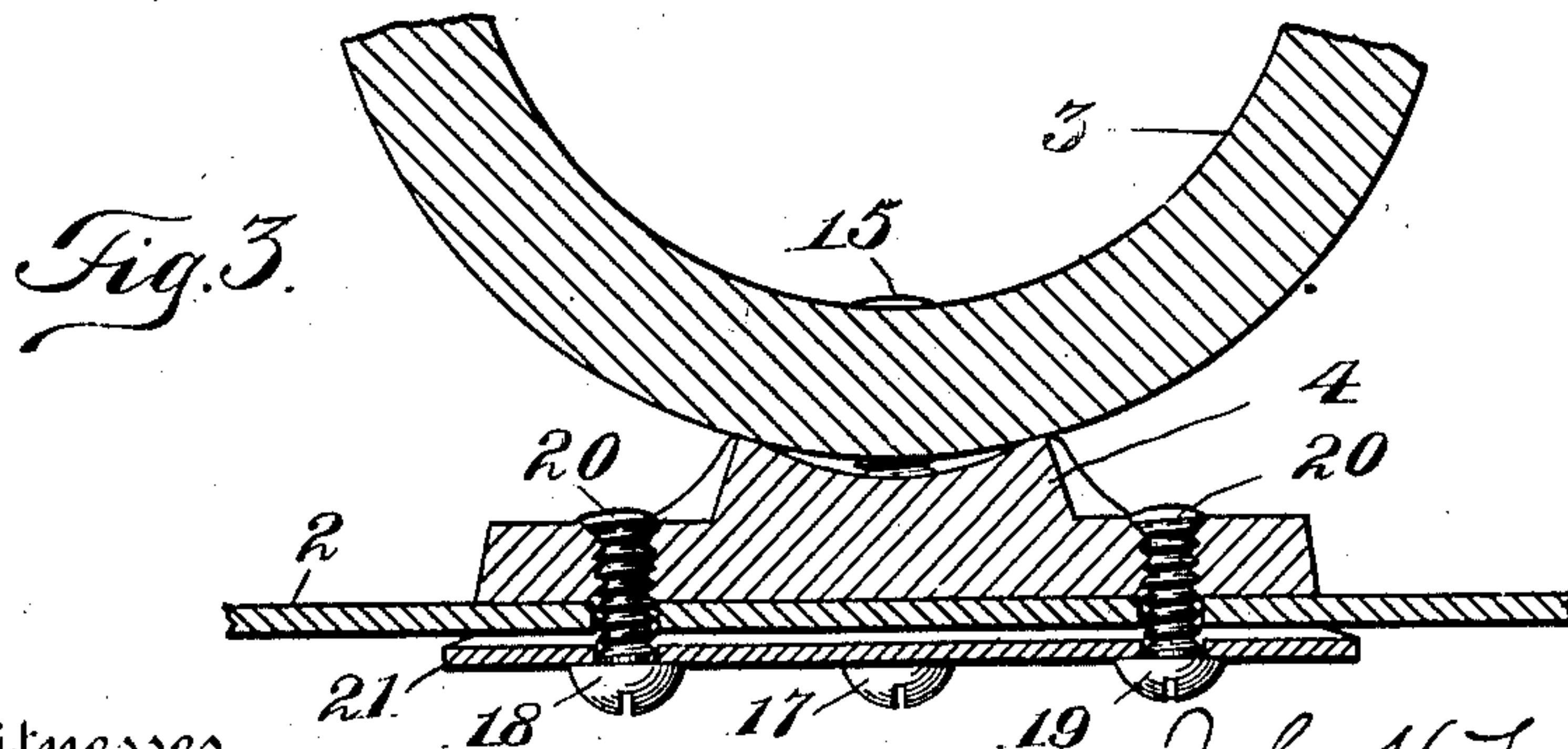
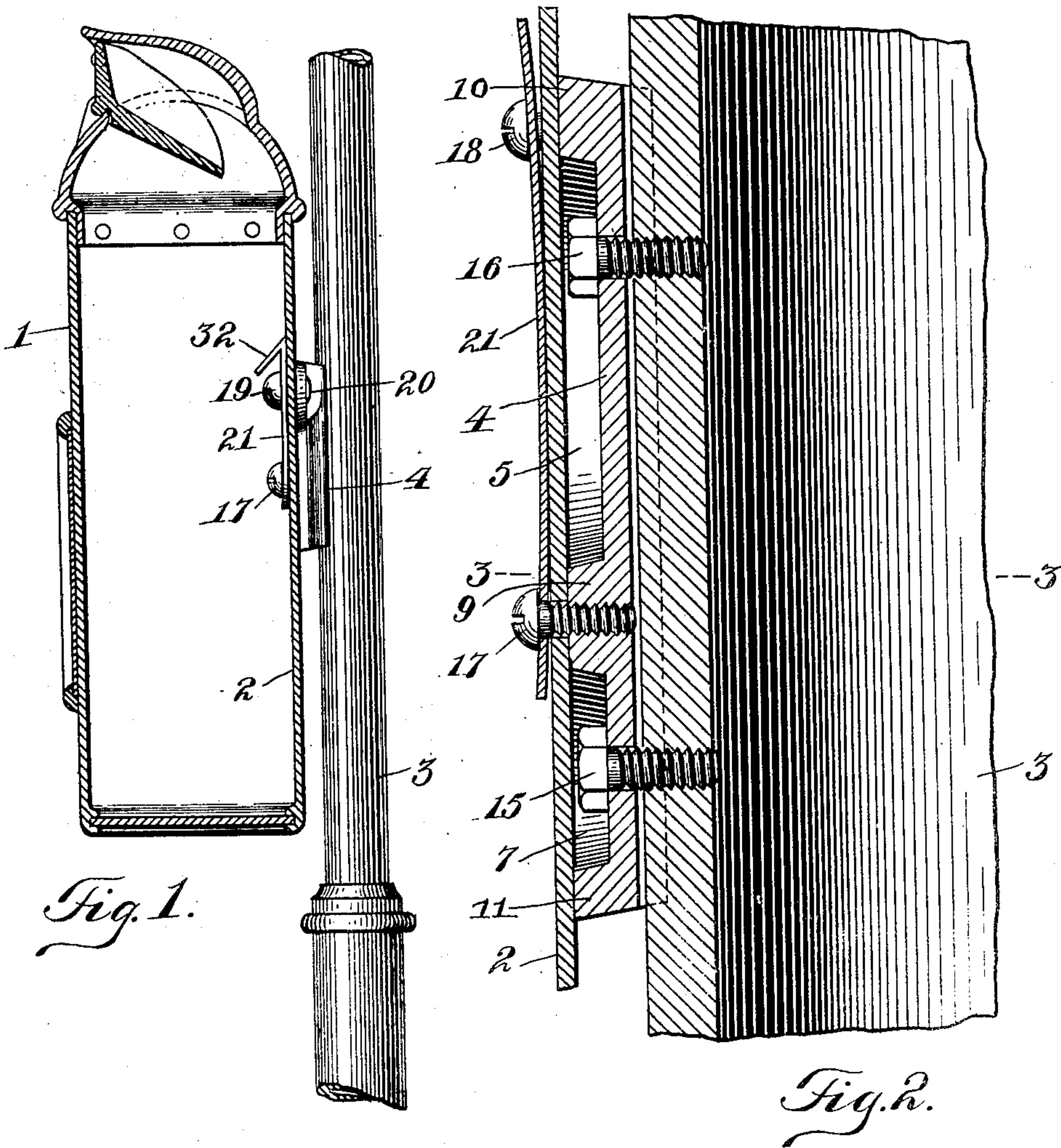


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MAIL BOX HOLDER.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 25, 1906.

936,527.

Patented Oct. 12, 1909.
3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



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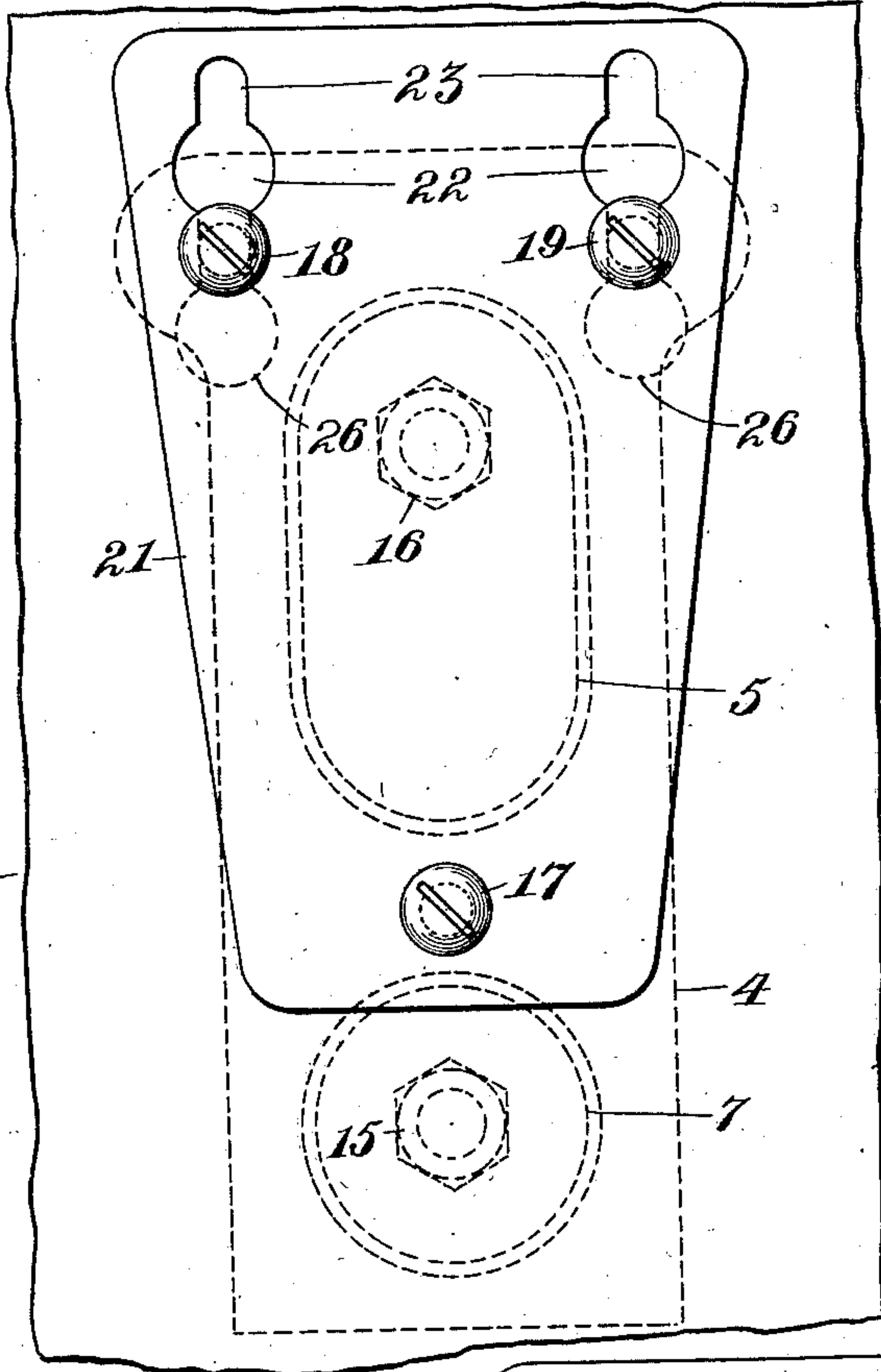


Fig. 4.

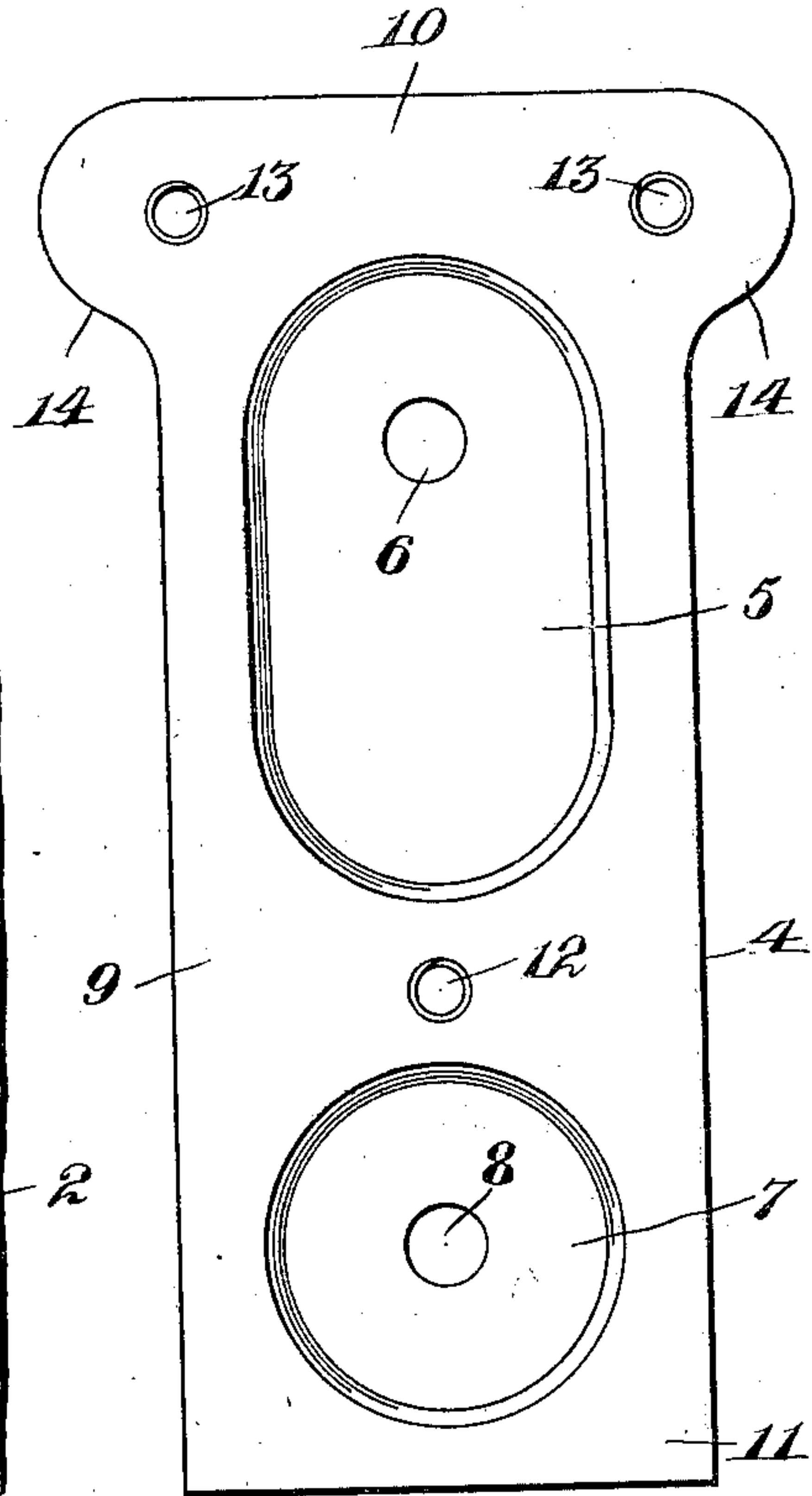


Fig. 5.

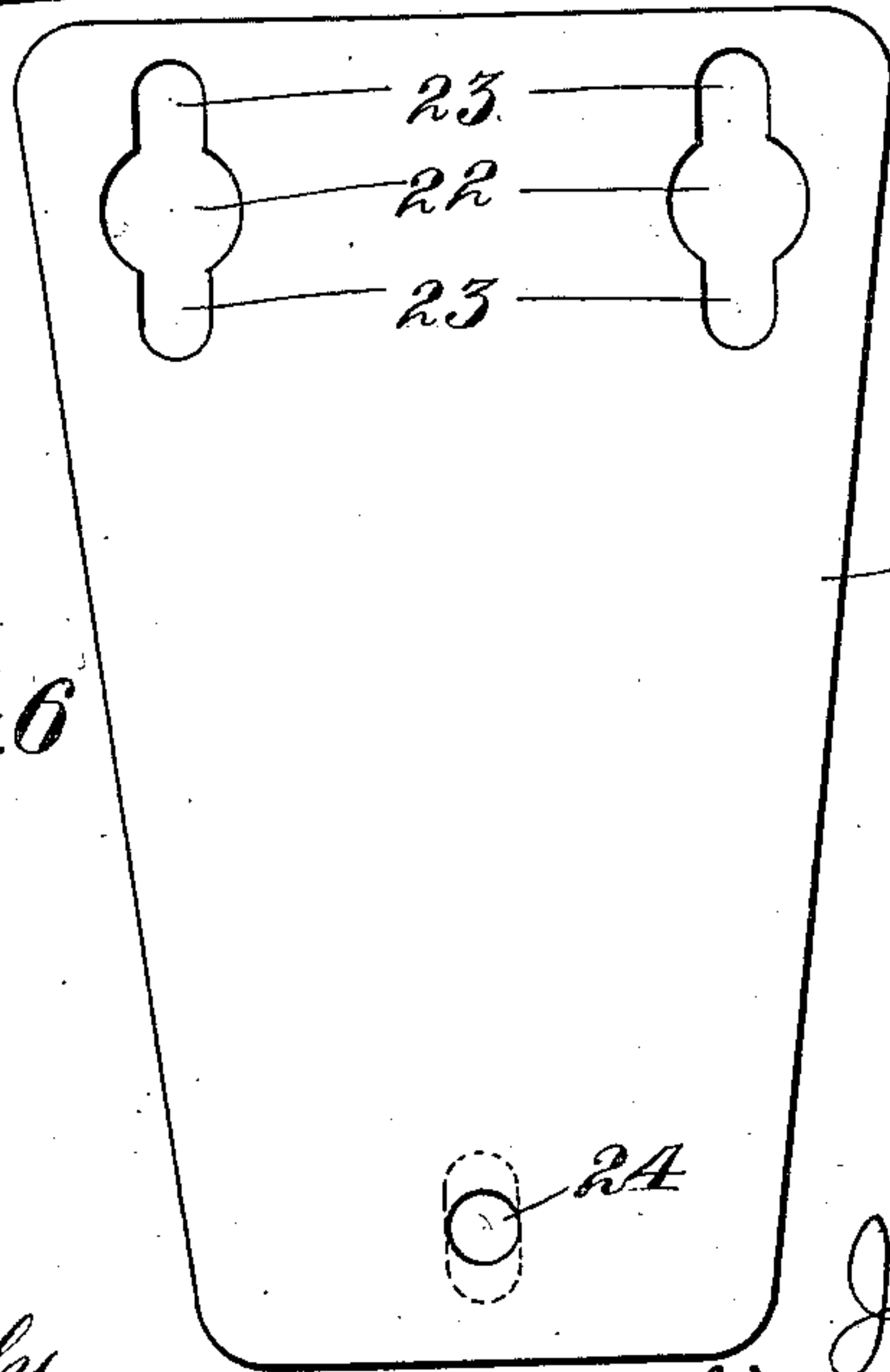


Fig. 6.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

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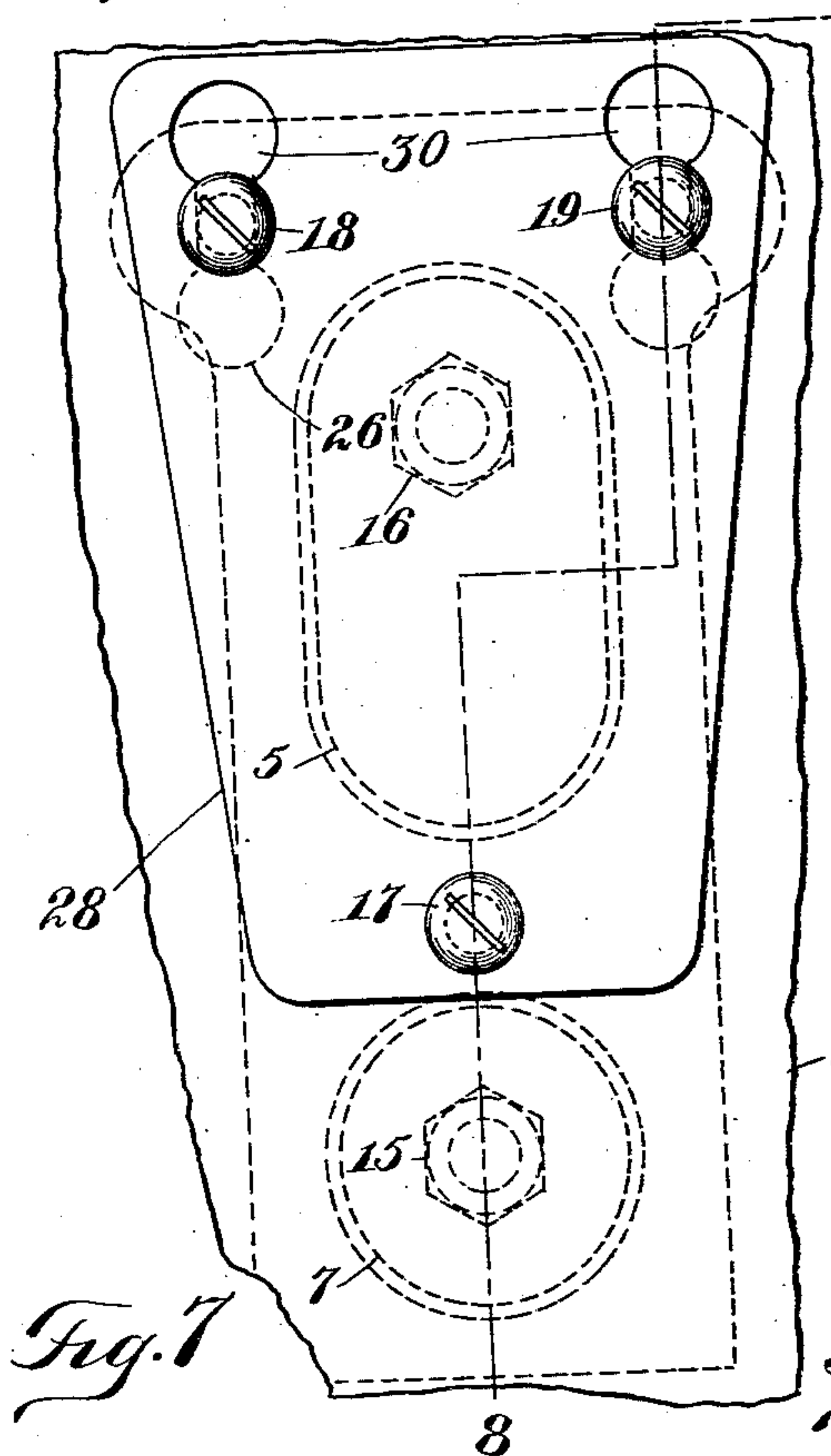


Fig. 7.

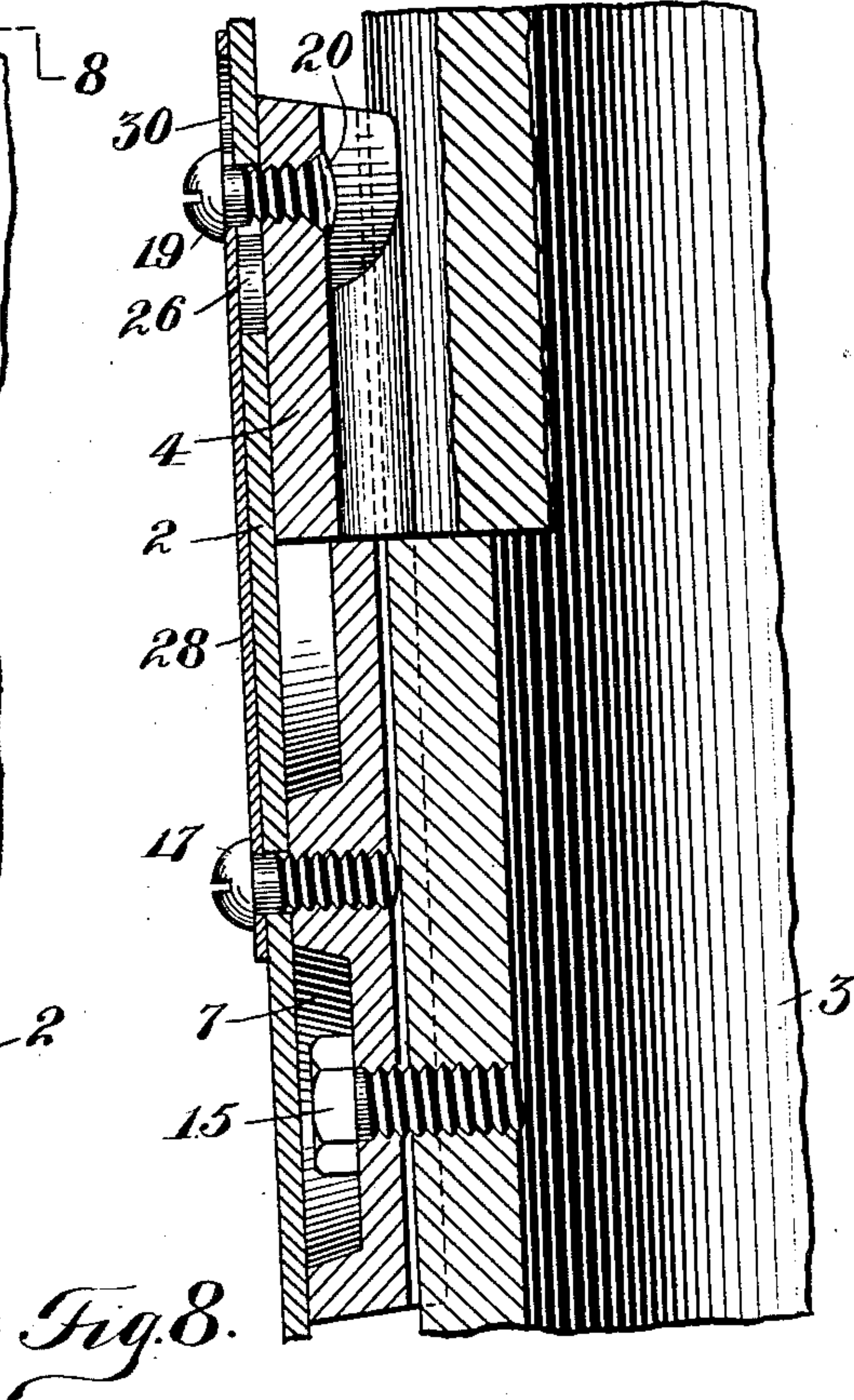


Fig. 8.

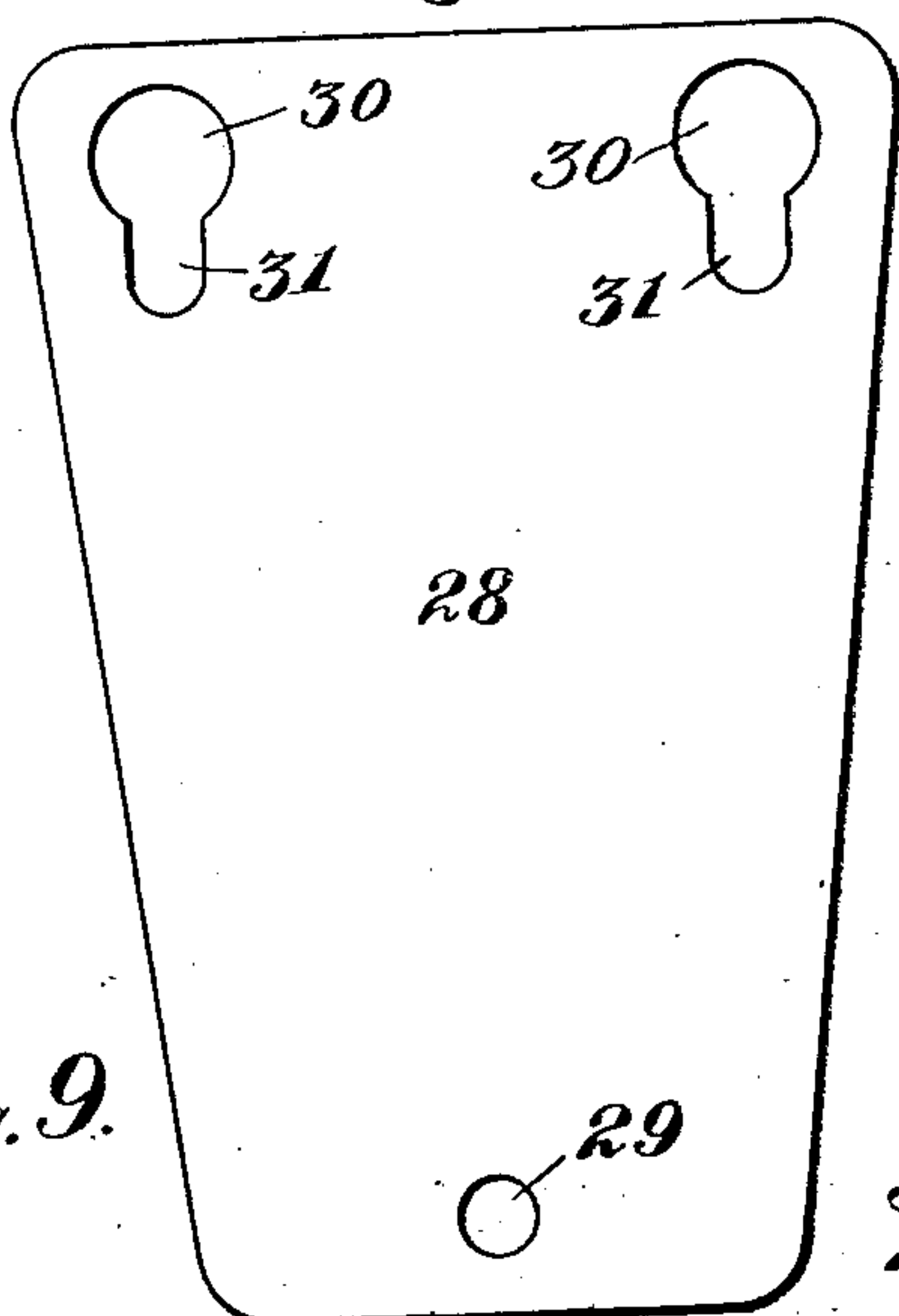


Fig. 9.

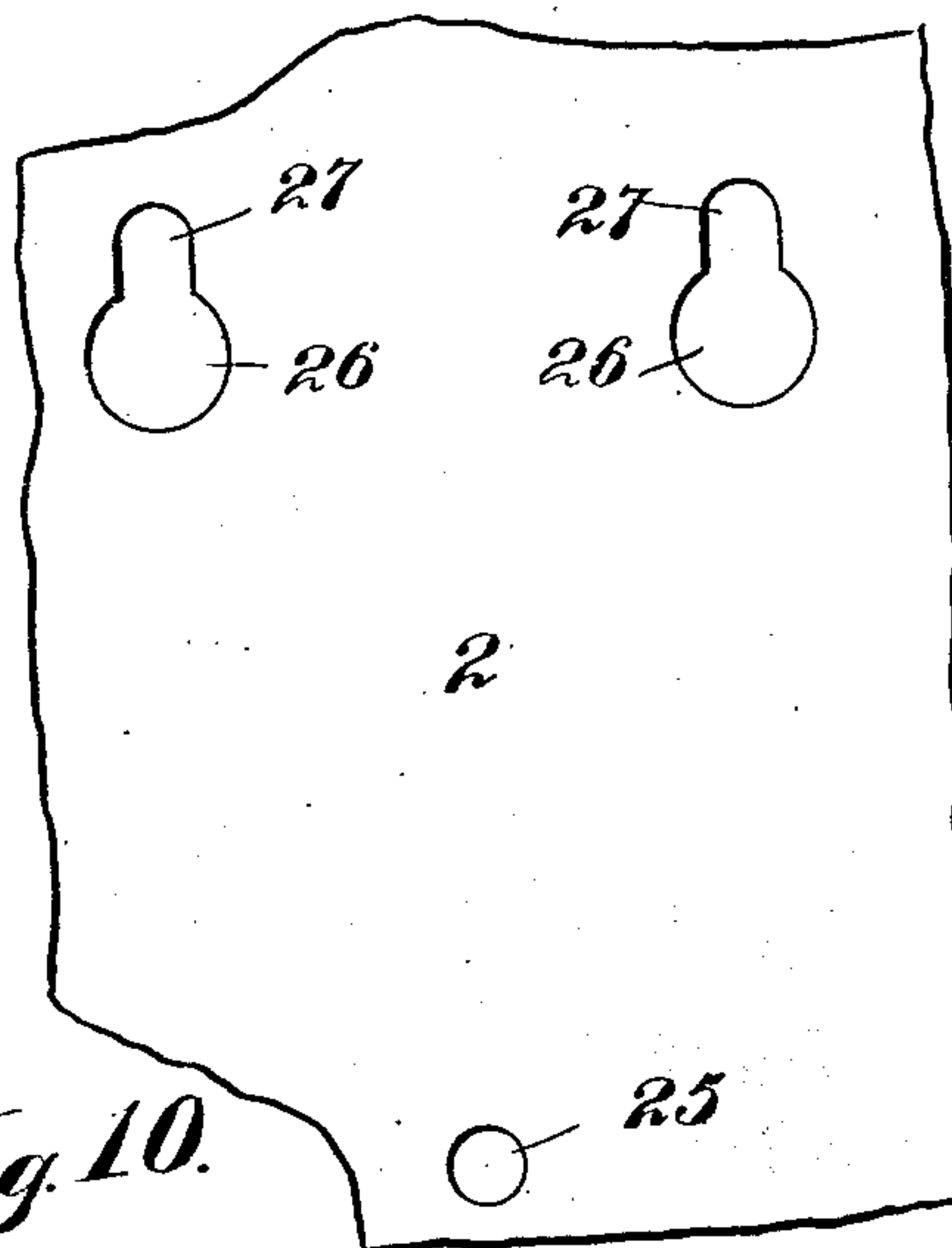


Fig. 10.

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MAIL-BOX HOLDER.

936,527.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 12, 1909.

Application filed September 25, 1906. Serial No. 336,163.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. FISHER, a citizen of the United States, residing in Washington, District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Mail-Box Holders, of which the following is a description.

This invention relates to mail-box holders and, particularly, to mechanism and devices by means of which a mail-box of any type may be applied to posts, walls and practically any kind of support now ordinarily used.

Among the objects of my invention may be noted the following: to provide a safe, strong holder for mail-boxes which cannot be dislodged and cannot be tampered with from the outside; to provide a holder, so applied, that the box can only be removed from its support from the inside of the box; to provide a simple, compact and cheap holder for mail-boxes which is practically universally applicable to all kinds of supports; and to provide a holder for mail-boxes which will securely hold the box on its support and which, when all its parts are properly set, will prevent any movement of said box relatively to its support.

With the above objects in view, and others which will be detailed during the course of this description, my invention consists in the parts, features and combination of elements hereinafter described and claimed.

The accompanying drawings form a part of the specification, and therein: Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of a mail-box showing a form of my holder applied thereto and supporting the same upon the conventional lamp-post, a portion of which latter is also shown; Fig. 2 is a vertical central section, very much enlarged, of a portion of a post or other support, showing the mode of securing the holder thereto and the mail-box to the holder; Fig. 3 is a transverse section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a front elevation of a portion of the holder; Fig. 5 is a front elevation of the supporting-block of the holding-plate, these six figures showing one form of my invention; Fig. 7 is a front elevation, similar to Fig. 4, showing another form of my invention; Fig. 8 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the form of my invention of Fig. 7 applied in the manner of

Fig. 2, the section of this figure being taken on the line 8—8 of Fig. 7; Fig. 9 is a front elevation of the holding-plate shown in the form of Fig. 7; and Fig. 10 is a front elevation of a portion of the back of the mail-box constructed for the application of my invention in the form of Figs. 7, 8 and 9.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 indicates a conventional mail or letter-box, the back thereof being indicated by 2. The post or support is indicated by 3, which, obviously, may be of any form or shape, viz., circular or flat. In this form of my invention the supporting-block or iron is indicated by 4, the back of which is made more or less curved so as to correspond, or approximately correspond, in this instance to the surface to which it is to be applied.

The face of the holder, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 4, is formed with the elongated recess 5, extending longitudinally of the supporting-block 4, an aperture 6 being formed through the back of the block near the top of the said recess 5. Near the bottom of the block, a circular recess 7 is formed, in the bottom of which, and through the back of the holder, is formed an aperture 8. A solid bridge-piece or portion 9 separates the two recesses 5 and 7, the same affording a central support for the back 2 of the mail-box. The end-portions 10 and 11 of the block also form rests for the back 2 of the mail-box. A screw-threaded aperture 12 is formed in the bridge-piece 9 and screw-threaded apertures 13 are formed at opposite sides of the top of the block above the elongated recess 5, the said block being somewhat enlarged or spread as at 14, preferably, to afford a greater bearing and better support for the back of the box. Now viewing Fig. 2, it will be seen that the screw-bolt 15, with an enlarged angular head, passes through the aperture 8 in the bottom of the circular recess 7 of the block and is screwed or tapped into the support 3, the head of the bolt 15, obviously, engaging the bottom of the recess and being entirely housed within the latter, as will be readily understood. A similar bolt 16 passes through the aperture 6 in the bottom of the recess 5, said bolt 16 being screwed or tapped into the support 3, just described with reference to the bolt 15, and its head engaging the bottom of the recess 5 and being entirely housed by the latter.

As clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the back 2 of the mail-box is set against the face of the supporting-block 4, said back engaging the bridge 9 and the end-portions 10 and 11, and a screw 17, with a large head, passes through the back of the box and coöperates with the screw-threaded aperture 12 in the bridge-portion 9 of the block. Similar screws 18 and 19 are passed through the back of the mail-box 2, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and coöperate with the apertures 13 in the top of the block 4, the three screws 17, 18 and 19 thus forming a support for the mail-box to hold the same in engagement with the supporting-block 4.

Inasmuch as the ends of the supporting-screws 18 and 19 are exposed, as shown in Fig. 3, at the back of the block 4, said ends are spread, enlarged or flattened as at 20, in order to firmly set said screws in place and prevent their removal under any circumstance. The holding-plate 21 is rectangular in form and is preferably made of strong, spring-metal, and is given a bow or curved form lengthwise, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, where the holding-screws 17, 18 and 19 have not been screwed in tight. The holding-plate 21 is provided with key-hole slots, viz., slots having a central, circular portion 22, and long, oppositely-extending narrow portions 23, these slots being located near the corners of the top-portion of the holding-plate. Near the bottom of the holding-plate and substantially centrally thereof an aperture 24 is formed.

It will now be understood, and especially with reference to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4, that after the supporting-block or iron 4 has been secured in place upon the support 3, the heads of the bolts 15 and 16 will be housed within the recess 5 and 7 of the supporting-block out of contact with the back of the mail-box 2. The mail-box will then be set in place and held by the two screws 18 and 19, which will be passed through the key-hole slots or apertures 26, see Fig. 4, in the back of the box as will be presently described with reference to Figs. 7 to 10, with their heads a short distance from the face of said back. The holding-plate 21 will then be set in place by passing the heads of the screws 18 and 19 through the enlarged, circular portions 22 of the key-hole slots, whereupon the holding-plate will be lifted so as to pass the shank of the screws 18 and 19 down into the elongated portions 23 of said key-hole slot. This will hold the plate 21 in position and bring the aperture 24 of said plate into registry with the aperture in the back of the mail-box and the screw-threaded aperture 12 in the bridge-portion 9 of the supporting-block or iron 4. The screw 17 is then passed through the several apertures, thus setting the holding-plate securely and tightly against the face of the

back of the mail-box and said box securely and tightly against the supporting-block. The screws 18 and 19 are then turned to the requisite degree, in order to bind the top of the holding-plate against the face of the back of the mail-box, it being clear that the flexing of said holding-plate by the several screws 17, 18 and 19 will cause said plate to exert a considerable pressure against the back of the box to hold the same firmly in place. The ends 20 of the screws 18 and 19 will be spread, split or enlarged to prevent them from being turned or removed.

By making the key-hole slots of the form shown in Fig. 6, variation in the position of the apertures 12 and 24 and the corresponding aperture in the back of the mail-box is permitted, and the holding-plate 21 may be moved either up or down, in setting it in place, to bring it into proper position to cause its aperture 24 to register with the aperture 12 and the one in the back of the mail-box. Moreover, in order to insure accurate registry of the apertures for screw 17, the aperture 24 may be elongated, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 6, thus compensating for any variation in the disposition of the aperture in the back of the mail-box. Obviously, if the screws 18 and 19 are not forced in sufficiently far to cause their heads to press the holding-plate 21 flat and tight against the back of the mail-box, it is only necessary, when it is desired to remove the mail-box from its support, to remove the screw 17 and then slide the plate 21 to bring the enlarged portion 22 of the key-hole slots thereof into position to pass over the heads of the screws 18 and 19. The box can then be removed from its support. When the box is properly set in place, however, all the screws will be tightly set so as to force the holding-plate 21 tightly against the back of the mail-box and the latter tightly against the back 4, as shown in Fig. 1.

In the form of Figs. 7, 8, 9 and 10, the back 2 of the mail-box will be formed with an aperture 25 and key-hole slots with a circular portion 26, and a single, narrow-slot extension 27, the said extension 27 extending upwardly toward the top of the box. The holding-plate in this form is indicated by 28 and is provided with the aperture 29, which may be an elongated slot as shown in Fig. 6, the key-hole slots near the upper corners being provided with the circular portions 30 and narrow extensions 31, the latter extending downwardly from the circular portion 30 toward the bottom of the plate, this being the reverse of the slots in the back of the box. The supporting block or iron is in all material respects substantially the same as in the other form, and the parts thereof are indicated by like numerals, together with the holding-screw bolts, etc. It will be noted, as shown in Fig. 8, that

the holding-plate in this form is not bowed longitudinally, being made flat and fitting snugly against the face of the back of the mail-box. In order to set the mail-box in place, the supporting-block is first secured to the support 3 by means of the screw-bolts 15 and 16 described with reference to the other form of my invention. Then the screws 18 and 19 are passed into the apertures 13 at the top of the supporting-block. The mail-box is then set in place by passing the circular portion 26 of the key-hole slot over the heads of the screws 18 and 19, whereupon the mail-box is allowed to slide down upon the screws so that the shank of the latter will enter the elongated slot-portions 27. The holding-plate is then set against the back of the mail-box by passing the heads of the screws 18 and 19 through the circular portions 30 of the key-hole slots in the plate 28, whereupon the latter is slid vertically, so as to cause the shanks of the screws 18 and 19 to enter the elongated portions 31 of the key-hole slots in the plate 28. Thus, the apertures 25, 29 and 12 in the back of the box, the bottom of the holding-plate and the bridge-portion 9 of the supporting-block, respectively, are brought into registry. Then the screw 17 is passed through the several apertures and securely screwed into the supporting-block with its head tight against the face of the holding-plate 28 and the latter tight against the back of the mail-box. The screws 18 and 19 are then firmly set in place and their ends spread, split, or otherwise enlarged, as at 20, in accordance with the first form described. Thus, the mail-box is securely held in position on the support. To remove the box from the support in this form of my invention, the screw 17 should first be removed, whereupon the plate 28 may be slid downwardly and removed from the screws 18 and 19 and the mail-box may be shifted or slid vertically and also removed from said screws 18 and 19.

In order to prevent any possibility of mail-matter being caught between the top of the holding-plate and the back of the mail-box, a guard or shield 32 may be applied to, or formed integral with, the holding-plate, as shown in Fig. 1, the same extending from the top of the plate and being inclined downwardly into the box so as to cover the top screws 18 and 19. This construction will shunt or deflect mail-matter into the box and prevent the same from being caught as suggested. However, if the box is properly hung and the parts of the holder are properly set, this guard will be unnecessary.

Having thus disclosed the details of construction of my invention, it will be readily understood that the material of the several parts of the holder may be of any kind of metal or composition desired, or portions thereof may be of hardwood, if desired.

Either form may be used with the same facility and each is effective for the purposes; but, the form of Figs. 1 to 6 is preferred on account of the flexibility of the holder. That is to say, by making the holding-plate 21 bowed longitudinally and of spring-metal, the same is better adapted to hold the box in position and is susceptible of future adjustments, in case the weight of the box or its use may cause the parts to become loose. Merely tightening the screws 18 and 19 will, obviously, take up any looseness between the parts and bind the box securely, under any circumstance. By housing the screw-bolts 15 and 16, as described, within the body of the supporting block or iron, it is clear that they cannot be approached or tampered with except by removing the mail-box from the holder. Similarly, by placing the screws 17, 18 and 19 within the mail-box, and likewise disposing the holding-plate, it is impossible for the box to be removed from the holder without first opening said box. By splitting, spreading or otherwise enlarging the ends of the screws 18 and 19, which are the only exposed fastenings of the holder, it is impossible for said screws to be removed, unscrewed or loosened, under any circumstance.

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

1. A mail-box holder having in combination a supporting-block provided with recesses in which the heads of securing bolts may be housed, and a holding-plate provided with key-hole slots for the reception of securing means, the said block and plate also having apertures which may be brought into registry with each other for the reception of a securing means.

2. A mail-box holder having in combination a supporting-block provided with recesses in which the heads of securing bolts may be housed and a holding-plate for co-operation with said block made of resilient material and bowed longitudinally for creating tension, as described, and the said block and plate having apertures which may be brought into registry for securing the parts together.

3. A mail-box holder having in combination a supporting-block provided with recesses in which the heads of securing bolts may be housed, and a holding-plate provided with a guard, said block and plate having apertures which may be brought into registry for securing the parts together, substantially as described.

4. In combination with a mail-box, a supporting-block having recesses in which the heads of securing bolts may be housed and also having raised portions or bridge-pieces against which the back of the box may be set, a holding-plate for engaging the back

4

of the mail-box, and means whereby said block and plate may be caused to clamp the back of the mail box firmly between them.

5 5. In combination with a mail-box, of a supporting-block therefor secured to the outside thereof, said block having recesses in which the heads of securing bolts may be housed and covered by the back of said box, a holding-plate secured to the back of the
10 box within the latter, and means, accessible only from within the box, for clamping said plate against the back of the box and securing said plate and box rigidly to the supporting-block.

15 6. In combination with a mail-box, a supporting-block secured to the outside of the back thereof, a holding-plate located within the box, means, accessible only from within the box, for clamping said plate, box and

block rigidly together, and means for securing the block to a given support said latter means being accessible only when the box is removed from said block. 20

7. A mail-box holder having in combination a supporting-block provided with a depression in one side extending longitudinally thereof, and with a plurality of apertures for the passage of securing bolts; and a movable, independent plate cooperating with said block to hold the mail-box in place. 25

In testimony whereof I have hereto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 30

JOHN H. FISHER.

Witnesses:

CHARLES J. MURPHY,
A. SLAUGHTER.