

H. MUELLER.
SHIFTABLE INDEX FOR COCKS.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 24, 1907.

908,416.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

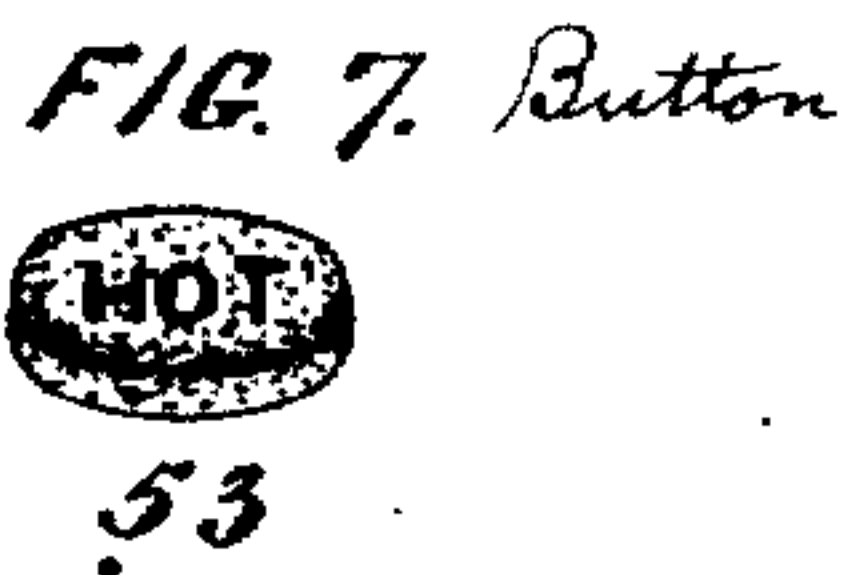
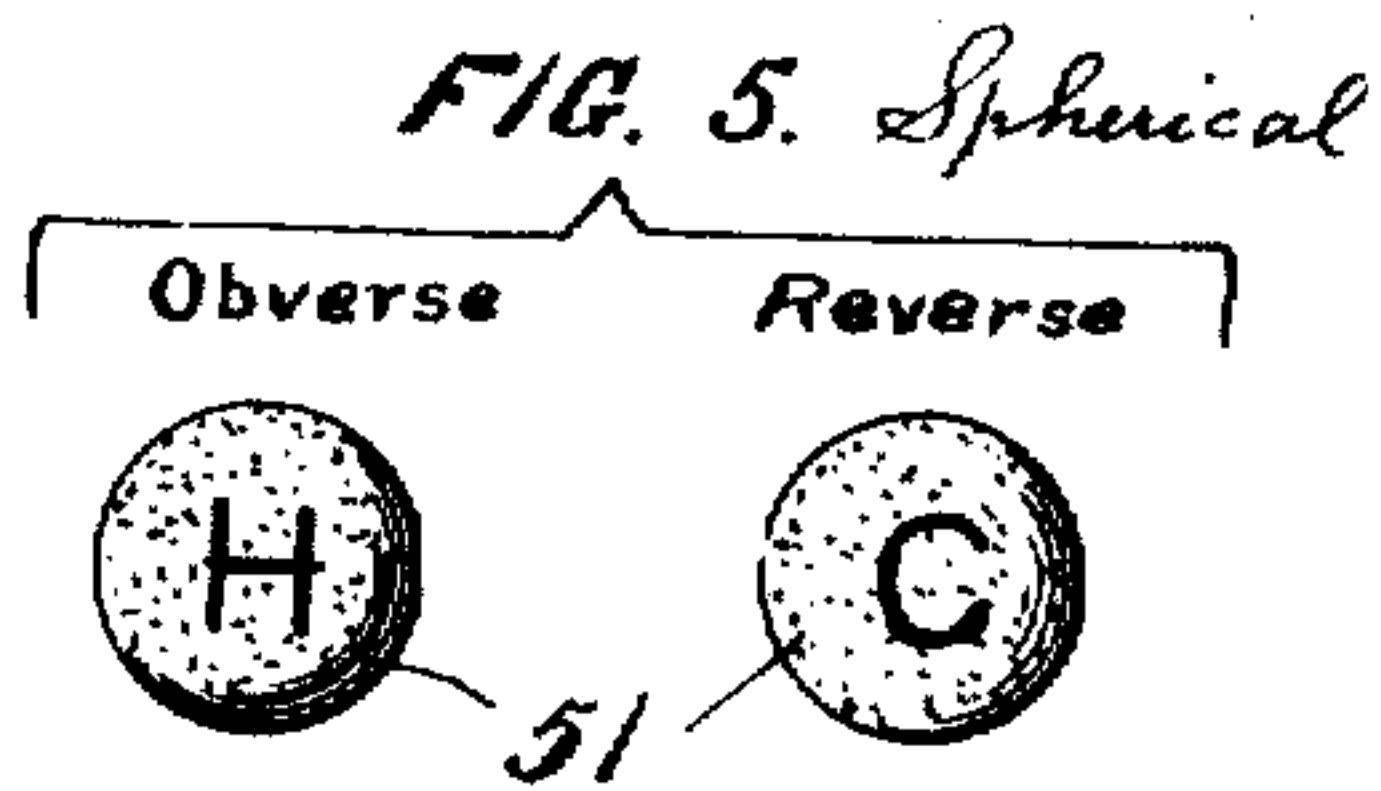
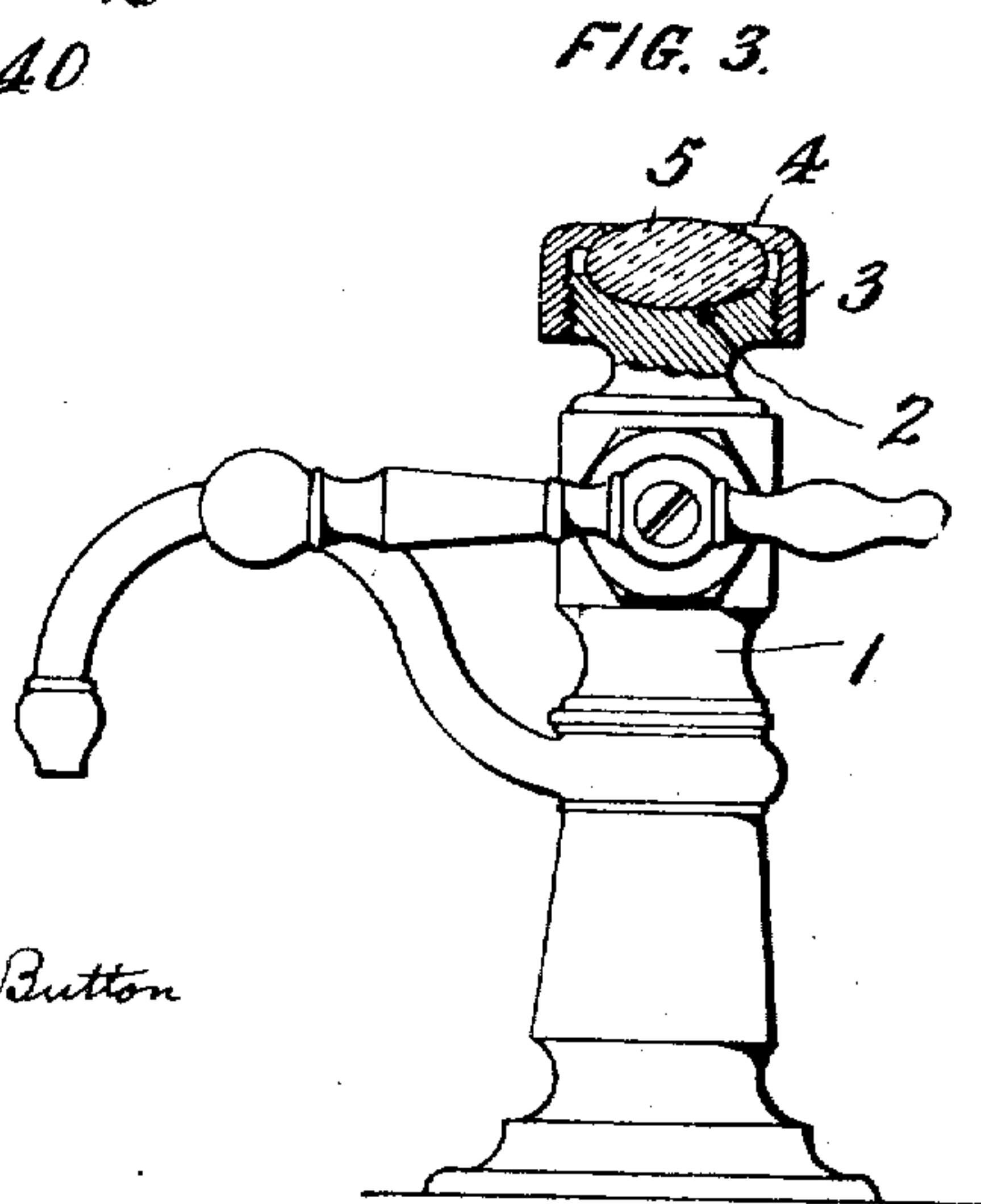
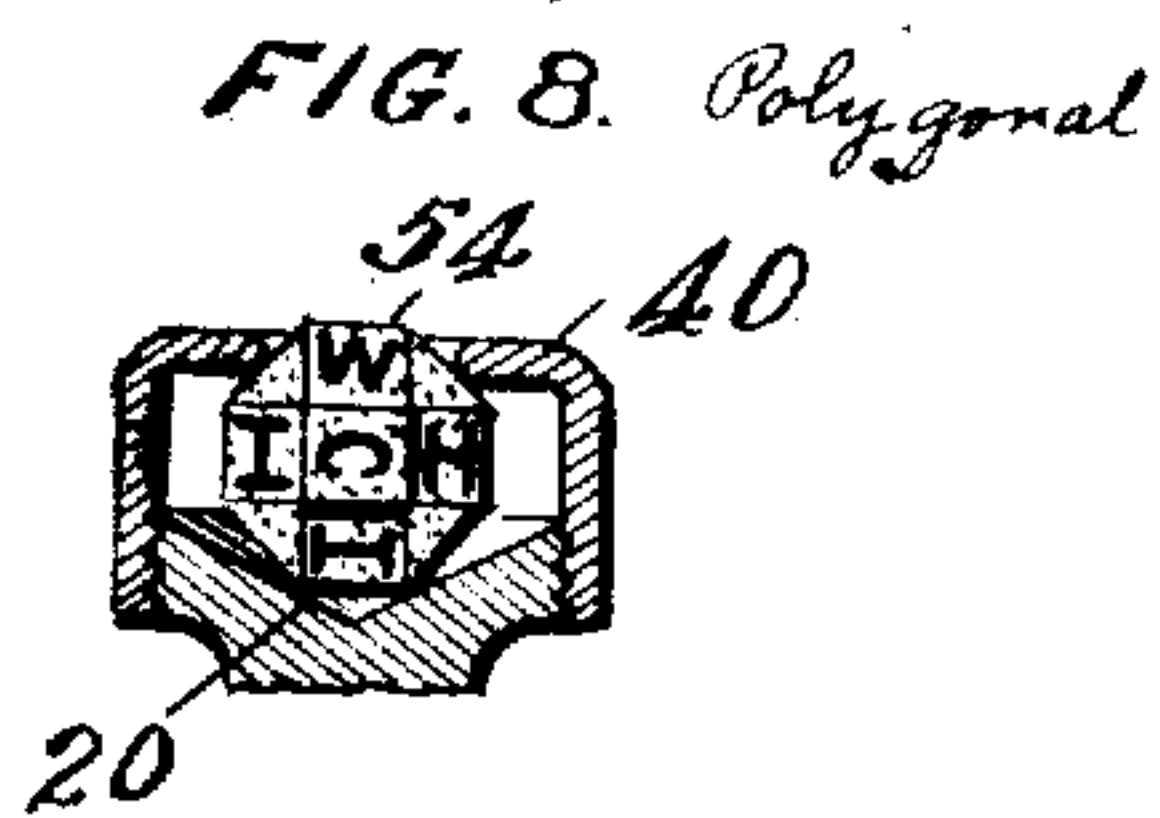
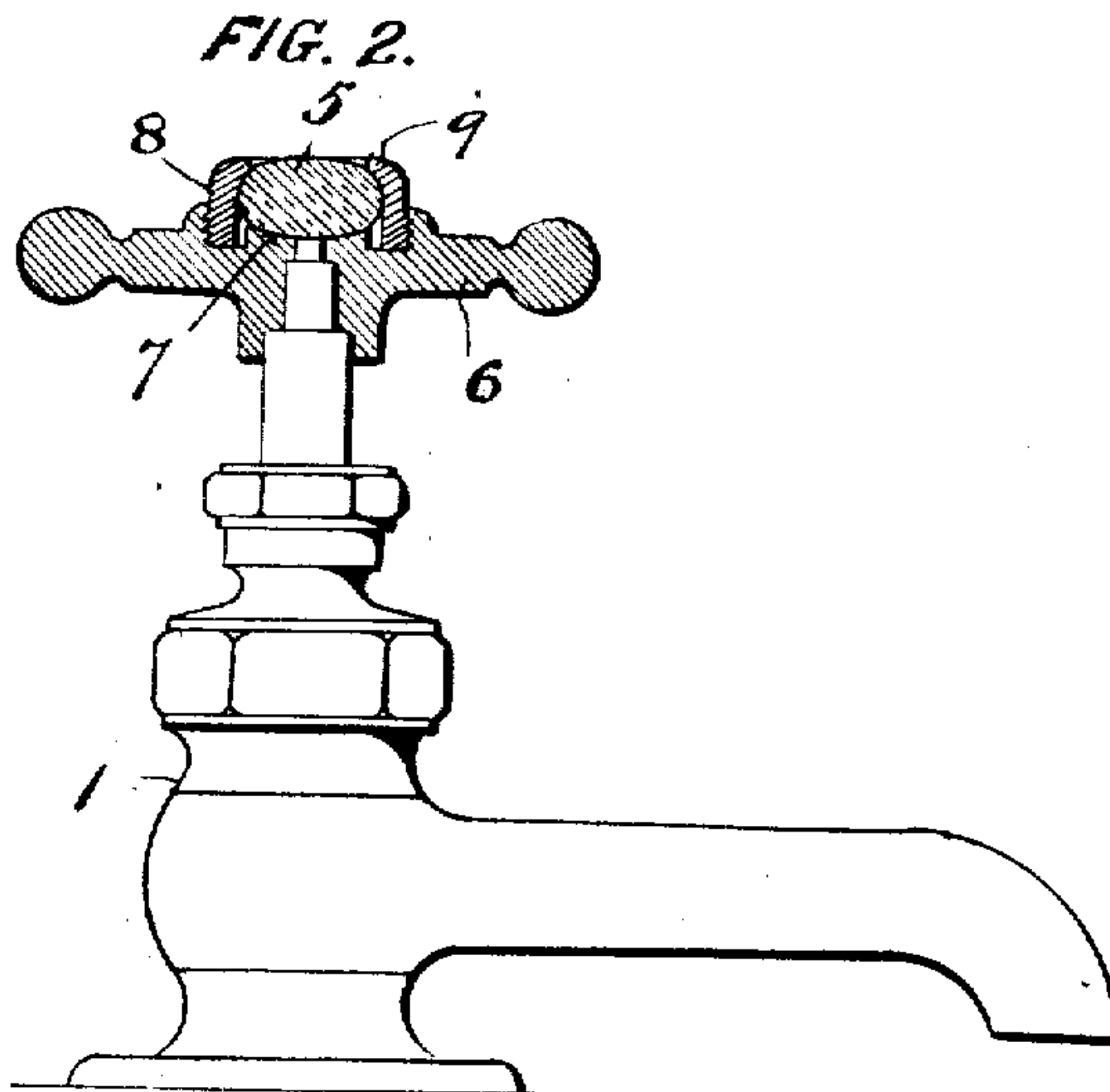
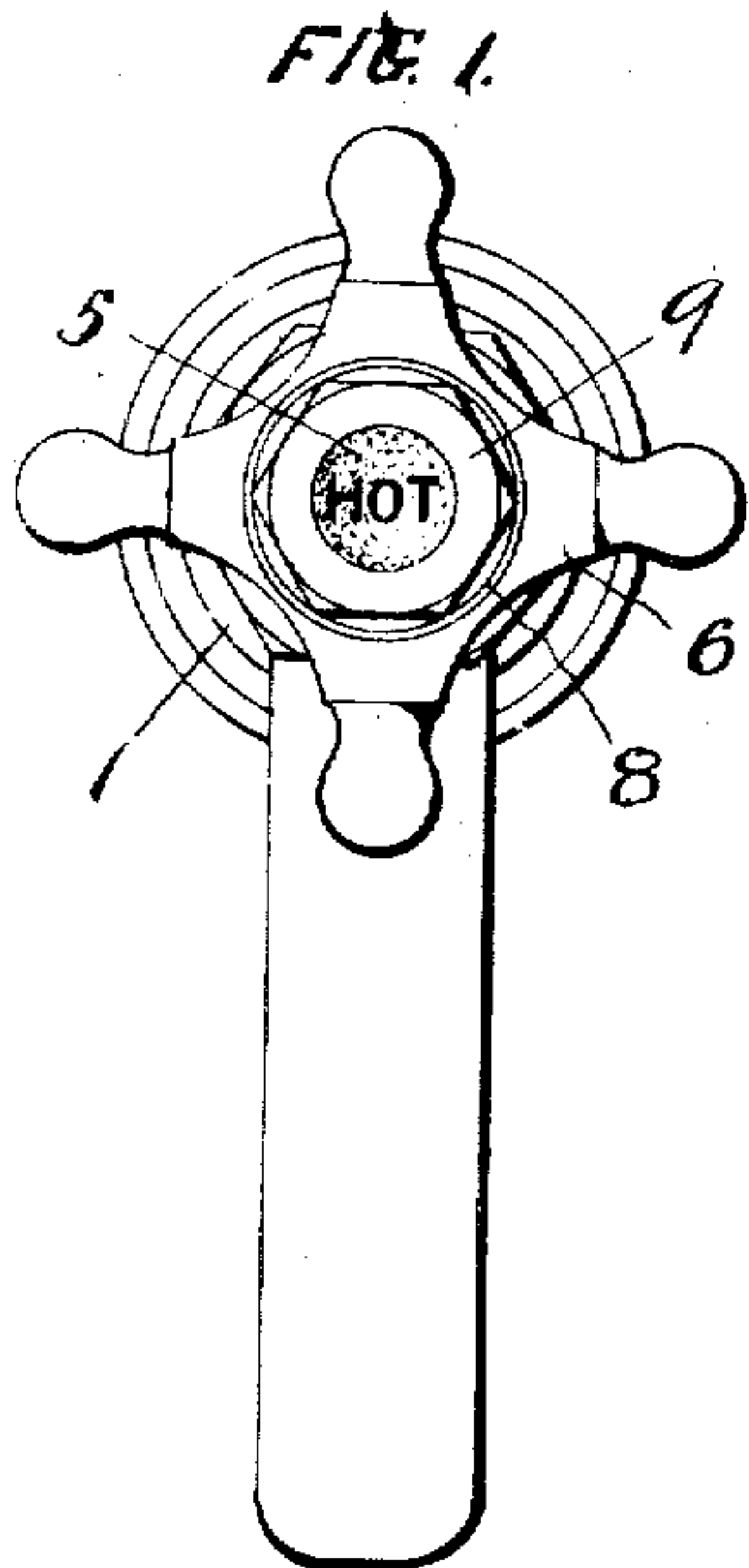


FIG. 4. Convexo-convex



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SHIFTABLE INDEX FOR COCKS.

No. 908,416.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

Application filed June 24, 1907. Serial No. 380,583.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY MUELLER, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Decatur, Macon county, State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shiftable Indexes for Cocks; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention is embodied in a cock having a two-part separable housing or holder for an index member inscribed with different indications, such as words or signs, upon its opposite or different faces. One part of the housing is in the nature of a rim or frame which holds said member in place by embracing its edge, without covering the indication on the exposed face of said member; and the words or signs on the member are each descriptive or suggestive of a use for which the cock is adapted. The index is changed by separating the parts of the housing, reversing or shifting the position of the member, and re-connecting the parts of the housing with the member therein and a different indication exposed.

The invention is exemplified in the structure hereinafter described, and it is defined in the appended claims.

In the drawings forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a plan of a compression basin cock having a cross handle in which my invention is embodied. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the compression cock with the handle thereof in central vertical section. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a right-and-left "Fuller" basin cock with my index member shown in section at the upper end thereof. Fig. 4 is a plan view of a convexo-convex index member, showing the face thereof opposite that shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the obverse and reverse of a spherical member having different indications on its opposite sides. Fig. 6 is an elevation of a spherical member with numerous indications thereon. Fig. 7 shows a button-shaped member whose different indications are on opposite face. Fig. 8 is a section of a modified form of the housing adapted to nearly any form of member set forth herein—a polygonal form being shown in this view.

The body of the cock is shown at 1, at 2 in Fig. 3 is shown a slightly concaved and ex-

ternally threaded index support or seat, the index member is shown at 5, and at 3—4 is shown the rim or frame that co-acts with the support 2 to form the holder, or housing, for the member. The separable part of the housing comprises the ring 3 which is internally threaded to screw onto the support 2, and the inward-extending flange 4 on the upper edge of the ring. The member has about the same diameter as the support 2 and the inner diameter of the ring 3, and the flange 4 extends far enough over the edge of the member to hold it in place while leaving exposed the word or sign indicative of the use of the cock.

In applying the shiftable index member to a cross-handle, the upper surface of the handle 6 is circularly grooved to outline the supporting surface or seat 7 for the member 5, the seat is preferably shaped to conform to the shape of the member, and the groove is internally threaded. The separable part of the housing comprises a ring 8 which is externally threaded to engage the threads of the grooves, and an inward-extending flange 9 which embraces the edge of the member.

The two illustrations of the invention show certain modifications of the separable-housing idea, and other modifications will doubtless be suggested thereby. The gist of the idea is to provide the cock with a separable housing which may be opened to permit reversal or shifting of the member, and the mechanical construction is capable of considerable variation without departing from the principle of the invention. The index is particularly applicable to cocks that may be used either as right hand cocks or left hand cocks, but it is not confined to this use.

The various illustrations of different forms and markings of the member in the different views show certain modifications in this feature of my invention, and other modifications will doubtless be suggested thereby. The spherical member 51 in Fig. 5 is here marked with "H" (hot) and "C" (cold) on directly opposite faces. The spherical member 52 in Fig. 6 has numerous indications on its different sides, some of which indications may be alike, and in this case the opening in the flange 4 or 9 will be small enough to expose only one indication at a time; the thick-disk button 53 in Fig. 7 is reversely marked on its opposite sides; and the polygonal

member 54 in Fig. 8 may be marked with a variety of indications on its facets as shown. In this view the housing is substantially the same as in Fig. 3, but the seat 20 has a conical supporting surface adapted to almost any shape of member, and the flange 40 has a preferably smaller opening through which but one facet may be seen while all others are concealed.

10 The index member 53 is called herein a button because of its resemblance, in this instance, to a button; but it may be made in various shapes, some of which are shown and described, and its action has nothing in com-
15 mon with the ordinary function of a button. It is desirable however, that in plan view (*i. e.* when looking down upon the indication which is exposed by the housing) each member shall be round or substantially round in
20 contour so that when screwing the ring onto the support the flange will rather closely embrace the upper side of the member. By this I mean, for instance, that a square member would hardly answer with a screw-mem-
25 ber housing such as shown herein.

The advantages of a shiftable, rotatable, or variable index member when used in connection with a cock are many. These members are commonly made of pottery, suitably
30 inscribed and with a highly glazed or porcelain surface, and the maker if given the necessary details for any type of member or handle need furnish only one for the cock to which it is to be applied; rather than furnish-
35 ing a plurality having different indications. The manufacturer of the cock need carry in stock but a single member, instead of a plurality having different indications, and in assembling the parts it is immaterial what indi-
40 cation he leaves exposed. So also with the jobber and plumber. Finally, when the cock is set up for use, the workman without special tools can quickly adjust the index so that the indication will agree with the service per-
45 formed by the cock; and even afterwards, if the user should, for instance, cut off hot water and desire the indication to be "cold", he could change the index himself.

In a companion application filed by me
50 this day and bearing Serial Number 580,582 the index member is bored through in one direction and held in place between the parts of a separable nut-and-bolt-clamp, so that when the clamp is loosened the index or but-
55 ton can be rotated on its axis to cause any

one of several indications with which it is provided on its perimeter to confront the user. In the present case the index member is rotatable in but one plane if it be flat or flattened, but may be adjusted or turned on
60 almost any axis if it be spherical or nearly so. In each instance I have shown and described my index as used in connection with a cock where its indications are usually "hot" or "cold" or the like, but I do not mean to
65 limit the use of the invention to this art nor confine the indications to those words.

What is claimed as new is:

1. The combination with a cock, and a shiftable index member having different
70 words or signs on its different faces; of a separable housing for the member, carried by the cock and adapted to expose but one indication and conceal all others.

2. The combination with a cock, and a re-
75 versible imperforate index member having different words or signs on opposite faces; of a separable housing for the button, carried by the cock and adapted to expose but one indication and conceal the other. 80

3. The combination with a cock, and an imperforate, substantially round index member having indications upon its opposite
85 faces; of a support having a conical seat, and a ring-shaped housing screwed onto the support to clamp the member in place and having a flange with an opening of a size to expose but one indication.

4. The combination with a cock, and an imperforate, polygonal index member having
90 indications upon its facets; of a support, and a ring-shaped housing screwed onto the support to clamp the member in place and having a flange with an opening of a size to expose but one indication. 95

5. An imperforate index member for the purpose described, comprising a substan-
100 tially round body provided with numerous indications at various points on its surface; combined with a supporting device adjust-ably engaging the exterior of said member and exposing but one indication at a time.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature this the 22nd day of June, A. D. 1907.

HENRY MUELLER.

Witnesses:

PHILIP MUELLER,

JOHN L. WADDELL.