

No. 875,546.

PATENTED DEC. 31, 1907.

M. A. METZNER.

MOISTENER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 5, 1907.

Fig. 1.

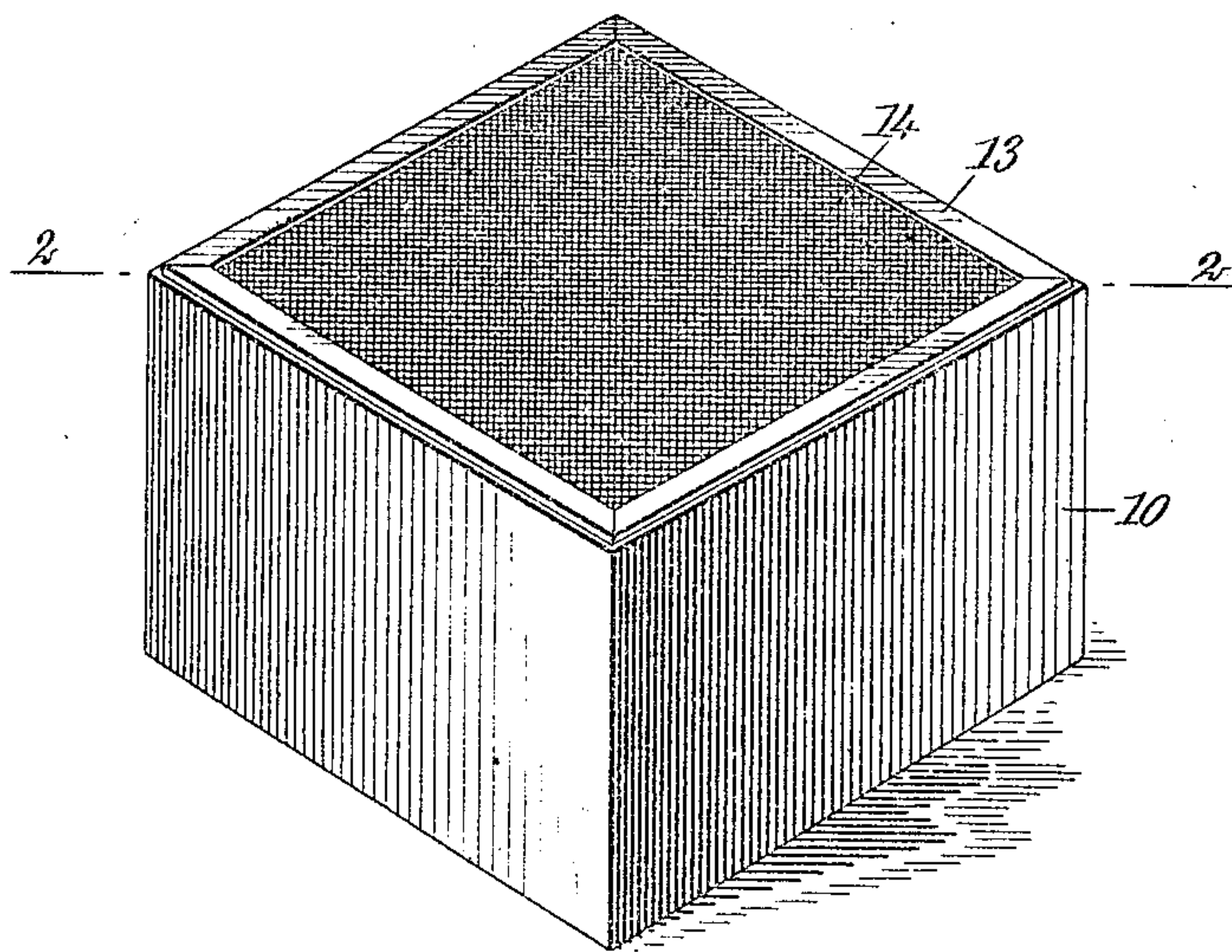


Fig. 2.

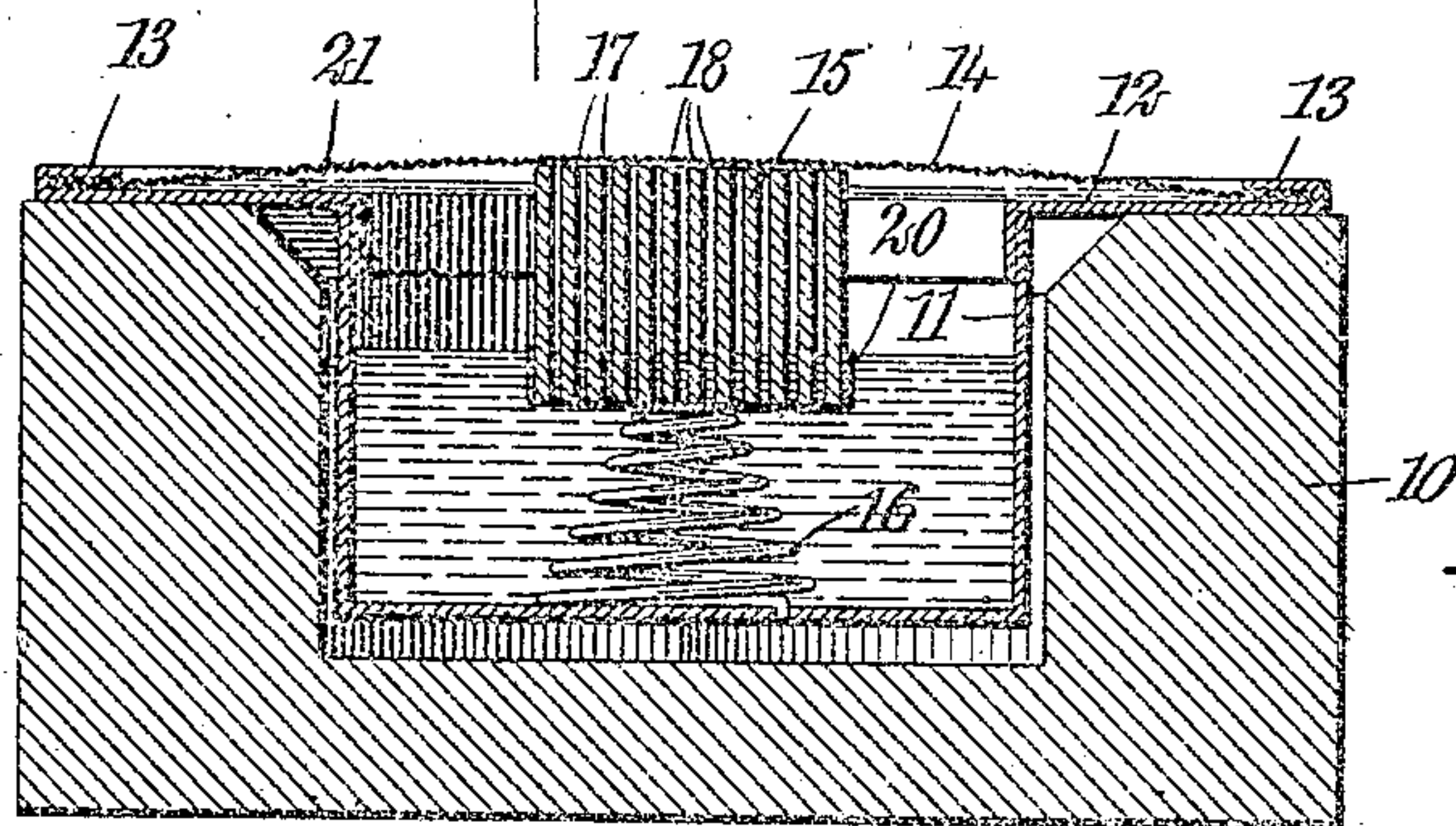


Fig. 4.

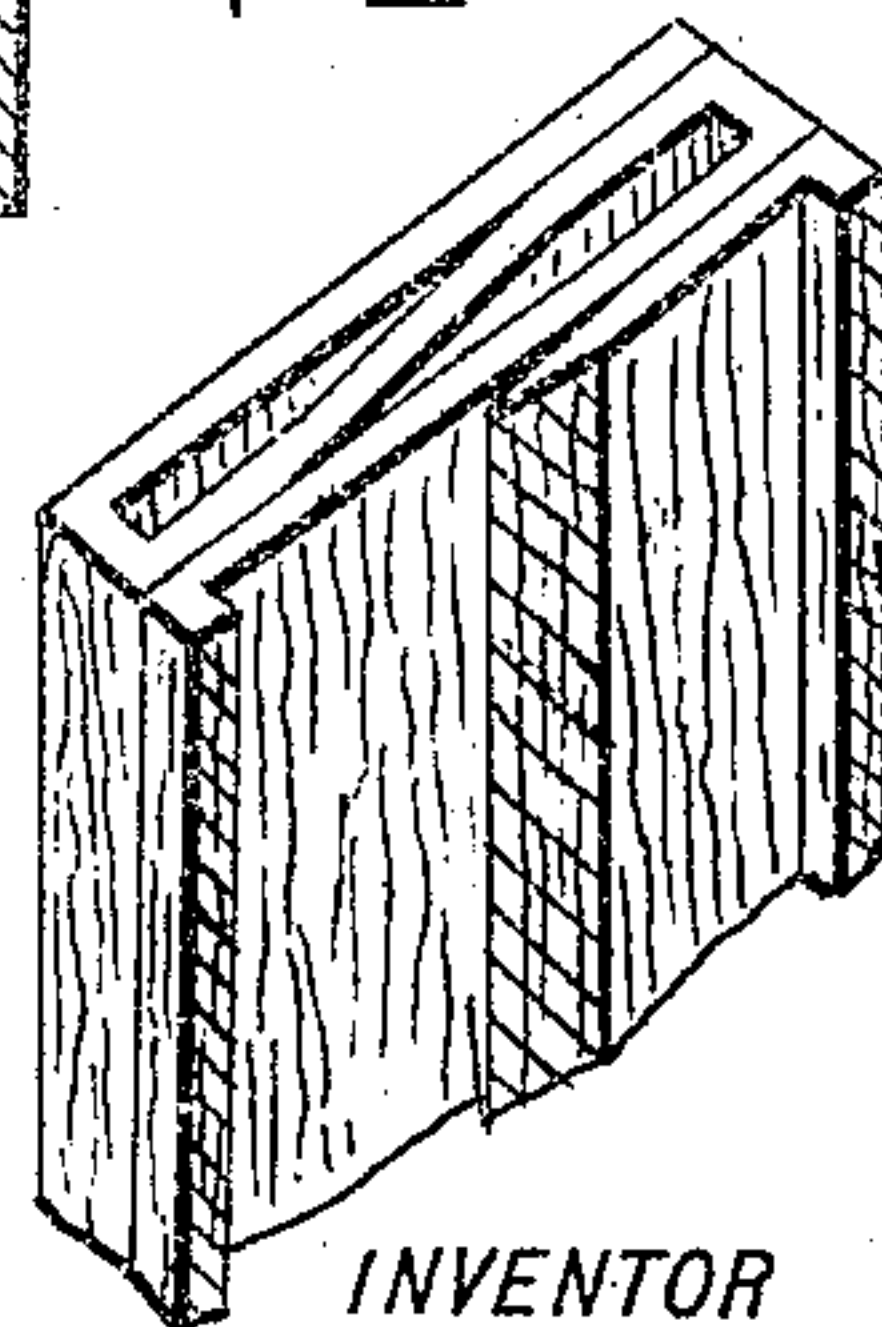
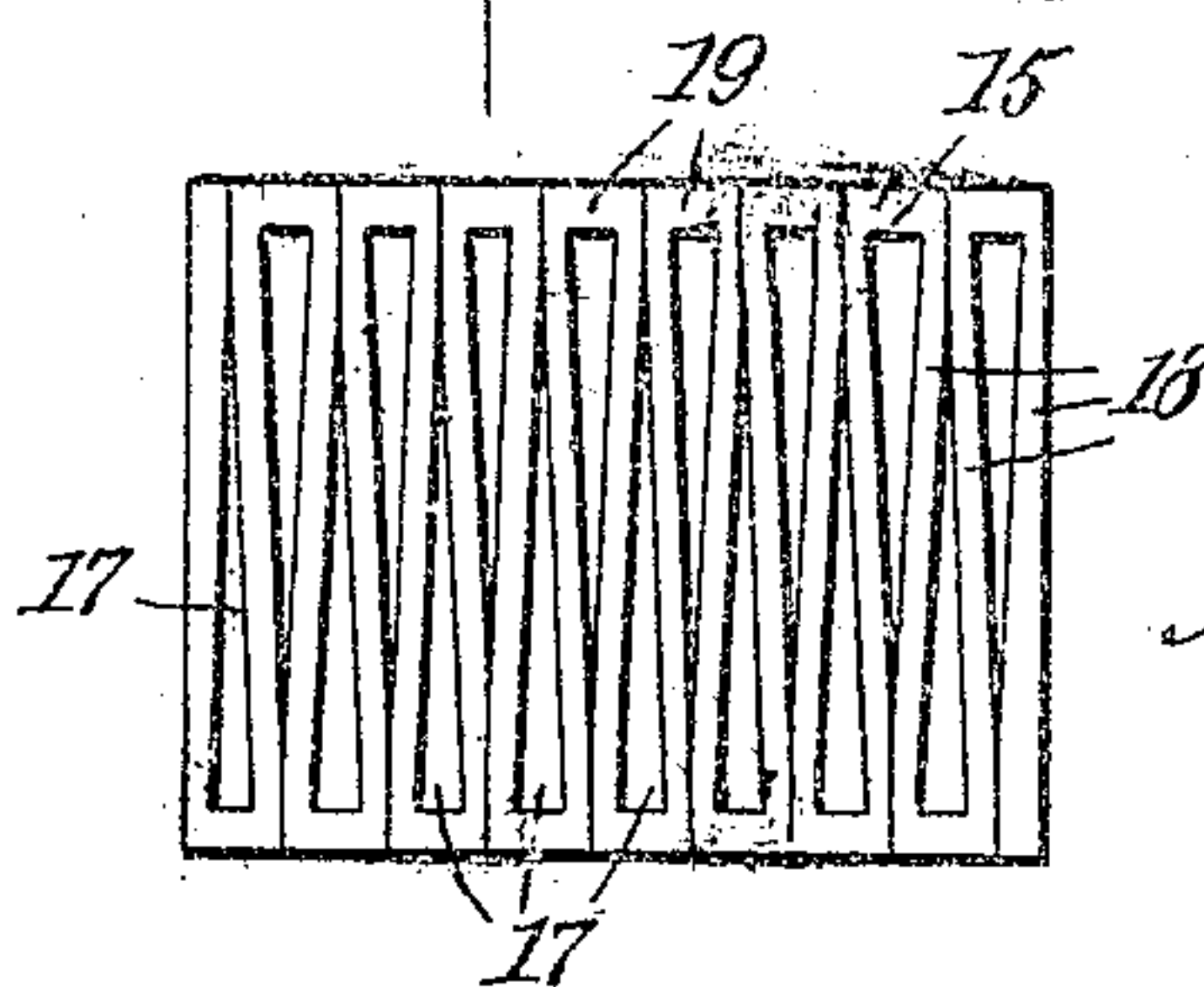


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES
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MOISTENER.

No. 875,548.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 31, 1907.

Application filed July 5, 1907. Serial No. 382,369.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MAXWELL A. METZNER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Perth Amboy, in the county of Middlesex and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and Improved Moistener, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in moisteners adapted for moistening stamps or moistening the fingers while counting bills, checks, and the like, and the object of the invention is to provide a sanitary moistener presenting a wire gauze surface and so constructed that the surface will be kept moist by a film of water at all times.

The invention consists in certain features of construction and combinations of parts, all of which will be fully set forth hereinafter and particularly pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures, and in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a moistener constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a top plan view of one form of capillary member which I may employ.

In my improved moistener, I provide a water receptacle presenting a surface above the water line, and having a wire gauze closely adjacent thereto but spaced therefrom and cooperating with a capillary member to maintain the space between the gauze and said surface filled at all times with a small quantity of water.

In the specific embodiment of my invention illustrated, the water receptacle and parts carried thereby are so constructed as to fit within an outer wooden case 10, preferably square in cross section and having a square opening in the top thereof for the reception of the water receptacle. This water receptacle 11 normally rests below the top of the wooden casing and out of engagement with the bottom and walls of the opening, said receptacle being supported by an outwardly-extending horizontally-disposed flange 12, adapted to rest upon the top of the casing and extending to approximately the outer edge thereof, as is clearly illustrated. The outer edges of the flange are turned up and

bent back upon themselves to provide inwardly-directed flanges 13, and beneath these flanges is secured the wire gauze top 14, which extends over the entire area of the horizontally-disposed flange 12 and the water receptacle 11.

Within the water receptacle I provide a capillary member 15, held in engagement with the gauze at the center thereof and supported at the bottom by a helical spring 16. The capillary member is preferably formed of a block of wood supported with the grain extending in a vertical direction, and having a series of slots 17 cut inwardly from each of two opposite sides thereof and disposed laterally in respect to each other, whereby the block is reduced to a series of plates 18, lying parallel to each other and the adjacent pairs of plates connected together at opposite sides by the connecting portions. The block is then compressed laterally, so as to bring the several adjacent connecting portions into engagement with each other and reduce the slots 17 to substantially triangular form, as illustrated in Fig. 3. The block is then bound together at its base by a metal band 20, which prevents the block from spreading. The lower end of the block is normally in the water, and not only the grain of the wood but also the triangular passages between the several plates serve to convey water upward into engagement with the wire gauze. The center of the gauze is higher than the edges thereof, and the water follows the gauze into the annular recess or space 21 between the flange 12 and said gauze. The action of the parts serves to maintain this recess or space filled with water so long as there is any water remaining in the receptacle.

The flange 12 presents a horizontal surface normally covered with wire, and by depressing the center of the gauze the capillary member is forced further into the water and the thickness of the space between the gauze and horizontal surface is reduced, and the water in said space passes upward through the meshes of the gauze and onto the upper surface thereof. If the water in the receptacle is getting rather low, each depression of the center of the gauze serves to bring the lower end of the block into the water, and this immediately absorbs a sufficient amount to refill the space between the gauze and the horizontal surface when the pressure upon the gauze is released. The

water which passes upward through the gauze during the depression thereof, is prevented from overflowing onto the case by the inwardly-directed clamping flanges 13. All of the water which passes upward through the gauze and which is not transferred to the fingers or the articles being moistened, immediately returns through the gauze into the recess, upon the release of the pressure upon said gauze.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In a moistening device, a liquid container presenting a surface above the normal liquid level, a wire gauze adjacent said surface but spaced therefrom, and a capillary member for raising the water, whereby a film of water may be maintained in the space between said surface and said gauze.

2. In a moistening device, a liquid container presenting a horizontally-disposed surface above the normal liquid level, a wire gauze adjacent said surface but spaced therefrom, and means for raising the water, whereby a film of water may be maintained in the space between said surface and said gauze.

3. In a moistening device, a liquid container presenting a surface above the normal liquid level, a wire gauze adjacent said surface but spaced therefrom, and a capillary member in engagement with said gauze, whereby a film of water may be maintained in the space between said surface and said gauze.

4. In a moistening device, a liquid container presenting an annular substantially horizontally-disposed surface, a wire gauze adjacent said surface but spaced therefrom and covering said container, and a capillary member in said container for raising the water above the normal level, whereby a film of water may be maintained in the space between the surface and the gauze.

5. In a moistening device, a water container having an outwardly-directed flange, a wire gauze secured adjacent the outer edge of said flange and covering the water container, and a capillary member within said container and resiliently held in engagement with said gauze.

6. In a moistening device, a liquid container having an outwardly-directed flange adjacent its upper edge, a gauze secured to said flange adjacent the outer edge of the latter and covering the container, and a capillary member within the container and adapted to convey water to said gauze.

7. In a moistening device, a liquid container having an outwardly-directed flange adjacent its upper edge, said flange being bent to present a second flange extending inwardly from the outer edge of the first-mentioned flange, and a wire gauze covering said container and held between said flanges.

8. In a moistening device, a suitable casing having a recess therein, a water container within said recess and spaced from the sides thereof, an outwardly-directed flange carried by said container and in engagement with said casing for supporting the container, and a wire gauze covering said container.

9. In a moistening device, a water container, a foraminous sheet covering the same, and a capillary member within said container and in engagement with said sheet, said capillary member comprising a block of wood having the grain thereof at right angles to the normal liquid level and means for resiliently holding said member in engagement with said sheet.

10. In a moistening device, a water container, a foraminous sheet covering the same, and a capillary member within said container and in engagement with said sheet, said capillary member comprising a block of wood having the grain thereof at right angles to the normal liquid level and provided with a plurality of passages therethrough and extending in the same general direction as the grain of the wood, and means for resiliently holding said member in engagement with said sheet.

11. In a moistening device, a water container, a foraminous sheet covering the same, and a capillary member within said container and in engagement with said sheet, said capillary member comprising a block of wood having the grain thereof at right angles to the normal liquid level and provided with a plurality of passages therethrough and extending in the same general direction as the grain of the wood, said passages being substantially triangular in cross section.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MAXWELL A. METZNER.

Witnesses:

CLAIR W. FAIRBANK,
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