

No. 882,282.

PATENTED MAR. 17, 1908.

H. R. WITZKE.
SCHOOL DESK.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 4, 1907.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

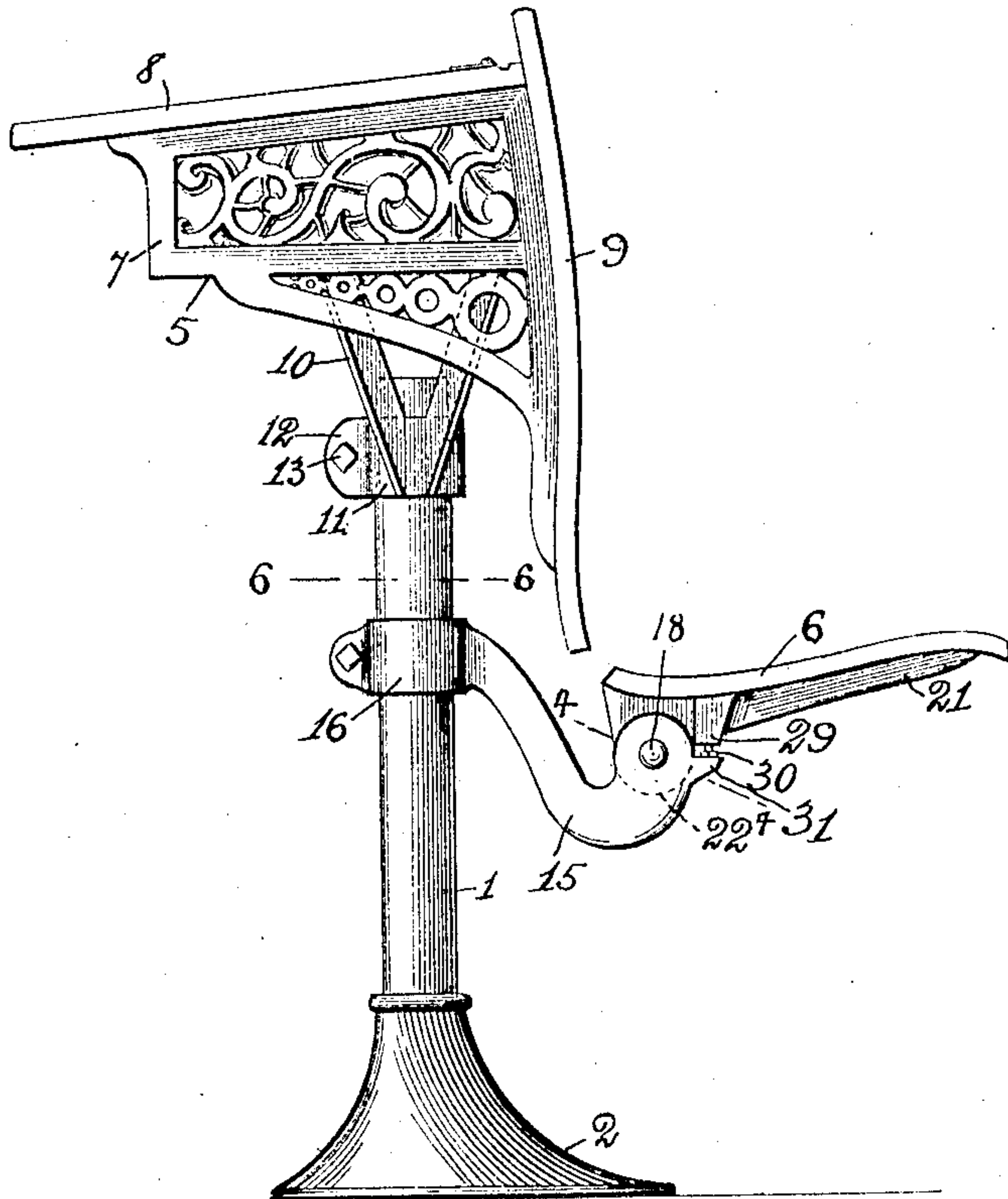


Fig. 3.

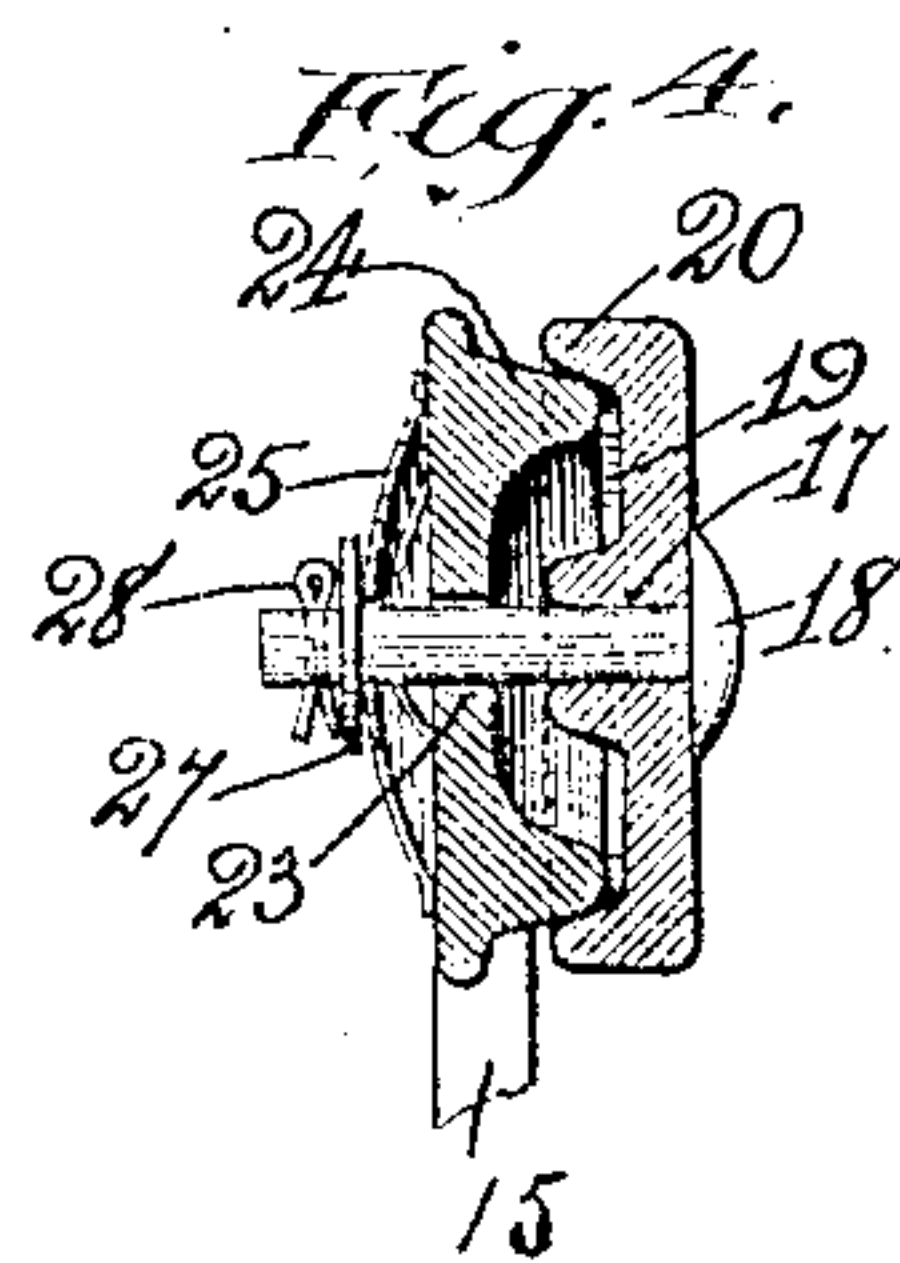
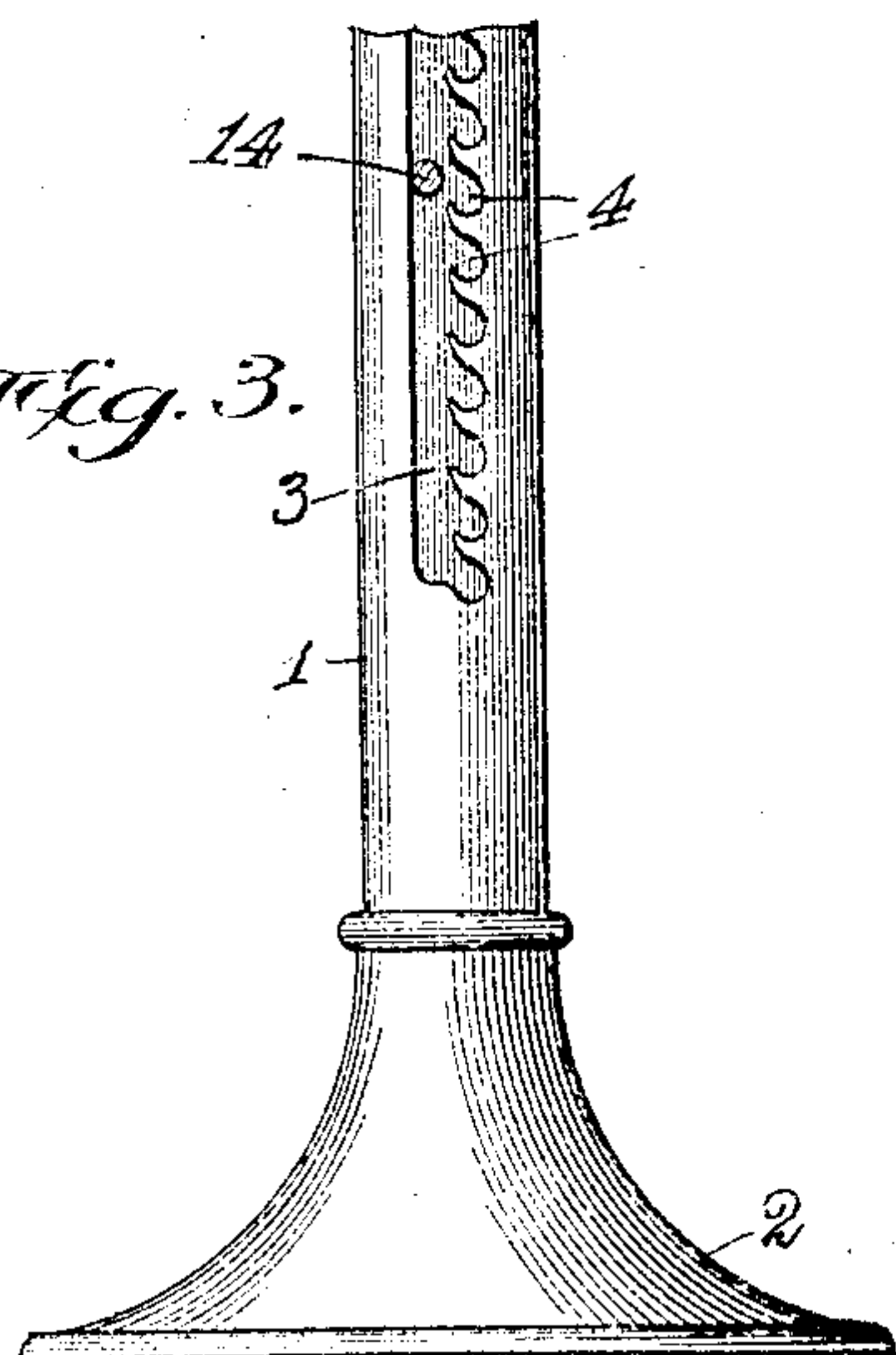
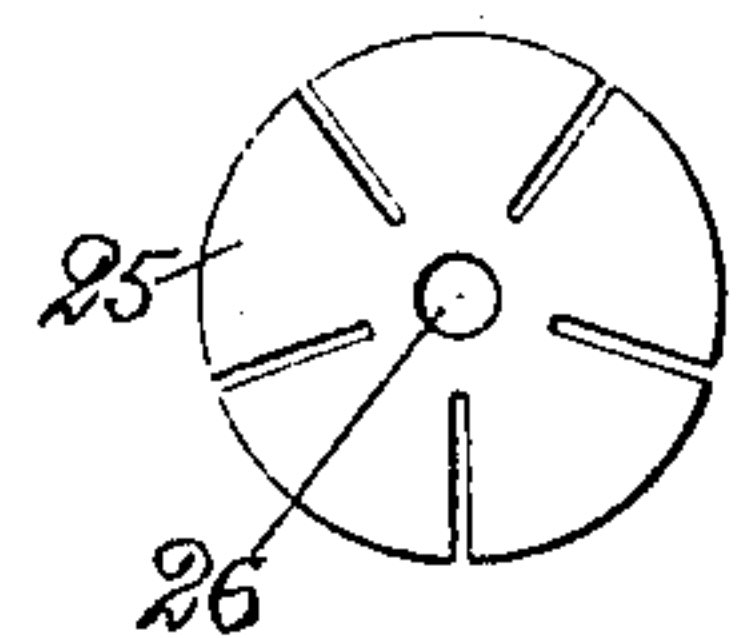


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

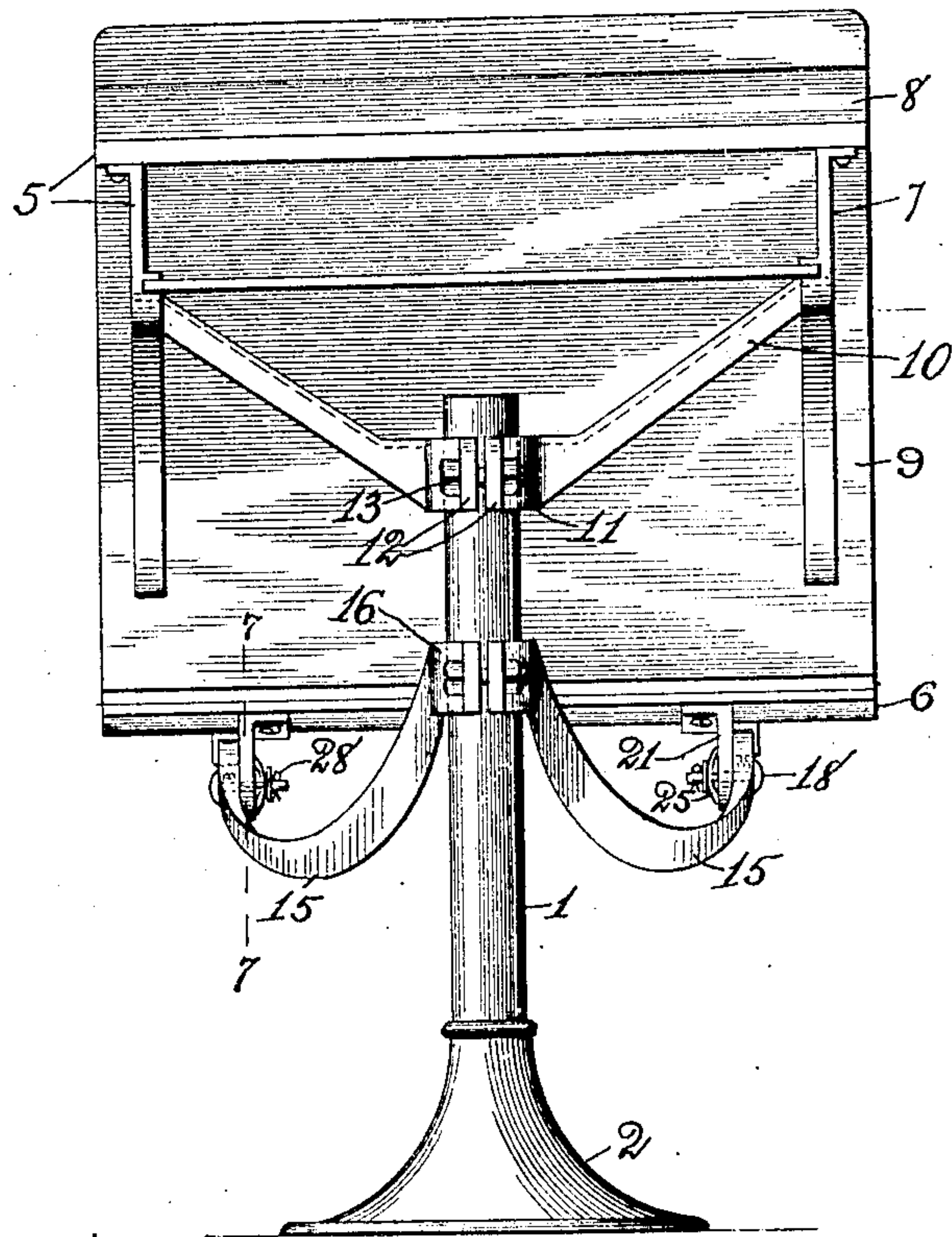


Fig. 6.

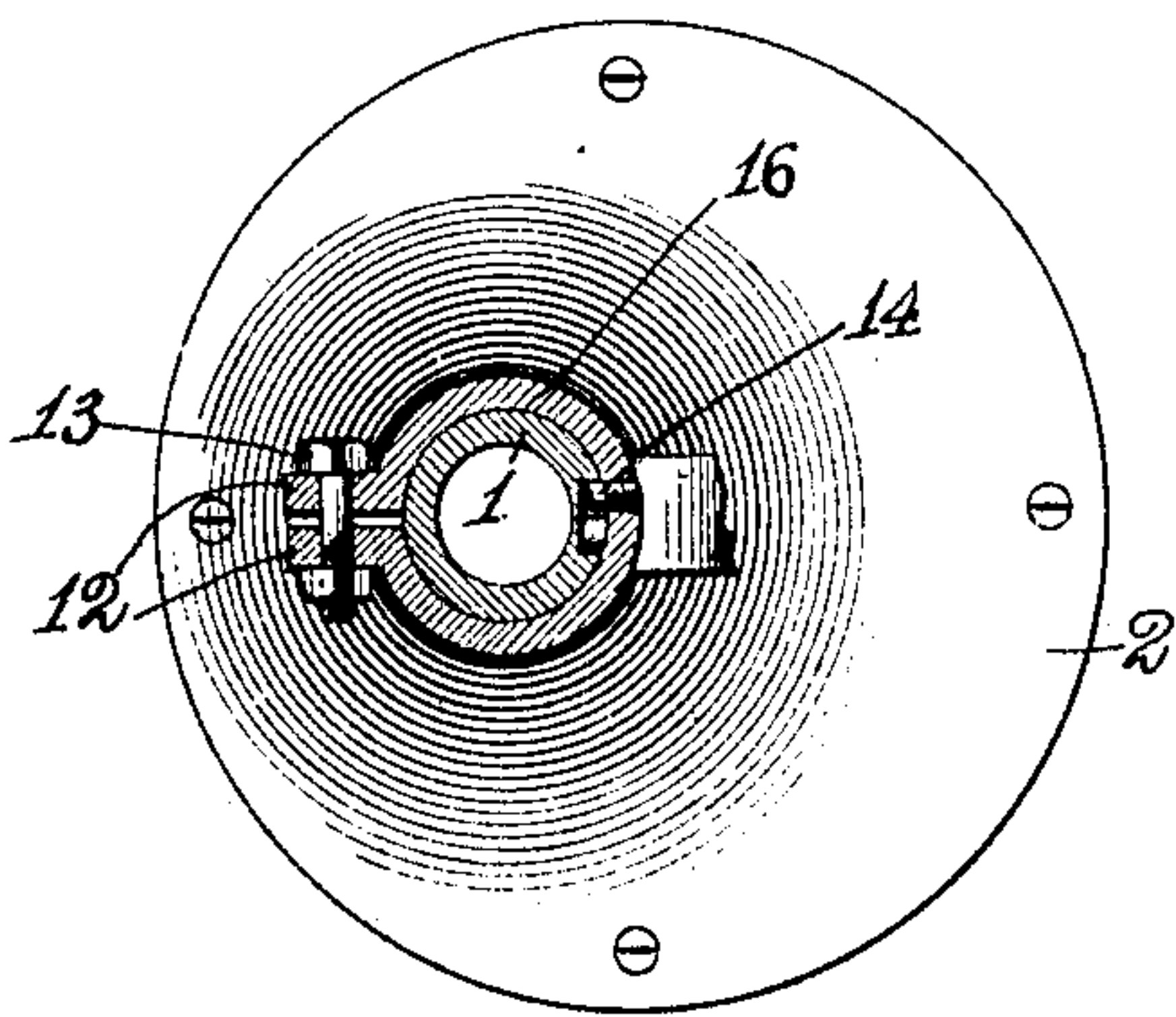
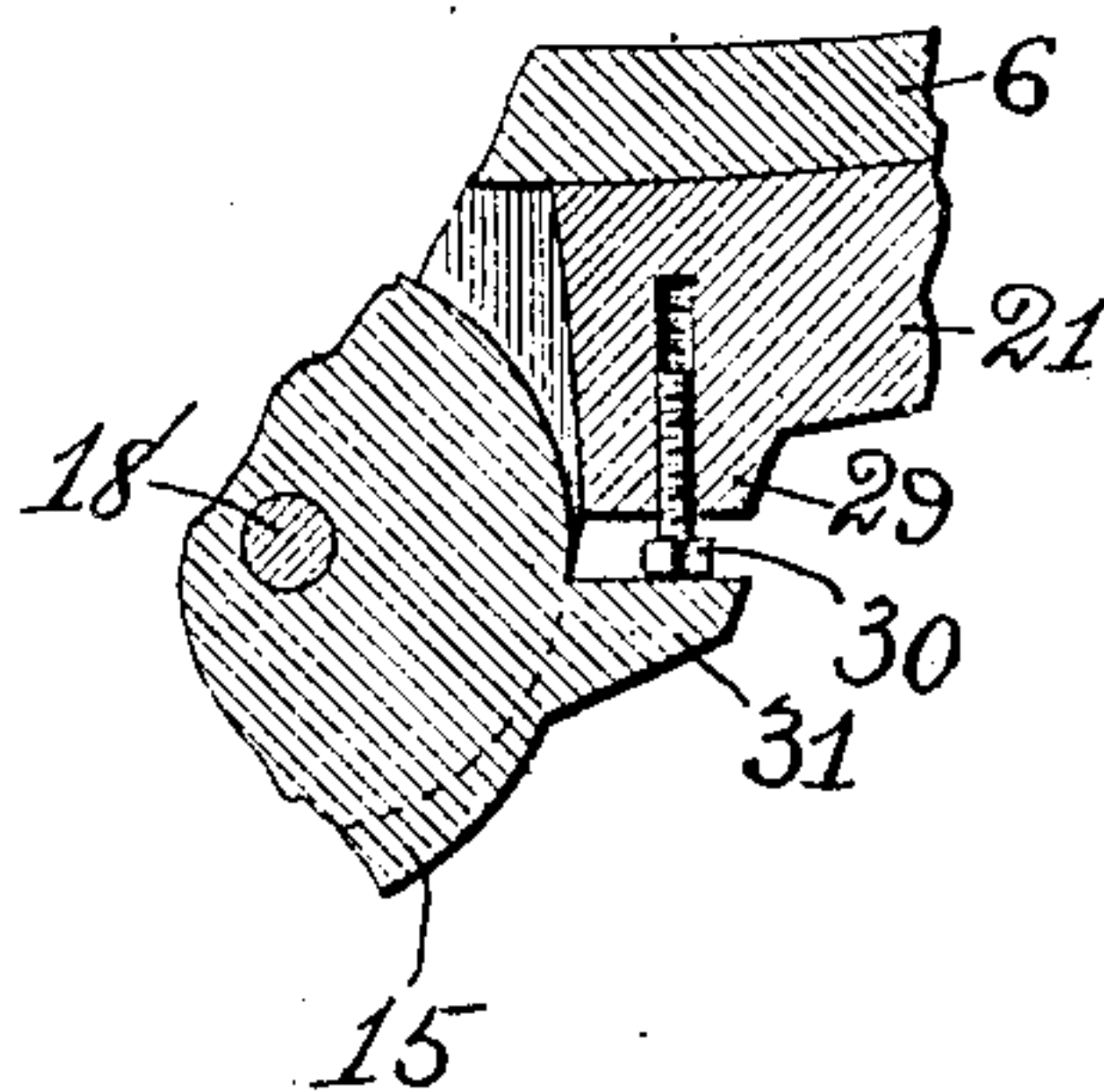


Fig. 7.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HUGO R. WITZKE, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

SCHOOL-DESK.

No. 882,282.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 17, 1908.

Application filed March 4, 1907. Serial No. 360,470.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGO R. WITZKE, citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in School-Desks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to a novel construction in a school desk, the object being to provide a device of this character which may be adjusted to various sizes to fit pupils of different ages and which is supported by a single standard, the base of which is so constructed as to enable the spaces under the desks to be readily swept and easily cleaned and consists in the features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating my invention Figure 1 is a side elevation of a school desk constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same; Fig. 3 is a fragmentary detail view in elevation on an enlarged scale of the standard employed; Fig. 4 is a fragmentary detail sectional view on an enlarged scale of the seat pivot on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is a detail view in elevation of the spring washer employed. Fig. 6 is a plan section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 1. Fig. 7 is a fragmentary detail vertical section on an enlarged scale on the line 7—7 of Fig. 2.

Owing to the fact that school desks are relatively small and closely spaced it is very difficult to maintain school rooms perfectly clean, this being due to the difficulty of properly manipulating brooms and brushes between the desks and underneath the latter to sweep the dirt out of all of the corners. It is also necessary with the present desks that the same be made in various sizes usually 6 to 8 in number each of which requires a separate set of castings, such seats not being adjustable and requiring that all pupils in a certain grade, whether relatively large or small for their ages shall occupy the same, irrespective of their comfort or fitness.

The object of my invention is to provide a desk which primarily will enable the school room to be kept more clean and therefore sanitary with less labor than is required with the present desks generally used, and which

is further, adjustable so that for example one set of patterns and castings will answer for several sizes of desks and which in turn will enable individual desks in any given room to be separately adjusted to fit the pupil.

To these and other ends my said invention comprises the standard 1, which is preferably cylindrical and is provided with a substantial circular base 2 disposed eccentric to said standard 1 and integral with the latter. The said standard 1 is hollow and is provided exteriorly with a vertical groove 3 having one of its side walls straight and the other thereof recessed as at 4 to provide a series of notches at different elevations. On said standard 1 is mounted a desk member 5 and a seat member 6. The desk member 5 comprises parallel side plate castings 7 upon which is mounted the plane surface 8 disposed at the usual incline and the back member 9 against which the pupil occupying the seat 6 is adapted to lean. The said side plate members 7 are preferably cast integral with the arms 10 of a split collar 11 disposed on said standard 1, the latter being provided with flanges 12 at its ends, through which the bolt 13 passes, by means of which said collar is contracted to frictionally engage said standard to support said collar thereon against lateral movement in any desired position. The said collar is provided with an interiorly extending projection 14 consisting preferably of a pin adapted to enter said groove 3 and said notches 4 in one of the side walls thereof. The said pin serves to support said collar at any desired elevation but to absolutely prevent accidental displacement of said pin and consequent falling of said desk portion, the said collar 11 is preferably contracted by the bolt 13 and thus firmly clamped upon said standard. The said seat member 6 is pivotally secured to the free ends of arms 15 of a collar 16, coinciding in construction with said collar 11 and which is similarly supported on said standard 1.

As will be seen, the vertical groove 3 is formed with what may be termed two parallel and adjacent portions, one being the side which is provided with the notches, and the other the side which is free from notches. And the clamping collars, being free from any inwardly-extending projection other than that provided by the pin 14, are free when in unclamped position, to be moved laterally or in a horizontal plane a distance

equal to the width of the groove including the notched portion, the pin 14 limiting this horizontal or lateral movement. When the pin 14 is seated in any of the notches, the collar and the parts carried thereby, is supported against a downward movement, but when said pin is moved out of the notches by the lateral movement of the collar, said collar and its parts are unsupported and may move downward or be moved upward to any point included within said groove, so that, when in this position, the collar is unsupported. And in its supported position, the support is formed entirely by the pin and notch, the clamping of the collar simply binding it against a lateral movement on the standard. It will therefore be understood that the supporting of the collar and the parts carried thereby is positive and dependent in no sense upon a frictional engagement of parts, thereby eliminating liability of a change in position of the parts by a yielding under pressure, such as would result where the opposing frictional-engaging portions of a clamp formed the sole dependence against such yielding. In the free end of said arm is an opening 17 for the passage of a pin 18. Concentric with said opening 17 is a recess 19 the inner face of the outer wall 20 of which is tapered so as to provide a flaring mouth on said recess. To the seat member 6 are secured two parallel arms 21 which at their rear ends are provided with downwardly disposed semi-circular projections 22 having an opening 23 concentric therewith said last-named opening, being slightly larger in diameter than and adapted to receive said pin 18. Concentric with said opening is an annular flange 24 tapered on its outer face and adapted to enter said recess 19 the said outer face of said flange 24 being adapted to engage the inner face of the outer wall 20 of said recess 19 to constitute the pivot on which said seat member is adapted to turn. In this way the said pin 18 is relieved of the strain which would otherwise be imparted thereto and a very strong pivotal connection is thus formed which automatically takes up any wear such taking up of wear being particularly effected by means of a radially split spring washer 25 having a central opening 26 through which said pin 18 passes the latter carrying a washer 27 bearing on said washer 25 and held in contact therewith to maintain said washer 25 contracted by means of a cotter pin 28 passing through an opening in the free end portion of the shank of said pin 18. The said washer further has the effect of maintaining said pivotal connection between said member and said arms 15 under a yielding pressure thus preventing the same from becoming loose and likewise preventing the seat member 6 when turned down from falling or being violently thrown down and thus producing undesirable noise and other-

wise straining the desk. The pin and cotter pin connection is also very advantageous as compared to the use of bolts for the reason that such cotter pins are not lost and do not become loose unless tampered with and consequently desks so constructed will require less attention and repair than those now generally used. On said arm 21 a projection 29 is provided at one side in the bottom of which is a threaded opening to receive the set screw 30. In the path of the head of the latter on said arms 15 of said collar 16 is a projection 31, the upper face of which is horizontally disposed. The said screws 30 permit of said seat member 6 being slightly raised or lowered at its free end to adjust the lower limit of its movement to fit the pupil, thus preventing relatively small pupils from having their lower limbs maintained dangling in mid-air throughout school hours which is not only uncomfortable but is deemed unhealthy.

Should the pupil or several thereof be abnormally small for their ages or grade, one or several of said desks may be adjusted to render the same fit and comfortable for such pupils as well as for those of normal size for age or grade. By rendering such desk adjustable, the expense of a large number of patterns of various sizes is entirely avoided and expense of manufacture and marketing thus accordingly reduced. Furthermore the desk is by reason of its single standard and base better adapted for all school purposes owing to the greater ease of maintaining the room clean. The eccentric disposition of the base of said standard is preferable for various reasons, the chief of which are that such base is kept more particularly out of the way of the feet of the pupil occupying the seat portion of one desk and further that such disposition better balances the strains on the standard, it being obvious that the greatest weight is disposed on the seat itself.

The school desk thus constructed is very simple, durable, very convenient and relatively cheap.

I claim as my invention:

1. A school desk comprising a hollow cylindrical supporting standard having a substantially circular base disposed eccentric thereto, said standard having a vertical groove formed with one straight wall and an opposing wall provided with recesses at regular intervals, collars longitudinally movable on said standard, an inwardly extending projection on each of collars movable in said groove and adapted to enter said recesses to support said collars at different elevations, arms integral with the upper collar, a desk member carried thereby, arms on the lower collar, and a seat member pivotally secured to the free ends of said arms.

2. A school desk comprising a hollow standard having a vertical groove, said

groove having one straight wall and an opposing wall provided with recesses at regular intervals, collars longitudinally movable on said standard, an inwardly extending projection on each of collars movable in said groove and adapted to enter said recesses to support said collars at different elevations, arms integral with the upper collar, a desk member carried thereby, arms on the lower collar, and a seat member pivotally secured to the free ends of said arms.

3. A school desk comprising a hollow cylindrical standard having a vertical groove, said groove being formed with one straight wall and an opposing wall provided with recesses at regular intervals, split collars

longitudinally movable on said standard and adapted to be contracted to form a clamping connection with the standard, an inwardly extending projection on each of collars movable in said groove and adapted to enter said recess to support said collars at different elevations, arms integral with the upper collar, a desk member carried thereby, arms on the lower collar, and a seat member pivotally secured to the free ends of said arms.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HUGO R. WITZKE.

Witnesses:

P. C. WINN,
R. W. LOTZ.