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PATENTED MAY 12, 1908.

W. F. OLIVER.
SAFETY ENVELOP.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 7, 1906.

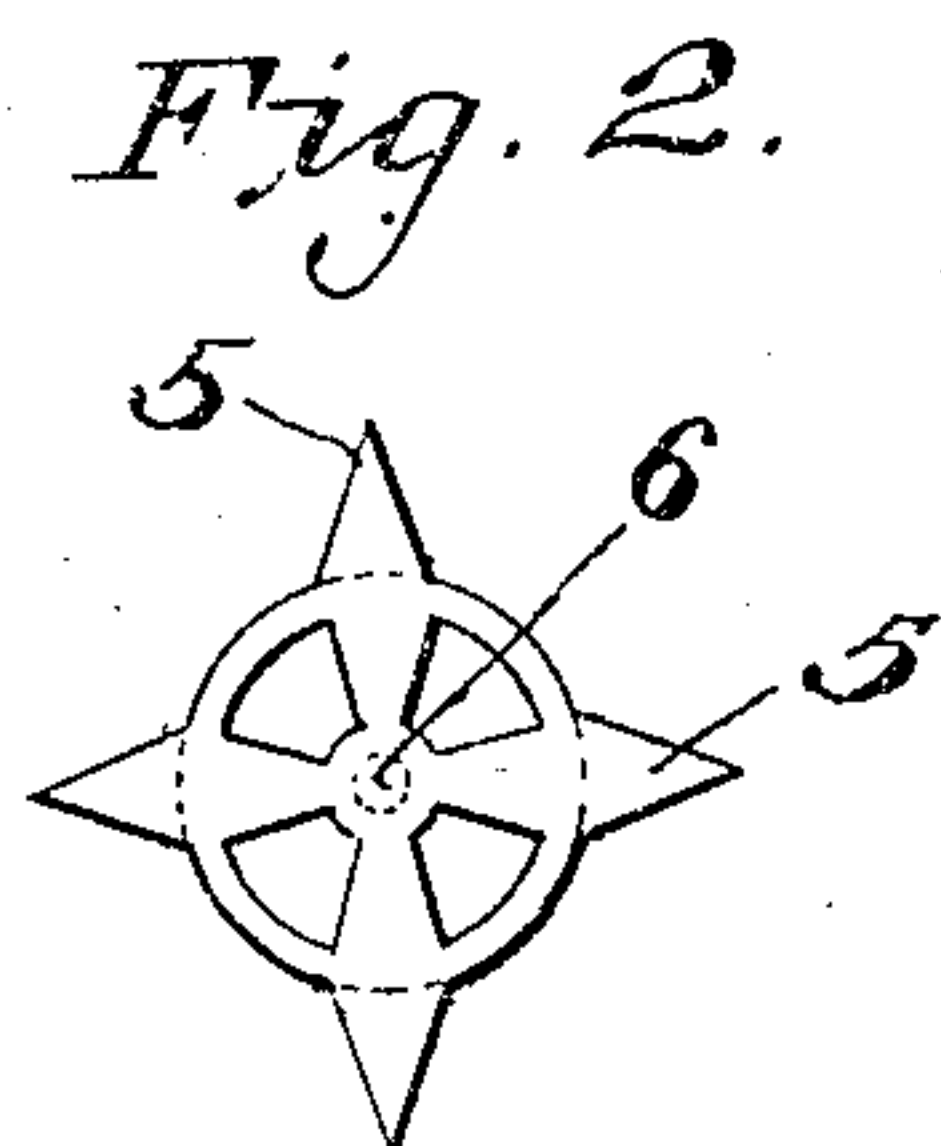
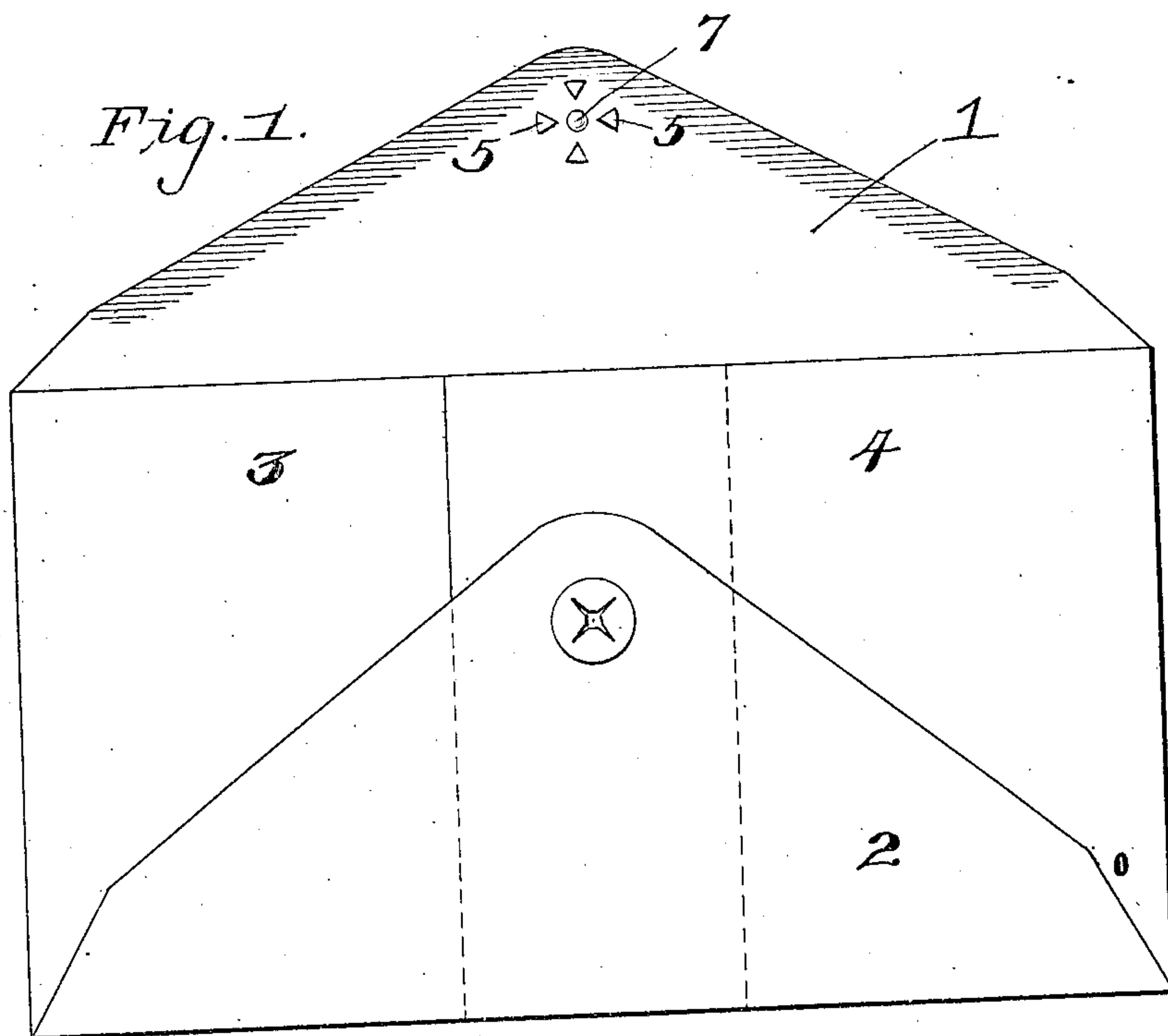


Fig. 4.

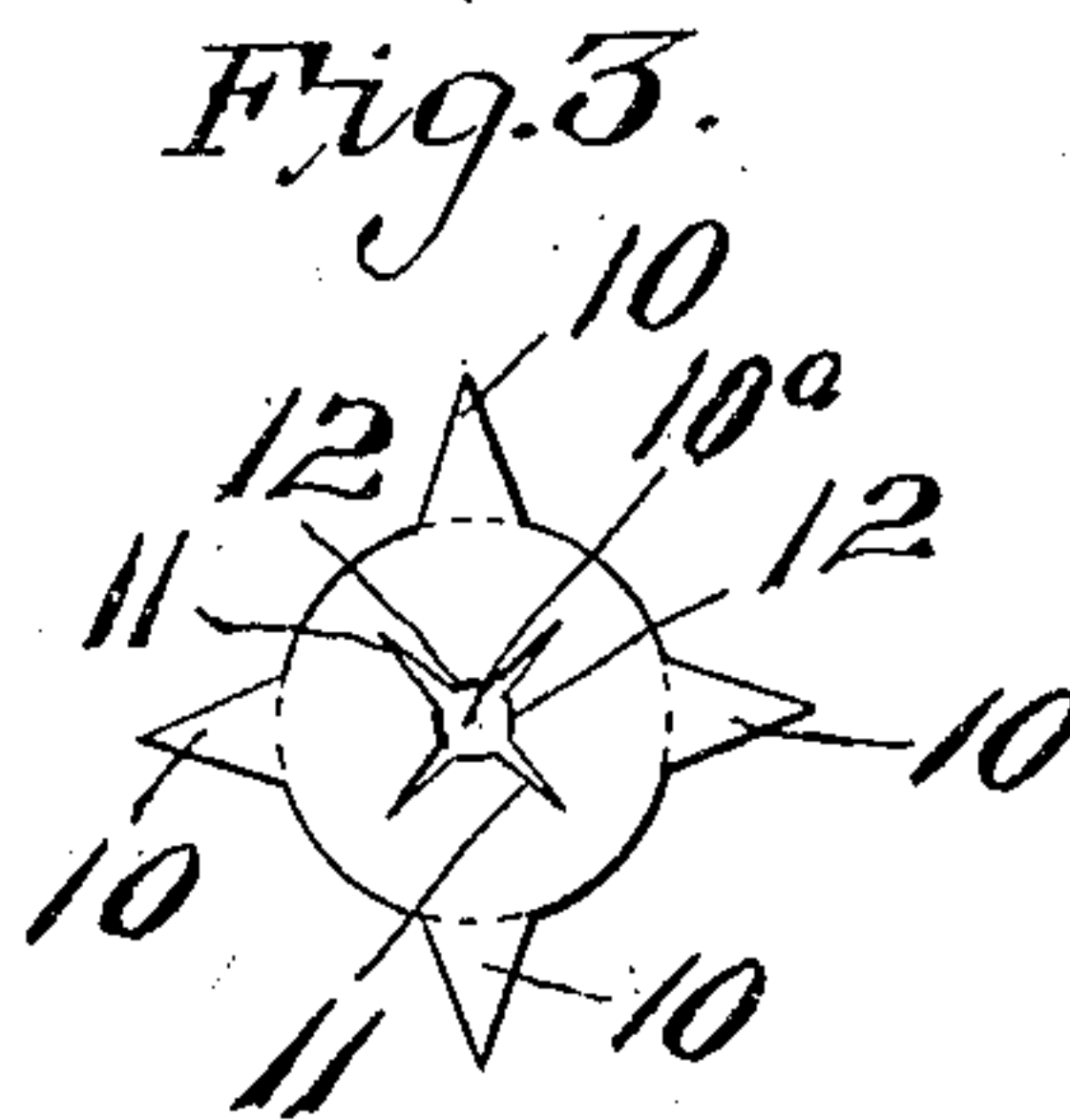
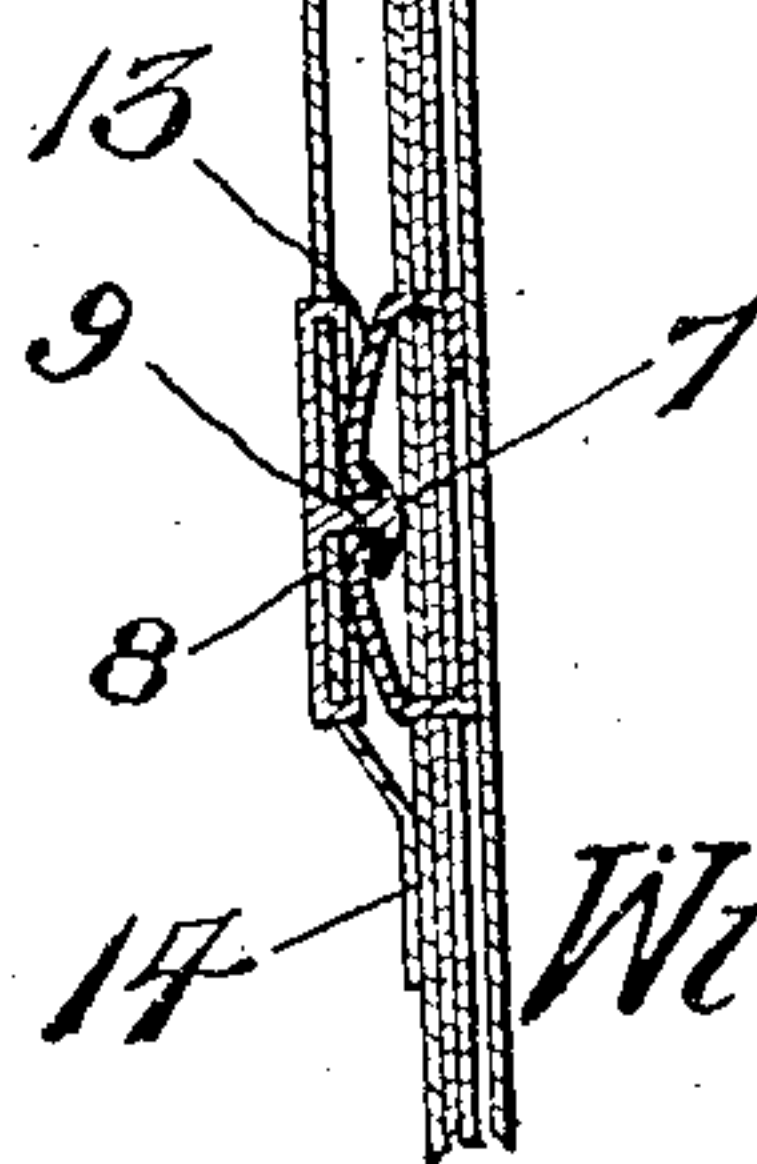
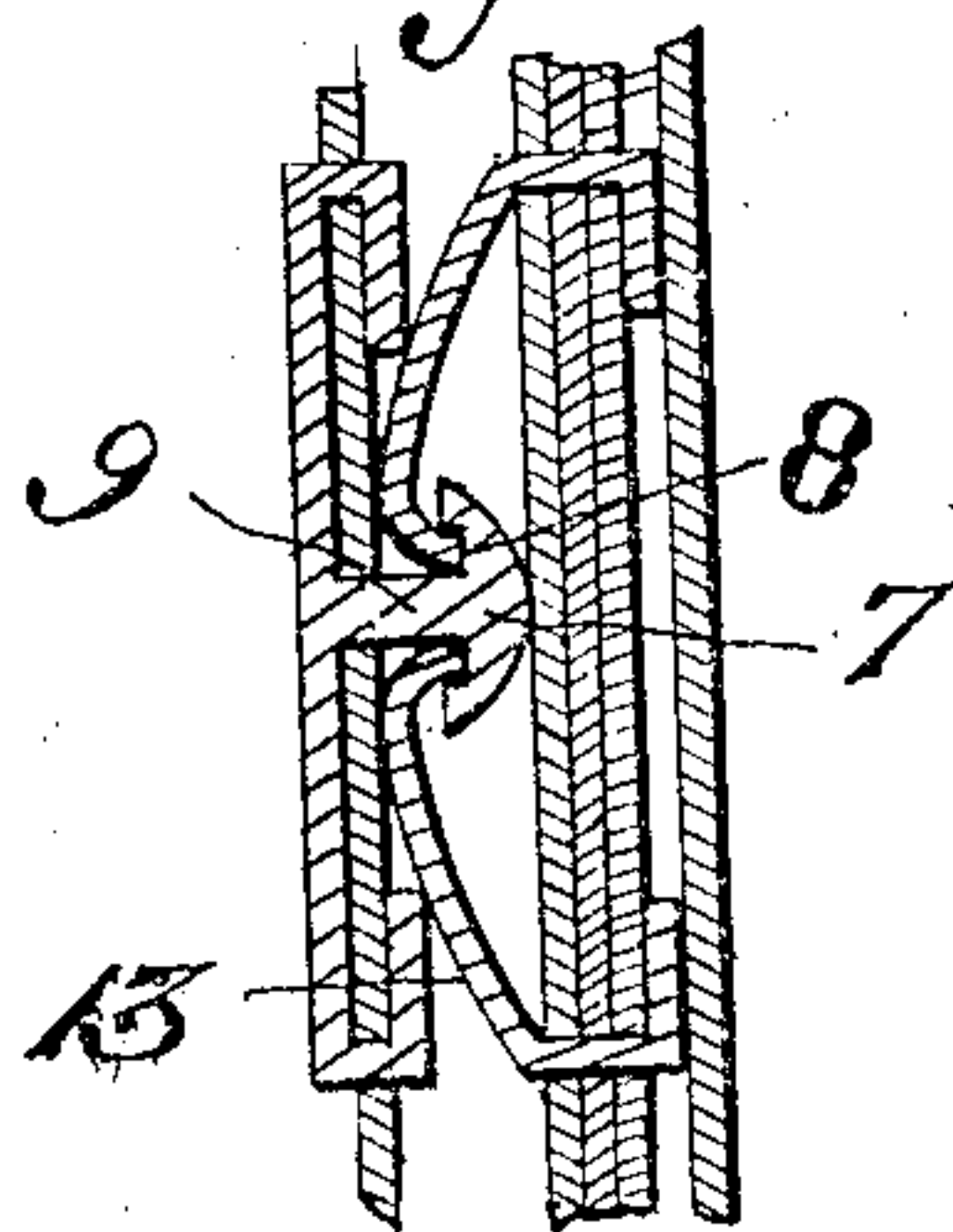


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
J. T. L. Wright
E. P. Ramsey

Inventor
William F. Oliver,
By *Victor J. Evans*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. OLIVER, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

SAFETY-ENVELOP.

No. 887,509.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. OLIVER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented new and useful Improvements in Safety-Envelops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to safety envelops, and the principal object of the same is to provide an envelop which cannot be opened excepting by cutting or tearing the end or otherwise destroying the seal.

Another object of my invention is to provide an envelop with a small, light sheet metal fastener which, when locked, cannot be unlocked to open the flap of the envelop and hence, renders the envelop safe and secure against surreptitious opening.

These and other objects may be attained by means of the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1 is a rear elevation of an envelop made in accordance with my invention and having the flap open. Fig. 2 is a plan view of one member of the metallic seal before the points or prongs are bent downward to secure the same to the flap of the envelop. Fig. 3 is a similar view of the other member of the envelop seal. Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken through the envelop with the flap secured in place by the metal seal. Fig. 5 is an enlarged sectional view taken through both members of the metal seal with the envelop shown broken away.

Referring to the drawings for a more particular description of my invention, the numeral 1 designates the upper flap of an envelop, and 2, is the lower flap of the same. The back portion of the envelop comprises the two overlapping portions 3, 4, which are preferably formed integral with the body portion of the envelop. The portions 3, 4 extend to the base line of the flap 1 and overlap each other, as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. The metal seal or lock consists of a male member, shown in plan in Fig. 2, comprising a light sheet metal device having integral prongs 5 extending outward from a central portion 6 and formed upon said central portion 6 is a head or ball 7 provided with an annular groove or recess 8 surrounding the stem 9. The prongs 5 are passed through the flap 1 of the envelop, and the ball member 7 is also passed through the flap, as shown in Fig. 1, the prongs 5 being bent down to hold

the device in place. The female member of the fastening consists of a disk of thin sheet metal provided with securing prongs 10, and a central aperture 10^a comprising slots 11 which extend from the aperture 10^a, thus providing spring lips 12, which are extended inwardly, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, said lips engaging the annular recess 8 under the head of the stud member 7. It is to be noted that the disk portion of the female member is curved, as shown at 13. The prongs 10 are passed through the lower flap 2 and through the two portions 3 and 4, said prongs being bent down inside the envelop to hold the member in place.

The operation of my invention may be briefly described as follows: When it is desired to seal the envelop, the ball member 7 is pressed into the aperture 10^a until the lips 12 engage the annular recess 8 behind the head of the stud member. In this position the seal cannot be reopened without destroying the envelop because any prying action on the part of the ball member relatively to the socket member will only increase the holding power of the lips within the annular recess 8. As a further security the edge of the flap 1 may be gummed down to the front of the envelop, as shown at 14. The curvature of the disk portion of the female member provides sufficient space between the inner wall of said curved portion and the envelop body to accommodate the head 7 of the stud member.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that an envelop made in accordance with my invention, and provided with the light, metallic seal described, cannot be surreptitiously opened, and when once sealed, the contents of the envelop cannot be inspected excepting by the destruction of the seal or by opening the envelop in the usual way.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:

1. A metallic seal for an envelop comprising a stud member and a socket member, the former having prongs extending outward from a central portion, a stud on the central portion having a head which is provided in its under side with an annular recess, a socket member comprising a concavo-convex disk having a central aperture for passage of said stud, the concavity of said disk providing sufficient space between the inner wall thereof and the envelop to accommodate the head of the stud for firmly sealing the envelop and

to prevent the head from marring the contents of the envelop, inwardly bent radial spring lips formed adjacent said central aperture in said disk to interlock with the said annular recess in the under side of the head, and prongs on the disk for securing the same to the envelop.

2. A safety envelop comprising a body provided with a sealing flap, a female fastening member upon the body comprising a concavo-convex disk having its convex side outwardly directed and its concavo side facing the body and forming an intervening receiving space, said member being provided with prongs securing it to the body and having a central aperture and a series of spring fingers radially arranged thereto and bent inwardly into said receiving space, and a male member upon the sealing flap provided

with prongs securing it thereto and carrying a stud to engage said female member on the body, said stud having a head adapted to be passed through the opening in the female member against the resistance of said spring fingers and formed in its underside with a recess adapted to receive the fingers, whereby an interlocking action between the two members is secured, the head when so applied lying in the said receiving recess formed between the body of the envelop and the concave side of the female member.

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

WILLIAM F. OLIVER.

Witnesses:

JOHN J. DALY,
HENRY A. SMITH.