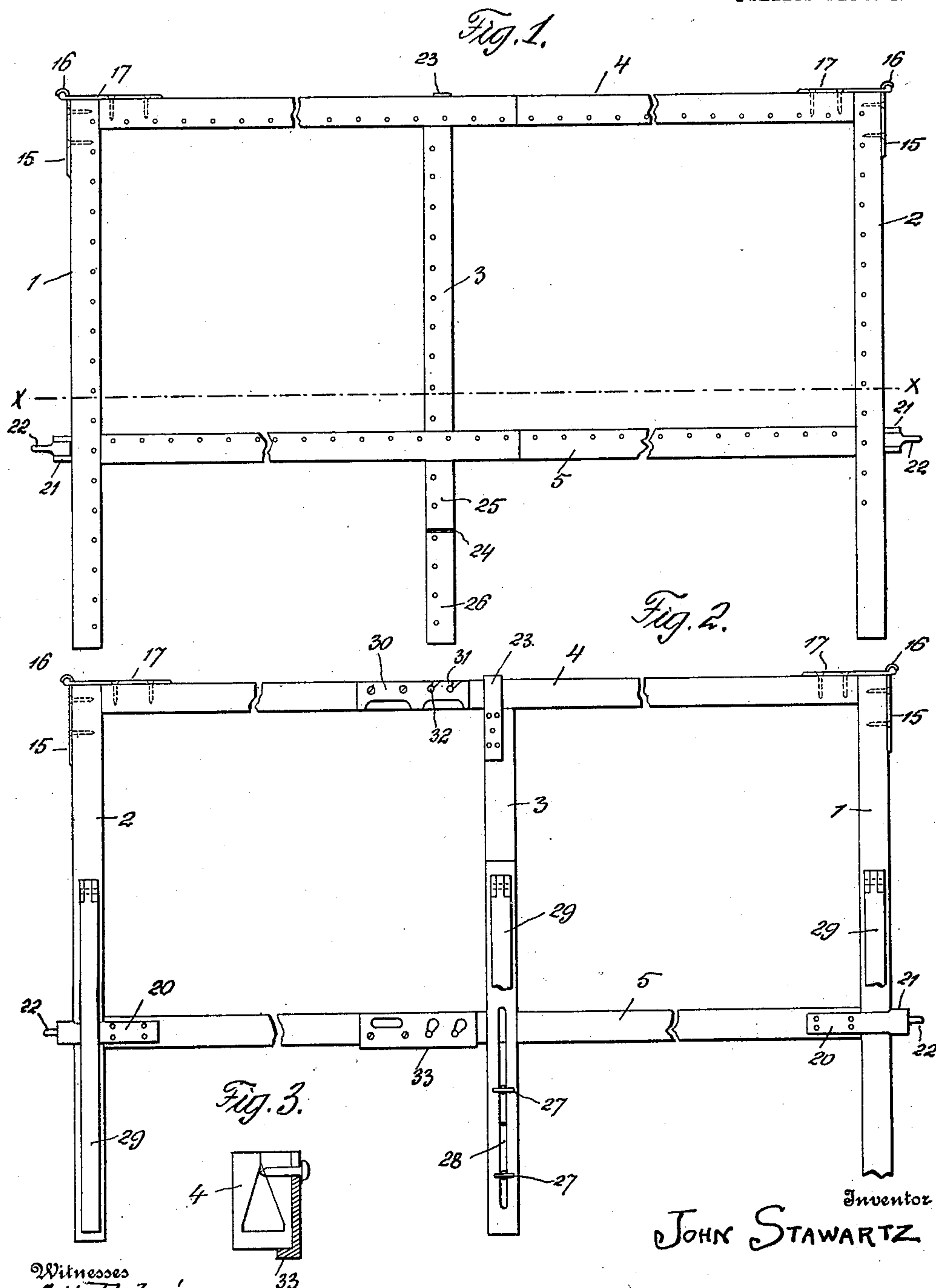


J. STAWARTZ.
CURTAIN STRETCHER.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 10, 1908.

926,081.

Patented June 22, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses
A. H. Kabsag,

R. S. Butler

Inventor
JOHN STAWARTZ

By H. C. Overton
Attorneys

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

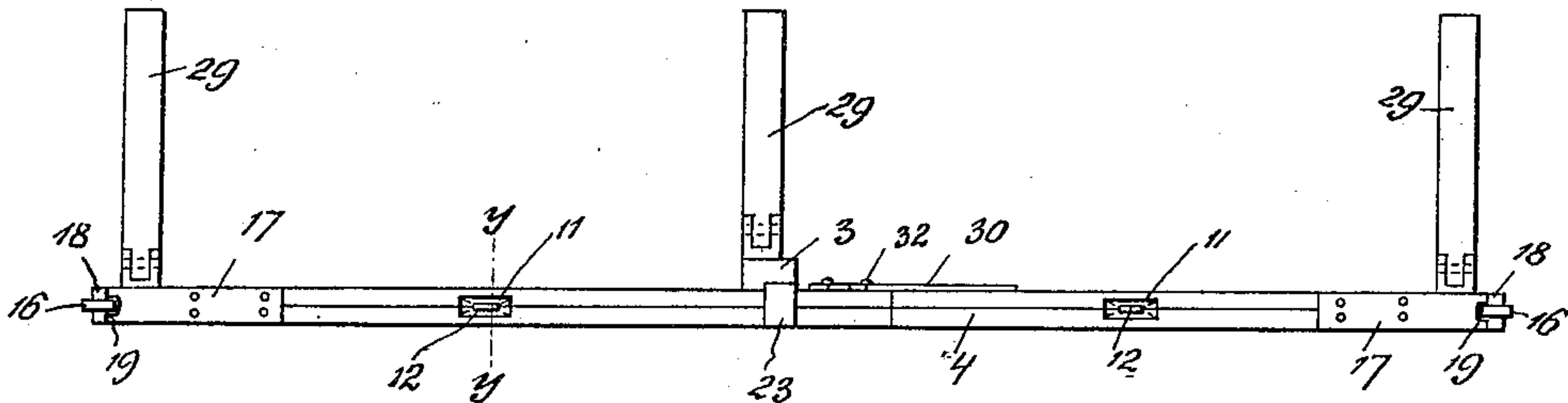


Fig. 5.

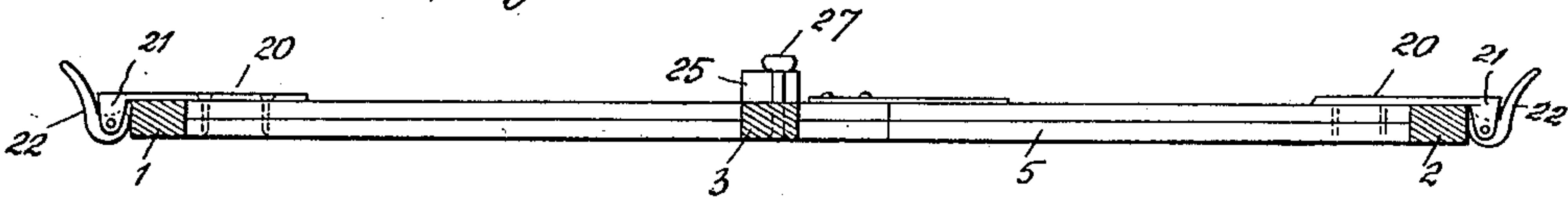


Fig. 6.

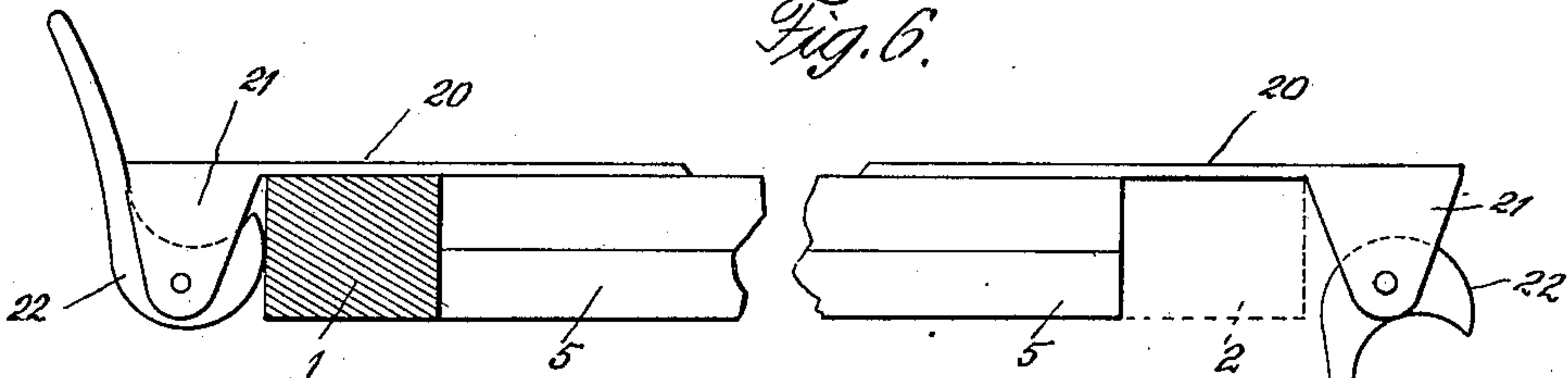


Fig. 7.

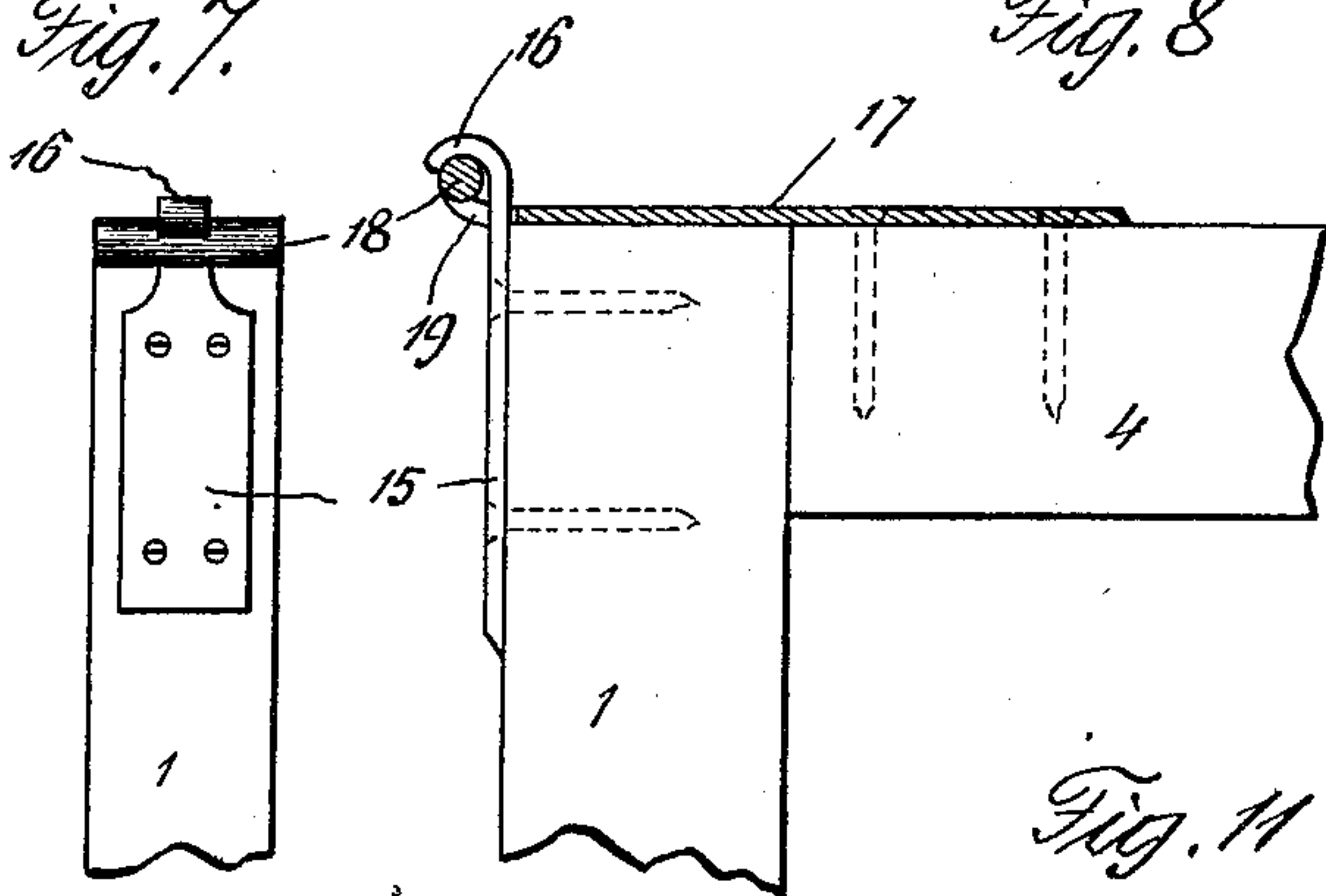


Fig. 8.

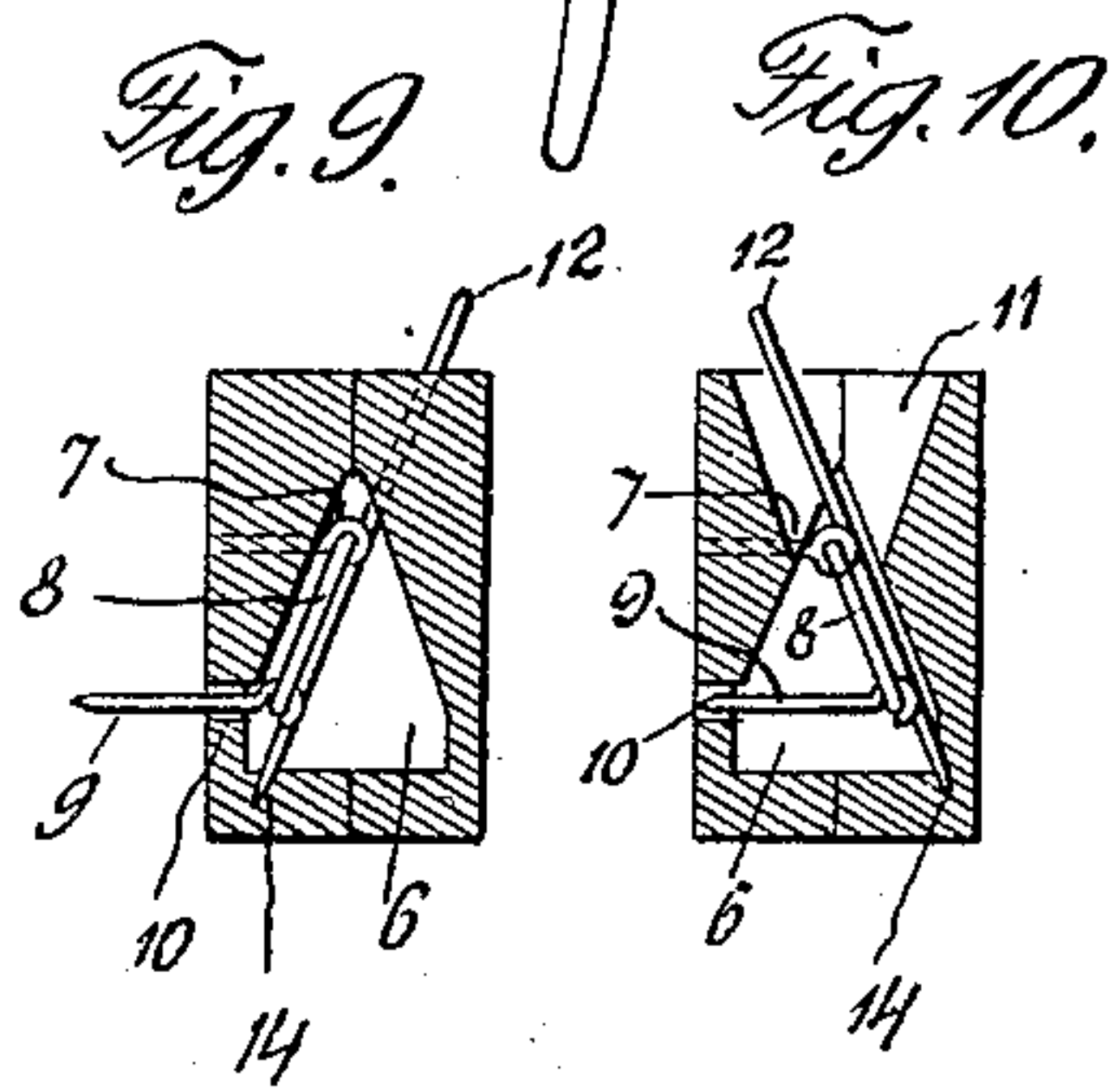
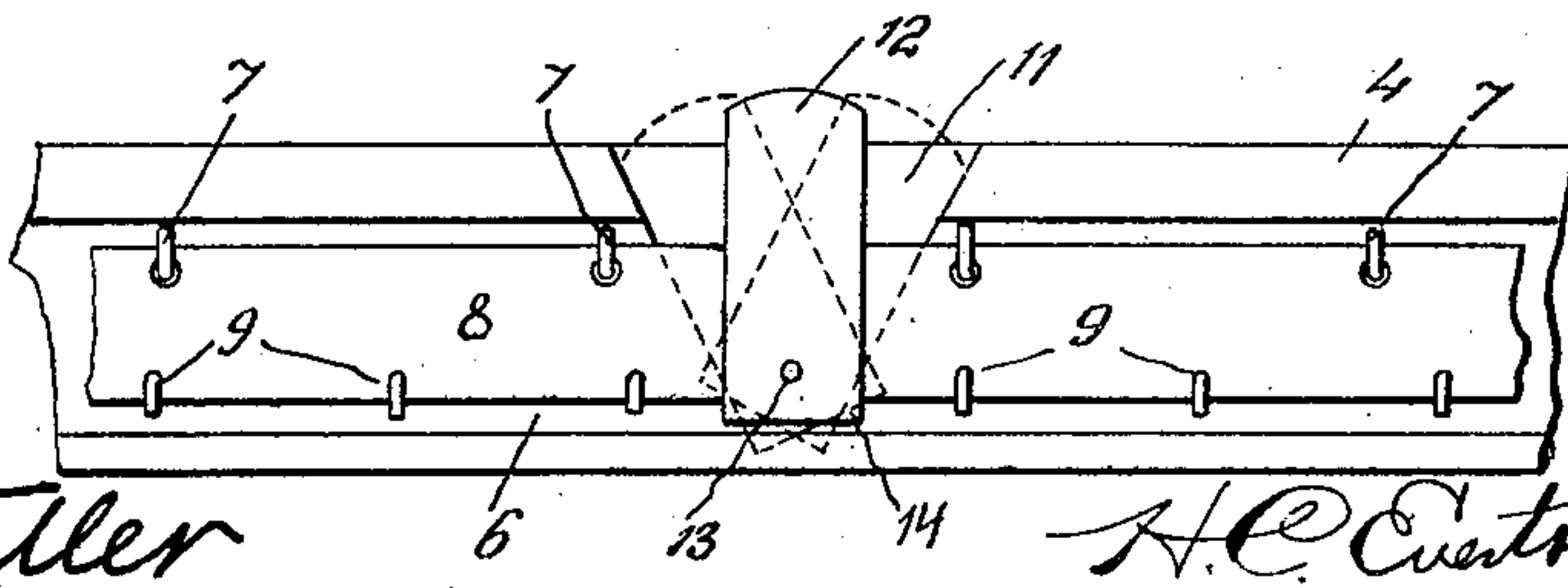


Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.



Witnesses
A. H. Habsig,
R. H. Butler

Inventor
JOHN STAWARTZ

By
H. C. Everett & Co.,
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN STAWARTZ, OF HOMESTEAD, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CASIMER S. TARKOWSKI, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

CURTAIN-STRETCHER.

No. 926,081.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 22, 1909.

Application filed October 10, 1908. Serial No. 457,087.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN STAWARTZ, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Homestead, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Curtain-Stretchers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to curtain stretchers, and the object of my invention is to provide a novel curtain stretching frame upon which lace curtains, draperies and fabrics can be mounted for bleaching, drying and repairing.

My invention aims to provide a collapsible frame that will occupy a comparatively small space when not in use, and easily and quickly assembled to provide a rigid structure for firmly supporting curtains. My curtain stretching frame is provided with a novel curtain engaging means for positively retaining curtains in engagement with the frame, said means being housed when the frame is not in use, to prevent a person handling the frame from being injured by the curtain engaging means.

The detail construction of my invention will be presently described and then specifically claimed.

Referring to the drawings:—Figure 1 is a front elevation of my curtain stretching frame, partly broken away, Fig. 2 is a rear elevation of the same, Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of the extension plate, Fig. 4 is a plan, Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view of a portion of the frame, taken on the line $x-x$ of Fig. 1, Fig. 6 is an enlarged plan of a clamp used in connection with the frame, Fig. 7 is an end view of a portion of the frame, illustrating a fastener, Fig. 8 is an elevation of a portion of the frame illustrating the fastener in section, Fig. 9 is a cross sectional view of a portion of the frame, taken on the line $y-y$ of Fig. 4, illustrating the curtain engaging means in an extended position, Fig. 10 is a similar view with the curtain engaging means in a retracted position, and Fig. 11 is an elevation of a portion of the curtain engaging means.

In the accompanying drawings, 1 and 2 designate the end rails of my frame, 3 an intermediate rail, 4 a longitudinal top rail, and 5 an adjustable bottom rail. The rails 1, 2 and 3 are each formed of two longitudi-

nal half-sections (see Figs. 9 and 10) suitably secured together with the confronting faces thereof recessed, as at 6, to provide a longitudinal opening in each rail, said opening being substantially triangular-shaped in cross section. One of the sections of each rail is provided with a plurality of eyelets 7, located in the recess of the rail section. Loosely connected to said eyelets is a longitudinal plate 8 and loosely connected to the lower edge of said plate are a plurality of pins 9 constituting curtain engaging means, and adapted to extend through openings 10 provided therefor in the rail section. The outer edges of the rails 1, 2 and 3 intermediate the ends thereof, are provided with a recess 11, to accommodate a lever 12 which is pivotally connected to the plate 8 adjacent to the lower edge thereof, as indicated at 13. The lower end of the lever 12 is rectangular in elevation and is adapted to be swung, either to the right or left, whereby the lower edge of said lever will engage in notches 14 provided therefor in the sections of the rails. Since the lever 12 is pivotally connected to the plate 8, and the eyelets 7 serve as a pivot point for said plate, the plate can be swung into the recess 6 in either of the rail sections. With the plate in the recess in one rail section, the pins 9 are extended through the openings 10, as shown in Fig. 9, while with the plate 8 in the recess of the opposite rail section, the pins 9 are retracted as shown in Fig. 10. The adjustment of the pins is accomplished by the lever 12, and this lever is swung either to the right or the left to lock the lower edge of said lever in one of the rail pieces, whereby the pins will be either held in an extended or retracted position.

Besides the rails 1, 2 and 3 being equipped with the curtain engaging means, the rails 4 and 5 are similarly equipped, consequently a rectangular formation of pins is provided for holding the edges of a curtain or similar article.

To detachably connect the top rail 4 to the vertical rails 1 and 2, the outer sides of the rails 1 and 2 at the upper ends thereof are provided with straps 15 having hook-shaped ends 16 protruding above the upper ends of the said rails 1 and 2. The top face or side of the rail 4 is provided with straps 17 protruding beyond the ends of said rail, the extreme end of said straps having a rolled

or wire edge 18 and a central opening 19 the latter to receive the hook-shaped ends 16 of the straps 15, while the wire or rolled edges 18 of the straps 17 engage under the hook-shaped ends 16 of the straps 15. These straps can be easily interlocked and the rails 1 and 2 maintained at right angles to the rail 4 during the use of the adjustable bottom rail 5.

For holding the adjustable bottom rail 5 in engagement with the rails 1 and 2, the rear side of this rail at the ends thereof is provided with straps 20 protruding beyond the ends of the rail 5, the protruding ends having bearings 21 for eccentrically mounted clamps 22, these clamps being adapted to engage the outer sides or faces of the rails 1 and 2 and hold the inner sides or faces thereof in engagement with the ends of the bottom rail 5.

Secured to the rear face of the rail 3, at the upper end thereof, is a strap 23 which engages the top rail 4, as best shown in Figs. 1 and 2, while said rail contiguous to the lower end thereof is cut away, as at 24, for adjustable blocks 25 and 26, these blocks being held by means of set screws 27 extending through a slot 28 provided therefor in the intermediate rail 3. The bottom rail 5 is adapted to be clamped by one of said blocks or between said blocks, according to the parallel relative position of said bottom rail 5 to the top rail 4. This adjustment of the bottom rail 5 depends entirely upon the width of the curtains.

The rear sides or faces of the vertical rails 1 and 2 and the intermediate rail 3 are provided with pivoted legs 29 for supporting the entire frame at an inclination upon a floor or other suitable support.

The top and bottom rails 4 and 5 are made in two sections, to permit of said rails being assembled in a small package or adjusted for curtains of two different lengths. One section of each rail is provided with an extension plate 30 having slots or openings 31 formed therein for receiving pins 32 carried by the adjoining section of each rail. Each one of the extension plates 30 is provided with a ledge 33 for supporting the adjoining section of the rail, this construction being best shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

My curtain stretching frame in its en-

tirety is made of light and durable wood to permit of the same being conveniently used as a household article, and in making the frame of several parts easily and quickly assembled, the frame can be knocked down and stored away when not in use.

Having now described my invention what I claim as new, is:—

1. A curtain stretching frame comprising vertical rails, an intermediate rail, a top rail, and bottom rail, said rails having longitudinal recesses formed therein, said rails having longitudinally arranged openings formed therein communicating with said recesses, plates pivotally mounted in said recesses, pins loosely connected to said plates and adapted to extend into said openings, levers pivotally connected to said plates and protruding from said rails for locking said plates in a fixed position, straps for detachably connecting said top rail to said vertical rails, eccentrically mounted clamps carried by the ends of said bottom rail for detachably holding said rail in engagement with said vertical rails, an adjustable block carried by said intermediate rail for holding said bottom rail in engagement therewith, and legs pivoted to said vertical and intermediate rails for supporting said frame at an inclination, substantially as described.

2. A curtain stretching frame embodying vertical rails, an intermediate rail, a top rail, and a bottom rail, curtain engaging means carried by said rails, said means comprising plates pivotally mounted in said rails, pins loosely connected to said plates and adapted to protrude from said rails, and levers carried by said plates and protruding from said rails for locking said plates in a fixed position; means for detachably connecting said top rail to said vertical rails, means for detachably connecting said bottom rail to said vertical rails, means carried by said intermediate rail for clamping said bottom rail thereto, and means connected to said vertical rails and said intermediate rail for supporting said frame.

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

JOHN STAWARTZ.

Witnesses:

MAX H. SROLOVITZ,
K. H. BUTLER.