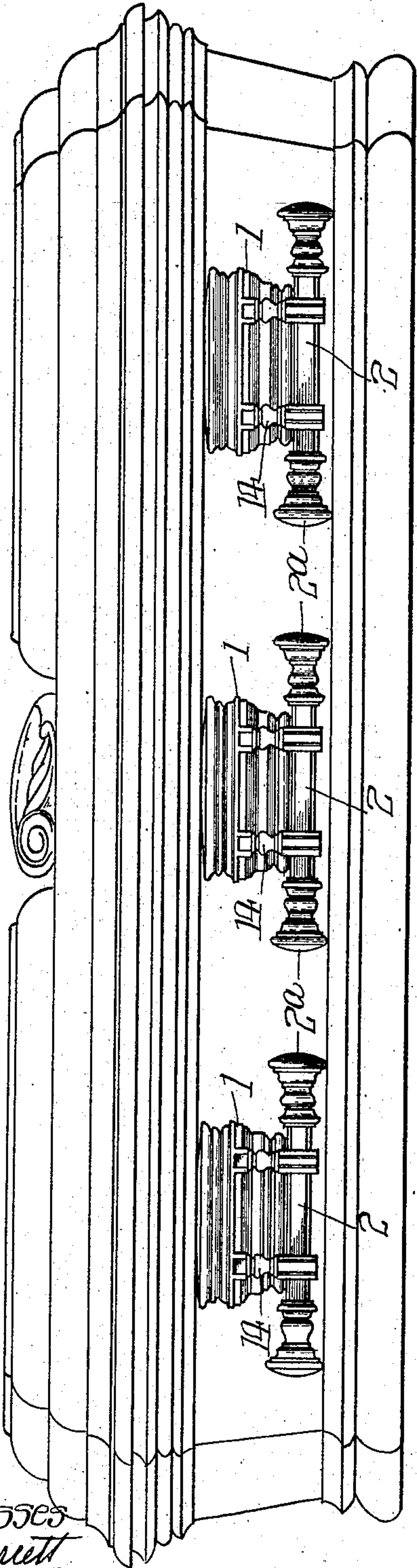


900,569.

Patented Oct. 6, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1



Witnesses  
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Fig. 4

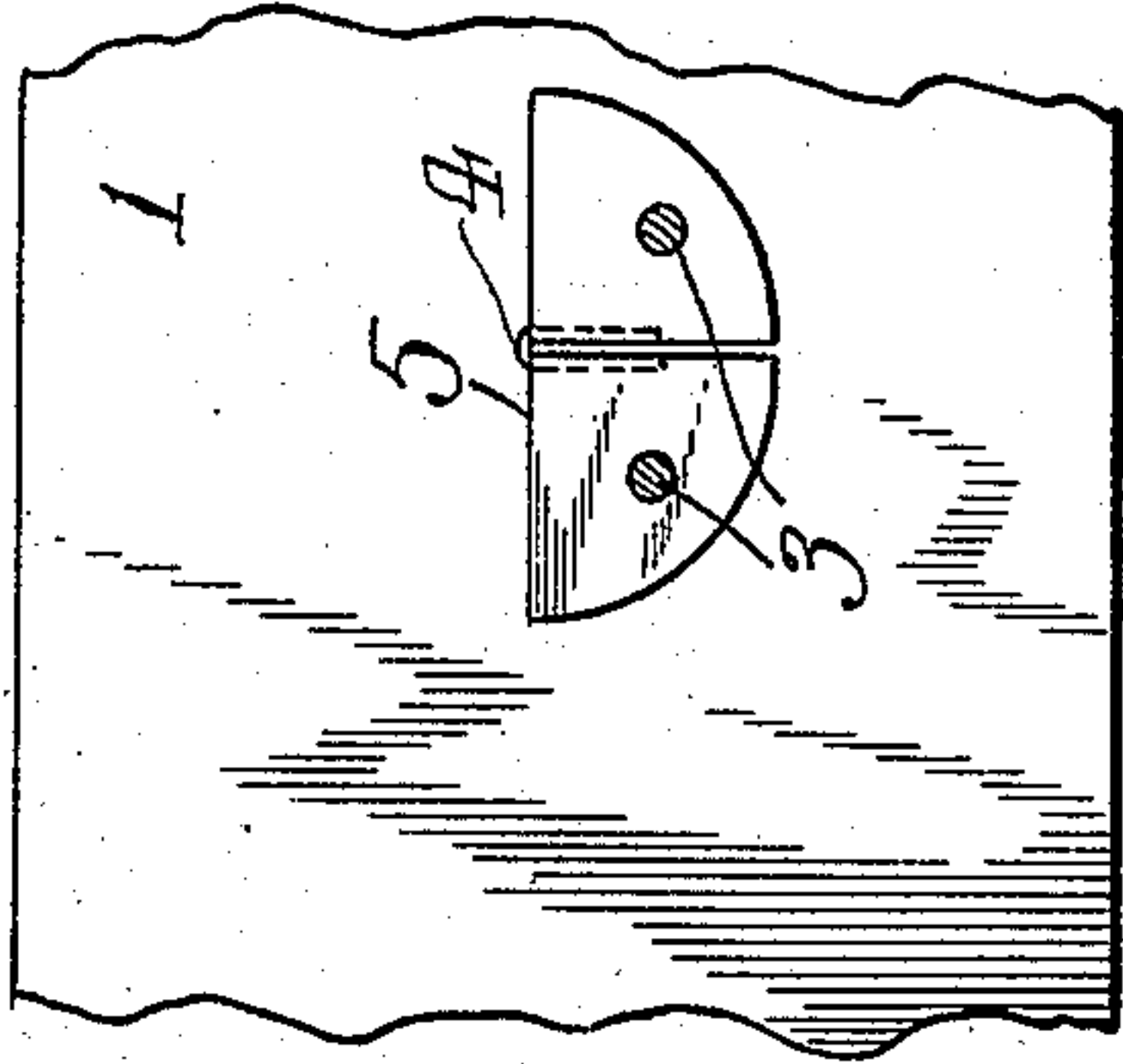


Fig. 3

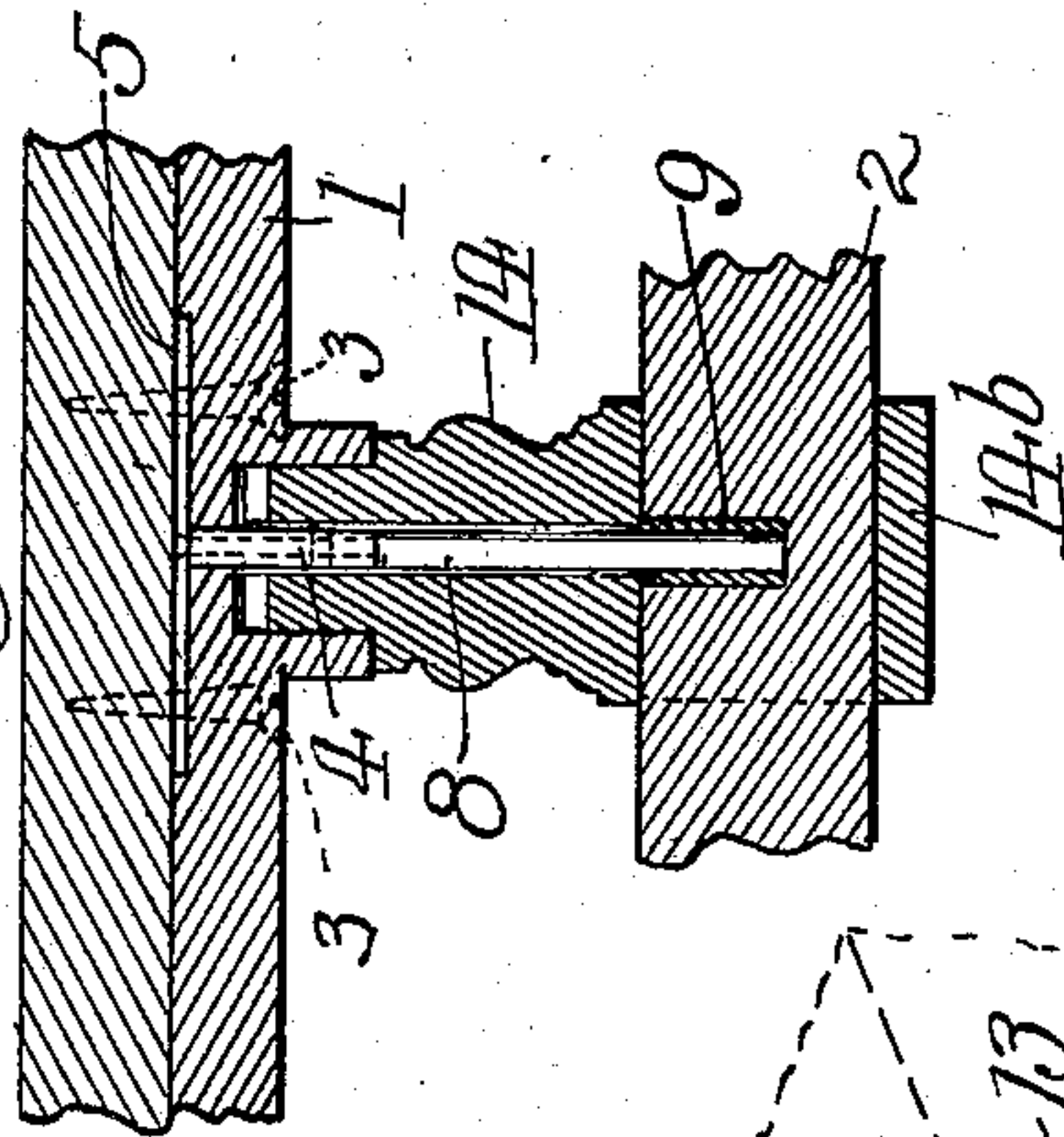
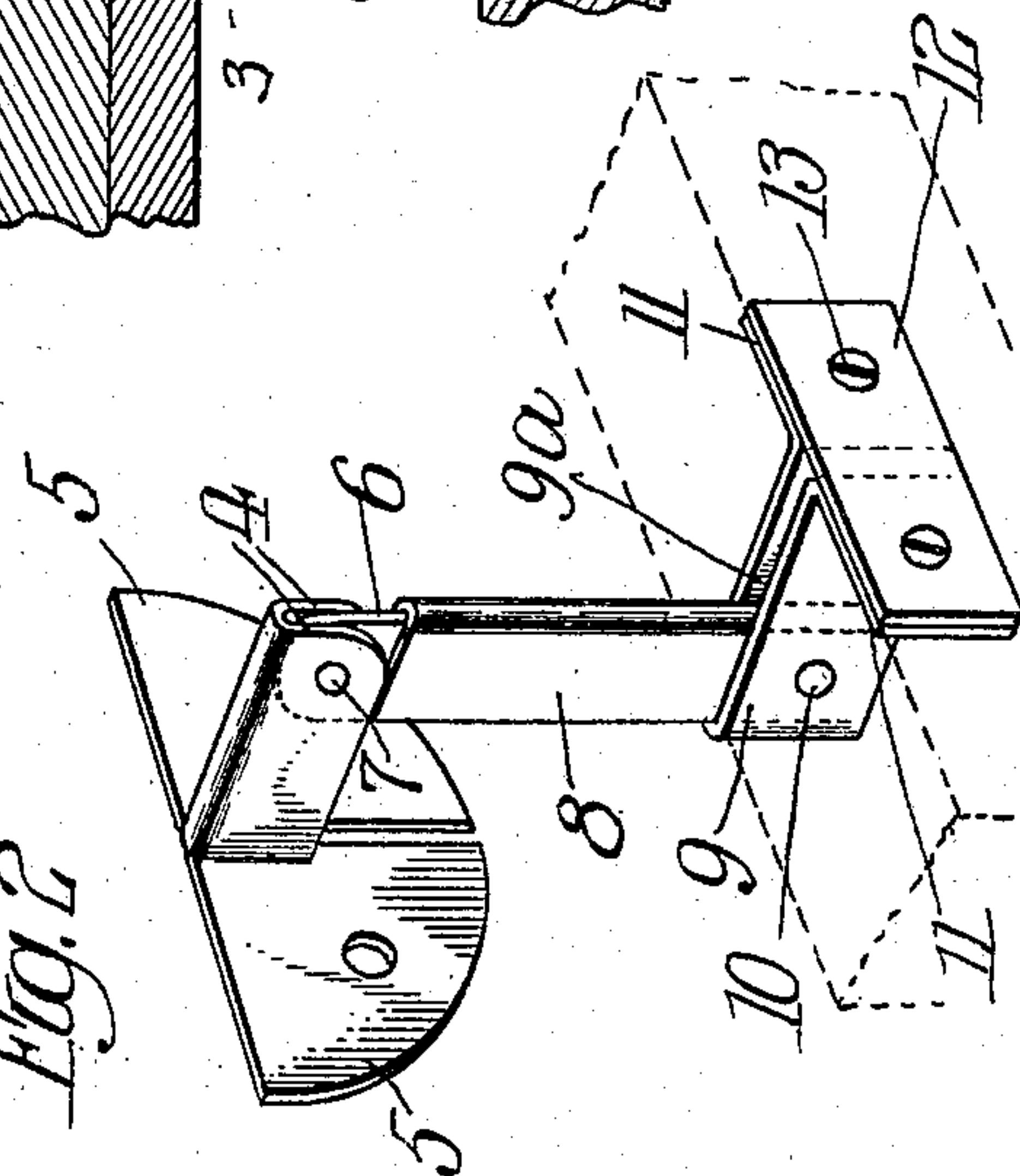


Fig. 2

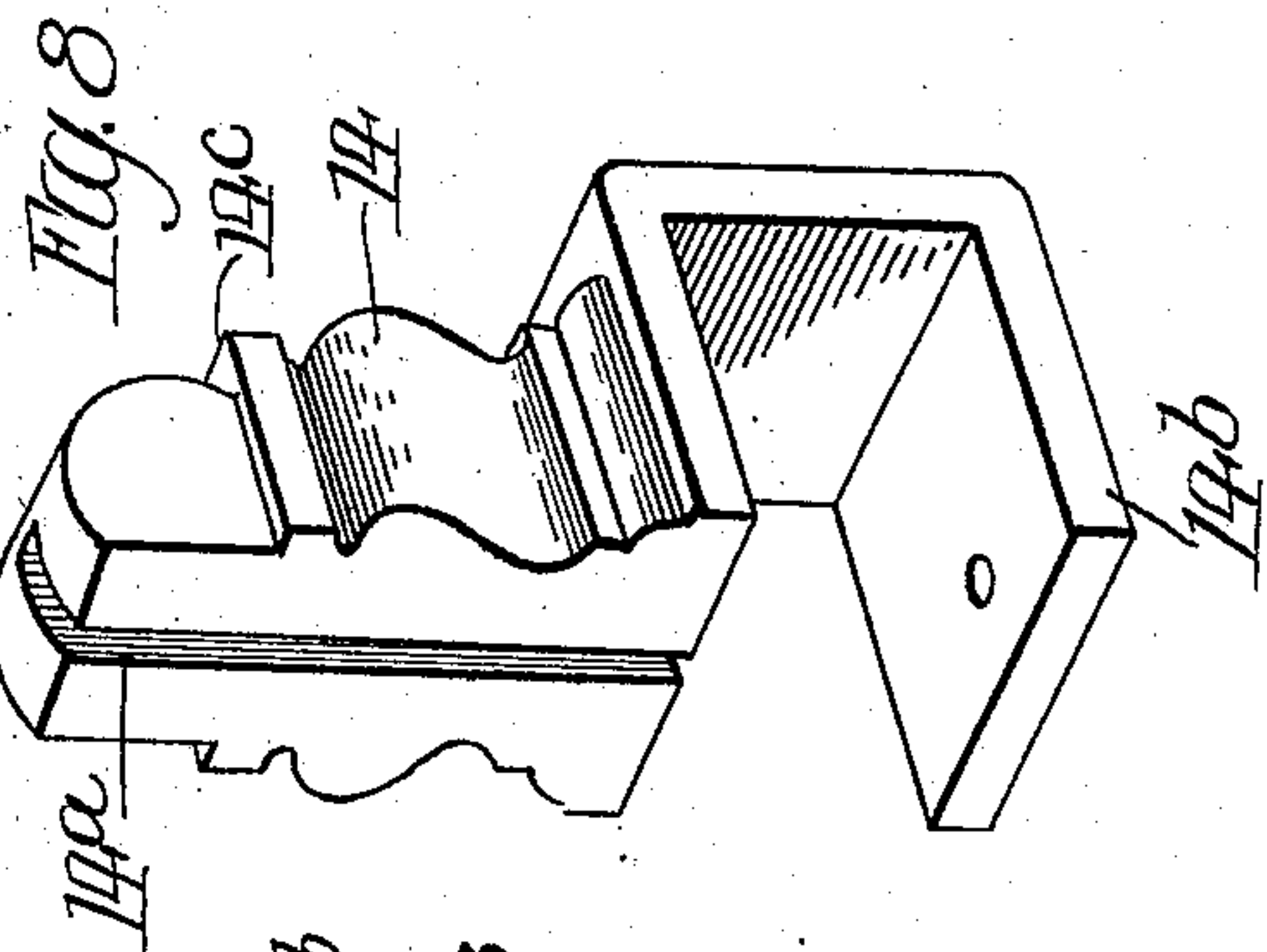
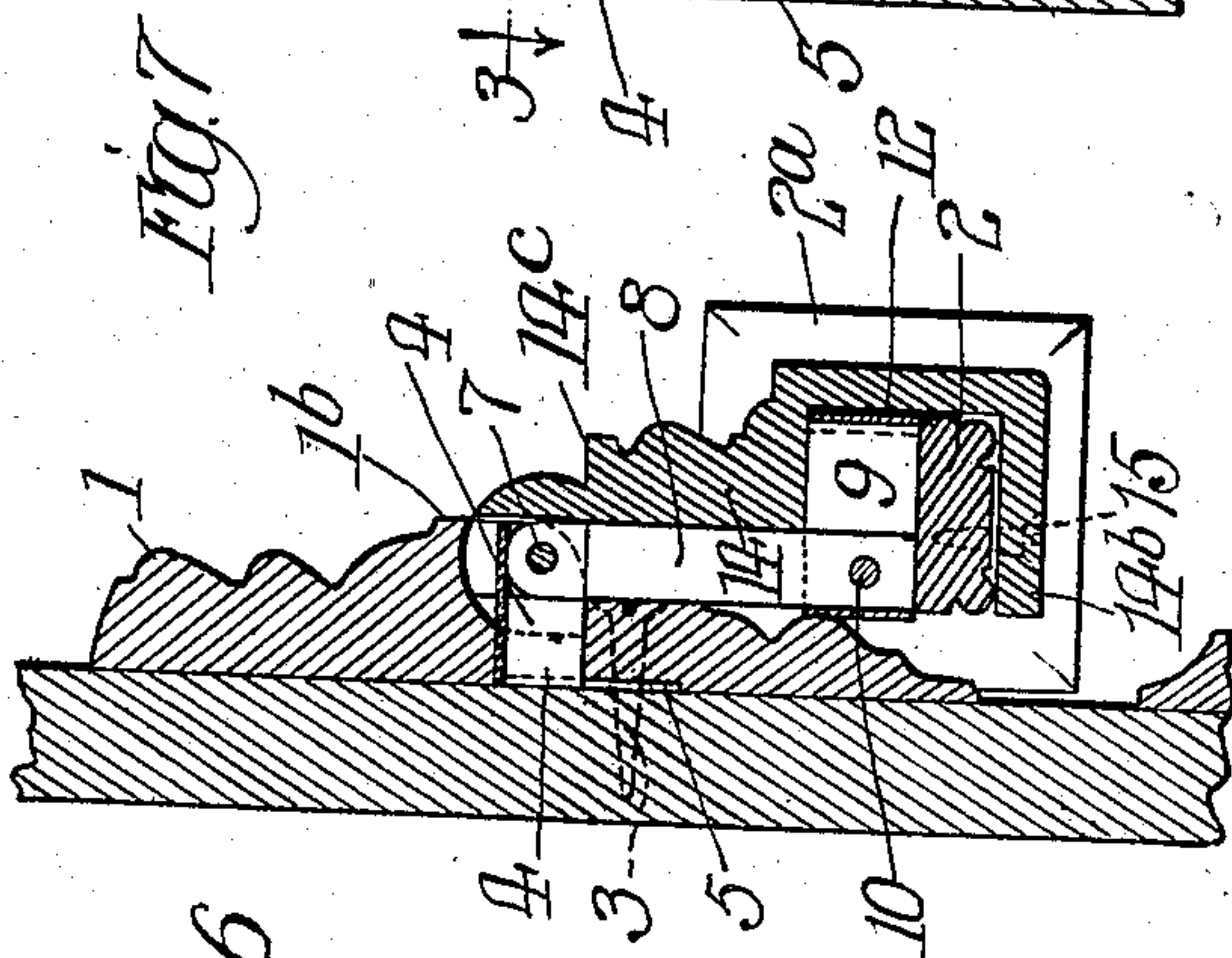
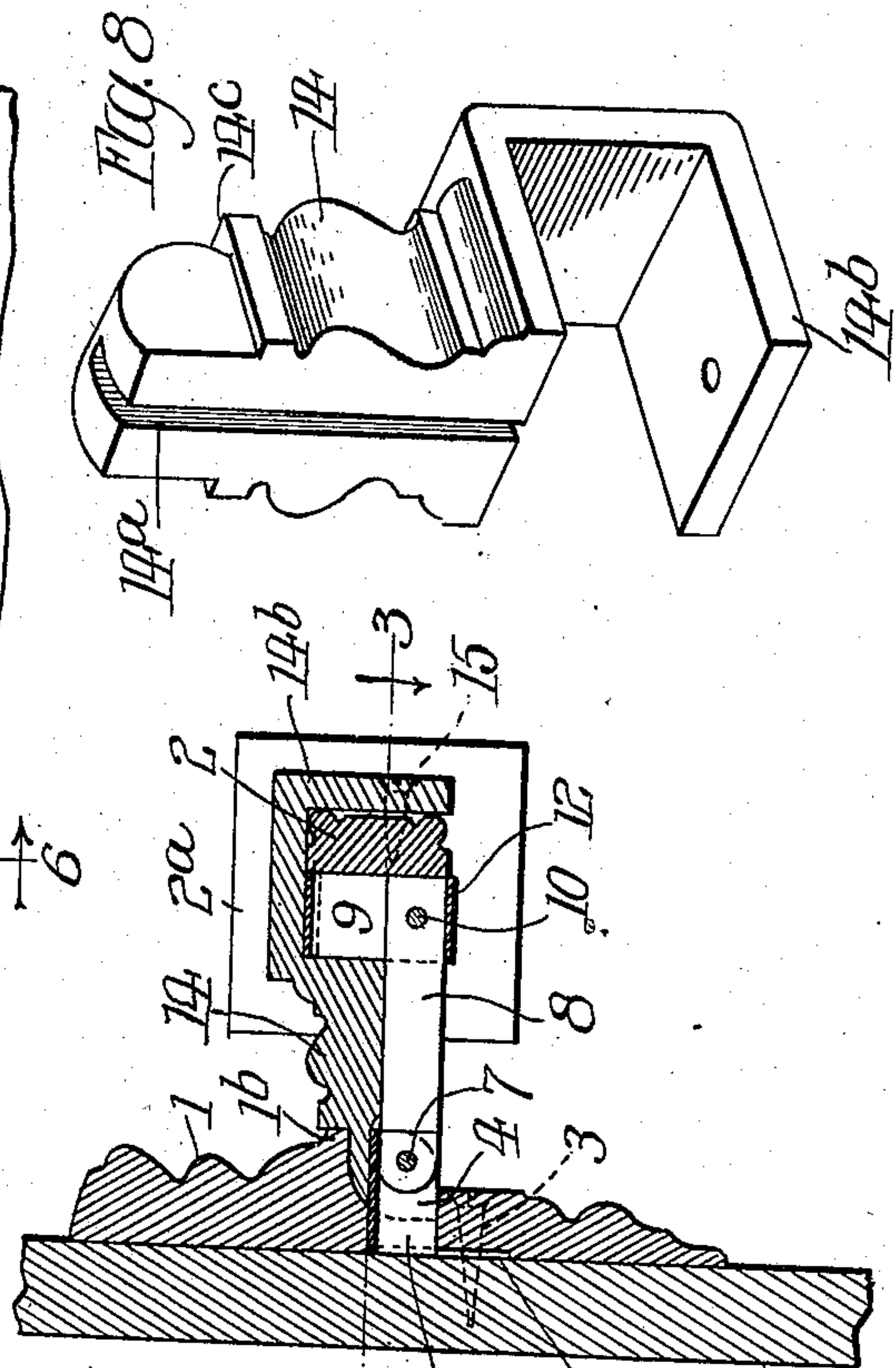
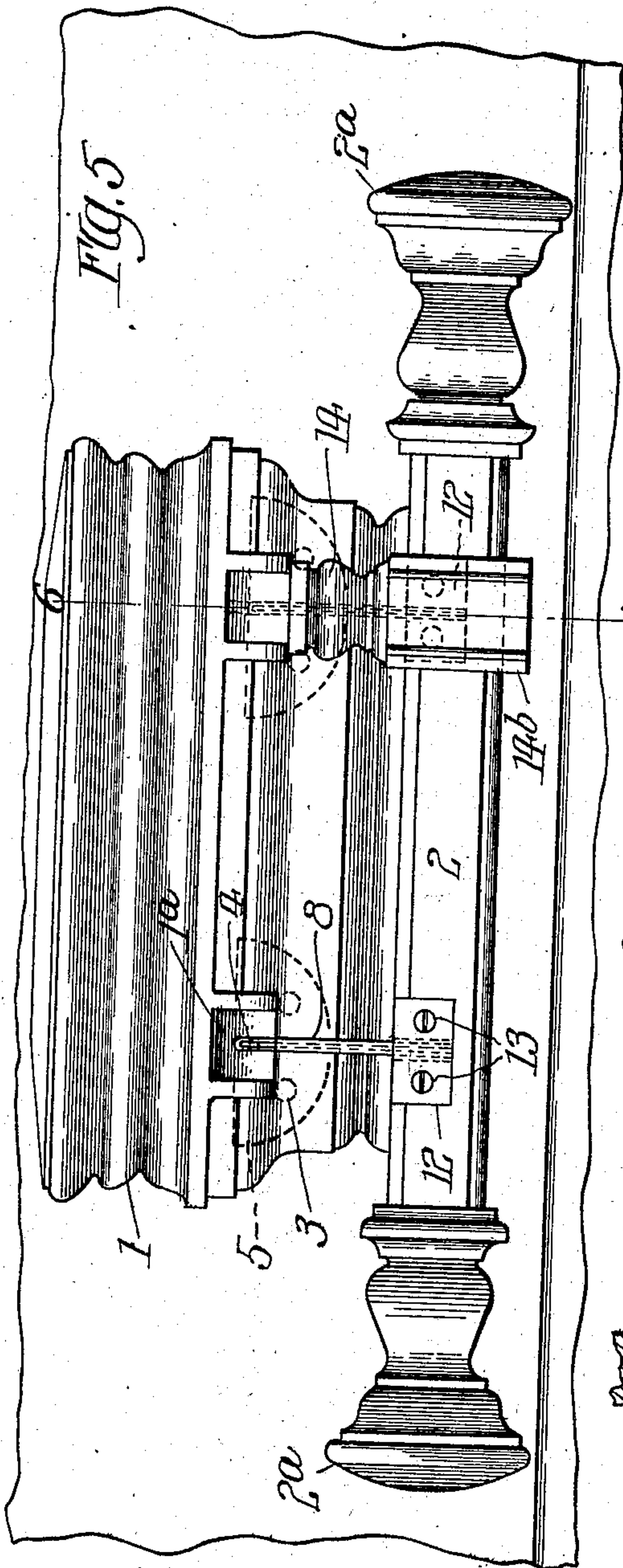


Inventor:  
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900,569.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. MILLS, OF RICHMOND, INDIANA.

## CASKET-HANDLE.

No. 900,569.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 6, 1908.

Application filed March 17, 1908. Serial No. 421,664.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. MILLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Richmond, in the county of Wayne and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Casket-Handles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to handles for caskets and the object thereof is to provide a handle of such construction and made of such material as to serve as a substitute for and to have advantages over the metallic form of handles usually employed for this purpose. In my new handle, only the hinges are made of metal, the remainder being made of wood, composition or the like, but in case composition is used, the handle bar may be reinforced in suitable manner as by a metal rod. In the present instance, however, the handle bar and other parts excepting the hinge is formed of wood and the hinge is of novel and original construction, the same being peculiarly adapted and arranged for the particular character or use. Moreover, provision is made to conceal the hinges by means which give the appearance of a casket handle of solid wood construction, but which has all the strength of the metallic casket handle, besides which an appearance of extreme strength and solidity is imparted. Furthermore, any desired design of handle structure may be easily and economically provided as desired, or in order to harmonize with the casket.

The various features of advantage and utility in my casket handle will be apparent from the description hereinafter given.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a casket showing three of my handles attached; Fig. 2 a perspective of one of the hinges; Fig. 3 a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 7; Fig. 4 a rear elevation of a part of one of the base plates of the handle structure illustrating a portion of one of the hinges; Fig. 5 an elevation of the handle structure showing removed one of the pieces or shields for concealing the hinges; Fig. 6 a section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5 showing the handle proper or bar in its normal or lowered position; Fig. 7 a view similar to Fig. 6 but showing the handle bar in its raised or operative position; and Fig. 8 an enlarged perspective view of one of the shields or blocks which conceal the hinges.

Referring to the present embodiment of my invention as illustrated in the drawings

which represent my preferred construction, each handle structure comprises a base portion 1, a bar or handle proper marked 2, and a pair of hinges connecting said base plate 60 and the handle bar. These parts are in the present instance made of wood, although as hereinbefore stated the same may be made of composition, provided the handle bar is given the requisite strength by suitable reinforcing means. The base plate is shaped or carved to any desired design and is adapted to be secured to the side of the casket in any suitable manner, as by means of the screws 3, which also pass through a portion 70 of the hinges, as hereinafter described, it being understood that these base plates are secured to the caskets after they have been covered with cloth or the like in the usual manner. However, so far as my invention 75 in its broader aspect is concerned, the base plate is not essential, consequently those claims not including the same as an element are not to be limited thereto. Likewise the handle bar 2 may be made of any suitable 80 design and may have at its ends any ornamentation, as for instance the knobs 2<sup>a</sup>, which if desired may be detachable so as to enable knobs of different ornamentation, as selected, to be used with the same handle. 85

The handle bar is hinged to the base plate 1 by means of two hinges of the form clearly illustrated in Fig. 2. As shown, each hinge comprises two members or leaves which, in the present instance, are formed of sheet 90 metal plates bent to proper form for the purpose in view. The stationary member or leaf consists of a sheet metal plate having a portion reversely bent to form two parallel arms 4 and also having flat portions or plates 95 5. The flat portion 5 is secured in a recess on the back face of the base plate 1, Fig. 4, while the arms 4 which form the leaf proper pass through a slot in the base plate and extend into a socket portion 1<sup>a</sup> formed on the 100 front of the base plate adjacent the stationary leaf of each hinge. It is of advantage to thus locate these hinge plates between the casket side and the base plate, inasmuch as such arrangement provides for firm anchor- 105 ing of the member of the hinge and prevents buckling of the plates. The movable leaf or member of the hinge is formed of a flat metal plate 6, which extends between the arms 4 and is pivoted thereto by means of the pin or 110 rivet 7. This plate 6 is preferably strengthened by means of the plate 8, which is re-



versely bent so as to substantially encompass said plate 6 and to also serve as a stop for the hinge when in its uppermost or operative position, at which time the upper edge of said plate 8 will contact the front edge of said arms 4. This movable leaf here shown as comprising the plates 6 and 8 is secured to the handle bar through the medium of a socket piece 9 consisting of a sheet metal plate reversely bent and secured to the lower end of said movable leaf by means of a rivet 10. This socket piece is received in a transverse groove or channel 9<sup>a</sup> in the handle bar and by preference the free ends are shaped as flanges 11 which are received in the recesses on the front side of the handle bar. By preference, a short cross plate 12 is arranged in said recess and fitted upon said flanges and secured to the handle bar by the same screws 13 which secure the socket piece 9 thereto. This plate 12, thus bridging over the channel or groove 9<sup>a</sup>, gives the desired strength at these points and overcomes any loss of strength due to said grooving of the handle bar.

It will be understood that the handle structure as thus far described will be practical and efficient, but the hinges will be exposed and will not give an attractive and pleasing appearance. To overcome this objection, and to also increase the efficiency of the hinges, I provide the blocks 14, one for each hinge. Each block is made as clearly illustrated in Fig. 8 and in order to adapt it to the hinge the upper portion thereof is provided with a vertical slot or groove 14<sup>a</sup>, which receives the leaves of the hinge, the upper rounding portion of each block 14 being received in the sockets 1<sup>a</sup> of the base plate. The lower portion of each block is formed to receive the handle proper, the extreme lower portion 13<sup>b</sup> thereof engaging the under side of the handle proper and thus providing means of attachment thereto as by means of the screws 15 passing through the portion 14<sup>b</sup> of each block and entering the handle bar 2. The blocks are ornamented or carved according to any desired design and when in place completely conceal the hinges and give an appearance of themselves serving as hinges. These blocks incidentally perform additional functions, first in that their grooves 14<sup>a</sup> not only strengthen the hinges but prevent buckling of the leaves and second in that the shoulders 14<sup>c</sup> on the outer surfaces of each block, by contacting the surfaces 1<sup>b</sup> of the base plate, assist the stop device of the hinges when the handle is raised to its uppermost and operative position, although said stop devices will be found sufficient for this purpose.

It will be understood that while the handle bar 2 should be made of any suitable material or materials of a character to give the requisite strength, the blocks 14 may be

made of any desired material, such as some plastic composition, for it is primarily designed that such blocks shall simply constitute a means for concealing the hinges, and shall not be subjected to any strain. In the present instance, however, I employ wood for the handle bar and also the base plate.

My handle structure made as herein described, has, in addition to the advantages already stated, the further advantage of being more showy and of taking up more space or area (which is desired by purchasers) than the ordinary metal handles, which advantage is obtained at less expense than possible with such metal handles.

I claim:

1. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, and removable pieces adapted to be applied to the hinges for concealing them, said hinges being arranged to take the strain and acting independently of said pieces; substantially as described.

2. A casket handle, comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, and removable pieces adapted to be applied to the hinges to conceal them and engaging the handle proper leaving the inner faces of the hinges and the handle proper open; substantially as described.

3. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, and removable pieces having grooves upon their inner faces to receive the leaves of the hinges to conceal them, said grooves being of the same width as said leaves to strengthen them by preventing buckling thereof; substantially as described.

4. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, and removable pieces fitting upon the hinges to conceal them and having a lower portion partially encompassing the handle proper; substantially as described.

5. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, each hinge comprising a member or leaf secured at one end in the handle and a second leaf to which the first leaf is pivoted, and socket pieces in the handle to receive the first named leaves; substantially as described.

6. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, each hinge comprising a member or leaf secured at one end in the handle and a second leaf to which the first leaf is pivoted, and socket pieces in the handle to receive the first named leaves, each socket piece consisting of a metal plate reversely bent and secured in a groove in the handle proper; substantially as described.

7. A casket handle comprising a handle proper, hinges therefor, each hinge comprising a member or leaf secured at one end in the handle and a second leaf to which the first leaf is pivoted, and socket pieces in the handle to receive the first named leaves,



each socket piece consisting of a metal plate  
 5 reversely bent and arranged in a cross  
 groove in the handle proper and provided  
 with flanges 11 secured to the handle proper;  
 substantially as described.

8. A casket handle comprising a handle  
 proper; hinges therefor, each hinge compris-  
 ing a leaf secured to the handle proper and  
 consisting of a metal bar 6 and a metal plate  
 10 8 fitting thereover, and a second leaf pivoted  
 to said bar and consisting of a plate 4 re-  
 versely bent and fitting over the upper end  
 of the bar 6; substantially as described.

9. A casket handle comprising a handle  
 15 proper, hinges therefor, each hinge compris-  
 ing a leaf secured to the handle proper and  
 consisting of a metal bar 6 and a metal plate  
 8 fitting thereover, and a second leaf pivoted  
 to said bar and consisting of a plate 4 re-  
 20 versely bent and fitting over the upper end of  
 the bar 6, the plate 8 being of less length than  
 the bar 6 so as to act as a stop in coöperation  
 with the plate 4; substantially as described.

10. A casket handle comprising a handle  
 25 proper, hinges therefor, each hinge compris-  
 ing a leaf secured to the handle proper and  
 consisting of a metal bar 6 and a metal plate  
 8 fitting thereover, and a second leaf pivoted  
 to said bar and consisting of a plate 4 re-  
 30 versely bent and fitting over the upper end of  
 the bar 6, said plate 4 having flat attach-  
 ment members 5; substantially as described.

11. A casket handle comprising a base  
 plate, a handle proper, and hinges connecting

the plate and handle proper, one leaf of each 35  
 hinge consisting of a plate 4 separate from  
 and extending through the base-plate and  
 flat members 5 fitting against and secured to  
 the back face of the base plate; substantially  
 as described. 40

12. A casket handle comprising a base  
 plate, having sockets 1<sup>a</sup>, formed by the orna-  
 mentation of the base plate, a handle proper,  
 hinges connecting the plate and handle  
 proper, one leaf of each of the hinges being 45  
 secured to the base plate and extending into  
 said sockets, and the other leaf being secured  
 to the handle proper and pivoted to the first  
 leaf, and shield pieces fitting upon said  
 hinges and having their upper ends entering 50  
 and filling said sockets; substantially as de-  
 scribed.

13. A casket handle comprising a base  
 plate, a handle proper, hinges connecting the  
 plate and handle proper and provided with 55  
 means for limiting the movements of the  
 members of the hinges, and shield pieces  
 fitting upon said hinges to conceal them and  
 having surfaces adapted to contact the base  
 plate to assist said limiting means when the 60  
 handle is in raised or operative position  
 whereby the pull or strain is longitudinal of  
 the leaves of the hinges; substantially as de-  
 scribed.

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Witnesses:

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