

M. GUETT.
ELECTRIC SWITCH.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1906.

943,016.

Patented Dec. 14, 1909.

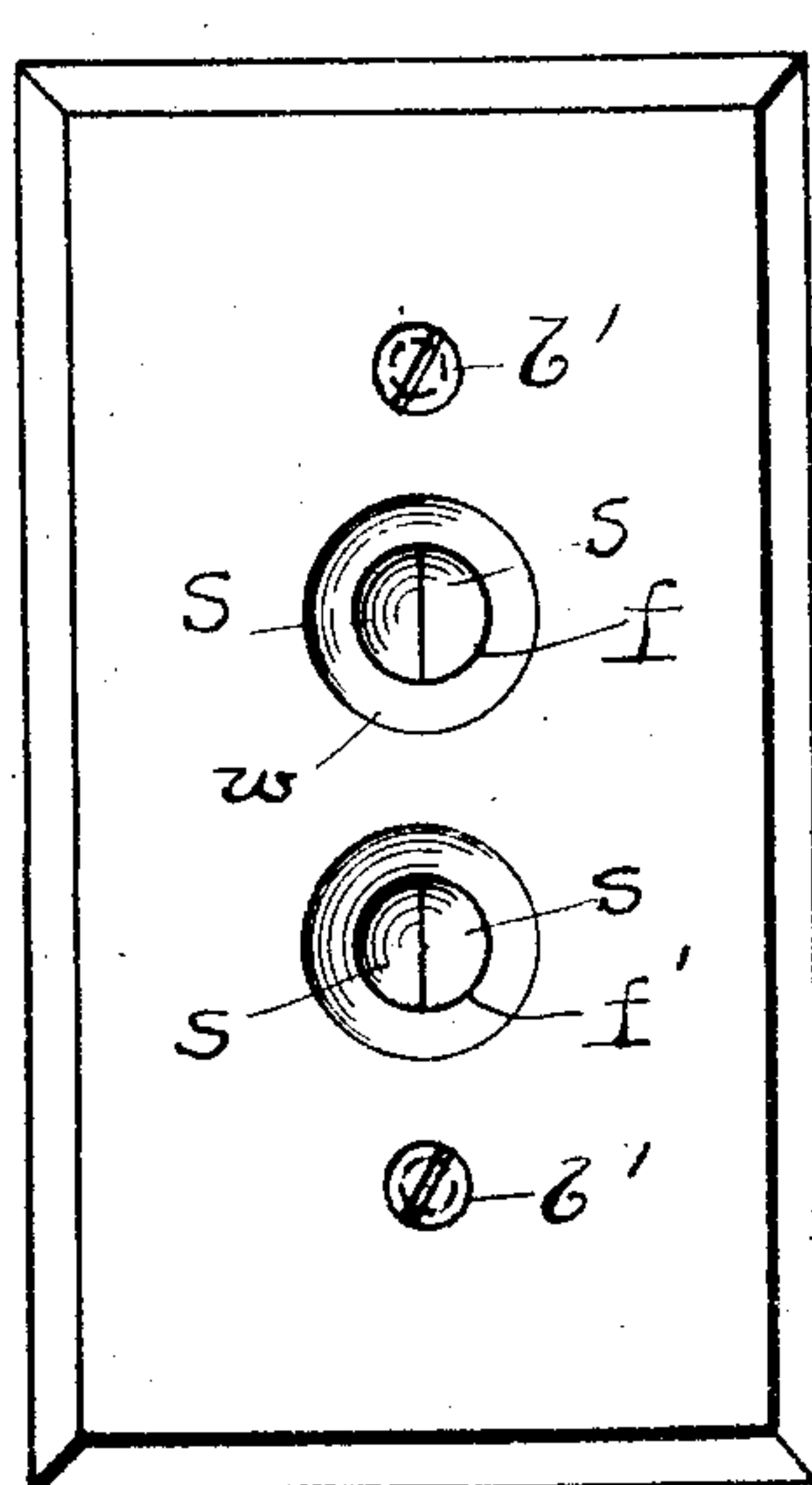


Fig. 1.

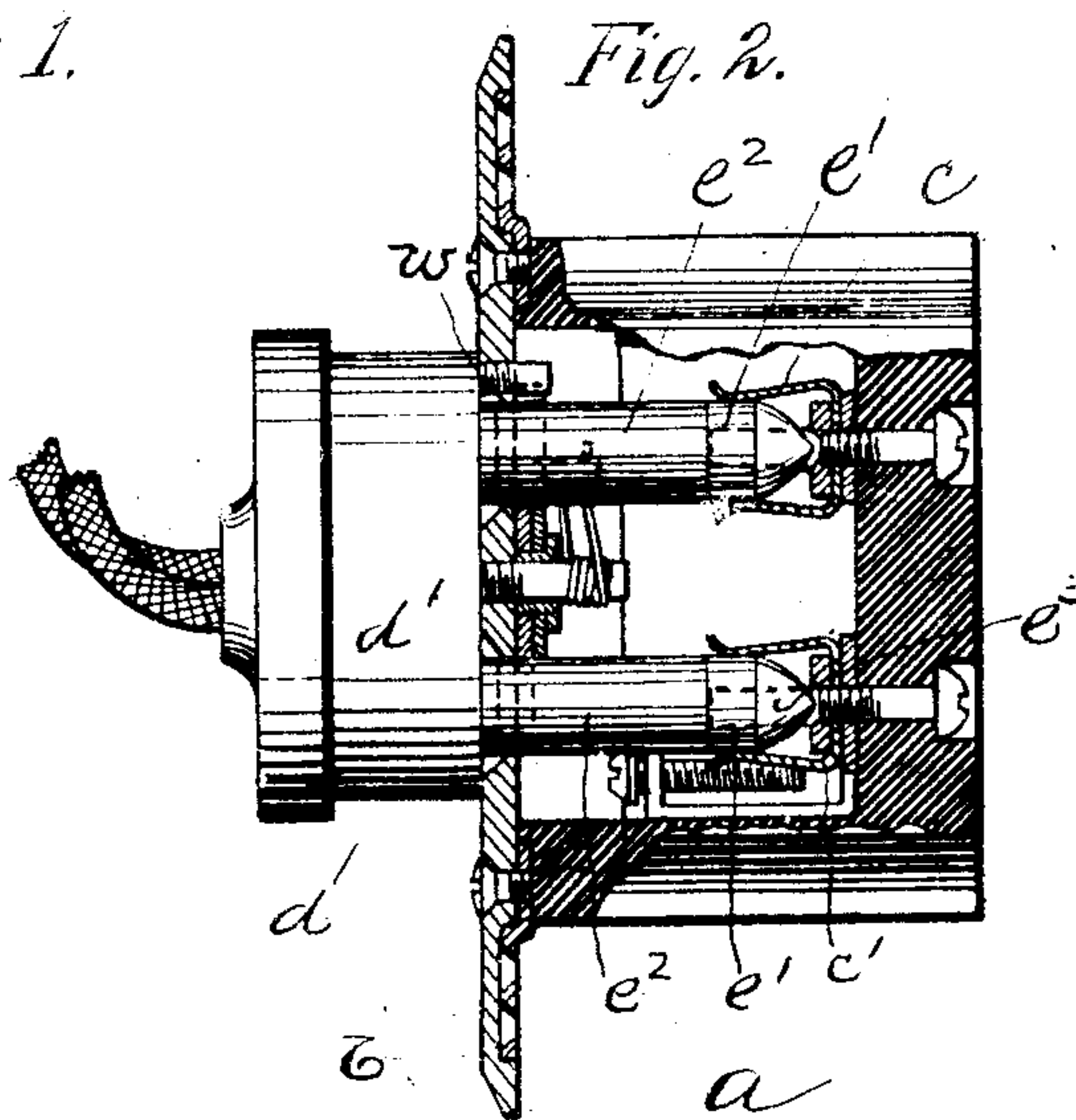


Fig. 2.

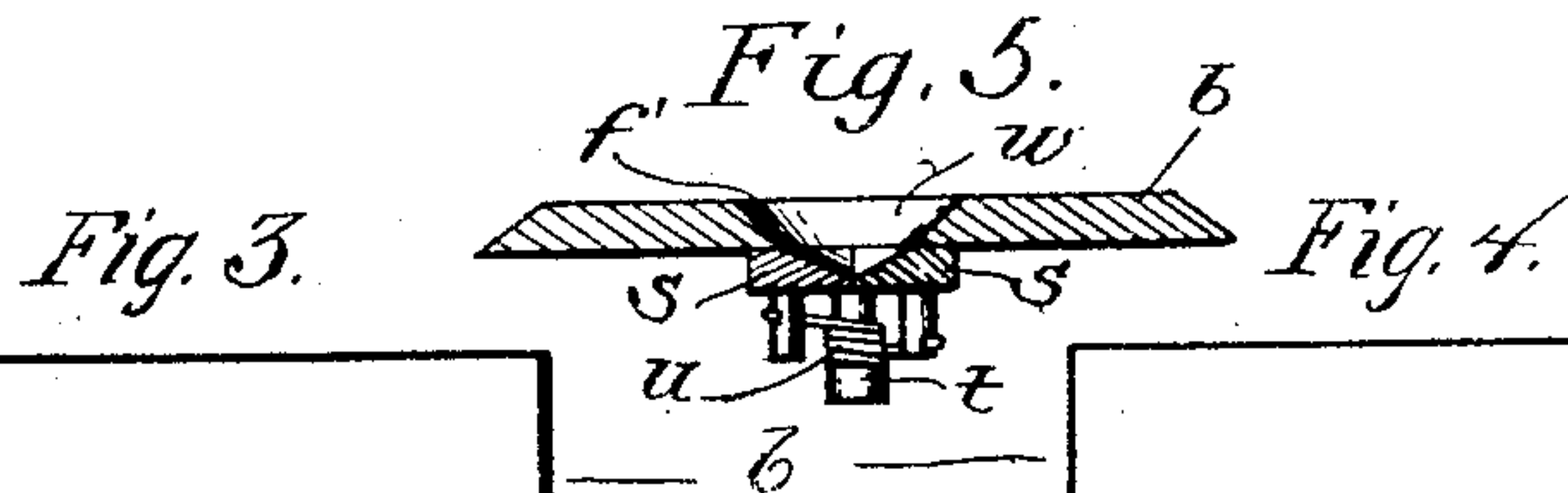


Fig. 3.

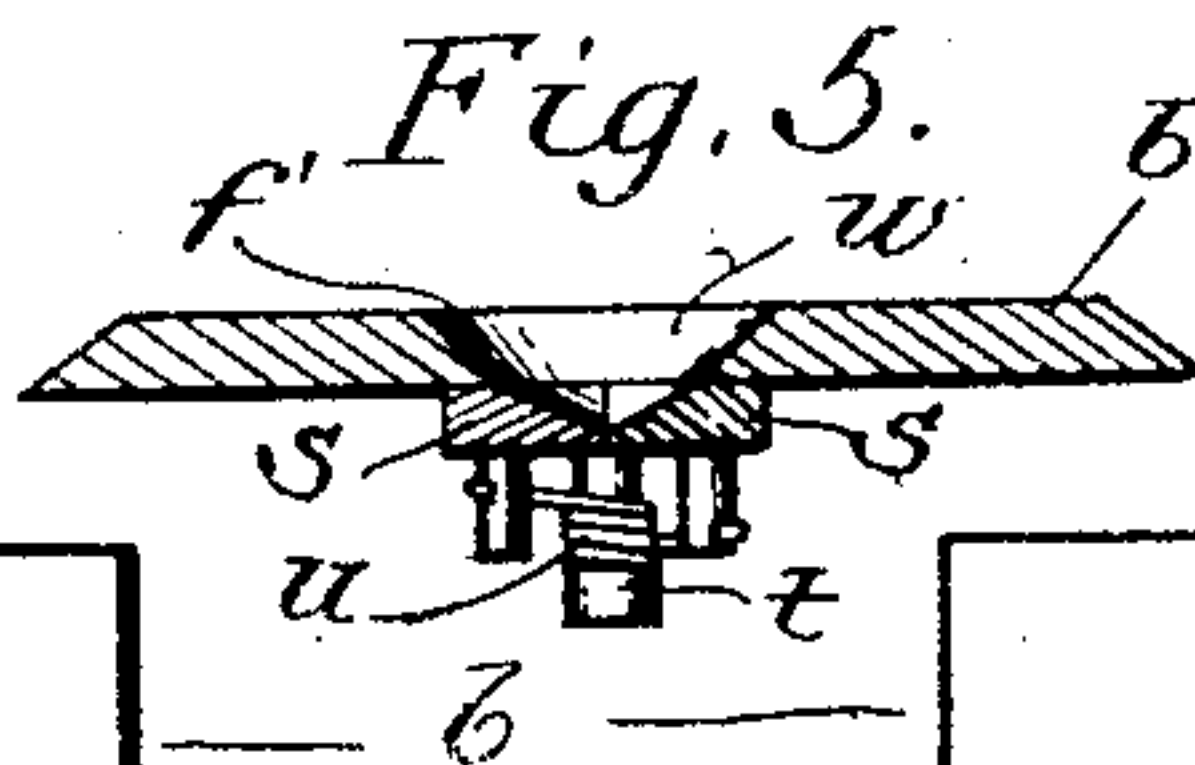
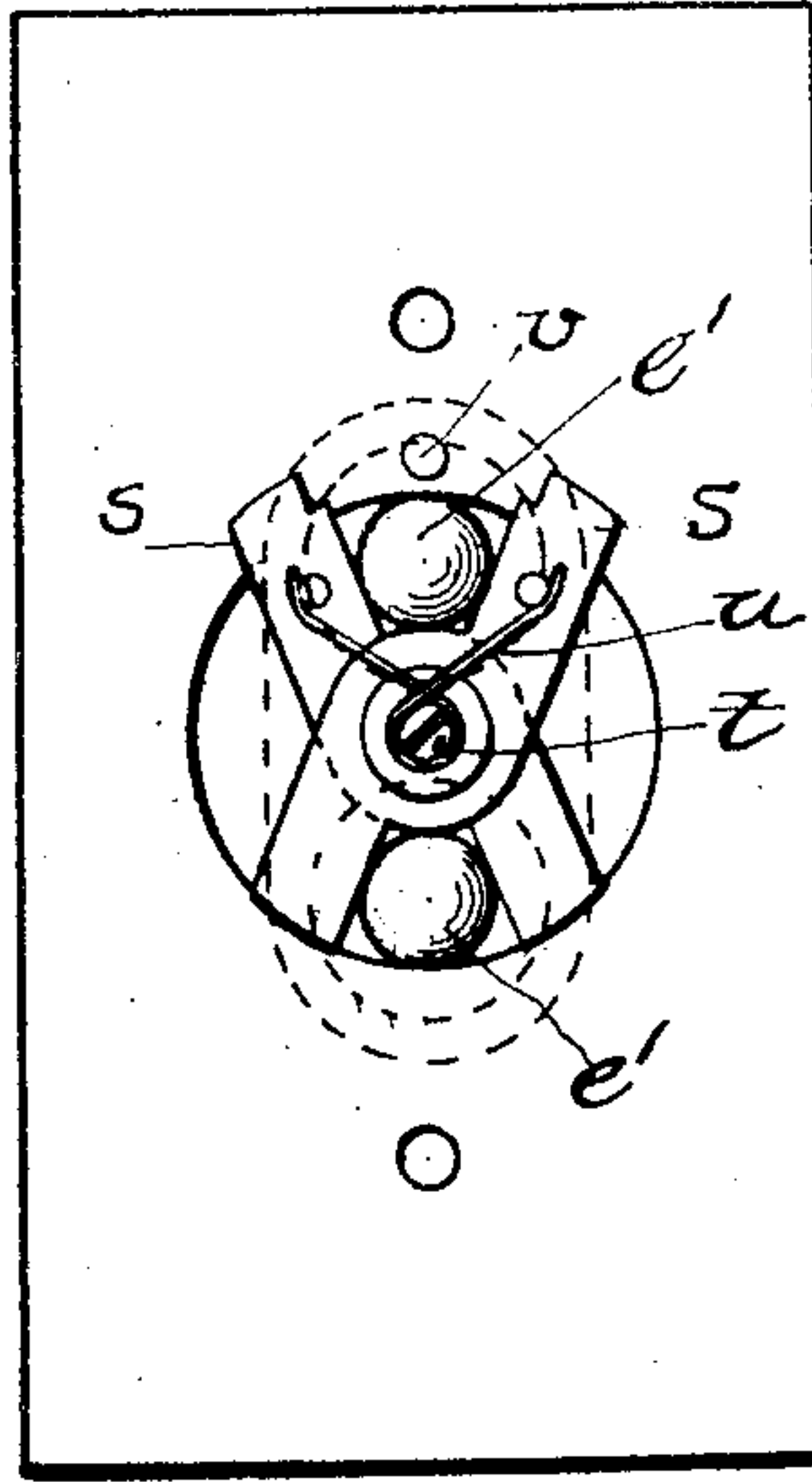
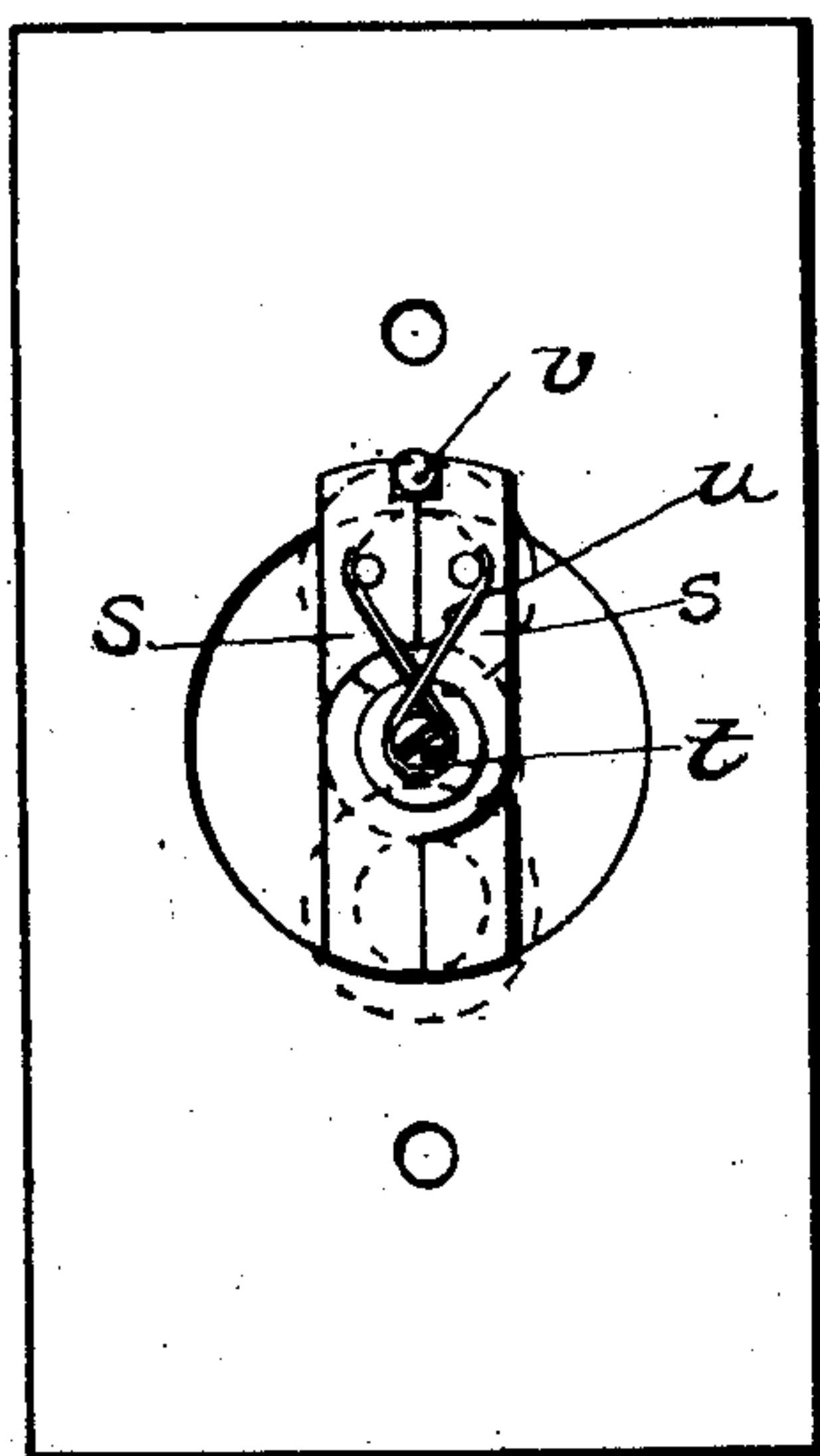


Fig. 4.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MONROE GUETT, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO THE HART & HEGEMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF CONNECTICUT.

ELECTRIC SWITCH.

943,016.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MONROE GUETT, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electric Switches, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to electrical apparatus, particularly to what are known as "plug cut outs." These devices comprise a box or receptacle in which are located spring contacts and into which a plug is inserted, this plug carrying contacts for coöperation with those in the receptacle. They are used for the purpose of cutting a lamp or other electric fixture into an electric circuit, the receptacles being installed at the desired places. In the drawings a plug having two contact fingers is illustrated. These fingers are introduced into the receptacle through apertures in the face plate.

The particular object of the invention is to provide means for closing these apertures in the face plate when the plug is withdrawn and so constructing the closing devices that the act of inserting the plug will open them.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a general front view of a plug receptacle as it appears when installed. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same with parts broken away to show construction. Fig. 3 is a rear view of this plate showing the shutters in closed position. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 3 showing the shutters in open position with the plugs inserted. Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view of the face plate through one of the apertures *f*.

In ordinary use the receptacle *a* is mounted in a recess in the wall or floor or wherever desired and is covered by an ornamental face plate *b* which is secured to the receptacle as by the screws *b'*. Within the receptacle are secured contacts *c c'* adapted to receive the plug. The plug *d* is equipped with the two contact fingers *e' e'*. These fingers are surrounded by insulation *e²*, except at their ends in order to avoid a short circuit at the face plate, and are connected with the line wires at the interior of the body part *d'*. The face plate has apertures *f f'* in alignment with the contacts *c c'* in the receptacle. The contact fingers on the plug are passed through the apertures *f f'* and forced

into electrical connection with the contacts in the receptacle to carry the current out to the light or other device to which the plug is attached.

It is important that the apertures in the face plate shall be closed when the plug is removed as these receptacles are very often placed in the floor and become very quickly clogged with dirt which might either short-circuit the switch or hinder the plug in making a good contact. I accomplish this result by mounting a pair of shutter plates *s s* on a common pivot *t* at the rear of the face plate, providing a spring *u* to force the plates toward one another and a stop *v* to cause the plates to meet at about the central line of the apertures; these apertures are countersunk as are the contiguous edges of the shutter plates lying immediately below the apertures, as clearly indicated at *w*. The points of the plug fingers are conical as seen at *e³*. When the plug is to be inserted in the receptacle the fingers are pushed through the apertures causing the shutter plates to separate, as shown in Fig. 4, and permitting the passage of the fingers down into the receptacle. Upon the withdrawal of the plug the spring *u* returns the shutters to normal position closing the apertures.

I am aware that a number of shutter devices have been designed having in view the general object of my invention but it is to be noted in respect of my device that the presence of these shutters in no way alters the manipulation of the plug from what it would be if the shutters were not present and that the constructions of the plug and the receptacle are not changed from what they would be if the shutters were not present.

I claim as my invention:

1. A face plate for plug receptacles and the like having separate apertures, a pair of shutter plates pivotally supported on a common axis between said apertures, each plate including two members movable transversely of and adapted to partly close said apertures, and means for normally causing said plates to close said apertures, substantially as described.

2. In an electric switch the receptacle, contacts therein, a face plate having separate apertures in alinement with said contacts, a plug, and separate contact fingers

adapted to pass through said apertures and engage said contacts, and a pair of shutter plates located underneath the surface of said face plate and movable transversely of said
5 apertures, a common pivotal support for said shutter plates located at a point between said apertures, and means for normally moving the end of one shutter plate toward the end of the other shutter plate

to close said apertures, substantially as described. 10

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

MONROE GUETT.

Witnesses:

H. E. HART,

K. I. KIENNENDAILL.