P. J. PETERSON.

ELECTRICAL INSECT DESTROYER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 15, 1908.

914,875.

Patented Mar. 9, 1909.

Fig. 2.

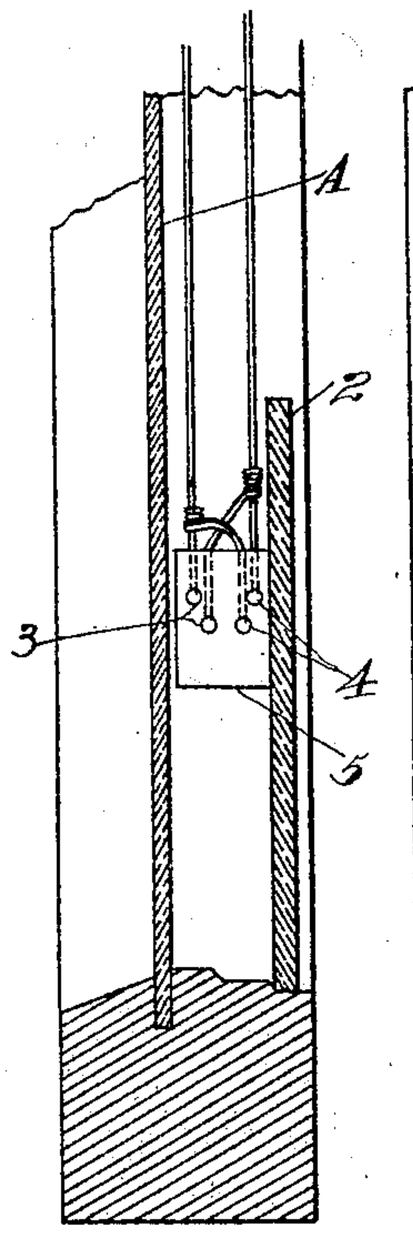
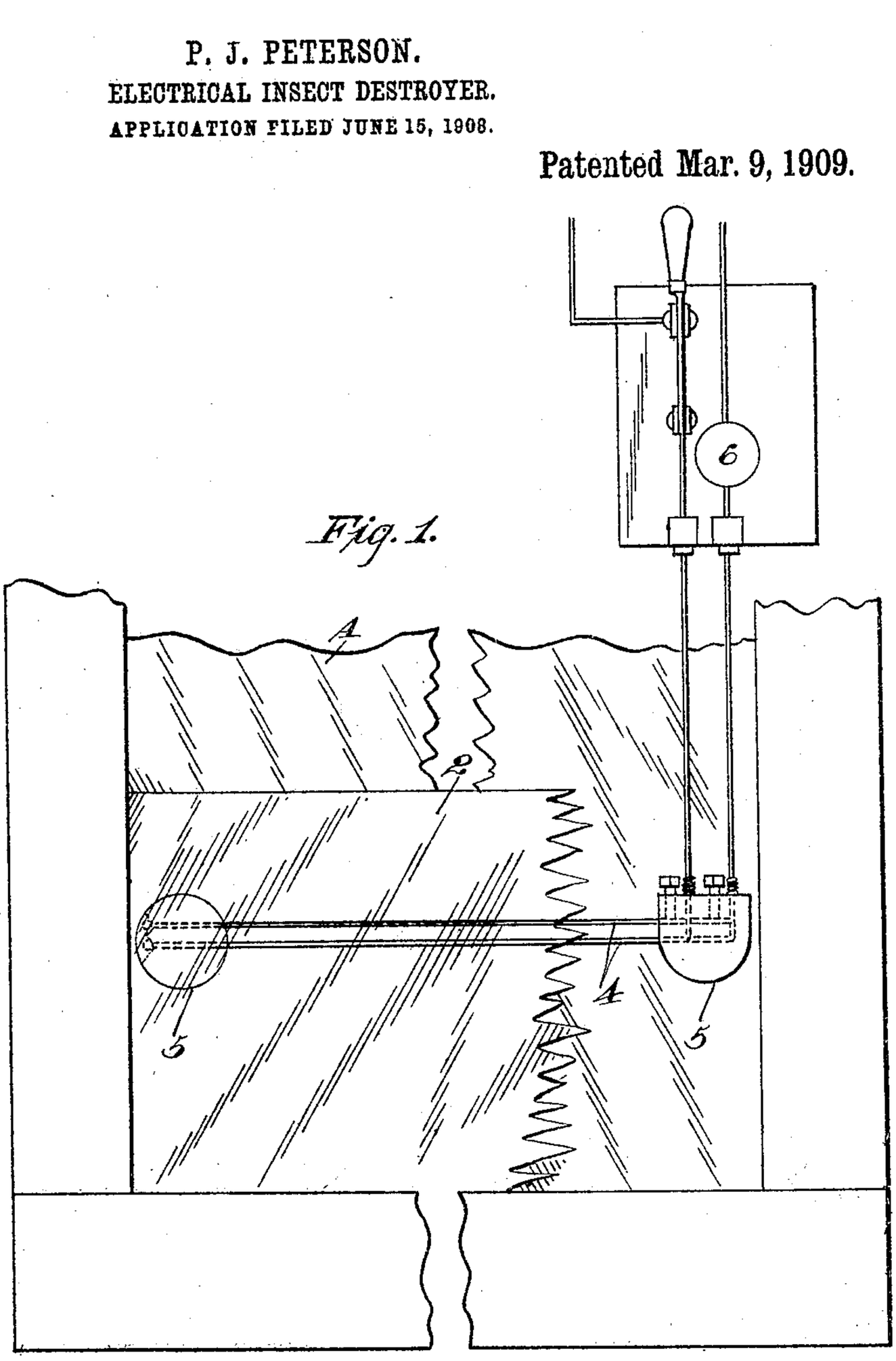


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

F. E. Maynard.

C. N. Fowler

INVENTOR:

Peter J. Peterson;

BY Geo. H. Strong

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER J. PETERSON, OF OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

ELECTRICAL INSECT-DESTROYER.

No. 914,875. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 9, 1909.

Application filed June 15, 1908. Serial No. 438,595.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER J. PETERSON, citizen of the United States, residing at Oakland, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented new and useful Improvements in Electrical Insect-Destroyers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a means for destroying insects, particularly small insects, such as flies and the like.

It consists in an arrangement of electrical wires in the path of travel of the insects whereby a circuit is completed through the body of the insect, and the latter electrocuted.

It also consists in details of construction which will be more fully explained by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation, some of the parts broken away. Fig. 2 is a transverse section.

It is the object of my invention to provide a means for destroying flies and like insects by taking advantage of their well known habits and methods of progression.

In the present case I have shown an apparatus designed particularly for the destruction of flies and used in connection with window and like openings through which the flies are usually attracted; the window being closed presents a glazed surface A. I apply my device by means of a second glazed surface 2 which may be made of any convenient height, usually a few inches, and designed to extend across the lower part of the window, parallel with and at a short distance from the glass A.

3 and 4 are parallel sets of wires extending across the window space, and close to the glass, one set being so close to the permanent window glass that flies crawling upon the glass must pass over, or come in contact with these wires. The other set is similarly disposed parallel to the supplemental window glass 2 and close to it. These wires are stretched between insulators 5 which are fixed at opposite sides of the window. For convenience in using my apparatus I have shown these parts mounted upon a supplemental glass 2, so that the whole device may be introduced or removed together.

The wires may be variously fixed to the insulators; the latter being of any good or suitable insulating material which may be perforated or provided with fastenings in any convenient manner, so that the wires may be drawn to a proper tension, and lie parallel and very closely together. An electric current of sufficient force is supplied through these wires, and a light or other resistance may be suitably connected, as at 6, so that in case of accidental contact with the wires, the fuse will not be burned out and destroyed.

The operation of the device is very simple: Flies are always attracted to the light, and when they alight upon the glass are continually moving up and down. If they are below the wires and move up, they will attempt to cross the wires, and will thus provide a circuit through their own bodies through which an electrical current will pass to stun or destroy the fly. If not killed at the first contact, and in time the fly revives and attempts to pass upward again, the second contact will invariably kill him.

The two glasses being located as they are, flies falling or moving to the bottom of the space between, will attempt to climb up either on the one side or the other, and as there are two sets of the wires, they will be caught in either case passing up or down.

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

1. In a device of the character described, the combination with a window glass, of a supplemental transparent plate fixed parallel to the surface of the window glass, two pairs of parallel wires extending transversely between said glass and plate, one pair of the wires being contiguous to one surface, and the other contiguous to the other surface, and insulators by which the ends of the wires are supported.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination with a glazed window-sash, of a transparent plate adapted to be extended across the lower part of the sash and parallel with the glass thereof, insulators fixed at each end of said plate, pairs of wires stretched between the insulators, one pair of wires being contiguous to the window glass, and another pair being contiguous to the transparent plate, said wires arranged to be electrically energized.

3. In a device of the character described,

the combination with a glazed window-sash, of a transparent plate adapted to be placed across the lower part of the sash, and parallel with the glass thereof, insulators fixed at each end of said plate, wires or other conductors of electricity stretched in sets between the insulators, one set of wires being close to the window glass, and another set close to the transparent plate, each set consisting of two or more conductors of electricity, said conductors arranged to be electrically energized.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

PETER J. PETERSON.

Witnesses:
CHARLES A. EMFIELD,
CHARLES EDELMAN.