

W. B. HUGHES.  
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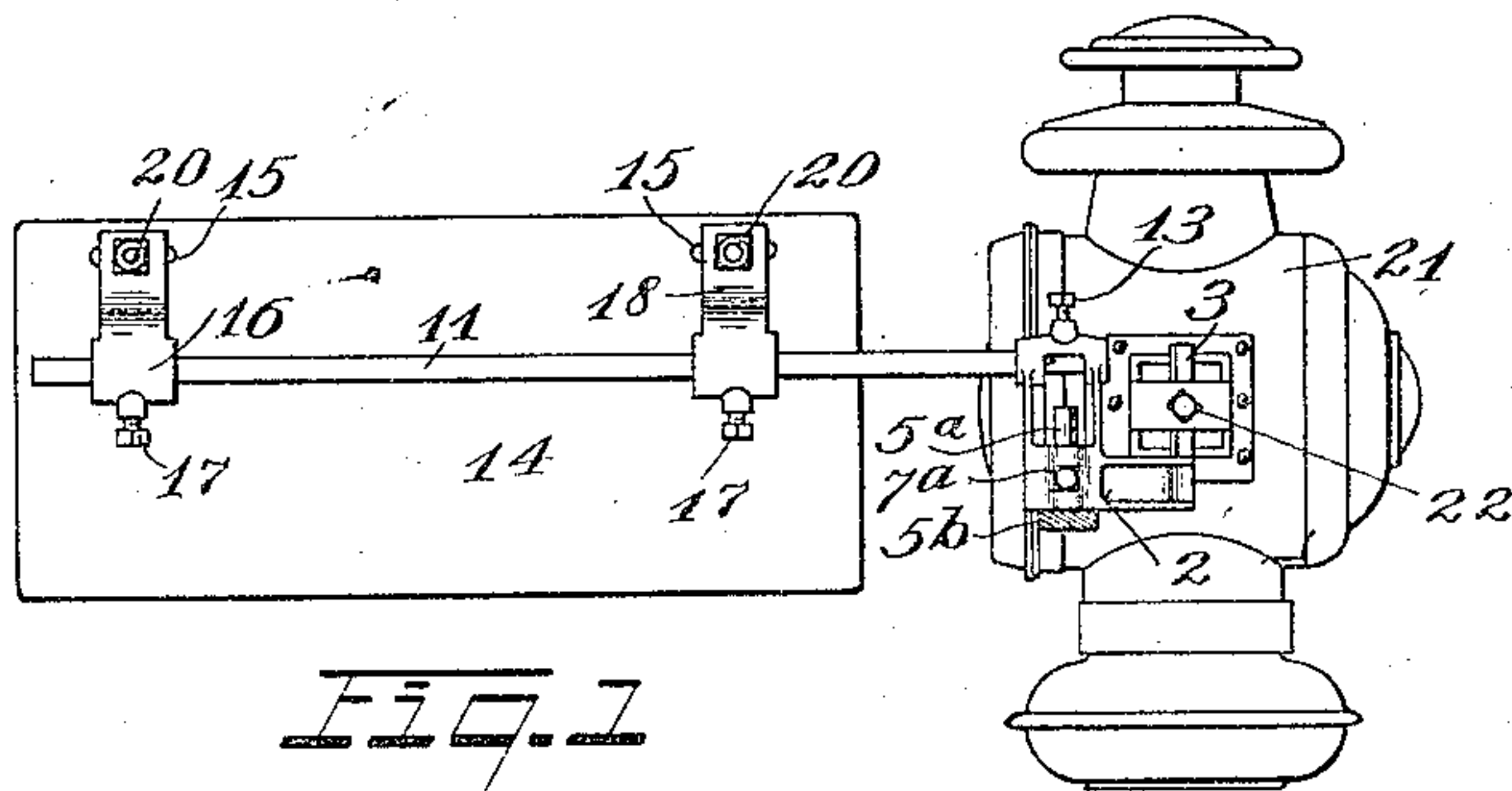


Fig. 1

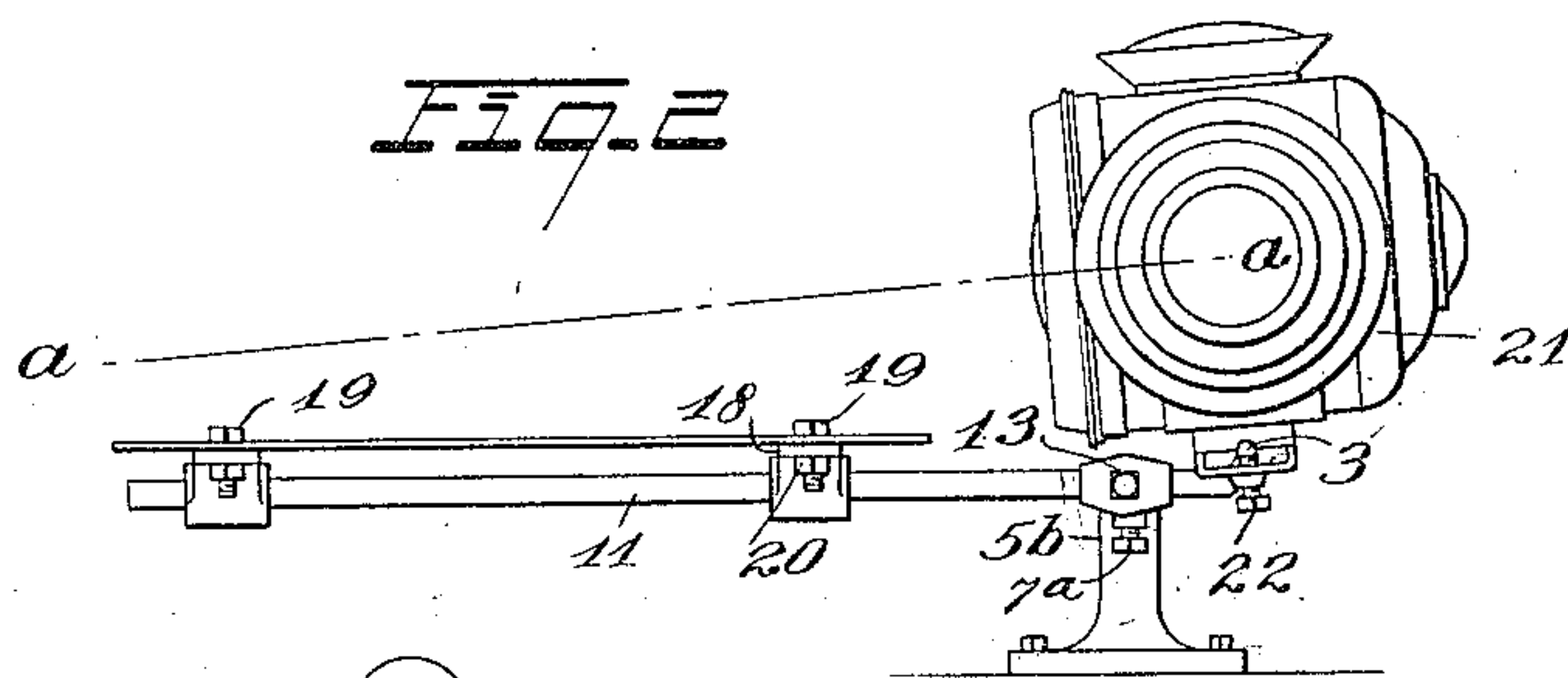


Fig. 2

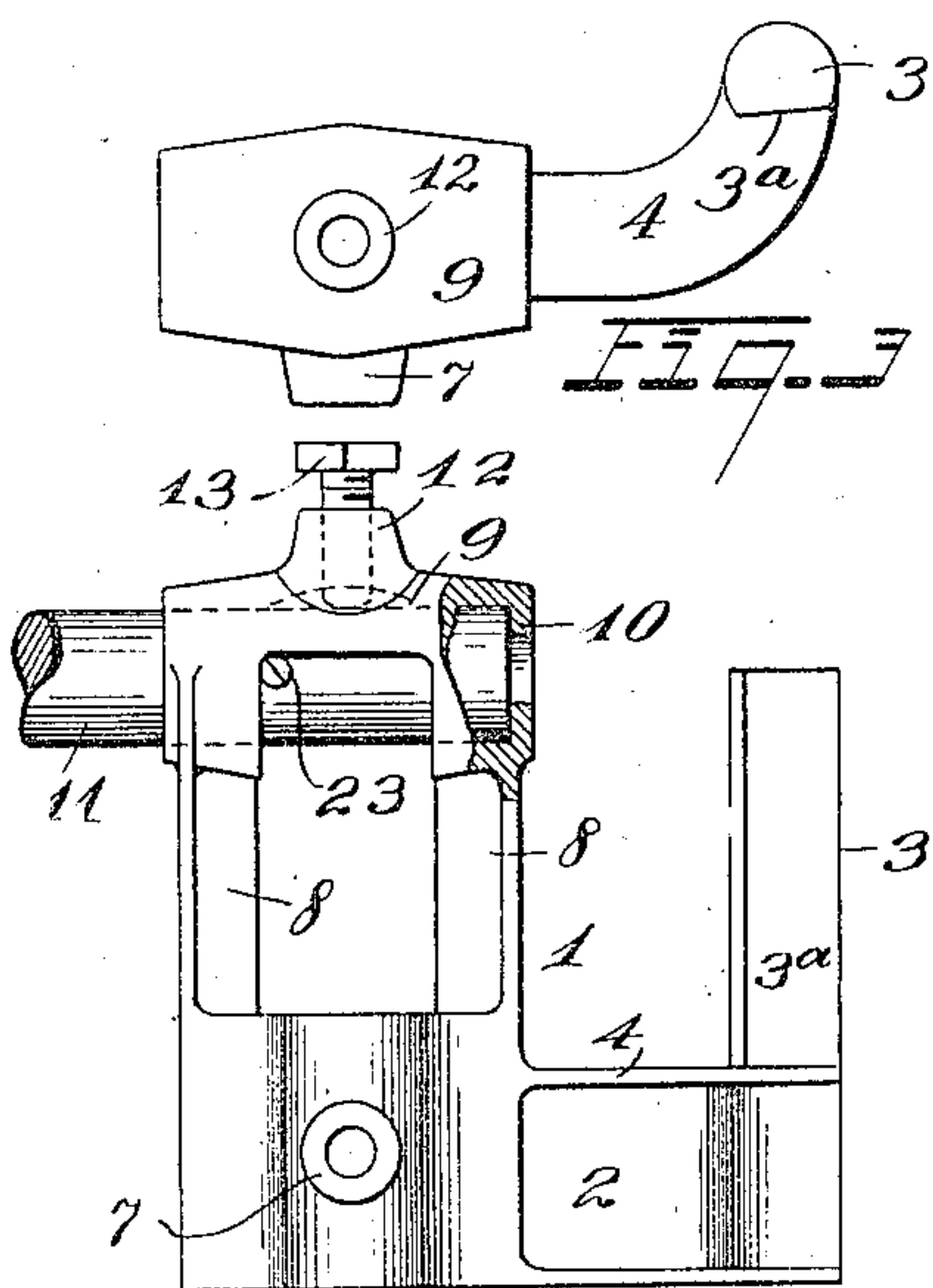


Fig. 4

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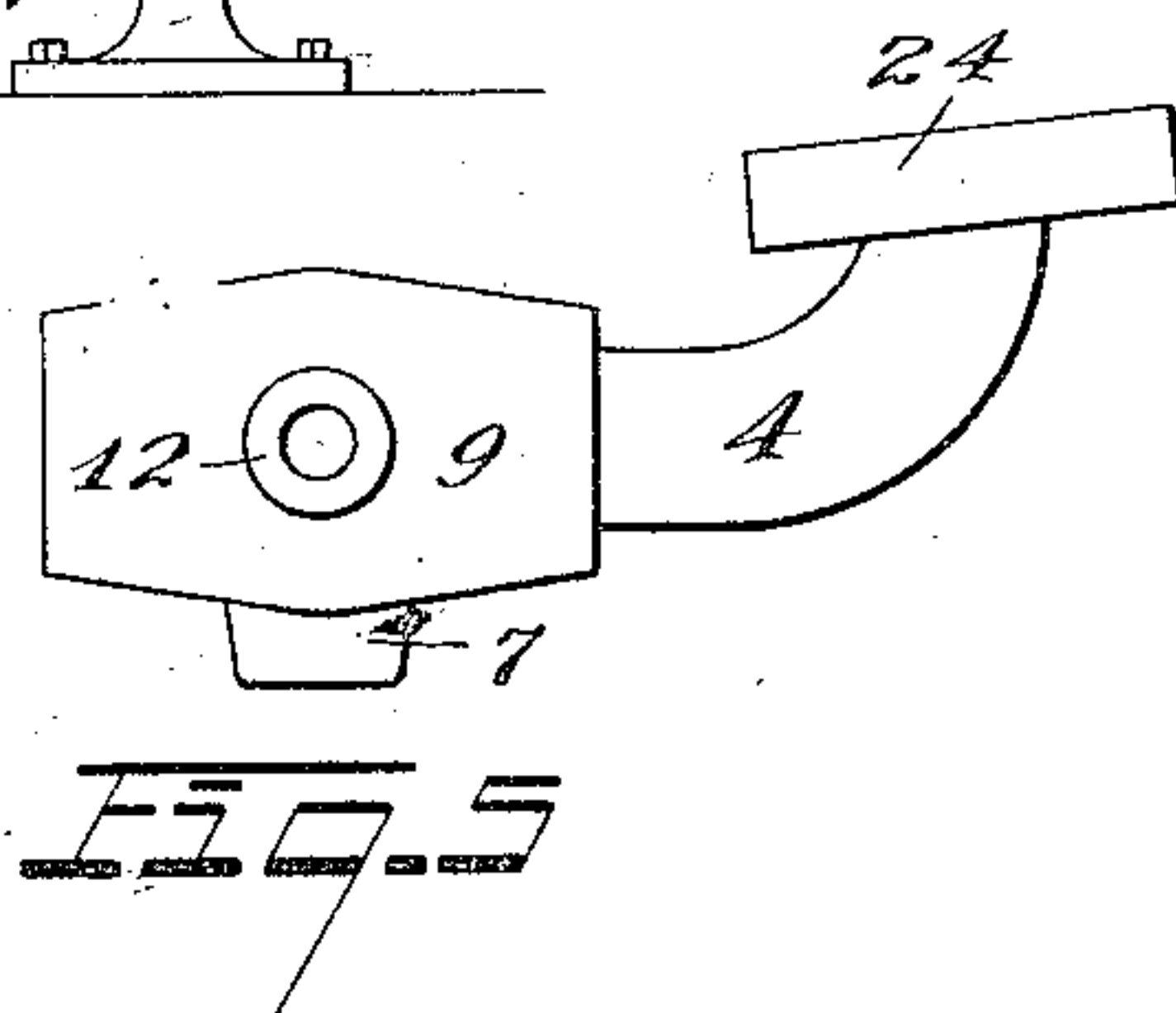


Fig. 5

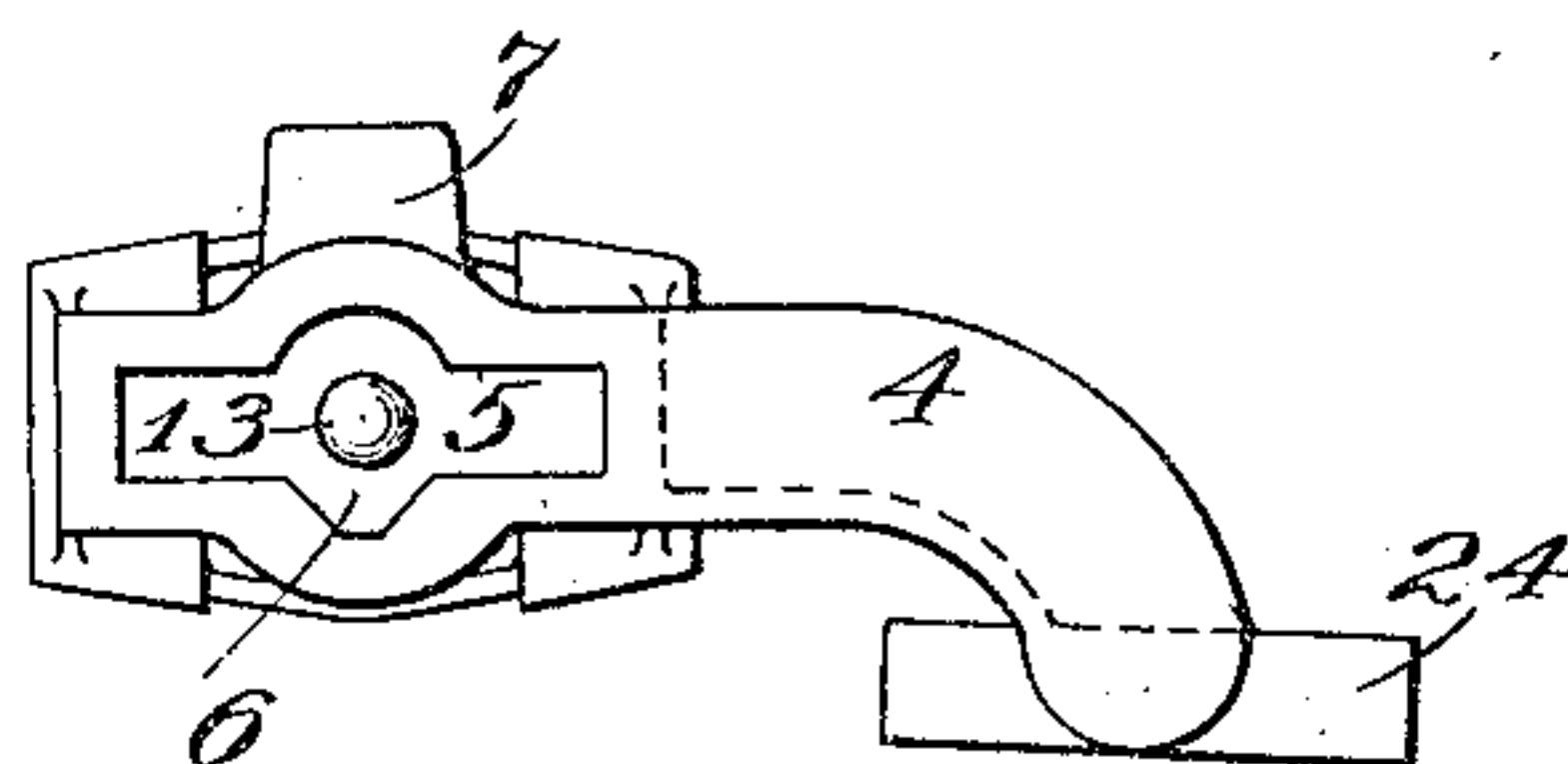


Fig. 6

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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NUMBER-PLATE SUPPORT FOR VEHICLES.

962,221.

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Application filed July 10, 1909. Serial No. 506,885.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM B. HUGHES, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Number-Plate Supports for Vehicles, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to devices, such as brackets, for supporting number or license plates that are carried by automobiles.

The general objects of the invention are to provide a bracket or support of this kind which, while comparatively inexpensive of production, is of great adaptability, whereby it may be applied to various styles of carriers or supports with which vehicles are provided and which will insure efficient illumination of the plates by the lamps.

Generally speaking, the invention may be defined as consisting of the combinations of elements embodied in the claims hereto annexed and illustrated in the drawings forming part hereof, wherein—

Figure 1 represents an elevation of my bracket, showing the lamp and number plate thereon; Fig. 2 represents a top plan view of the parts shown in Fig. 1; Fig. 3 represents a plan view, and Fig. 4 an elevation of the bracket shown in the preceding figures; Fig. 5 represents a top plan view, and Fig. 6 a bottom plan view of the bracket, showing a modified form of lamp post.

Describing the parts by reference characters, 1 denotes the bracket generally, the same comprising a base 2 provided at one end with a socket adapted for application to a plurality of supports and a socket for the license or number plate carrier and having at the opposite end a post for the lamp.

The post is designated at 3 and is carried at the end of a member 4 of the base, which is shown as curved whereby the post is offset with respect to the remainder of the base, enabling the lamp to be carried in a position such as will enable it to properly illuminate the number plate. The post 3 is nearly circular, but is provided with a face 3<sup>a</sup>. This face is flat and lies in a plane which forms an angle with a plane passing through the axis of the number plate socket. The purpose of this construction of post will be explained hereinafter.

The end of the base opposite the post 3 is

provided at its lower portion with a double socket. This socket comprises a slot 5 having a transverse enlargement at its central portion as shown at 6. The slot 5 is adapted to receive either a flat or rounded post 5<sup>a</sup> projecting upwardly from the lamp-supporting arm which is usually carried by the vehicle. The rounded post is shown in Fig. 1. The transverse enlargement 6 at the central portion of the slot is for the reception of the rounded post, which may be carried by said arm instead of a flat or elongated plate. The transverse enlargement comprises two oppositely located notches, one of which is rounded and the other angular. From the side of the socket containing the rounded notch, there projects a boss 7, the boss being threaded for the reception of a set screw 7<sup>a</sup> which is adapted to engage either the elongated plate or the rounded post, to retain the bracket in place on the arm 5<sup>b</sup>. From opposite sides of the vertical socket just described there project upwardly two arms 8 and these arms carry at their upper ends a horizontal socket 9. The end of the horizontal socket which is adjacent to the post 3 is provided with an inwardly projecting flange 10 which forms a stop for the inner end of a rod 11. The socket 9 is provided with an internally threaded boss 12 for the reception of a set screw 13 by means of which the rod 11 is held in place in said socket.

14 denotes the number plate, the same being of any standard type and being shown as provided with a pair of elongated slots 15 beneath the upper edge thereof. This plate is supported from the rod 11 by means of a pair of socket members 16, which are sleeved upon the rod and are each provided with a set screw 17 by means of which they may be clamped securely on the rod. Each of the socket members is provided with a projection 18 having an elongated face adapted to bear against and conform in shape to the rear side of the number plate (the term "rear" being here employed to indicate the side of the plate which is opposite the number-bearing side). The upper end of each projection 18 is provided with a bore for the reception of a bolt 19, said bolt having a head adapted to bear against the front of the plate and being provided with a nut 20 by means of which the plate may be securely clamped to the elongated face of the socket member.



21 denotes a lamp, of any approved type, which is shown as mounted upon the post 3, being secured thereto by means of a set screw 22, which bears against the flattened face 3<sup>a</sup> of said post. By the curvature of the arm 4, the lamp is offset from the number-plate socket, enabling it to be supported in proper position to illuminate the number plate. At the same time, the inclination given to the face 3<sup>a</sup> insures the directing of the rays of light against the plate in such manner as to effectively illuminate the same, as will appear more particularly by reference to the line *a-a* of Fig. 2, which line represents the direction of the rays of light emitted by the lamp.

It will be observed that the point at which the bracket is supported is intermediate between the number plate and the rod 14 on one side and the lamp 21 on the other side. By this construction the lamp and plate serve to balance each other, thereby relieving the parts of the bracket from unnecessary strain.

By reference to Fig. 4 it will be seen that the rod 11 engages opposite ends of the socket 9 and is retained in place therein by the set screw 13. This set screw is for the purpose of preventing rattling of the rod 11 in the socket, the displacement of such rod, both rotarily and longitudinally, being prevented by means of a cotter pin 23 and flange 10. The socket 9 is cut out at its lower central portion to provide a recess or opening in the body thereof, and the cotter pin extends through the rod 11 and engages the corners, at opposite sides of the bracket, which are formed between the vertical and horizontal solid portions of the socket which bound in the cut-out portion. The pin 23 and flange 10 prevent longitudinal movement of the rod and the cotter pin prevents rotation of the rod by reason of its engagement with the corners referred to.

In Figs. 5 and 6 there is shown a modification of the invention illustrated in the preceding figures, differing therefrom only in the substitution of a flat post or plate 24 for the rounded post 3, the purpose of such substitution being to enable the bracket to be used with a lamp having a corresponding socket. The plate or post 24 has both faces thereof inclined with respect to the axis of the socket 9, in the same manner that the face 3<sup>a</sup> of post 3 is inclined with respect to such socket. In all other respects, the bracket shown in Figs. 5 and 6 is identical with that shown in the preceding figures.

It will be observed that the socket members 16 are adjustable, both longitudinally and rotarily, with respect to the rod 11. This accommodates my device for various styles and lengths of plates and also enables the plates to be tilted at the most effective angle with respect to the lamp for illumina-

tion and inspection. Furthermore, the construction of the socket 9, including the flange 10 and the recess in the under portion thereof cooperating with the cotter pin 23 provides an efficient support for the rod 11, whereby said rod may be clamped securely in place and held against displacement.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having at one end thereof a vertically extending socket and a horizontal socket above the first-mentioned socket and having at its opposite end a lamp-supporting post having a face inclined with respect to the axis of the horizontal socket.

2. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having a number-plate support and having a lamp-supporting post provided with a face inclined with respect to the number plate support.

3. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having at one end thereof a lamp-supporting post and at its other end a rod-supporting socket, said post being offset with respect to said socket and having a face converging toward the axis of said socket, a lamp having a socket for said post, and a set screw securing said lamp to said post and bearing against said face.

4. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having a lamp-supporting member and a socket having a recess, a rod mounted in said socket, and a pin extending across said recess and through said rod.

5. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having a lamp-supporting member and a socket, a rod mounted in said socket, said socket having an opening in the body thereof, and a pin extending through said rod and said opening.

6. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having a lamp-supporting member and a socket, a rod mounted in said socket, said socket having an opening in the body thereof bounded on opposite sides by walls forming an angle with each other, and a pin extending through said rod and engaging the angles at opposite sides of the socket.

7. A device of the character set forth comprising a base having a lamp-supporting member and a socket, a rod mounted in said socket, said socket having an opening extending transversely of the body thereof, a pin extending through said rod and said opening, said socket having a stop adjacent one end thereof to limit the movement of the rod therein.

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

WILLIAM B. HUGHES.

Witnesses:

J. B. HULL,  
BRENNAN B. WEST.