

A. NELSON.
ANNUNCIATOR FOR CHECKERS OR SIMILAR GAMES.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 16, 1907.

927,583.

Patented July 13, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

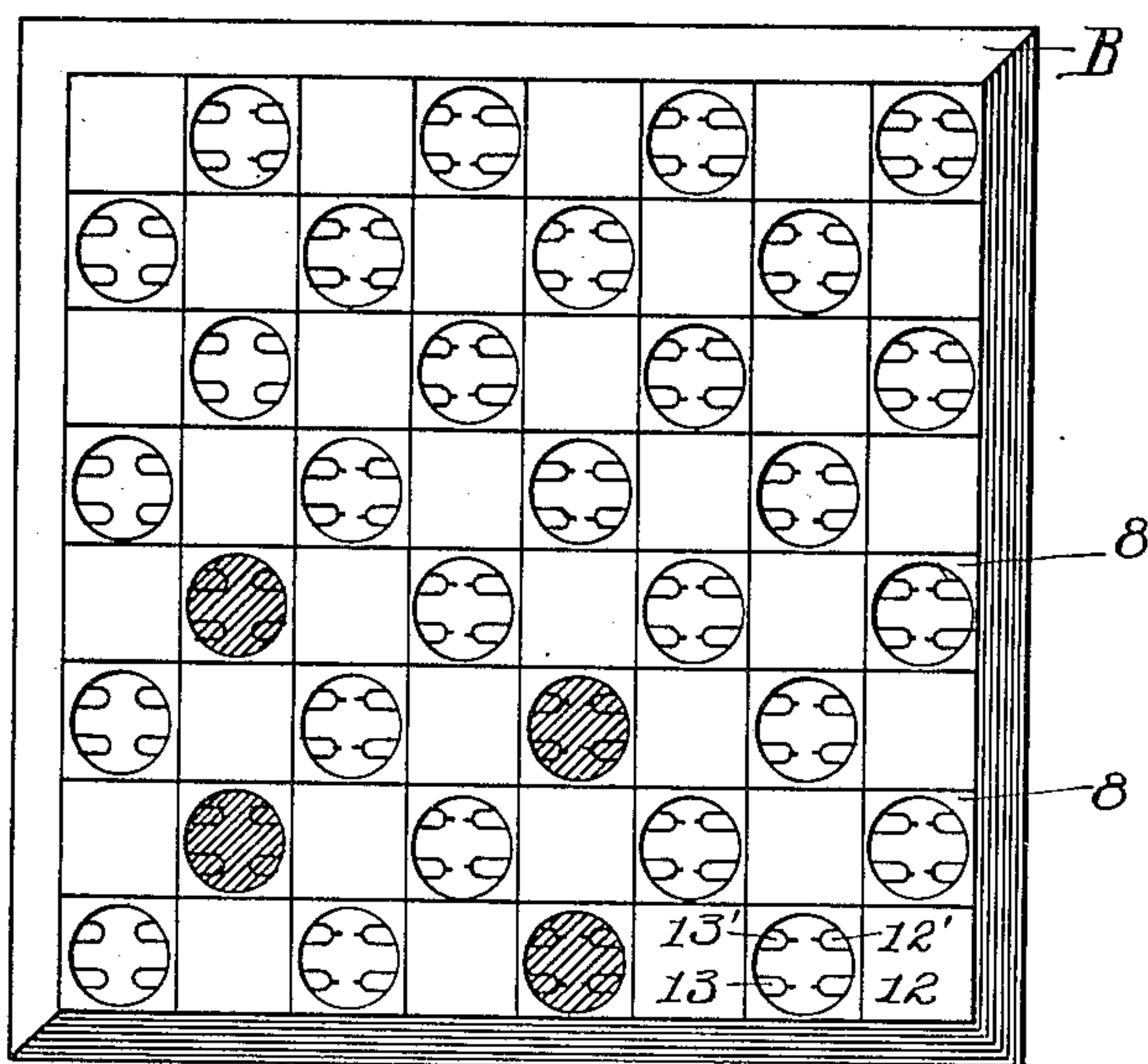


Fig. 1.

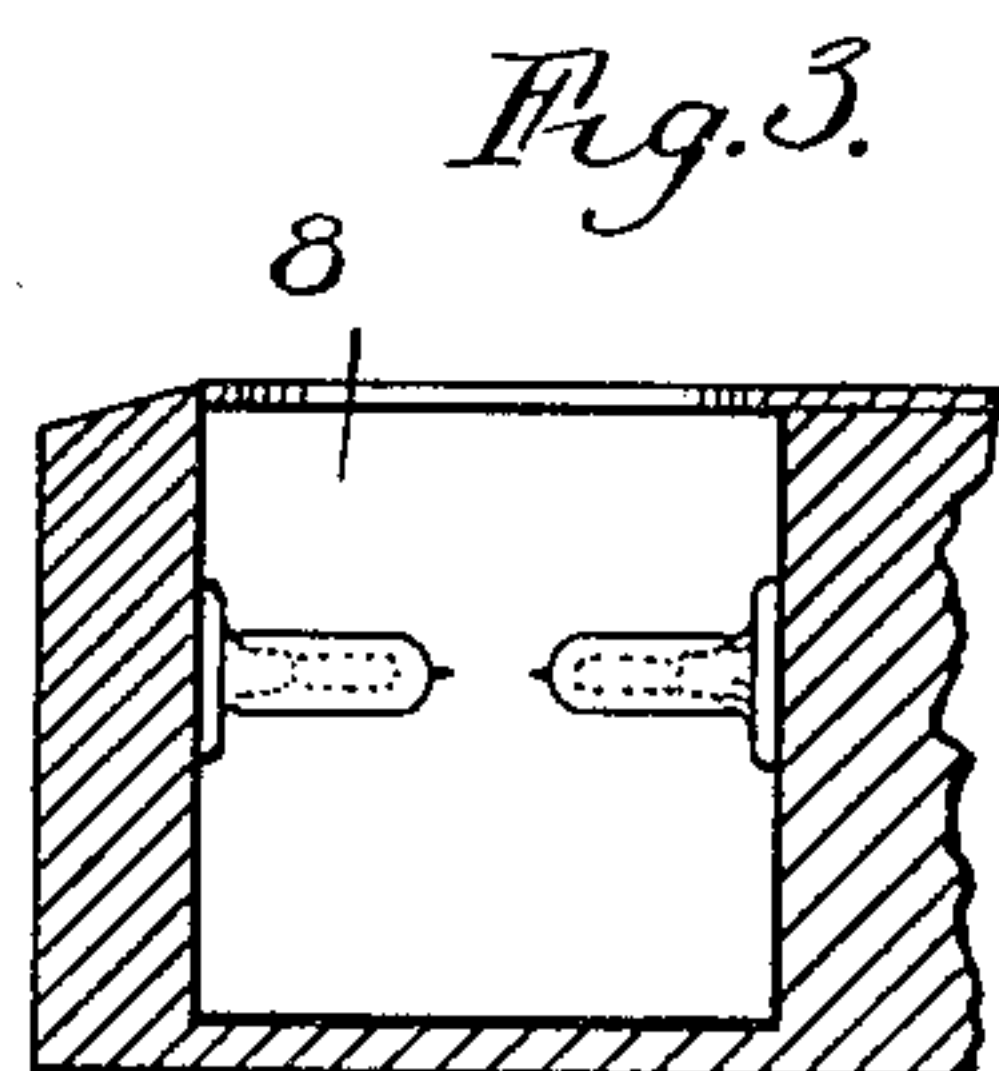


Fig. 3.

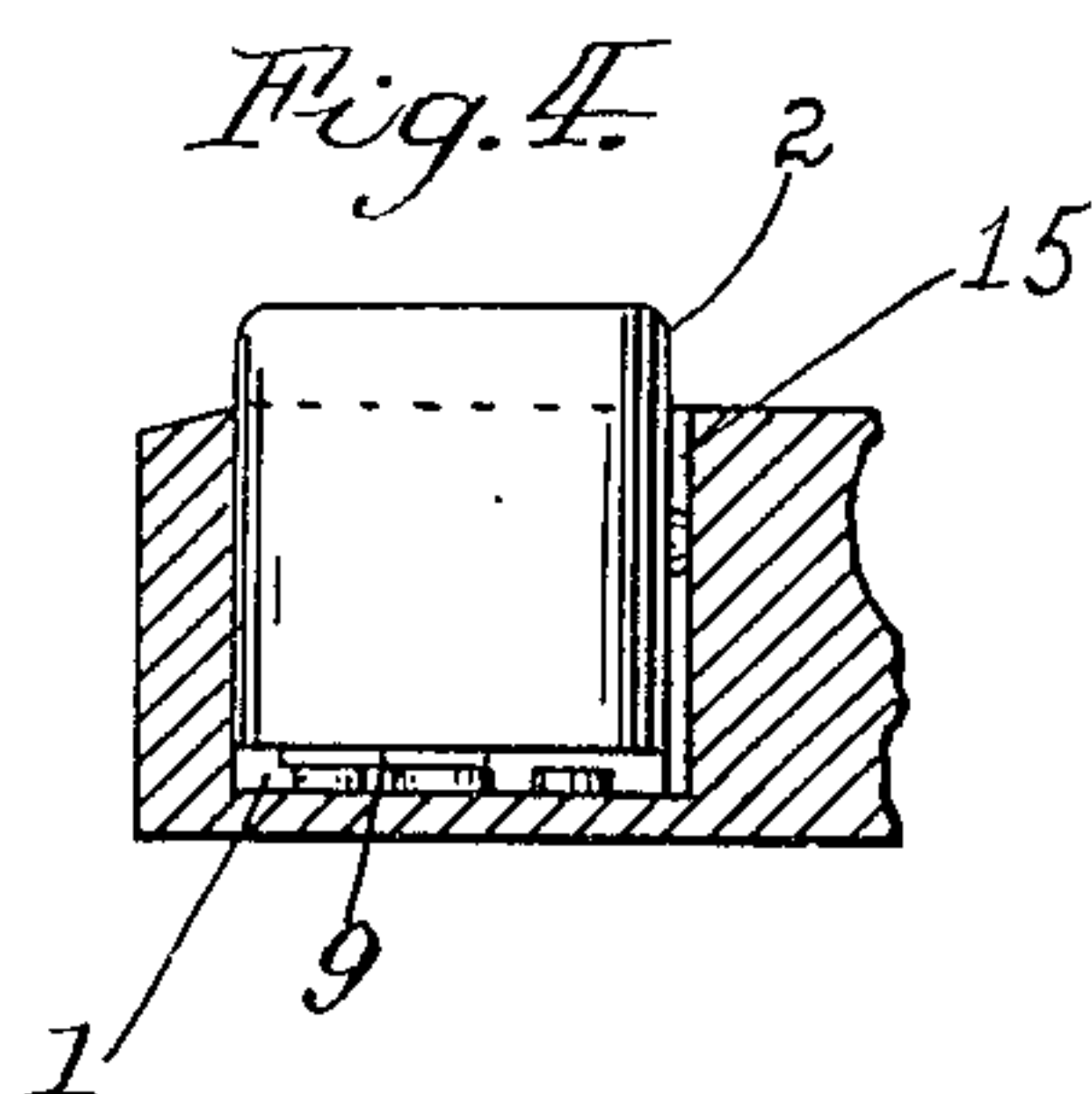


Fig. 4.

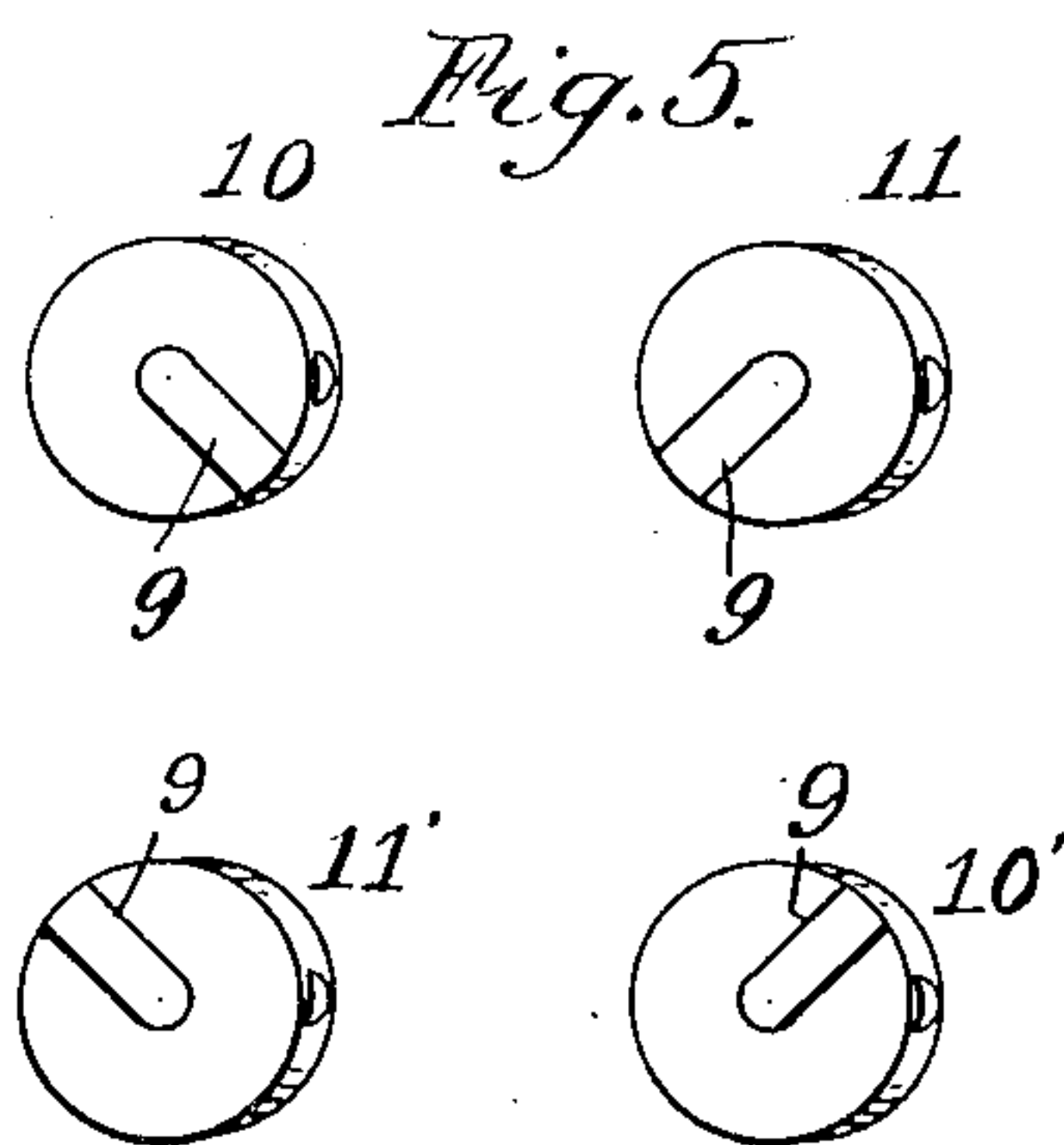
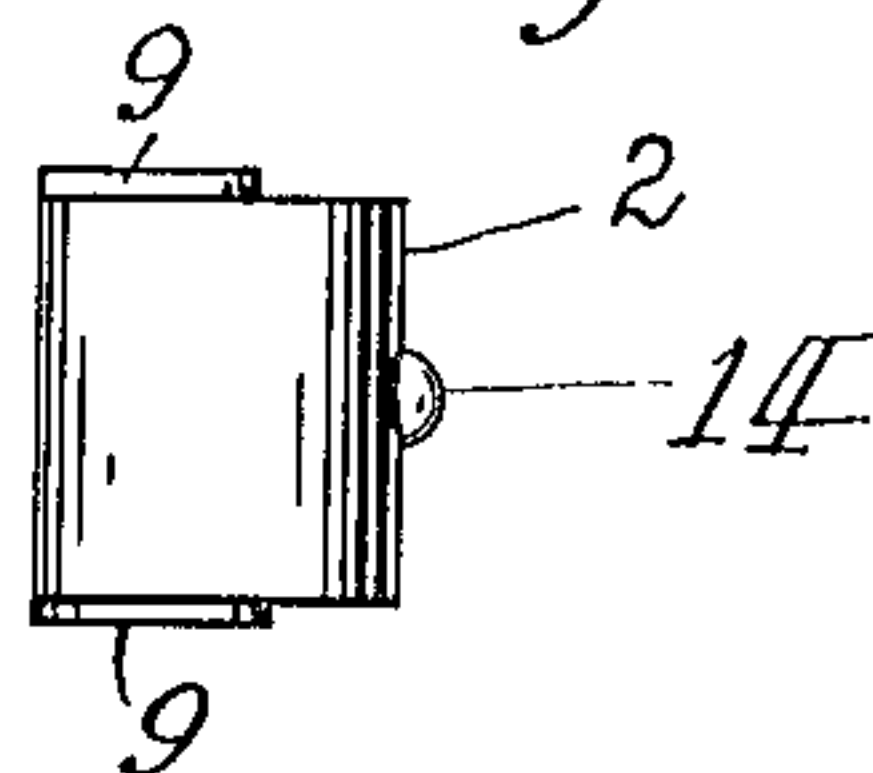


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANTHONY NELSON, OF ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA.

ANNUNCIATOR FOR CHECKERS OR SIMILAR GAMES.

No. 927,583.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 13, 1909.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTHONY NELSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Paul, in the county of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Annunciators for Checkers and Similar Games, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to annunciators for checkers and similar games. Its object is to reproduce upon an illuminated board the movements and positions of the men upon a checker board. It may be used either to exhibit to an audience the plays made by contestants in an actual game, or for advertising purposes to conspicuously reproduce an automatic game.

In the drawings Figure 1 is a plan of my checker board and annunciator; Fig. 2 is a diagrammatic view showing the electrical connections between parts of the board and annunciator; Fig. 3 is a detail in central vertical section of one of the squares of the annunciator; Fig. 4 is a detail partly in cross section showing one of the men in place in a square of the checker board; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of two checkers, showing each in obverse and reverse position; Fig. 6 is an elevation of one of the men used upon my checker board.

In the drawings A is the checker board and B the annunciator which displays the varying moves of the men. The arrangement of the squares on both the board and annunciator is the same as that on an ordinary checker board. The annunciator will ordinarily be placed in vertical position so that the plays may be seen by a larger number of observers and at a greater distance than would be possible upon the horizontal board A.

C is a dynamo or other source of electrical current; D the main switch, and E the wires connecting the board and annunciator.

Cylindrical depressions 1 are formed in each playing square of the checker board, large enough to freely receive the checkers 2 as they are moved from square to square. The floor of each depression 1 is provided with a central main electrical terminal 3, and four branch terminals 4, 4', 5 and 5', the main terminal 3 being electrically connected with the wire 6 which forms a circuit through the source of electrical supply C and thence to the switch D. The terminals

4, 4', 5 and 5' are likewise severally connected by branch wires 7 with electric lamps hereinafter described in the squares 8 of the annunciator, and with the switch D. Both the obverse and reverse faces of the checkers are provided with radial strips 9 (of brass or similar material) adapted when in place upon the board to electrically connect the central terminal 3 with one of the branch terminals in the floor of the depression 1. Thus in Fig. 5, 10 represents the obverse side of a checker to be used by one player and 10' its reverse side; 11 represents the obverse side of a checker to be used by the contesting player and 11' its reverse side. In other words, all the men used by one player will have the strips applied as shown in 10—10' while his adversary will use checkers with strips as shown in 11—11'. When one of these checkers is placed in a depression upon the square of a checker board it forms a plug and the brass strip connects the circuit which lights a lamp of predetermined color upon the annunciator. The checker 10 when placed in a square will connect the terminal 3 with the terminal 4 and when said checker has been moved into the king row it may be reversed to the position shown at 10' and will then electrically connect the terminal 3 with the terminal 4'. In like manner the checker 11 in accordance with the way in which it is placed upon the board will connect the terminal 3 with the terminal 5 or 5'.

In each of the squares upon the annunciator four electrical lamps 12, 12', 13 and 13' are arranged which are respectively in circuit with the terminals 4, 4', 5 and 5' in the corresponding square of the checker board. These lamps may be of different colors, or two shades of two different colors may be used. Thus to indicate the men of one side light blue may be used, while dark blue is used for the kings, and the opposing men may be light red while the kings are dark red. Assuming these colors, the placing of a checker 10 in a given square of the checker board with its face up may illuminate the light blue lamp in the corresponding square of the annunciator, while if the same piece is reversed (as 10') it will light the dark blue lamp. Similarly, if the checker 11 is placed in a square with its face up, the light red lamp will be lighted in the corresponding square of the annunciator and if the same checker is reversed the dark red

lamp will be lighted. It will thus be seen that when the game begins, if the men are in the initial position assumed in the game of checkers, twelve light blue lamps will be
 5 lighted on one side of the annunciator and twelve light red lamps upon the opposite side, and as the moves progress and checkers are advanced upon the board the changes will be indicated by corresponding lights
 10 upon the annunciator, while as they are removed the lamps will become dark, or if they reach the king row and are reversed, darker tints of the original colors will be shown in the proper squares of the annun-
 15 ciator. To secure accuracy in placing the checkers in the squares, to make the electrical connections above described, each checker is provided with a button 14 adapted to fit into a recess 15 in the side of the depressions 1.
 20 While I have illustrated my device as used in the game of checkers it is obvious that without departing from the spirit of my invention it may be applied to chess and other games by mere mechanical changes in the
 25 circuits.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to protect by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a device of the class described, a
 30 checker board in combination with an electrical annunciator having squares arranged to correspond with those upon the checker board, each square of the annunciator being provided with a plurality of electric lamps
 35 of different colors, the squares of said checker board being provided with main and branch terminals, electrical connections between said lamps and terminals, and checkers having radial strips of electrical
 40 conductor adapted to bridge said main and branch terminals.

2. In a device of the class described, a checker board, having depressions in its squares, in combination with an annunciator
 45 provided with party-colored lamps arranged to correspond with the squares of a checker

board, electric connections between said annunciator and board, terminals placed in said depressions and checkers having radial bridges on both sides adapted when in place
 50 to connect said terminals in an electric circuit with the lamps of the annunciator.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a source of electrical supply, an annunciator, and a checker board, con-
 55 nections between said parts, lamps for the annunciator, terminals for the checker board, and checkers provided on both faces with bridges for connecting the terminals and illuminating the lamps.

4. In a device of the class described, a checker board having squares each of which is provided with a main terminal and a plu-
 60 rality of branch terminals, checkers provided with radial bridges adapted to connect said main and branch terminals, in combination with an annunciator having
 65 squares, each of which is provided with electric lamps connected and corresponding in position with the branch terminals of the
 70 checker board.

5. In a device of the class described, an electrical annunciator having squares arranged like a checker board, a plurality of electric lamps in each of said squares, a
 75 source of electric supply for said lamps, a checker board having cylindrical depressions in each of its squares, a plurality of electrical terminals in each of said depressions, electrical connections between said terminals
 80 and said lamps and checkers provided with radial bridges adapted to diversely connect two of said terminals and thereby illuminate the lamps in said annunciator.

In testimony whereof I have signed my
 85 name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANTHONY NELSON.

Witnesses:

M. G. LICHTSCHEIDL,
 W. H. WILLIAMS.