

N. E. FEALY.

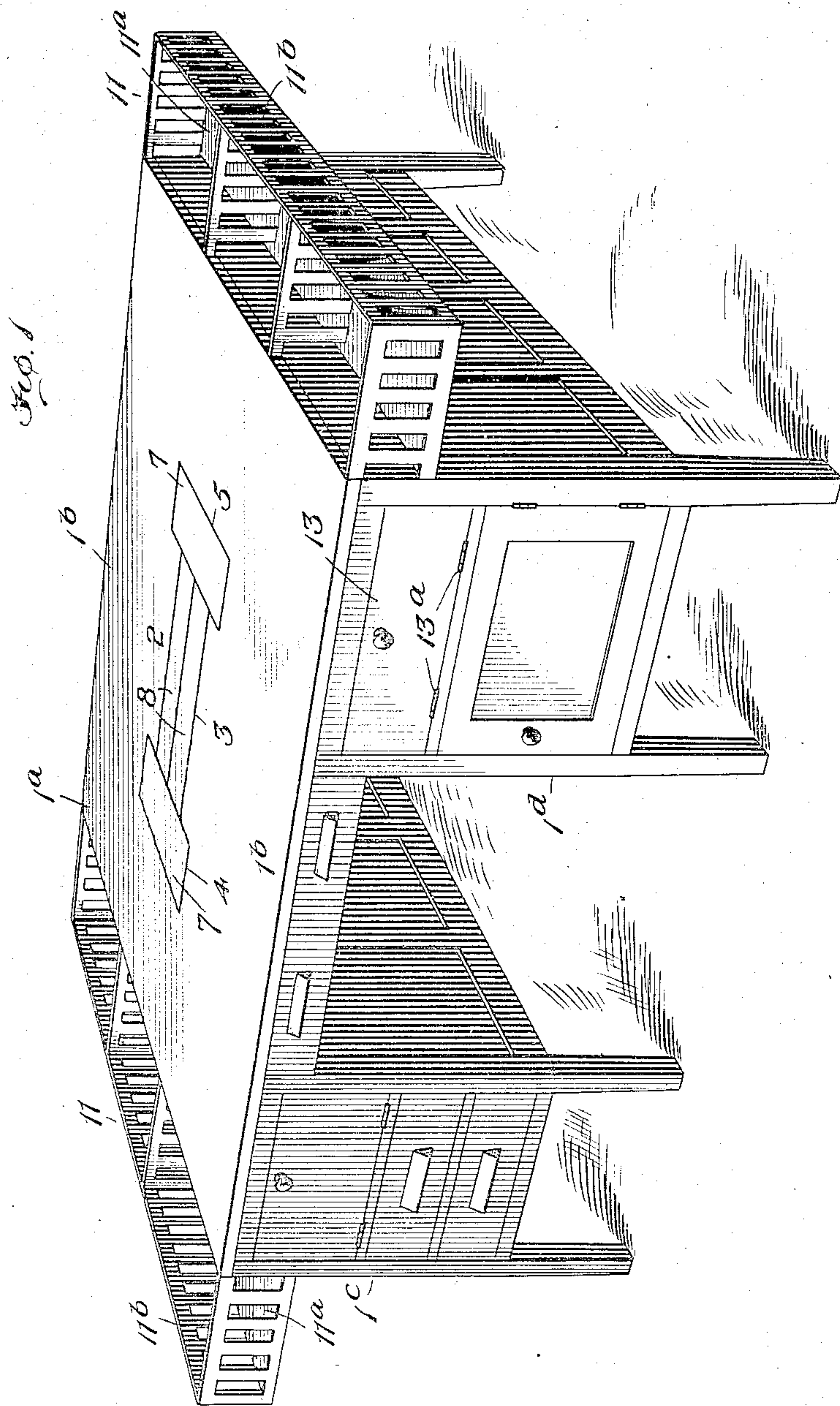
DESK.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 2, 1909.

939,125.

Patented Nov. 2, 1909.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Inventor

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Witnesses

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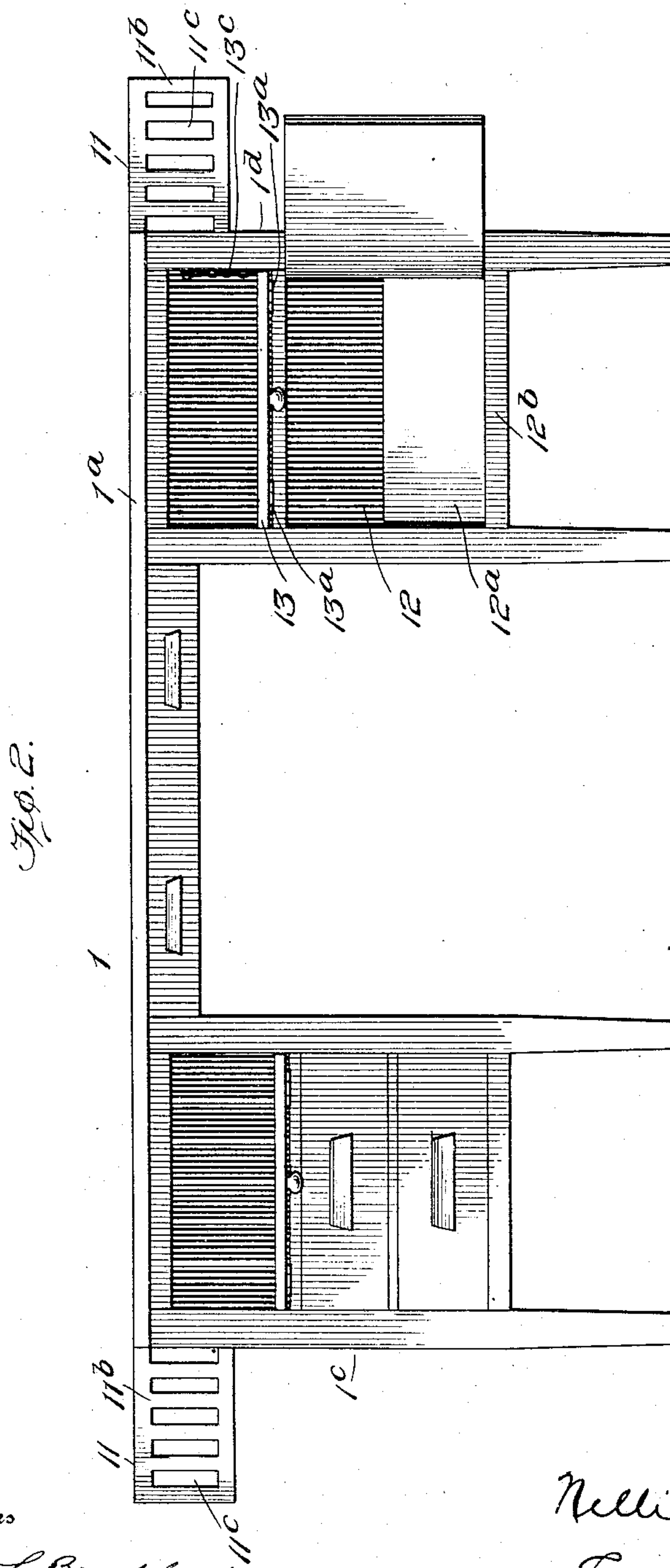
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4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.

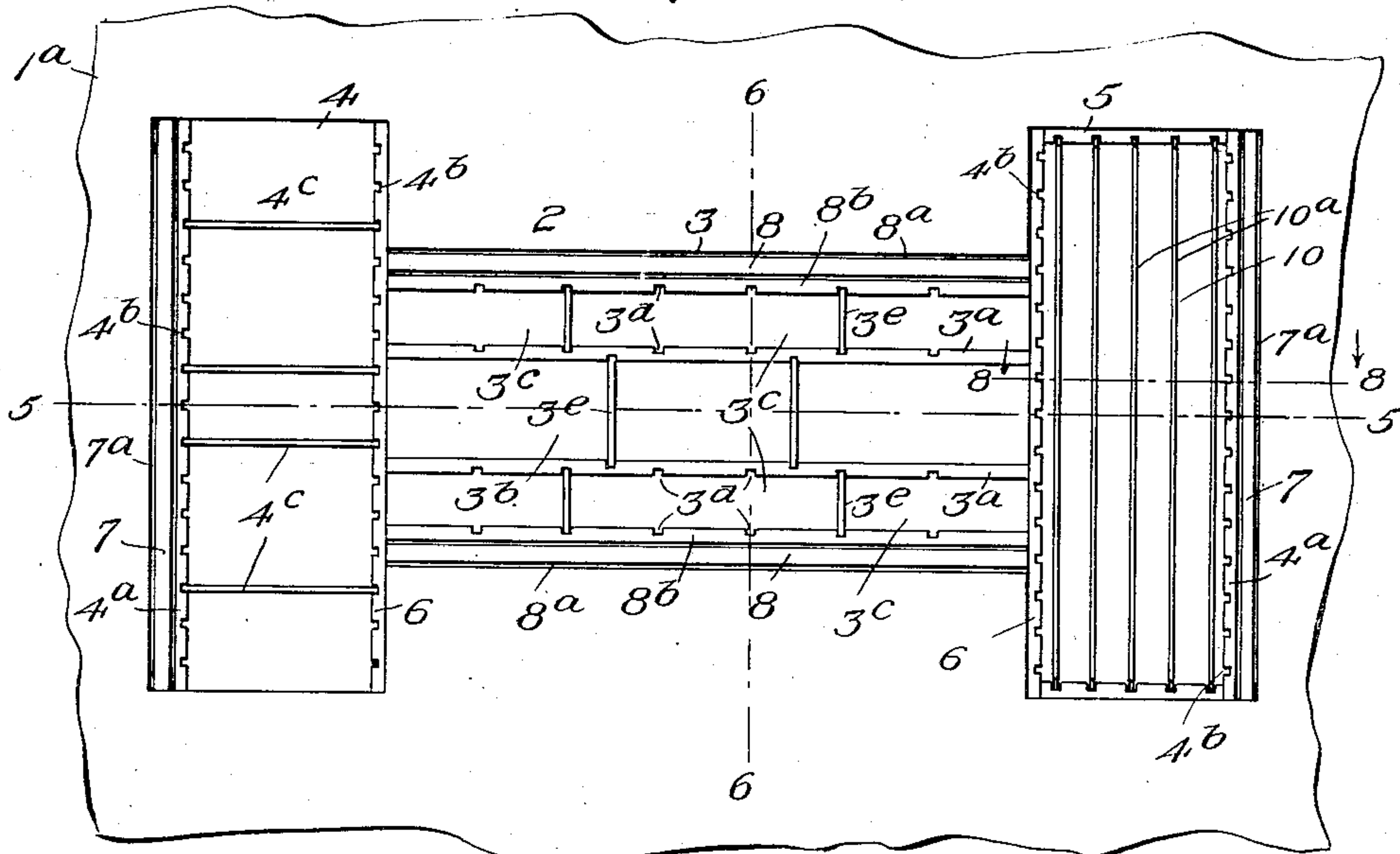
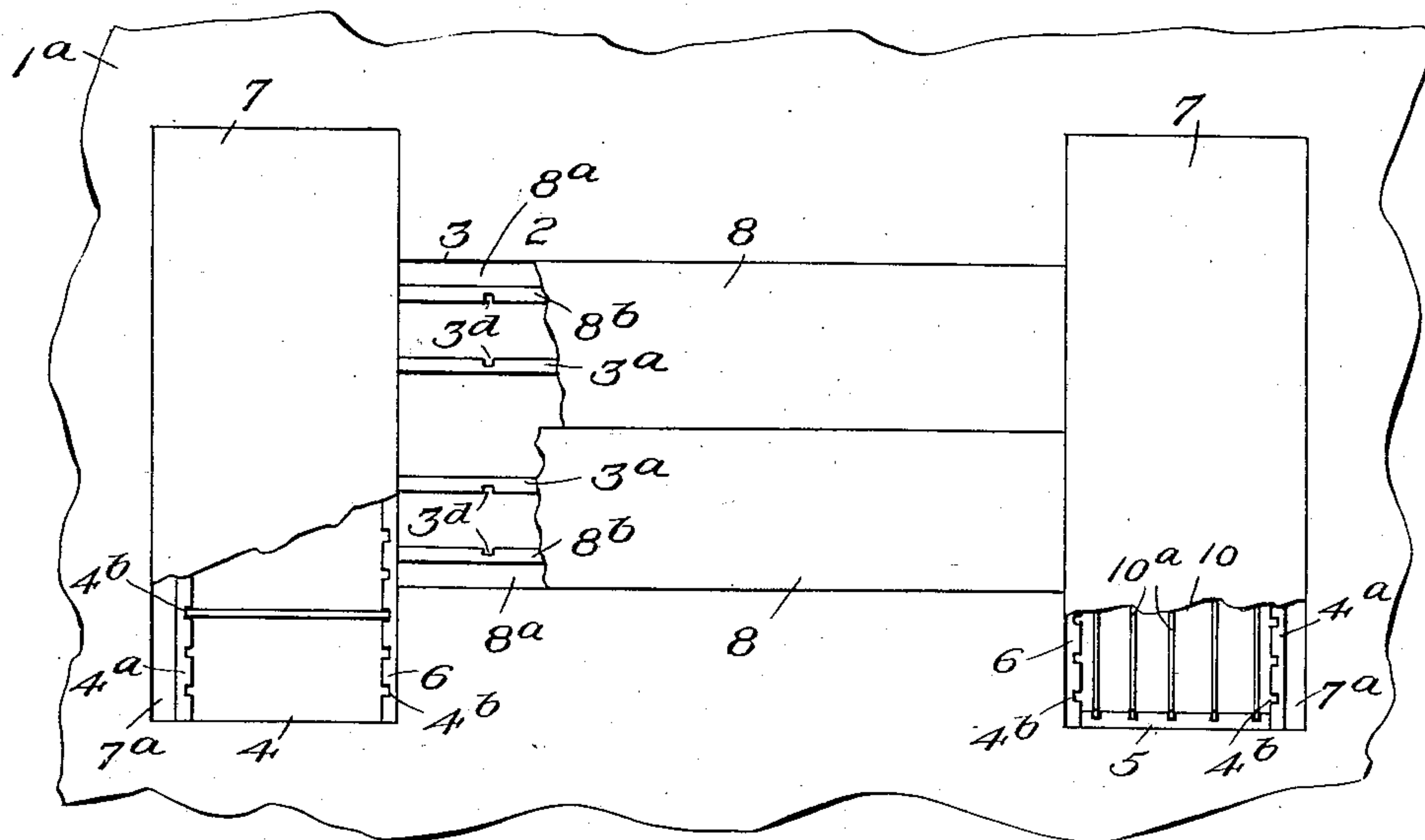


Fig. 4.



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4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 5.

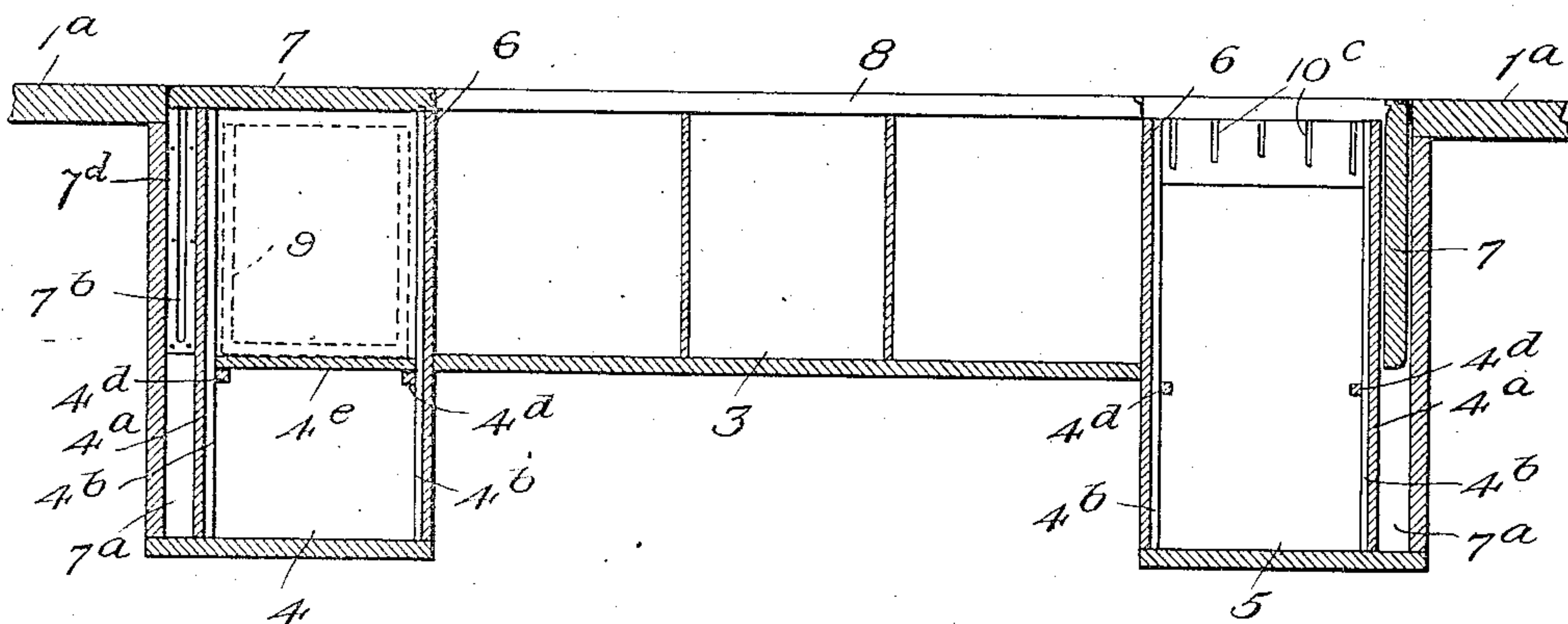


Fig. 6.

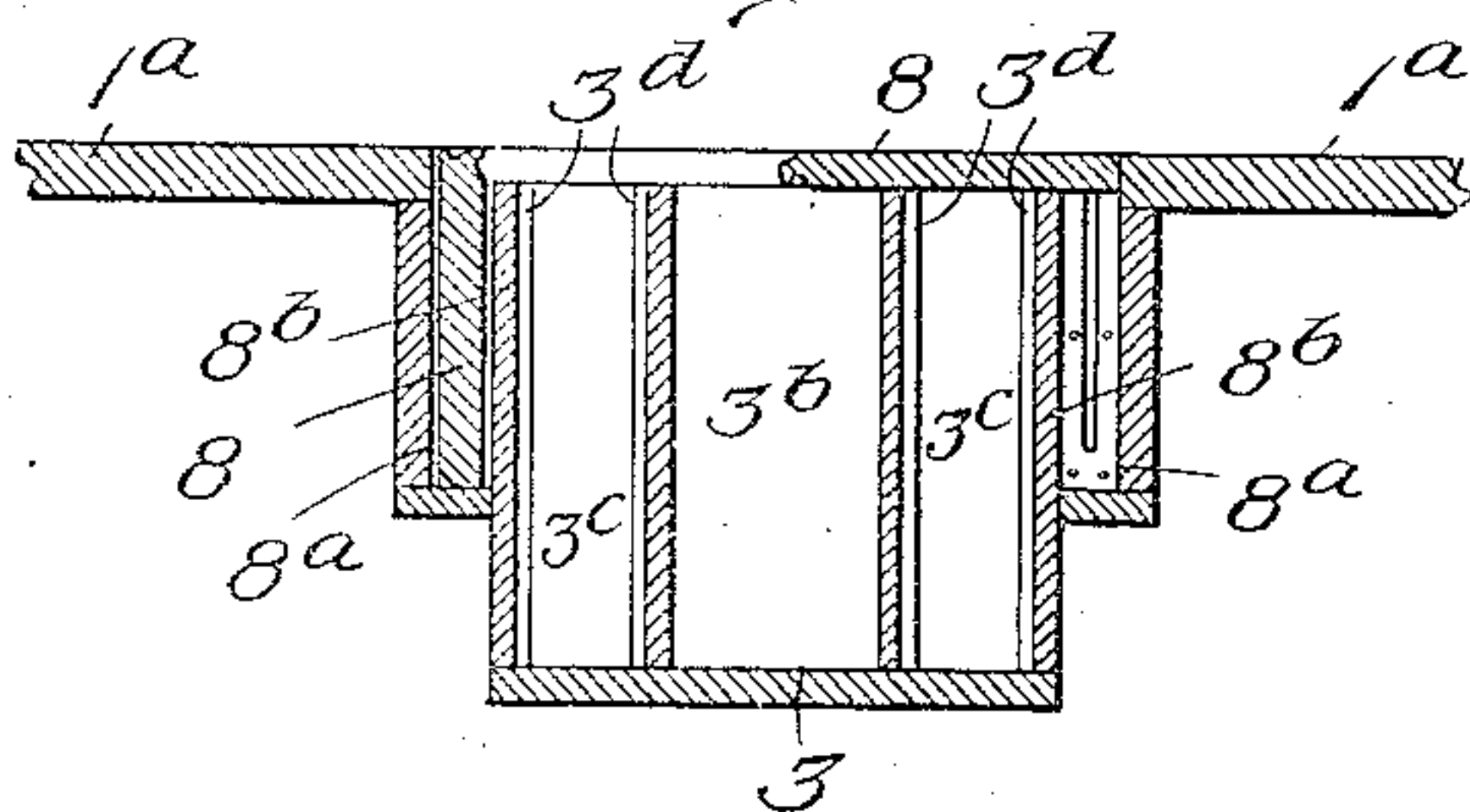


Fig. 7.

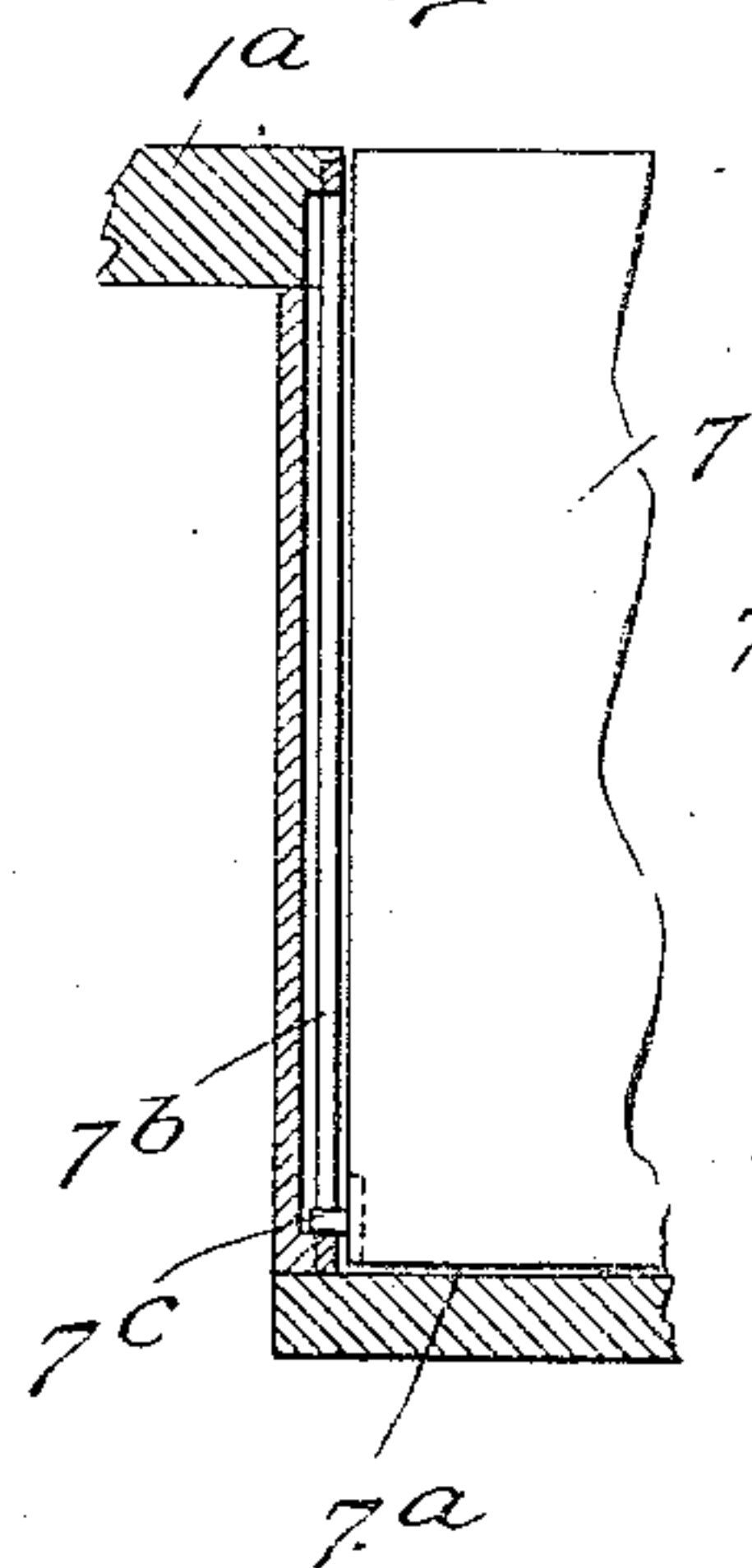


Fig. 9.

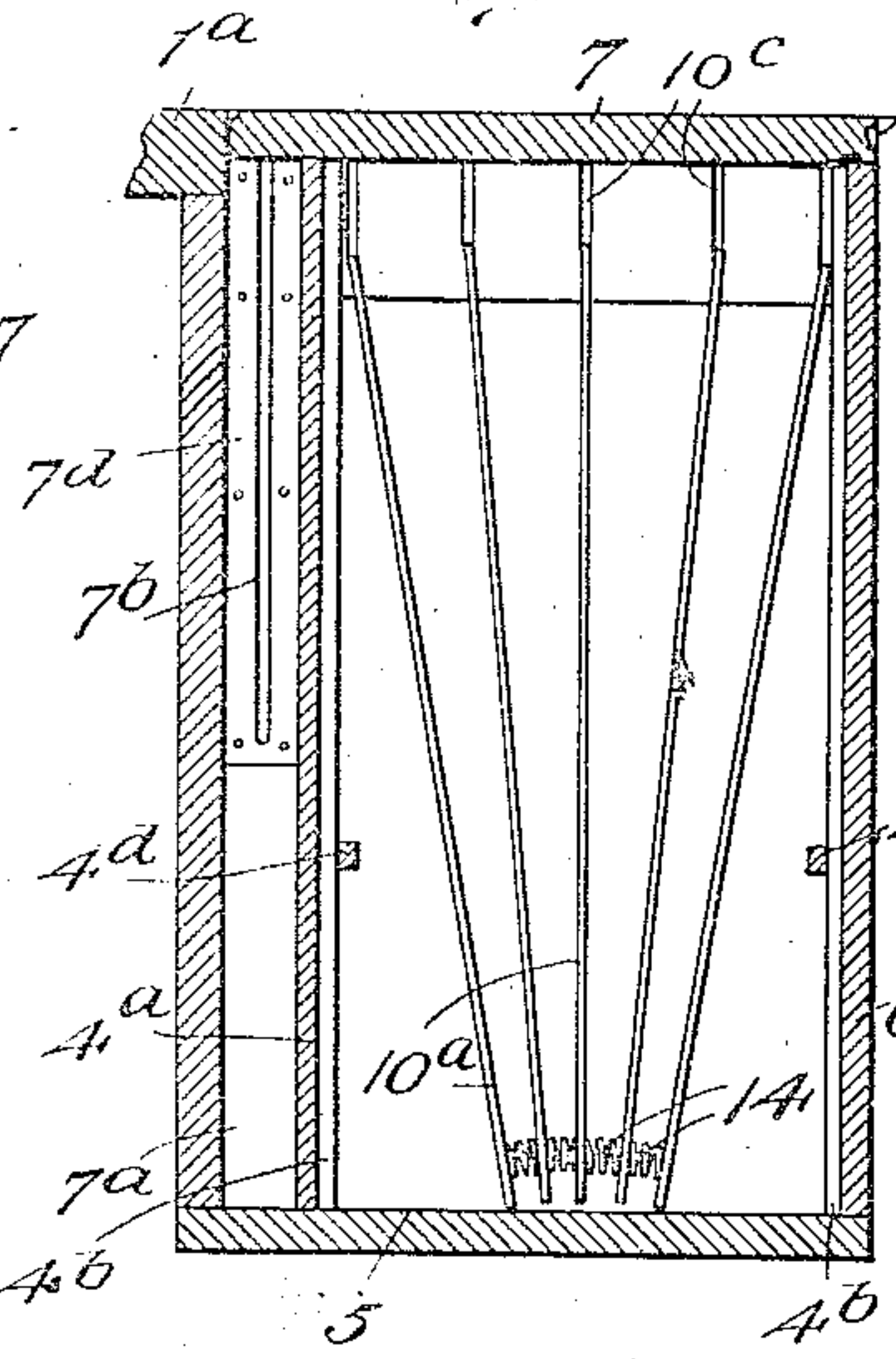
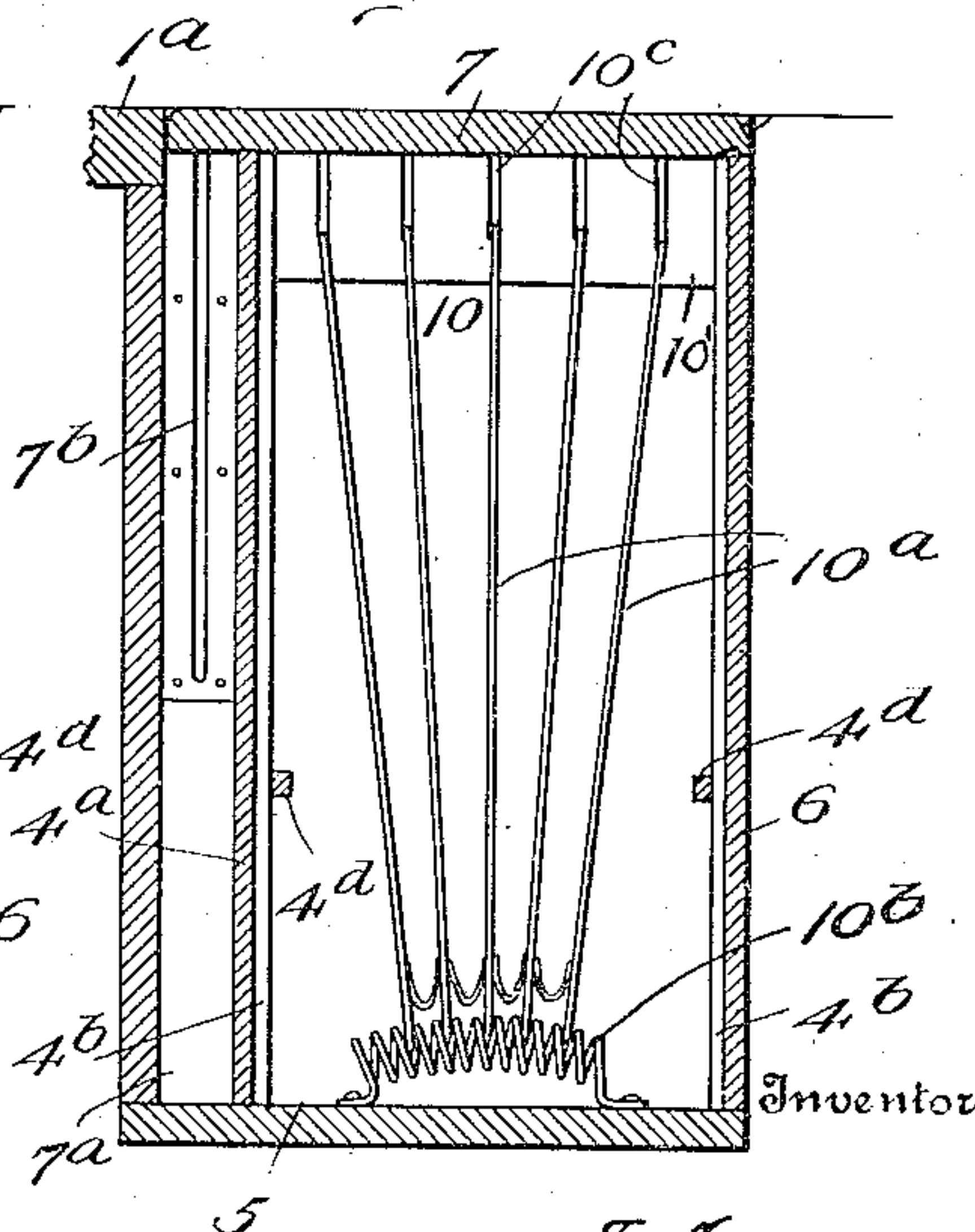


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELLIE E. FEALY, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

DESK.

939,125.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 2, 1909.

Application filed July 2, 1909. Serial No. 505,594.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELLIE E. FEALY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in and Relating to Desks, of which the following is a specification.

Heretofore with flat top desks and particularly in large or double flat top desks many objections have been found in their use on account of the fact that all the office utensils and materials, such as ink-stands, pen and pencil trays or supports, paste bottles, clip boxes, etc., and trays for holding current correspondence and office records, so that they might be in convenient position for use, had to be placed on the desk top, thus leaving little working space and operating as dust collectors and making the desk unsanitary and inconvenient to clean, as well as untidy in appearance.

The object of my invention is to provide a desk having compartments leading from its top surface and preferably arranged within the border thereof, adapted to receive and hold all the materials, such as ink-stands, pens and pencils, etc., and office records and correspondence necessary in the use of the desk, whereby the top thereof may be kept clear of all such materials and articles, records and correspondence, and the work of the person or clerk using the desk facilitated.

Another object of the invention is to provide a desk having sunken compartments leading from its top surface to receive the office materials, records and correspondence, and a cover or covers for said compartments, whereby the said materials, utensils, records and correspondence may be readily closed within the desk out of sight and from dust and dirt and the desk top cleared.

A further object of the invention is to provide a desk having a series of trays along one or both sides thereof and arranged with their upper edges in a plane with or below the top of the said desk.

A further object of the invention consists in arranging a waste basket or tray within one of the side members of the desk and in providing a spring-operated hinged panel

for permitting access to the waste basket or tray within the desk.

Further objects of the invention consist in the combination or combinations of parts, hereinafter shown, described and claimed.

For the purpose of illustration, I have, in the accompanying drawings, shown and herein described one form of desk embodying my invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a desk embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the desk. Figs. 3 and 4 are fragmentary top plan views thereof. Fig. 5 is a sectional view on line 5—5 of Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a section on line 6—6 of Fig. 3. Fig. 7 is a detail view. Fig. 8 is a section on line 8—8 of Fig. 3, looking in the direction of the arrow. Fig. 9 is a sectional view similar to Fig. 8, illustrating a modification of the invention.

In the drawings: 1 indicates a desk, preferably a flat top desk, which may be of any suitable or preferred general construction. The desk is preferably a large or double flat top desk having a top 1^a formed with writing surfaces 1^b, 1^b, and side members 1^c, 1^d.

2 indicates an opening, having a main portion 3, and branch portions 4, 5, at the opposite ends of the main portion 3, formed in the desk top 1^a and preferably arranged centrally therein in order that the desk may be used on opposite sides or as a double desk.

6, 6, indicate plates extending from end to end of each branch portion 4, 5, and across the opposite ends of the main portion 3, so as to divide the opening 2 into three separate compartments which may be designated as a main compartment 3 and side compartments 4, 5.

As shown in the drawings, the plate 6 in each compartment 4, 5, forms a side wall cooperating with a wall 4^a along the opposite side of the said compartment. Preferably the inner faces of the plates 6 and walls 4^a are each provided with a series of aligned grooves 4^b, which are adapted to support one or more dividers 4^c to divide the compartment into spaces of varying sizes to suit the number of cards, records or memoranda which may be filed therein in classified and systematic order.

4^a indicate ribs or projections carried by the opposite side walls and plates of each compartment 4, 5, adapted to form a support or rest for a bottom 4^e, or a tray 9, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 5.

7 indicates a cover for each compartment 4 and 5, provided with means for slidably and pivotally mounting it in the desk. For this purpose, each of the walls 4^a is separated from the adjacent edge of the openings 4 and 5 to form a recess 7^a which receives the cover when access to the compartment is desired. The means for slidably and pivotally mounting the cover preferably comprise vertical grooves 7^b formed in the opposite ends of the recess 7^a, and pins 7^c which are carried by the opposite ends of the covers 7, slidable in said grooves. The compartment 5, Fig. 5, is shown opened and the cover 7 in the recess 7^a. To close the opening, the cover is raised vertically until it is arrested by the pins 7^c engaging the upper end walls of the grooves 7^b, when it is swung down, the pins 7^c acting as pivots, into horizontal position. This position of the cover 7 is shown in Fig. 5, the compartment 4 being closed by its cover 7. When the cover 7 is raised vertically it is stopped by the walls at the upper ends of the grooves 7^b, which walls prevent the detachment of the cover from the desk and cooperate with the pins 7^c to permit the cover to swing downwardly. In order to permit the cover to be placed in position, one end of each recess 7^a may be provided with a removable block 7^d.

The main compartment 3 may be provided with a cover similar to the cover 7 provided for each of the side compartments 4, 5, but on account of the width of this compartment and the arrangement of its spaces, as hereinafter described, I prefer to provide it with two cooperating covers 8, 8, each slidably and pivotally mounted along opposite sides of the compartment 3 in recesses 8^a, formed by the wall plates 8^b, similarly to the covers 7, the said covers being arranged when closed over the said compartment to come together edge to edge, as shown in Fig. 6.

3^a, 3^a, indicate partition plates extending longitudinally from end to end of the compartment 3 and spaced apart to form a centrally arranged sub-compartment 3^b and relatively narrow sub-compartments 3^c on opposite sides of the sub-compartment 3^b. The opposing faces of each of the walls of plates 3^a and 8^b are formed with spaced vertical grooves 3^d, the grooves on one face being aligned with the grooves on the opposing face of an adjacent wall or plate, which aligned grooves are adapted to receive spacing plates 3^e, whereby the said sub-compartments 3^b, 3^c, may each be divided into spaces

to suit the size of the materials and utensils kept therein. The compartment 3^b is relatively large to receive ink-stands, pen-wipers, and pen-holder-supporting devices, a sponge cup and the like, while the sub-compartments 3^c are made relatively narrow to receive pencils, pen-holders, rubber bands, pens, pins, etc.

One or both of the side compartments, 4, 5, may receive and removably hold a tray or filing device 9, such as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 3, or either one or both of said compartments 5, may be provided with a removable letter filing or receiving device 10, which is adapted to receive and hold letters or correspondence in classified order. The letter filing device 10 preferably comprises a series of converging partition plates 10^a, having their lower ends spaced apart and yieldingly supported in the coils of a coiled spring 10^b secured in the bottom of the compartment 5, and having their upper ends pivoted to the end walls of the compartment 5 to permit the lower ends of the plate 10^a to spread apart relatively to each other and adapt themselves to the number of letters filed between them and to allow a person's hand to reach down into the compartment to catch hold of relatively small sized letters or correspondence, such as postal cards, to remove them from the filing device, when they are answered or permanently filed away. The pivoting means for each of the partitions 10^a preferably comprise pins or projections carried by the opposite ends thereof near their upper edges and slidable in grooves 10^c formed in the end walls of the compartment 5, whereby each partition 10^a may be removed. The coil spring is preferably convexed in order that the weight of the partitions 10^a and the correspondence filed between them will tend to compress the said spring. If desired, collapsible bottoms may be provided between the partitions 8^a.

11 indicates a series of trays or receptacles arranged along one side of and secured to the desk in any convenient manner. Preferably the upper edges of the trays or receptacles are on a level with or slightly below the top surface of the said desk. Each of the trays comprises a bottom 11^a and side walls 11^b, the latter being formed with a plurality of relatively wide slots 11^c which extend down to the bottom 11^a to facilitate the thorough cleaning of the trays. As shown in the drawings, I arrange a series of trays 11 along both sides of the desk 1.

12 indicates a compartment formed in the side member 1^d of the desk, adapted to removably hold a waste basket or waste tray 12^a, which may be supported on a bottom 12^b.

13 indicates a panel adapted to be opened whenever it is desired to throw any papers into the waste basket. The panel is mount-

ed on or connected to the side member 1^a of the desk by means of spring hinges 13^a, which normally operate to keep the panel 13 closed. When the panel 13 is swung down into substantially a horizontal position, it may operate as a shelf to support books or other articles, a chain 13^c being provided for holding it in a substantially horizontal position.

10 In Fig. 9 I have illustrated a slight modification of the correspondence-receiving or filing device. Referring to this figure, it will be seen that the lower edges of the partitions 10^a rest upon the bottom of the compartment. In this form of the invention, in order to permit the partitions to yield relatively to each other I provide a separate coiled spring 14 between every partition. The advantage of this construction is that lighter and cheaper springs may be used.

It will thus be seen, by the construction herein described, that the compartments 3, 4, and 5 which receive and hold the office materials, utensils, records, and current correspondence in convenient position for use, are formed in the desk top; that the covers 7 and 8 for the said compartments, when opened, lie below the top of the desk, and when closed, lie in a plane with the desk top fitting snugly the sides of the compartments and operate to form a part of the top for the desk; and that the trays 11 are arranged to one side of and below the top of the desk, these features all coöperating to form a flat top desk which can be kept in tidy condition at all times and cleared of all articles and utensils, as well as facilitating the office work of the person or clerk using the desk, and its cleaning.

40 What I claim is—

1. A flat top desk formed with an opening in its top surface, the said opening having a main portion and a branch portion at either end thereof, plates, one for each branch portion, extending longitudinally thereof and across the opposite ends of the main portion and arranged to divide the said opening into a main compartment and two side compartments, a cover for each compartment, and means for slidably and pivotally supporting each cover in the desk.

2. A flat top desk formed with an opening in its top surface, having a main portion and a branch portion at either end of the said main portion, plates, one for each branch portion, extending longitudinally thereof and across the opposite ends of the said main portion, and arranged to divide the said opening into a main compartment and two side compartments, a wall arranged in each compartment and spaced from one of the sides thereof to form a recess, covers, one for each of said compartments, slidably mounted in said recesses, and means for piv-

oting the said covers near the upper or open ends of the recesses to permit the covers to swing downwardly to close the compartments, the covers when closed serving to form a part of the desk top.

3. A flat top desk having a sunken compartment formed therein, a wall arranged longitudinally within and spaced from one side of the said compartment to form a recess, a cover pivoted to the said desk at the upper end of said recess and arranged to slide vertically therein, and a correspondence-receiving and filing device mounted in said compartment, comprising a series of partition plates, means for pivotally supporting the upper ends of said plates, and means for movably supporting the lower ends of said plates relatively to each other.

4. A flat top desk having a sunken compartment formed therein, a wall arranged longitudinally within and spaced from one side of the said compartment to form a recess, a cover pivoted to the said desk at the upper end of said recess and arranged to slide vertically therein, and a correspondence-receiving and filing device mounted in said compartment, comprising a series of partition plates, means for pivotally supporting the upper ends of said plates, and means for yieldingly supporting the lower ends of said plates relatively to each other.

5. A flat top desk having a sunken compartment formed therein, a wall arranged longitudinally within and spaced from one side of the said compartment to form a recess, a cover pivoted to the said desk at the upper end of said recess and arranged to slide vertically therein, and a correspondence-receiving and filing device mounted in said compartment, comprising a series of converging partition plates, means for pivotally supporting the upper ends of said plates, and means for movably supporting the lower ends of said plates relatively to each other.

6. A flat top desk having a sunken compartment formed therein, a wall arranged longitudinally within and spaced from one side of the said compartment to form a recess, a cover pivoted to the said desk at the upper end of said recess and arranged to slide vertically therein, and a correspondence-receiving and filing device mounted in said compartment, comprising a series of partition plates, means for pivotally supporting the upper ends of said plates, and a coiled spring extending across the bottom of said compartment and slightly convexed and arranged to yieldingly support between its coils in spaced position, the lower ends of the said partition plates, whereby the latter may be moved relative to each other.

7. A desk having side members, one of said side members being provided with a

compartment, a waste basket or tray mounted in said compartment, and a panel in the front of said side member mounted on horizontal hinges to permit access to said waste
5 basket.

8. A desk having side members, one of said side members being provided with a compartment, a waste basket or tray mounted in said compartment, a panel in the front
10 of said side member mounted on horizontal

hinges to permit access to said waste basket, and means for supporting the said panel in horizontal position, whereby it may be used as a shelf or support.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, 15
in the presence of two witnesses.

NELLIE E. FEALY.

Witnesses:

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GEO. B. PITTS.