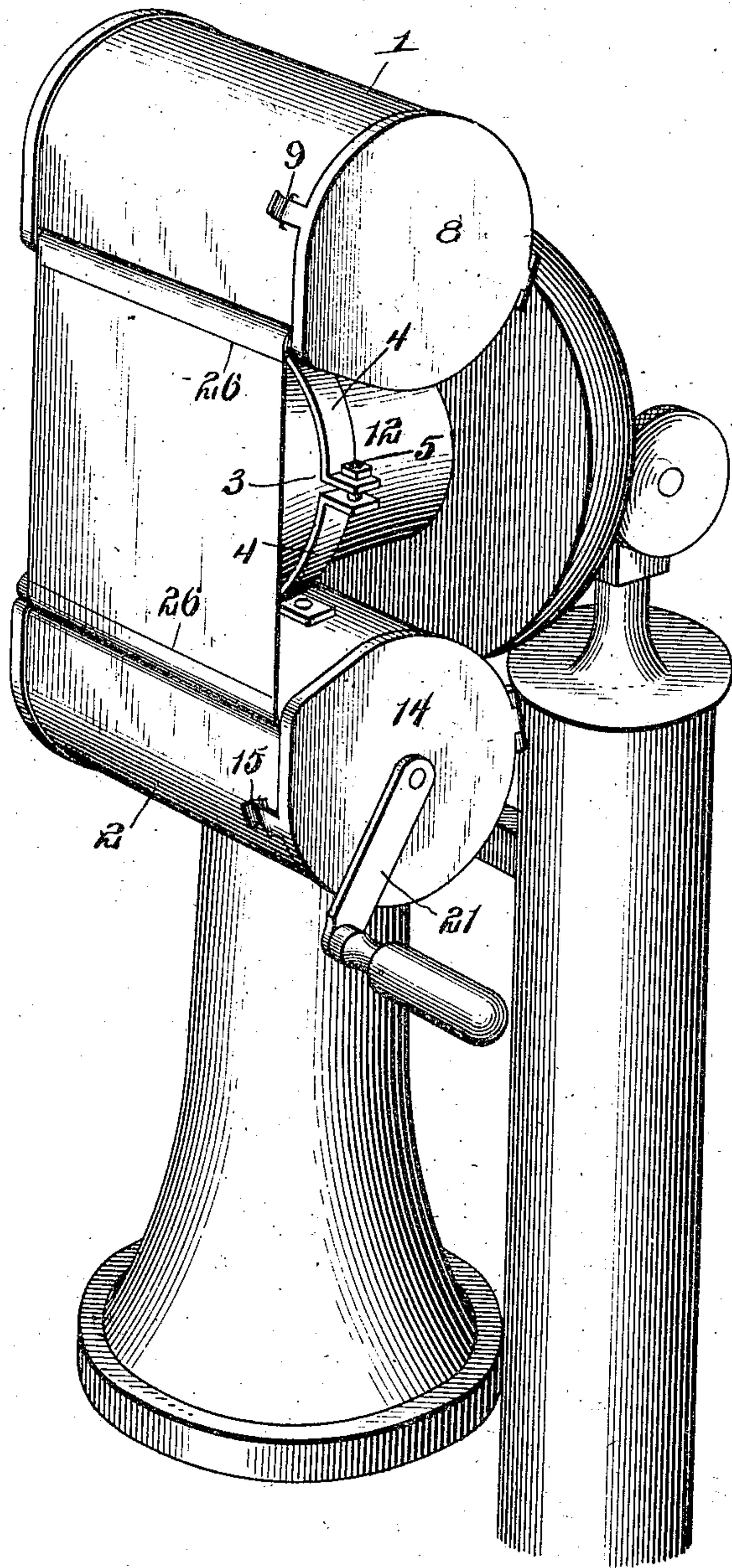


Fig. 1

Witnesses

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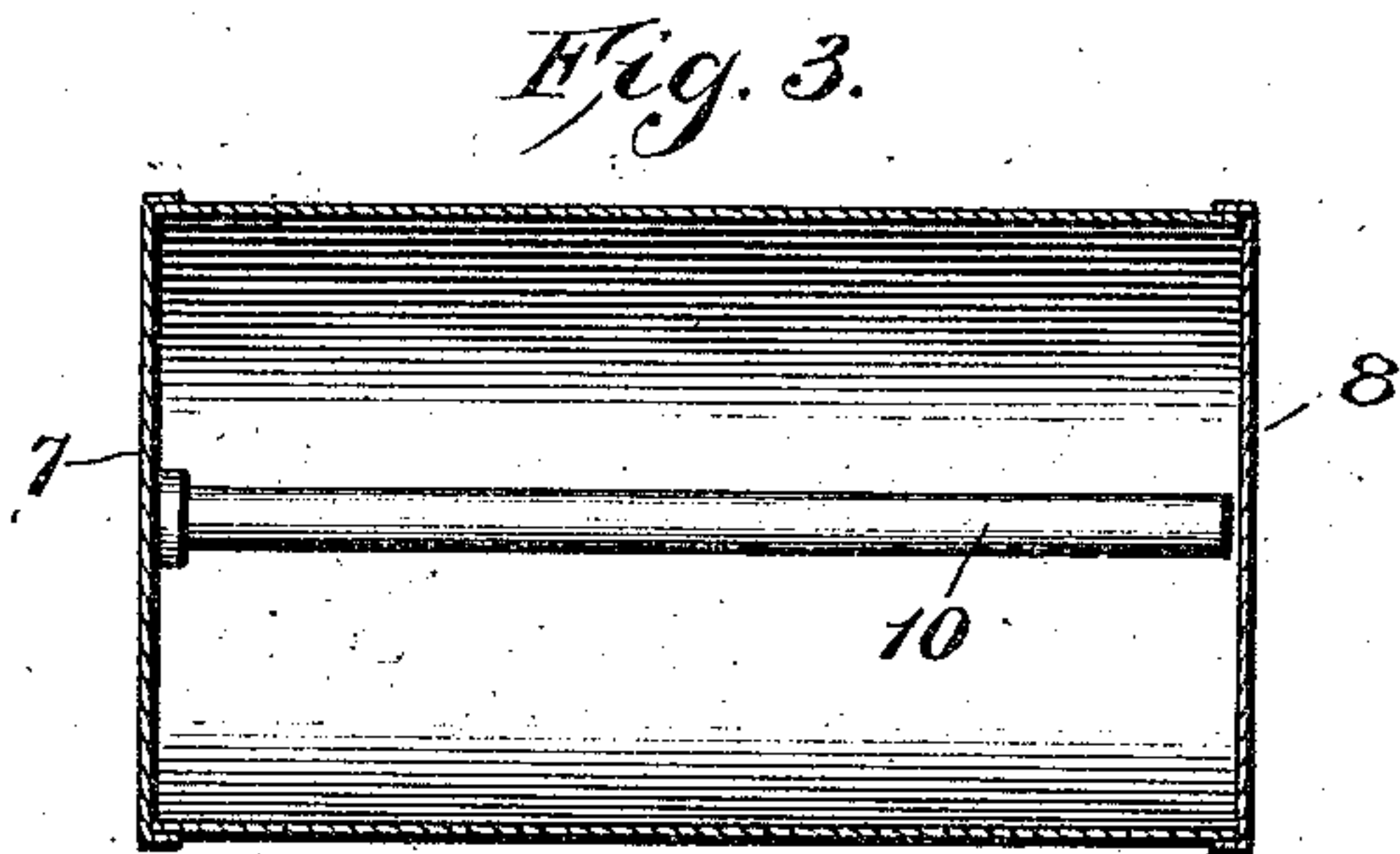
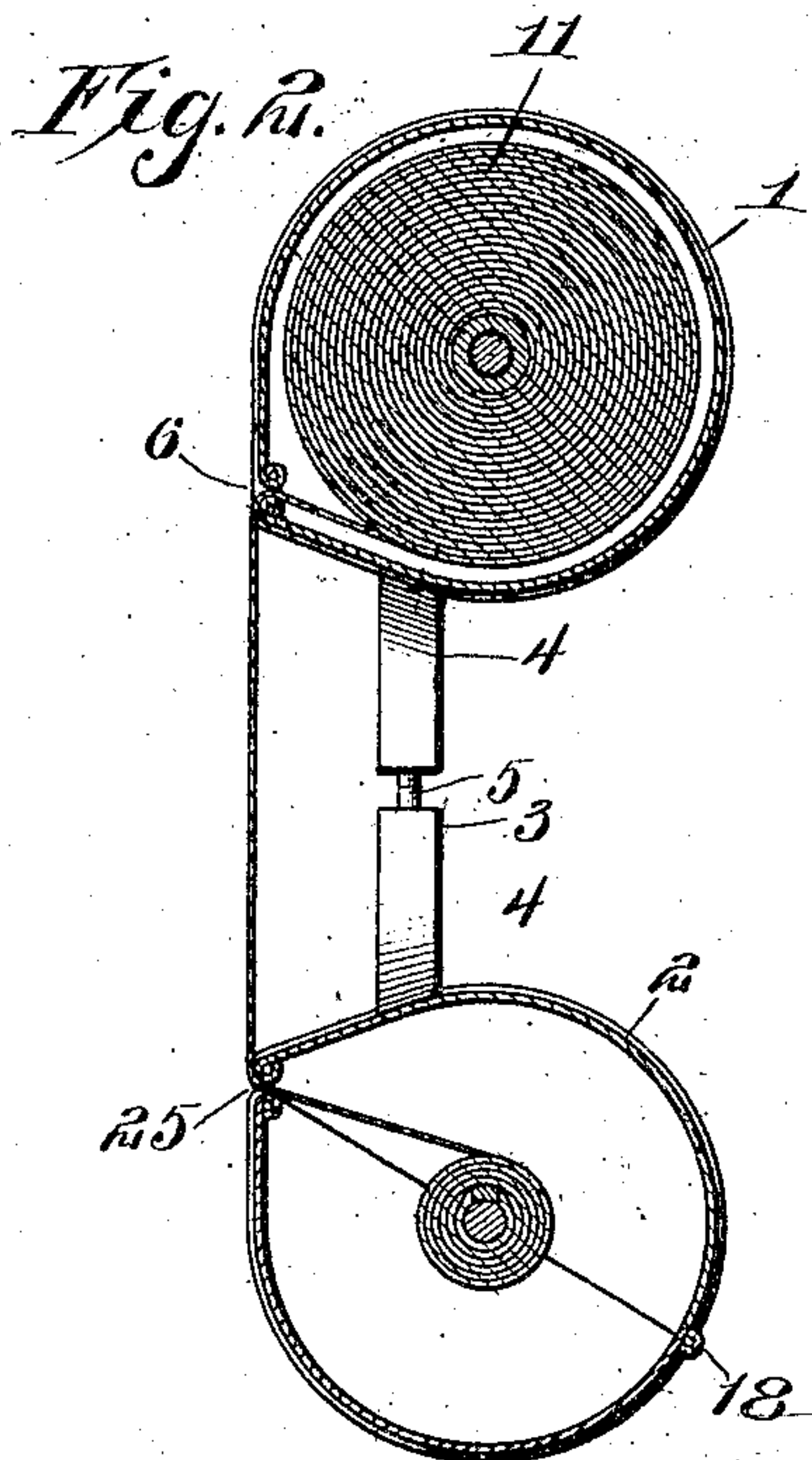


Fig. 4.

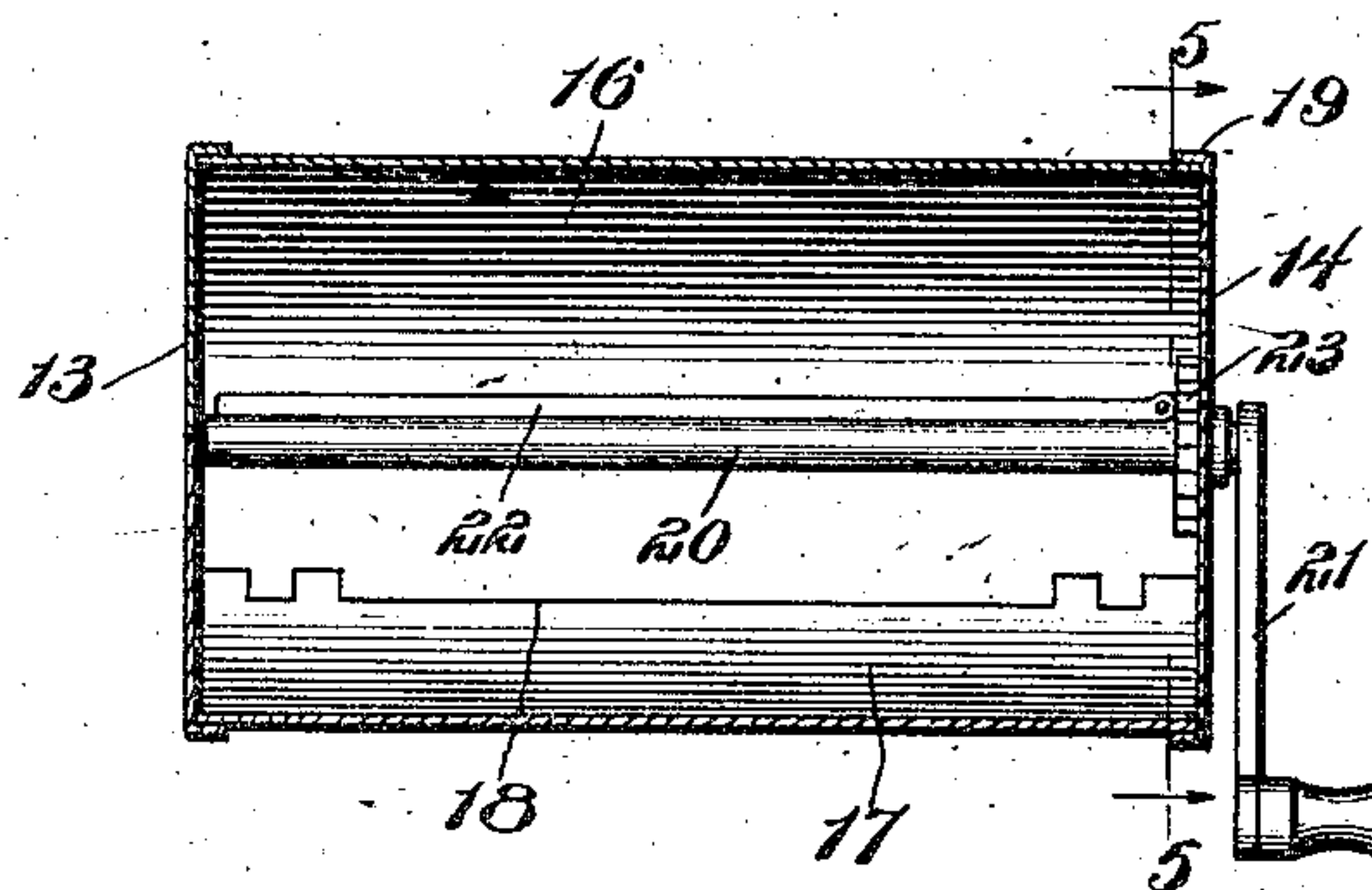
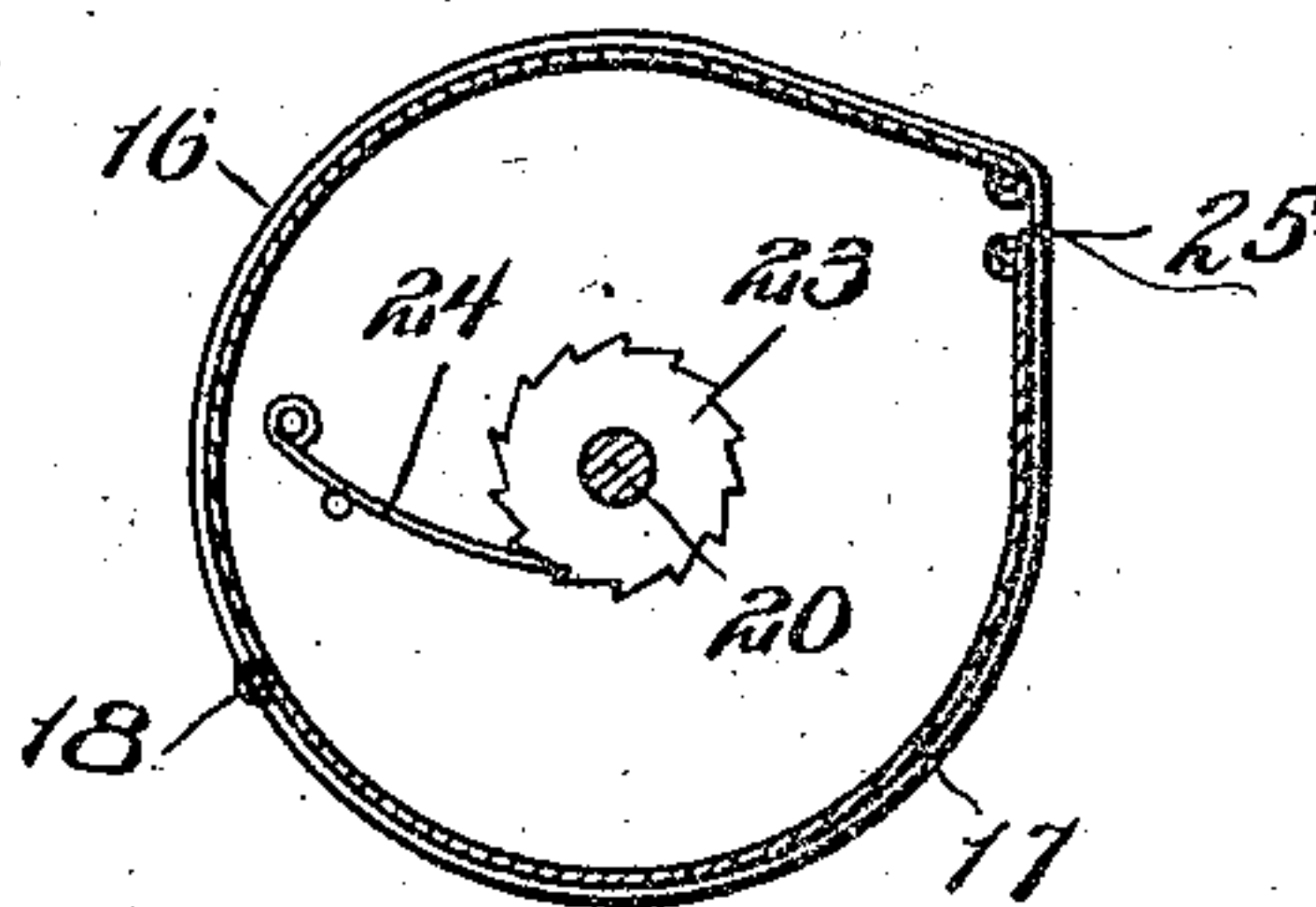


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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HYGIENIC TELEPHONE APPLIANCE.

No. 859,827.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES H. MOLYNEUX and MAX BRAUNSTEIN, citizens of the United States, residing at Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Hygienic Telephone Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a hygienic appliance for the transmitters and receivers of telephones and the mouth-pieces of speaking tubes and the like, the object of the invention being to provide a simple and inexpensive device whereby a germ-arresting strip of paper or other suitable material may be supported in position and adjusted across the mouth-piece to prevent contamination of the latter and the transmission of diseases, the construction being such as to permit of the ready and convenient application and removal of a new and used strip, as well as the attachment of the device with facility to the mouth-piece of the telephone for use.

The invention consists of the novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the application of the invention to a telephone. Fig. 2 is a vertical section through the appliance. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the upper holder or casing. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the lower casing. Fig. 5 is a cross section through the lower casing on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4.

As shown in the drawings, the frame of the device comprises a pair of holders or casings 1 and 2 arranged one above the other and connected by an intermediate clamp 3, adapted for securing said frame to a telephone or other mouth-piece. In the form shown, the clamp is composed of companion members 4 of semi-circular form to provide a circular clamp to embrace the mouth-piece, said members being intermediately fixed to the casings in any preferred manner and having their free ends bent outward and pierced for the reception of connecting screws or bolts 5, whereby they are adjustably united to embrace the mouth-piece and respectively support the casings 1 and 2 above and below the same, as shown in Fig. 1.

Each casing is preferably constructed of sheet metal and is of substantially cylindrical form, the body of the upper casing being provided at its lower front portion with an outlet slot or passage 6, forming a guide for the hygienic strip, as hereinafter described. The said casing is closed at one end by a fixed wall 7 and at its opposite end by a hinged door 8, adapted to be fastened in closed position by any suitable type of fastening, such as a spring catch 9. A stem or spindle 10 is fixed to and supported by the wall 7, and extends longitudinally within said casing 1 to form a shaft for supporting

a roll 11 of tissue paper or other suitable material which is adapted to be extended across the front of the telephone mouth-piece 12 to prevent contamination thereof.

The lower casing 2 is closed at one end by a stationary wall 13, and at its opposite end by a hinged door 14 similar in construction to the door 8 and adapted to be secured in closed position by a catch 15. The body of this casing is formed of an upper stationary half or section 16, and a lower swinging section 17 hinged or pivoted at its rear, as at 18, to said section 16, thus adapting the section 17 to swing downward and to be held in normal position by the door 14, which latter is preferably provided with a flange 19 or any other suitable means to form a close joint and retain the section 17 in closed position.

A shaft or spindle 20 is journaled at one end on the door 14, and is free to swing therewith, and is provided at its outer end with a crank or other suitable operating device 21, whereby it may be turned to wind up the used portion of the hygienic strip. This shaft is provided with a hinged clamp 22 to fasten the free end of the strip thereto and carries a ratchet wheel 23, adapted to be engaged by a spring pawl 24 on the hinged door 14, to hold said shaft against retrograde rotation.

In practice, the device is applied to the transmitter in the manner shown in Fig. 1, with the casing 1 arranged above and the casing 2 below the same, the free forward edges of the sections of the latter being suitably constructed to form a guide passage 25 for the extension of the hygienic strip thereinto, the walls of the passages 6 and 25 being adapted to oppose sufficient frictional resistance to the movement of the strip to hold the same taut with the proper degree of tension across the mouth-piece and prevent wrinkling thereof.

In the operation of applying a roll of the hygienic material, the door 8 of the upper casing 1 is opened, the roll slipped upon the shaft or spindle 10, the free end of the strip passed through the slot 6 and across the mouth-piece and clamped by the strip 22 to the shaft 20, and the casings closed to prevent contamination of the unused portion of the strip and the escape of germs or other matter arrested and taken up by the used portion. The casing 2 is opened for the application of the strip to the shaft 20 by swinging the door outwardly, thus allowing the section 17 to drop down by gravity, whereupon the free end of the strip may be clamped to said shaft, after which the section 17 is swung upwardly and the door 14 closed. The strip is of sufficient width to extend transversely across the close the mouth-piece 12, and is preferably provided at regular intervals with ruled lines or other indications 26, dividing the same into portions of sufficient

length to cover the mouth-piece in a vertical direction, thus enabling the user of the telephone to adjust the strip a prescribed distance with certainty to bring an unused portion into position for use. It will be understood that the operation of propelling the strip across the mouth-piece is effected by winding up a portion of the strip on the shaft 20 through the medium of the operating device 21, retrograde movement of the strip being prevented by the pawl and ratchet. When the strip has been completely used and wound in roll form upon the shaft 20, it may be conveniently removed by opening the casing 2 and sliding the roll longitudinally off the shaft. If desired, the end of the strip mounted on the shaft 10, may be left unrulled for a sufficient distance, which unrulled portion will not be extended across the mouth-piece for use as a germ barrier but will form a clean covering for the used roll removed from the shaft 20, to permit the material to be removed from the latter without danger of the used portion of the material coming directly in contact with the hands of the operator.

The mode of operation of the device will be readily understood from the foregoing description, and it will be seen that the invention provides a simple and inexpensive construction of device for preventing contamination of the transmitter and which enables the germ-arresting strip to be conveniently adjusted with certainty by the user of the telephone to bring a fresh portion across the mouth-piece. It will be further seen that by inclosing and protecting the unused portion of the strip and winding the used portion within a closure, the liability of the transmission of diseases from the contamination of the unused portion or infection from the used portion, will be effectually obviated.

Having thus described the invention, what we claim is:—

1. In a device of the character described, the combination of a pair of casings, each of said casings being provided with a door, and one of the casings consisting of relatively stationary and openable sections, a roll support in the first-named casing, and a winding shaft carried by the door of the other casing.

2. A device of the character described comprising an upper casing having means for supporting a rolled strip of material therein, a lower casing having a hinged section and a hinged door adapted to hold said section in closed position, and a winding shaft carried by said door and provided with means for securing the free end of the strip thereto, combined with means connecting said casings and adapted to fasten the same to a mouth piece.

3. A device of the character described comprising an up-

per casing having a stationary shaft to support a rolled strip of material and a door, a lower casing comprising relatively fixed and movable sections and a hinged door, a winding shaft carried by said door, and means for preventing retrograde movement of said shaft.

4. A device of the character described comprising a pair of casings provided respectively with eduction and induction slots, a door upon one end wall of the casing having the eduction slot, a shaft fixed at one end to the opposite end wall of said casing and having its free end facing the door, winding means within the other casing, and a clamp connecting said casing and adapted for coupling the same to a mouth piece.

5. A device of the character described comprising a pair of casings, each of said casings being provided with a door, and one of the casings consisting of relatively stationary and hinged sections, one of the casings being further provided with an eduction slot and the other with an induction slot, a roll support in the first named casing, and a winding shaft carried by the door of the other casing.

6. A device of the character described comprising two independent chambers or casings, each carrying one of the members of a sectional clamp, said casings being respectively provided with means for supporting and winding a hygienic strip within and from one casing across the space between the same and the other casing and into the latter named casings, said casings being further provided with slots for the passage of said strip, and closures for the introduction and removal of a roll and wound strip, whereby all the used strip except that portion extending between the casings is inclosed and shielded thereby, and means for connecting the sections of the clamp to unite the sections and secure the same upon a mouth piece.

7. A device of the character described comprising a pair of casings, one having means for supporting a rolled hygienic strip therein, and the other casing being provided with means for winding the strip therein from said roll and composed of stationary and swinging sections and having a door adapted when closed to hold said sections connected, and means for connecting said casings and securing the same to a mouth piece.

8. A device of the character described comprising a pair of cylindrical casings respectively provided with eduction and induction slots, said casings being further provided with doors, one of the casings comprising stationary and swinging sections, the latter being adapted to be held closed by the door thereof, a stationary roll supporting spindle fixed to a wall of the other casing opposite the door thereof, and a winding shaft carried by the door of the sectional casing, combined with means for connecting said casing and securing the same to a mouth piece.

In testimony whereof, we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

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MAX BRAUNSTEIN.

Witnesses:

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CLARENCE T. TOMS.