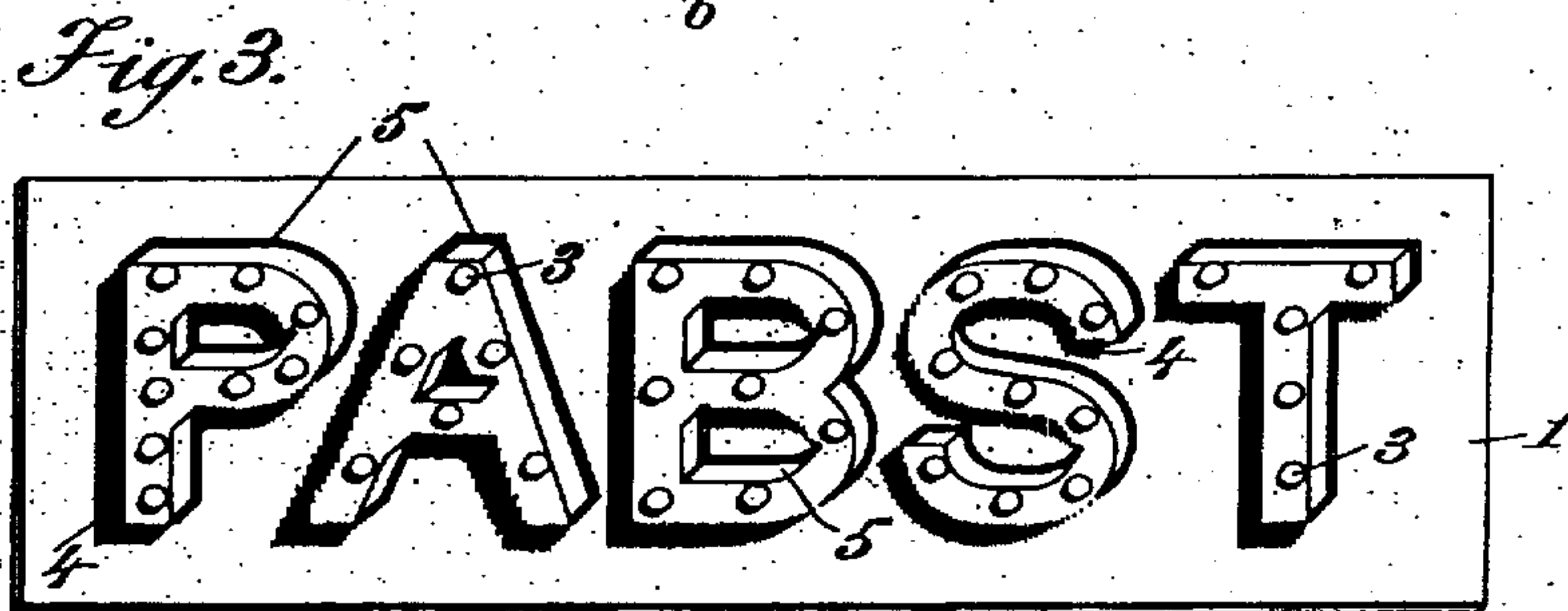
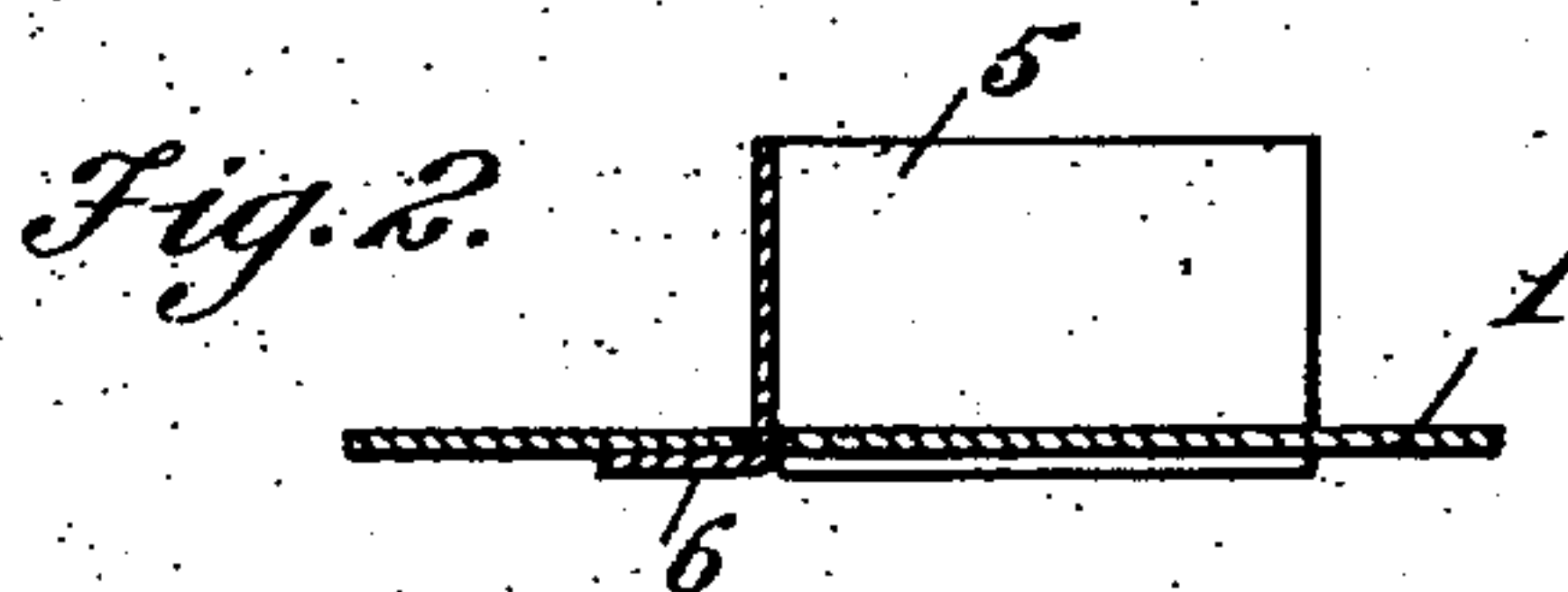
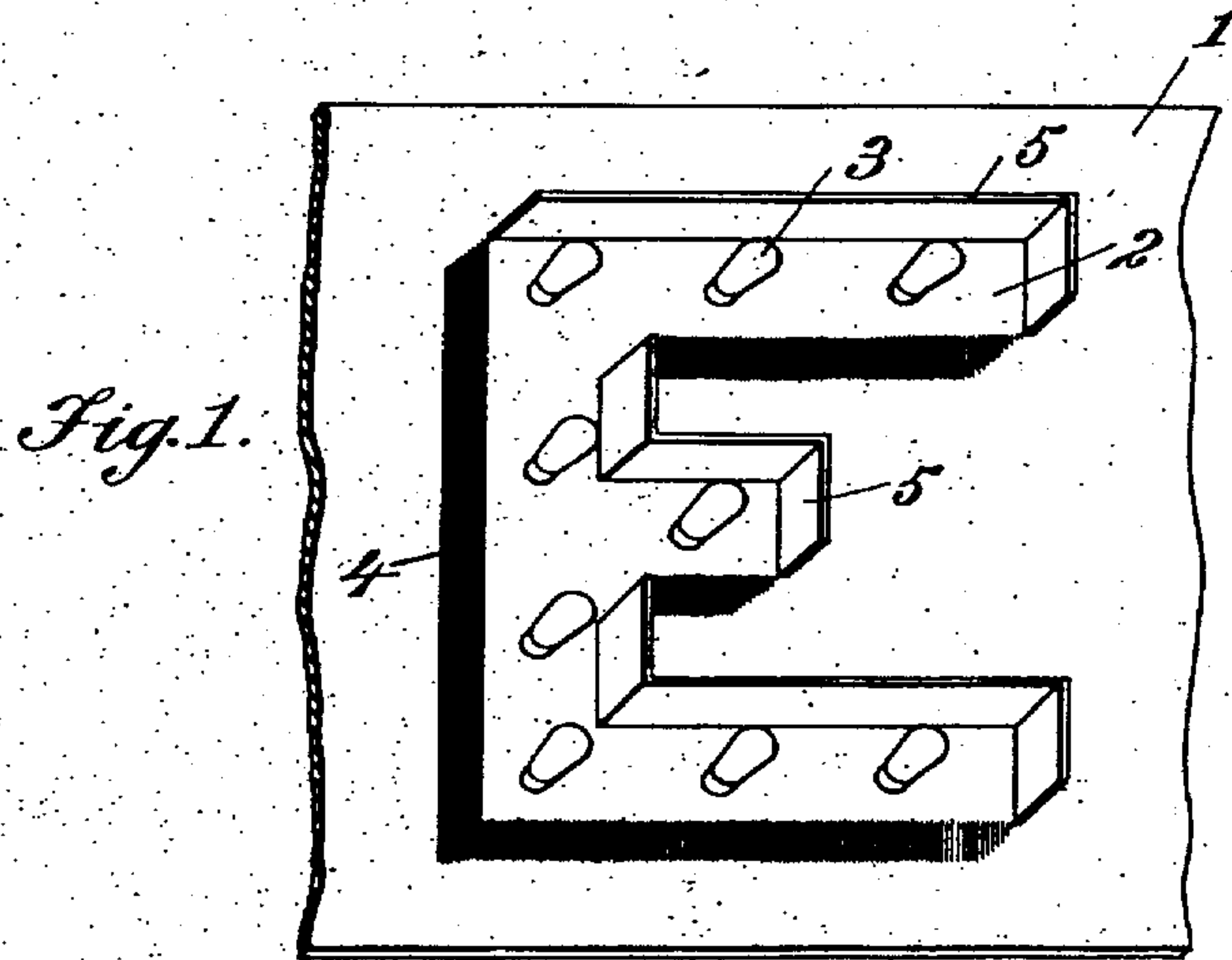


No. 883,682.

PATENTED MAR. 31, 1908.

J. HOTCHNER.
ILLUMINATED SIGN.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 5, 1907.



Witnesses
Alfred Guice
Lulu B. Shaw

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH HOTCHNER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

ILLUMINATED SIGN.

No. 883,682.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 31, 1908.

Application filed November 5, 1907. Serial No. 400,850.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH HOTCHNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented a new and useful Illuminated Sign, of which the following is a specification in such full and clear terms as will enable those skilled in the art to construct and use the same.

10 This invention relates to signs used for the purpose of advertising at night, and its especial object is to make a sign that will be equally valuable as a day sign.

Another object of the invention is to make 15 a sign that will give a better effect with a light of less candle power than most of those now in use.

Still another object of the invention is to make a sign that will stand out as block letters do both when illuminated by daylight 20 and when its lights are burning.

Another object of the invention is to make a sign that it will be easy to attach the light reflectors to.

25 In the drawings in which the same numeral is applied to the same parts throughout, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a letter showing the invention, Fig. 2 is a sectional view of a letter showing the manner of attaching the reflectors thereto, and Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a sign showing the invention.

It will be observed that to make a letter stand out well at night it is common to outline the letter by means of a series of electric 35 lights all of which when lighted give the appearance of solid letters to the sign, this effect being increased by means of a channeled reflector placed all around the various letters of the signs. It is also common to 40 illuminate signs with a series of lights placed above them, but the effect given is not so good for the reason that at a distance the various letters of the word blend together and the sign cannot be read at more than a 45 block or two.

The difficulty with the common sign is that when the reflector channels are in place that the sign is of very little use in the day time since the channels obscure the word- 50 ing and make the sign hard to read. The various letters of such signs are carried on separate blocks and the letters are hung up to make any desired word, so that it will be understood that what is said here with 55 regard to the single letter shown in the draw-

ings applies equally well to all the letters of the alphabet.

The letter is painted on a plate 1 which may be of any desired size, the body 2 of the letter being painted in white, and in this 60 white ground there are placed the desired number of lamps 3. The letter is made to stand out from the plate 1 by means of the common shading 4 which may be so placed as to give the letter the appearance of stand- 65 ing out to one side or the other as desired.

Now it will be noted that the illumination will not make the sign stand out as it should unless each letter be shaded from each other letter, and this is accomplished by means of 70 the reflectors 5 which are placed only on one side of the elements of the letters and above the same. The effect may be obtained equally well by placing the reflectors to the left or the right as may be deemed expedient, 75 but in that event it will be necessary to have the shading 4 on the opposite side of the letter from the reflector. An essential feature of the invention is that the body of the letter should be done in some light color 80 while the shading is done in a darker color.

It will be noted that the reflectors are secured to the plate 1 by cutting a slot in that plate where each reflector is to be secured and soldering the reflector to the plate on the op- 85 posite side thereof, as shown at 6. This cannot be done with channels that extend entirely around the letter for the reason that the soldering does not make the joint between the plate and the rest of the letter 90 strong enough to hold the lights in place, but where the slot is cut for only a part of the distance around the letter the plate is not weakened at all, and the face of the plate is left in a preferably smooth and workmanlike 95 condition. Another feature of the invention is that in places where there is a large amount of snow or sleet that there is no place for the snow or sleet to collect on to obscure the effect of the lighting of the letter, the reason 100 of this is because the side of the reflector on which the letter is painted is below or to one side of the reflectors thus affording no place for snow to collect; and in a country where no snow falls it is just as much an advantage 105 since dust and the like collects on the painted side of the reflectors and in this way much of the good effect of the lettering is lost.

The greatest advantage of this invention is that the sign is just as available in the day 110

time as at night for the heavy shading brings the letters out just as well by daylight as when the letters are illuminated by the electric lamps, and the illumination of the lamp at night is better than when the double channel is used for the reason that the letter may be plainly seen at angles that would make the full channeled sign difficult to discern clearly.

10 Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is as follows, modifications within the scope of the claims being expressly reserved.

15 1. In an illuminated sign, the combination with a shaded letter or a reflector for said letter placed above and to one side of the elements of the letter, and means to illuminate the letter throughout its elements.

20 2. In an illuminated sign the combination with a light colored letter, a reflector for said letter placed above and to one side of the letter, and means to illuminate the letter throughout its elements.

25 3. In an illuminated sign, the combination of a letter having a light colored body and darker shading, a reflector for said letter placed above and to one side of the elements of the letter, and means to illuminate the letter throughout its elements.

30 4. In an illuminated sign, the combination of a letter having a light colored body, a reflector for said letter placed above and to one side of the body elements of the letter, said reflector consisting of plates passing through slots in the material on which the letter is painted and being soldered on the opposite

side thereof, and means to illuminate the letter throughout its elements.

5. In an illuminated sign, the combination of a letter having a light colored body, a reflector placed above and to one side of the body of the letter, the opposite side of the letter being plane and without a reflector, shading darker than the body of the letter placed on the side of the letter opposite from the reflector, and means to illuminate the elements of the letter.

6 In an illuminated sign, the combination of a letter having a light colored body and darker shading, a series of reflectors placed above and to one side of each element of the letter the opposite shaded side of the letter being plane and in the plane of the body of the letter, and means to illuminate the letter throughout its elements.

7. In an illuminated sign, the combination of a letter having a light colored body and darker shading, a series of reflectors placed above and to one side of each element of the letter, each reflector being secured to the material on which the letter is placed by passing the material of which the reflector is made through a slot in the body of the sign and soldering the same on the back of the letter plate, and means to illuminate the sign throughout its elements.

In testimony whereof I have set my hand this day of October A. D. 1907, in the presence of the two subscribed witnesses.

JOSEPH HOTCHNER.

Witnesses:

W. T. HESS,
C. P. GRIFFIN

Correction in Letters Patent No. 883,682.

It is hereby certified that in Letters Patent No. 883,682, granted March 31, 1908, upon the application of Joseph Hotchner, of San Francisco, California, for an improvement in "Illuminated Signs," an error appears in the printed specification requiring correction, as follows: In line 16, page 2, the word "or" should read of; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed and sealed this 19th day of January, A. D., 1909.

[SEAL.]

C. C. BILLINGS,
Acting Commissioner of Patents.

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