

C. WEBER-ILLIG.
 COMBINED COVER AND HOOD FOR CASKETS AND GRAVES.
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 8, 1908.

900,971.

Patented Oct. 13, 1908.
 3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

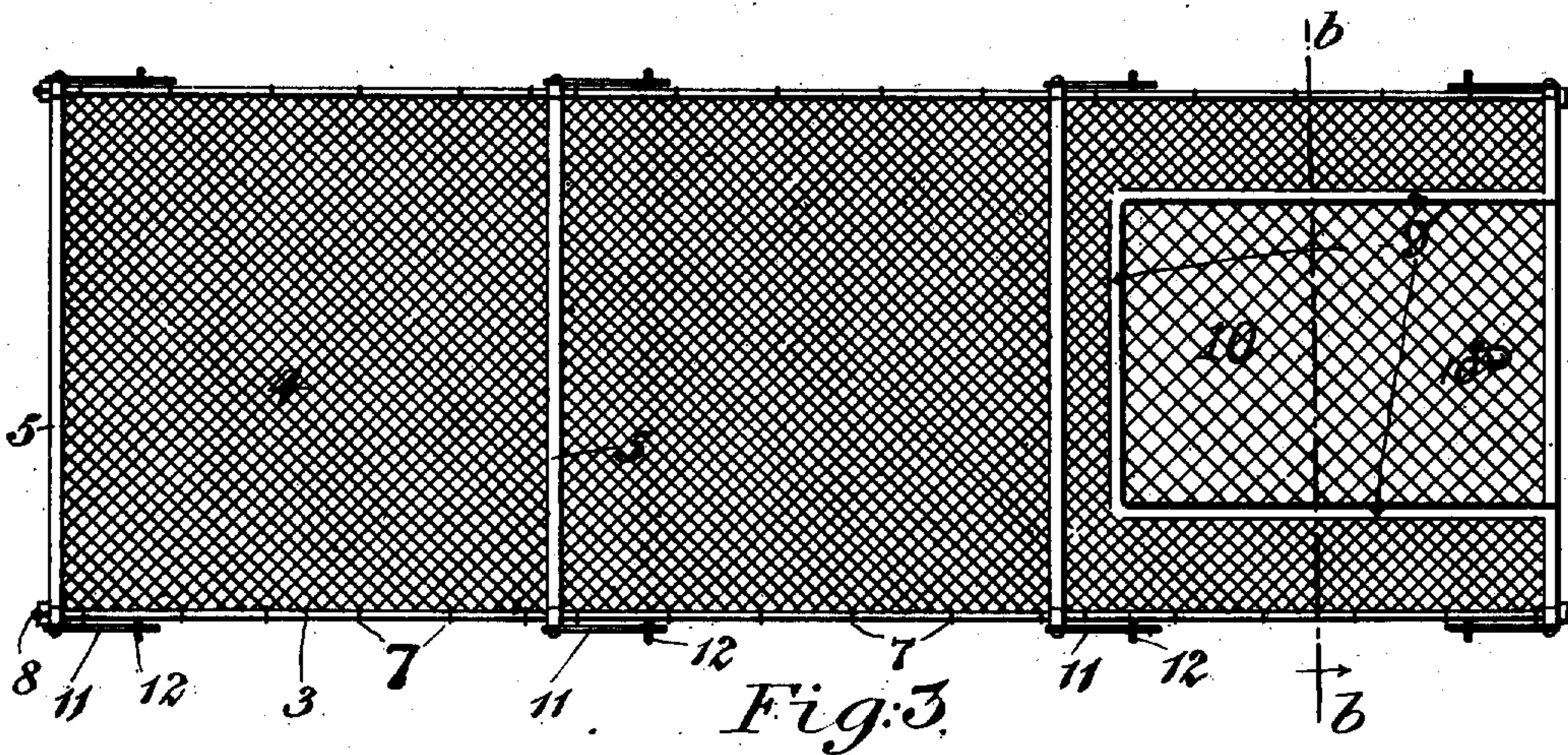


Fig. 4.

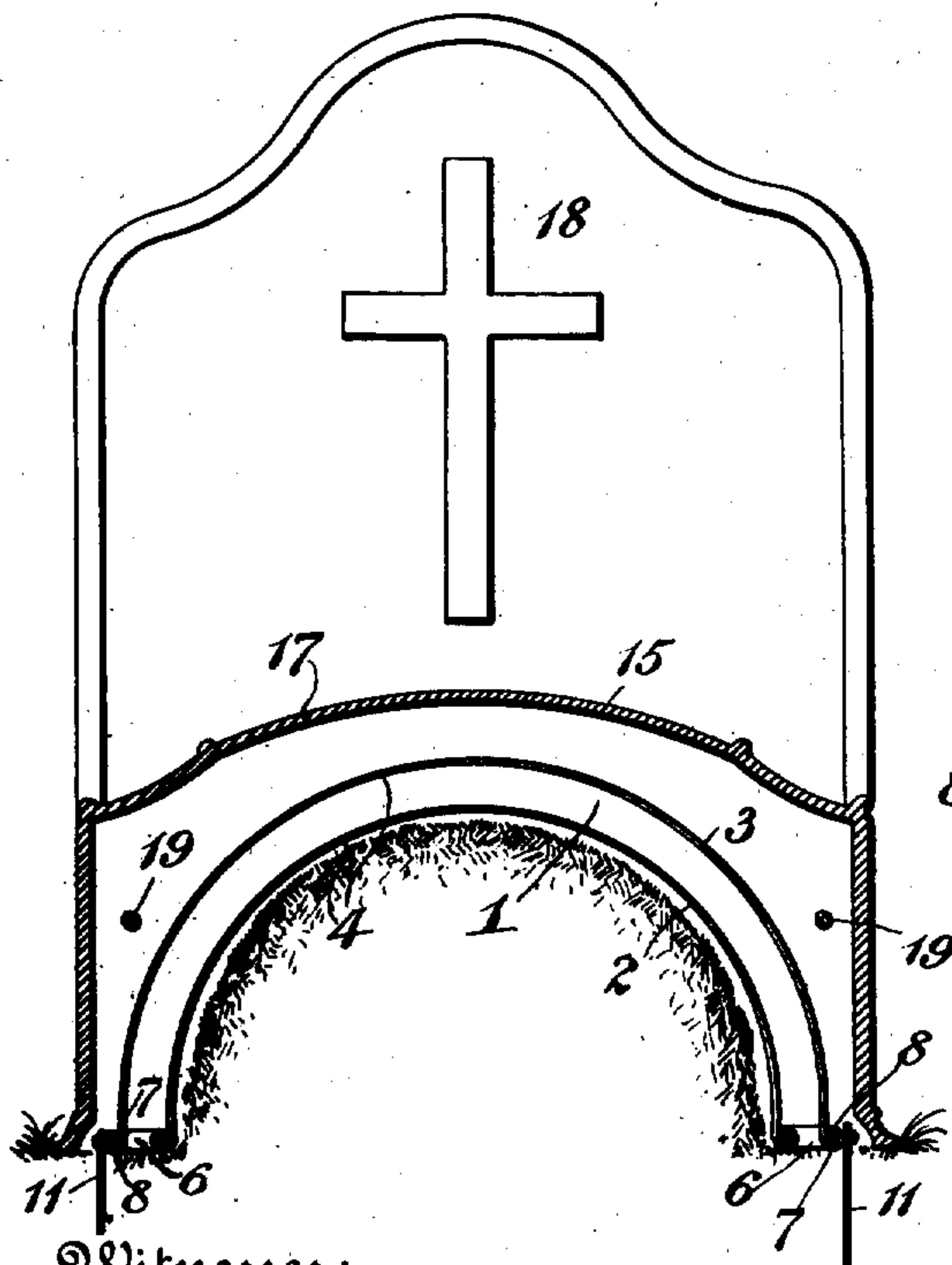
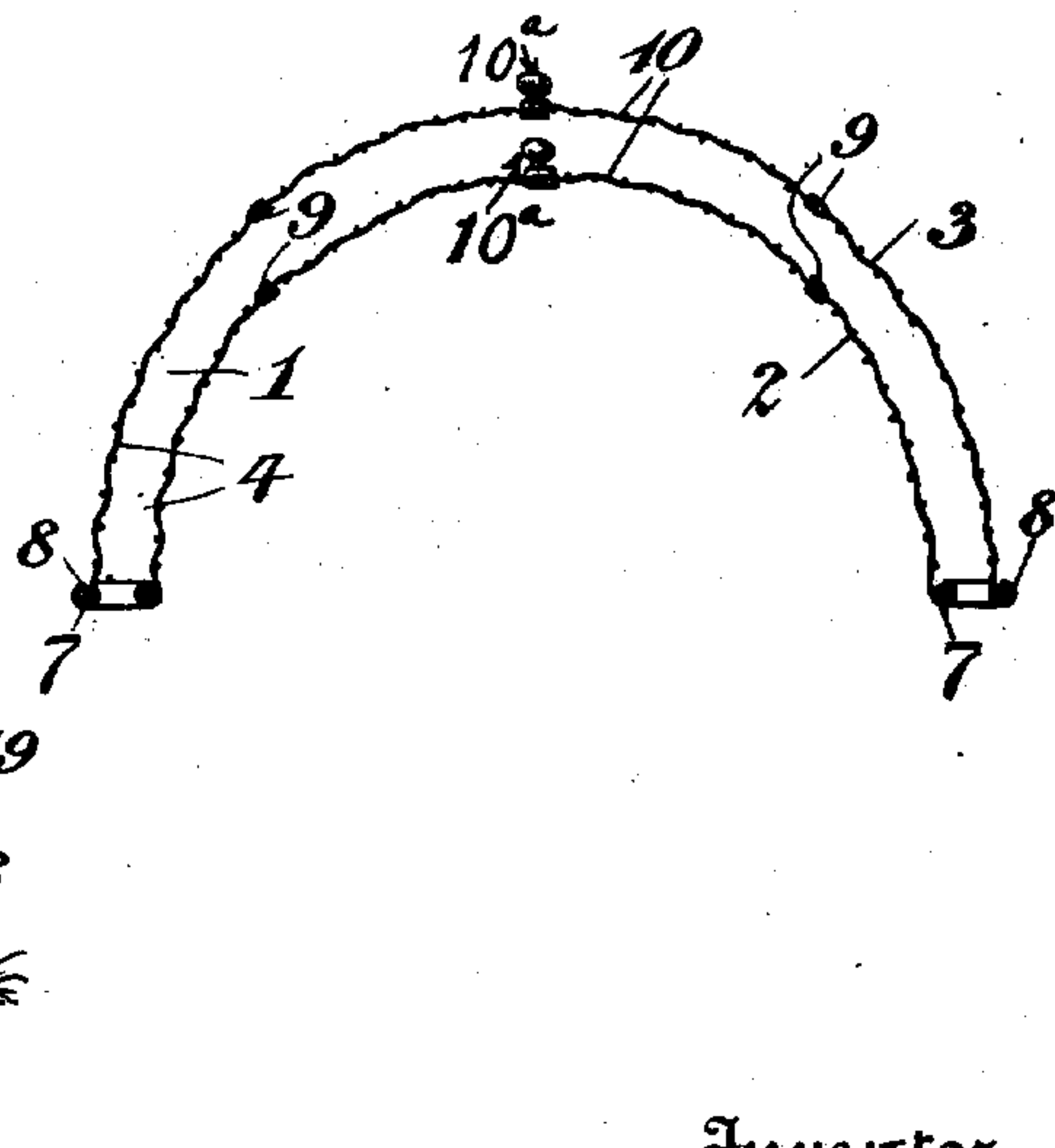


Fig. 5.



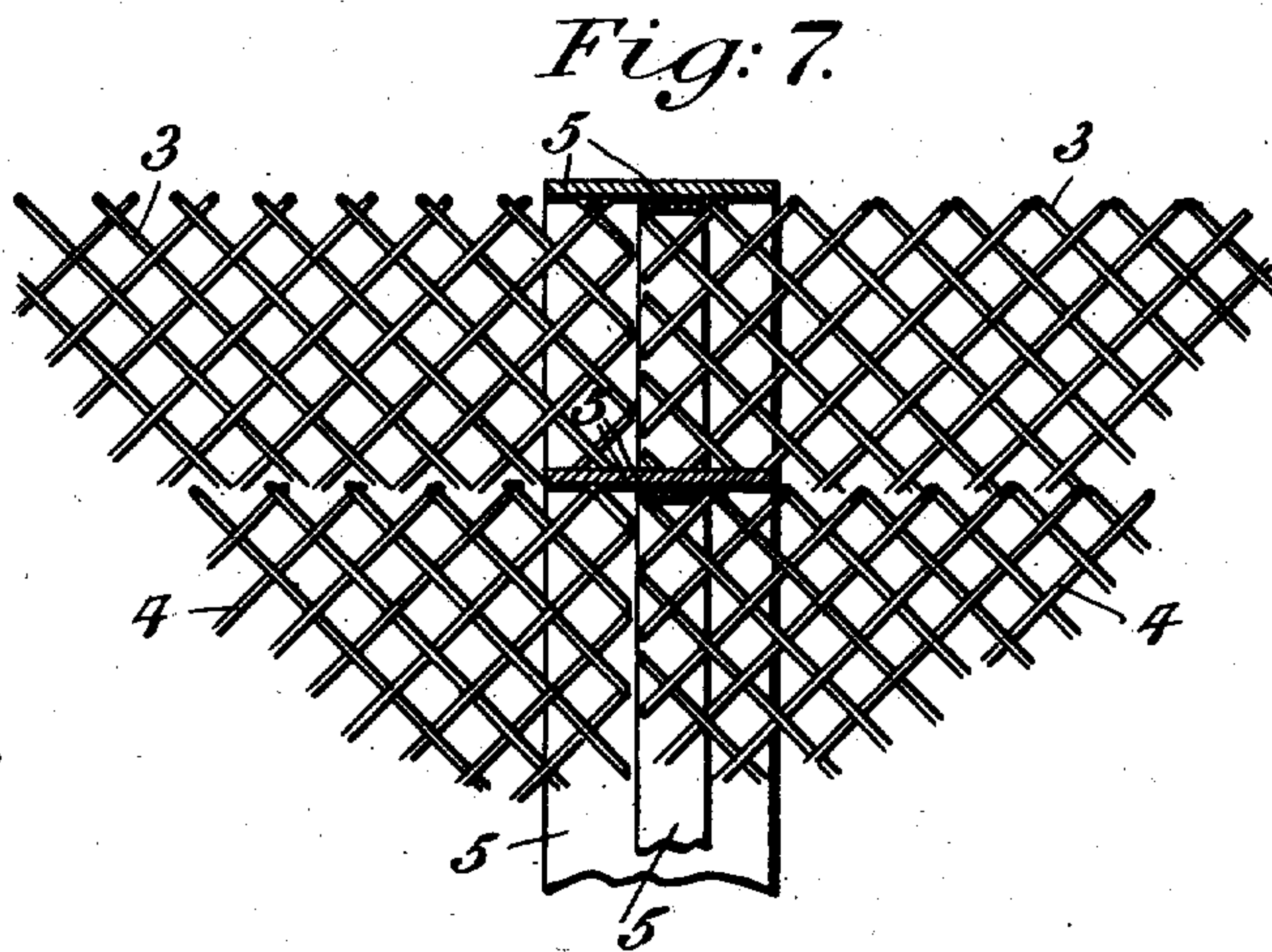
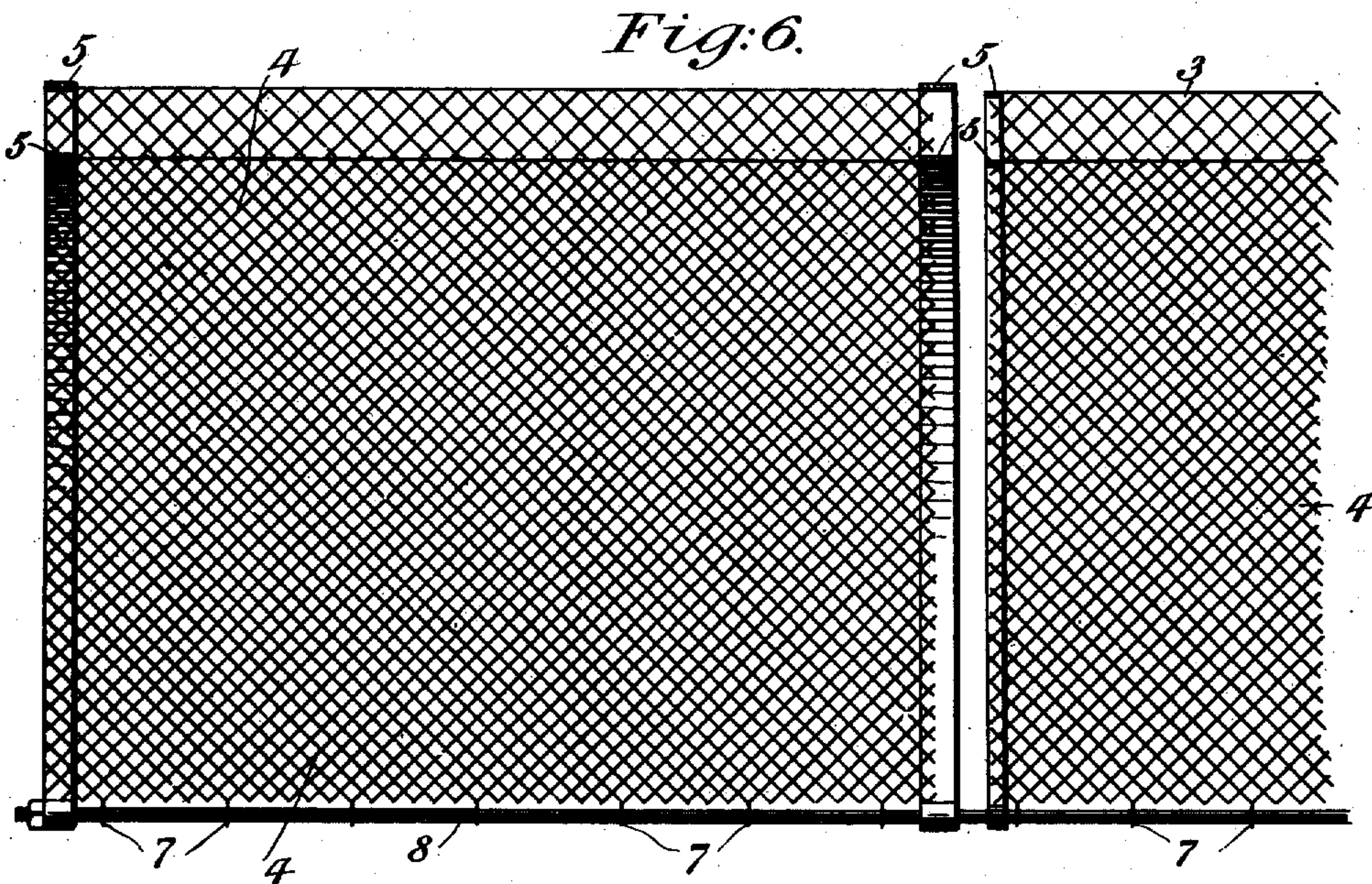
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL WEBER-ILLIG, OF DELAWANNA, NEW JERSEY.

COMBINED COVER AND HOOD FOR CASKETS AND GRAVES.

No. 900,971.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 13, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CARL WEBER-ILLIG, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Delawanna, in the county of Passaic and State of New Jersey, have invented certain Improvements in a Combined Cover and Hood for Caskets and Graves, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in combined covers and hoods for caskets and graves, and has for its object to provide a device of this general character of a simple and comparatively inexpensive nature which shall be adapted for use at funeral ceremonies and the like for covering and concealing the casket so as to lessen the shock to the mourners, and which shall be also adapted for use at newly made graves for inclosing and covering the same, and for receiving such floral or other decorations as are desirable for imparting a softened and ornate appearance thereto.

The invention consists in certain novel features of the construction, and combinations and arrangements of the several parts of the improved combined cover and hood, whereby certain important advantages are attained and the device is rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise better adapted and more convenient for use, all as will be herein-after fully set forth.

The novel features of the invention will be carefully defined in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings which serve to illustrate my invention—Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved combined cover and hood as the same appears when applied for use at a grave; Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken lengthwise through the device as shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the inner or cover member of the device, detached from the outer or hood member; Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken vertically through the device in the plane indicated by the line *a—a* in Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken vertically through the detached inner or cover member in the plane indicated by the line *b—b* in Fig. 3, and showing certain features of construction thereof which will be referred to hereinafter. Fig. 6 is a broken sectional view, drawn to an enlarged scale and taken centrally and vertically through one end portion of the cover member and showing the adjacent reinforced edges of two of the sections moved apart from each other, and Fig. 7 is

an enlarged fragmentary detail view showing the meeting edges of two of the sections of the cover member in section to illustrate the reinforces mounted upon said edges.

In these views 1 represents, as a whole, the inner or cover member of the device, which is formed from inner and outer sheets 2 and 3 of wire netting, curved in cross section and of such contour and dimensions as to adapt said cover member to be arranged over a casket or grave whereon the device is to be used, in such a way as to completely cover and conceal the same, the inner and outer sheets 2 and 3, from which said cover member is formed being spaced apart after the fashion shown in my prior Letters Patent, No. 873,279, dated December 10, 1907, in such a way as to permit of receiving floral or other decorations, whereby the netting is concealed and a highly ornamental appearance is imparted thereto.

The inner or cover member 1 is divided transversely, as herein shown, into a plurality of sections 4, 4, there being three such sections shown in the drawings, although it is evident that a greater or less number may be used as desired, and the meeting edges of said sections are reinforced, as shown at 5 in Figs. 6 and 7. Strips 6, 6, or equivalent devices, are extended between the lower edges of the inner and outer sheets 2 and 3 of each section 4, so as to securely connect and hold the sheets 2 and 3 of each section in proper relation.

Along the lower edges of the outer sheets 3, 3 of the respective sections of the cover member are produced eyes or loops 7, 7, which are alined with each other along the opposite sides of the cover member 1 and are adapted for the passage of rods or bolts 8, 8, which serve to connect said sections securely together, said bolts having heads at one end of the cover member and being provided with nuts at the opposite end thereof, as clearly shown in the drawings, in order that said bolts or rods may be conveniently removed and replaced.

By this construction, it is rendered possible to employ sections 4, 4 of different lengths, and by interchanging such sections, the cover member 1 may be made of any length desired in order to better adapt it to different lengths of caskets and graves. The sectional construction also affords increased convenience in handling and shipment, and the reinforces 5, 5, at the meeting edges

thereof add materially to the strength and stiffness of the structure when assembled for use.

At the head end of the cover member, the end section 4 thereof has apertures centrally produced in the inner and outer sheets 2 and 3, as clearly shown in Figs. 3 and 5, and said inner and outer sheets 2 and 3 of such end section 4, have binding strips 9, 9, extended along the edges of such apertures, the said binding strips 9, 9, being grooved out to receive the edge portions of sliding members 10, 10, also formed of wire netting and which are capable of being decorated similarly to the body portion of the cover member, and are also capable of being either wholly or partially removed and replaced from the end section 4 in such a way as to open and close the apertures in the inner and outer sheets 2 and 3 thereof, for which purpose said slide members are herein shown provided with handles 10^a.

By this arrangement it will be seen that when the device is employed at funeral ceremonies, the cover member 1, suitably draped or decorated, being adjusted over the casket, the cover of which is removed or adjusted in such manner as to expose the face of the corpse, the slide members 10, 10, may be removed from the section 4 at the head end of the cover member in such a way as to expose the face of the corpse within the casket to view, while the casket itself is completely covered and hidden in such a way as to subdue, to a great extent, the feelings of the mourners.

When the cover member 1 is to be employed at a grave to obscure the broken earth and permit desirable decorations to be applied thereto, the slide members 9, 9, will of course, be applied in place to close the apertures of the head section 4, and for such use, an auxiliary head member or section 14 is provided, said auxiliary member or section being formed of a flat plate of suitable material, vertically extended at the head end of the cover member 1, being held at its lower or other points by means of the bolts or rods 8, 8, and having its upper end portion extended above the top of the cover member 1 so as to permit of receiving an inscription of any preferred character. The cover member 1 is also provided, at suitable points along its lower lateral edges, with anchoring devices 11, 11, which may be conveniently located at the lower ends of the reinforces 5, 5, along the transverse edges of the sections 4, 4, the said anchoring devices, as herein shown, being formed of metal strips or rods the upper ends of which are pivotally held at the edges of the sections 4, 4, while the lower ends of said strips or rods are adapted to be driven into the earth alongside the grave to securely hold the cover member in position.

When the cover member is to be used at funeral ceremonies and the like, these anchoring devices will not be needed for use, and being pivoted, may be thrown up alongside the edges of the sections, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, hooks or pins 12 being provided for holding them in raised position.

15 represents as a whole, the hood member of the device, and as herein shown which member is also formed of a series of sections, comprising a foot section 16, intermediate sections 17, 17, and a head section 18, such sections being detachably connected end to end, by means of tie rods or bolts 19, 19, in a manner similar to the way in which the sections of the inner or cover member 1 are connected. This construction permits the hood member 15 to be made in any length desired so as to adapt it for use upon graves of different lengths, and likewise permits convenient handling and shipment of the device.

The hood member is herein shown as of a general rectangular shape in cross section, but it is evident that it may be formed in any preferred shape, and may, if desired, be made to conform to the shape of the curved cover member 1. As herein shown, also, said hood section has imperforate walls, but it is evident that said walls may be otherwise formed if desired.

The several sections of the hood member 15 have overlapping flanges 19^a at their meeting edges, whereby such edges of the sections are adapted to be fitted together accurately, and said sections may be ornamented in any preferred way, as with religious or society emblems and the like, in order to give any preferred appearance to the device. Since the sections of the said member are interchangeable, it will be evident that differently ornamented sections may be combined in different ways to produce any desired character of ornamentation.

In the use of the device, the hood member is set down over the cover member without removing the same from its position at the grave, and the head section 18 of the hood member is formed in the nature of a shell or casing which is adapted to fit over and enclose the auxiliary head member or section 14 of the cover member as clearly shown in Fig. 2. Said head section 18 may bear an inscription similar to that which is applied to the auxiliary section or member 14. The hood member 15 is also provided, at its corners or elsewhere as may be desired, with integral eyes 20, through which anchoring devices in the form of pins or stakes 21 are adapted to be driven into the ground in such a way as to securely hold the said hood member in position at the grave.

Where the device constructed according to my invention is to be used at graves, the hood member 15 may be removed during

pleasant weather, or when careful attention can be given to maintain the decorations upon the cover member in proper condition, but since this is impossible to be done in the winter time, or while the attendants are at a distance, the hood member 15 is provided to be adjusted in position to inclose the said cover member, and by reason of its ornate appearance, to permit of dispensing with floral or other perishable decorations. Said hood member, being readily removable, may be removed from the grave whenever desired in order to disclose the decorations afforded by the cover member 1.

From the above description of my invention it will be seen that the combined cover and hood embodying my improvements is of an extremely simple and comparatively inexpensive nature and is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the ornamental appearance afforded by it and of the fact that it permits of covering and concealing newly made graves or caskets so as to soften the effect produced upon the mourners, and it will also be apparent from the above description that the device is susceptible of considerable modification without material departure from the principles and spirit of the invention and for this reason I do not desire to be understood as limiting myself to the precise form and arrangement of the several parts of the device herein set forth in carrying out my invention in practice.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from inner and outer sheets of wire netting spaced apart from each other, said sheets being provided with alined apertures located at one end of the cover member and adapted, when said member is in position over a casket to disclose the face of a corpse therein, and slide members adapted respectively for detachable connection with the respective inner and outer sheets of the cover member to close the apertures therein.

2. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed of wire netting and transversely divided into a plurality of sections each of which is provided with eyes at its opposite sides, the eyes of the respective sections being alined with each other in the direction of the length of the cover member and detachable fastening devices for holding said sections in relation and comprising rods extended lengthwise along opposite sides of the cover member and passed through the eyes of the respective sections thereof.

3. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed of wire netting and transversely divided into a plu-

ality of sections each of which is provided with eyes at its opposite sides, the eyes of the respective sections being alined with each other in the direction of the length of the cover member, a head member extended across one end of the cover member and having an end portion which is adapted to project above the top of the cover member in position to receive an inscription, and detachable fastening devices comprising rods extended lengthwise along opposite sides of the cover member, and passed through the eyes of the sections thereof and through the head member and adapted to hold said head member and the sections of the cover member in relation.

4. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed of wire netting and transversely divided into a plurality of sections each of which is provided with eyes at its opposite sides, the eyes of the respective sections being alined with each other in the direction of the length of the cover member, and a hood member arranged over and adapted to inclose the cover member, and detachable fastening devices comprising rods extended along the opposite sides of the cover member, and engaged with the eyes of the respective sections thereof for holding the sections of the cover member in connected relation.

5. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from wire netting and having at one end an aperture adapted, when said member is in position over a casket, to disclose the face of a corpse therein, and a slide member adapted for detachable connection with said cover member to close said aperture therein.

6. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from wire netting and having at one end an aperture, adapted, when said member is in position over a casket, to disclose the face of a corpse therein, grooved parts extended along opposite edges of said aperture, and a slide member having edge portions adapted to travel in the grooves of said parts and movable to open or close said aperture.

7. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from wire netting and adapted to receive decorations, and a hood member having walls adapted to inclose said cover member.

8. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from wire netting and adapted to receive decorations, and a hood member transversely divided into a plurality of sections detachably connected together, and adapted to inclose said cover member.

9. A device of the character described comprising a cover member formed from wire netting and adapted to receive decora-

tions, and provided with an auxiliary head
section extended above its top at its head
end, and a hood member having decorated
walls and adapted to inclose said cover mem-
5 ber and having a shell-like head section ex-
tended above its top and adapted to inclose
the head section of the cover member.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed
my name this 20 day of December 1907, in
the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CARL WEBER-ILLIG.

Witnesses:

J. D. CAPLINGER,

A. F. CONNELL.