

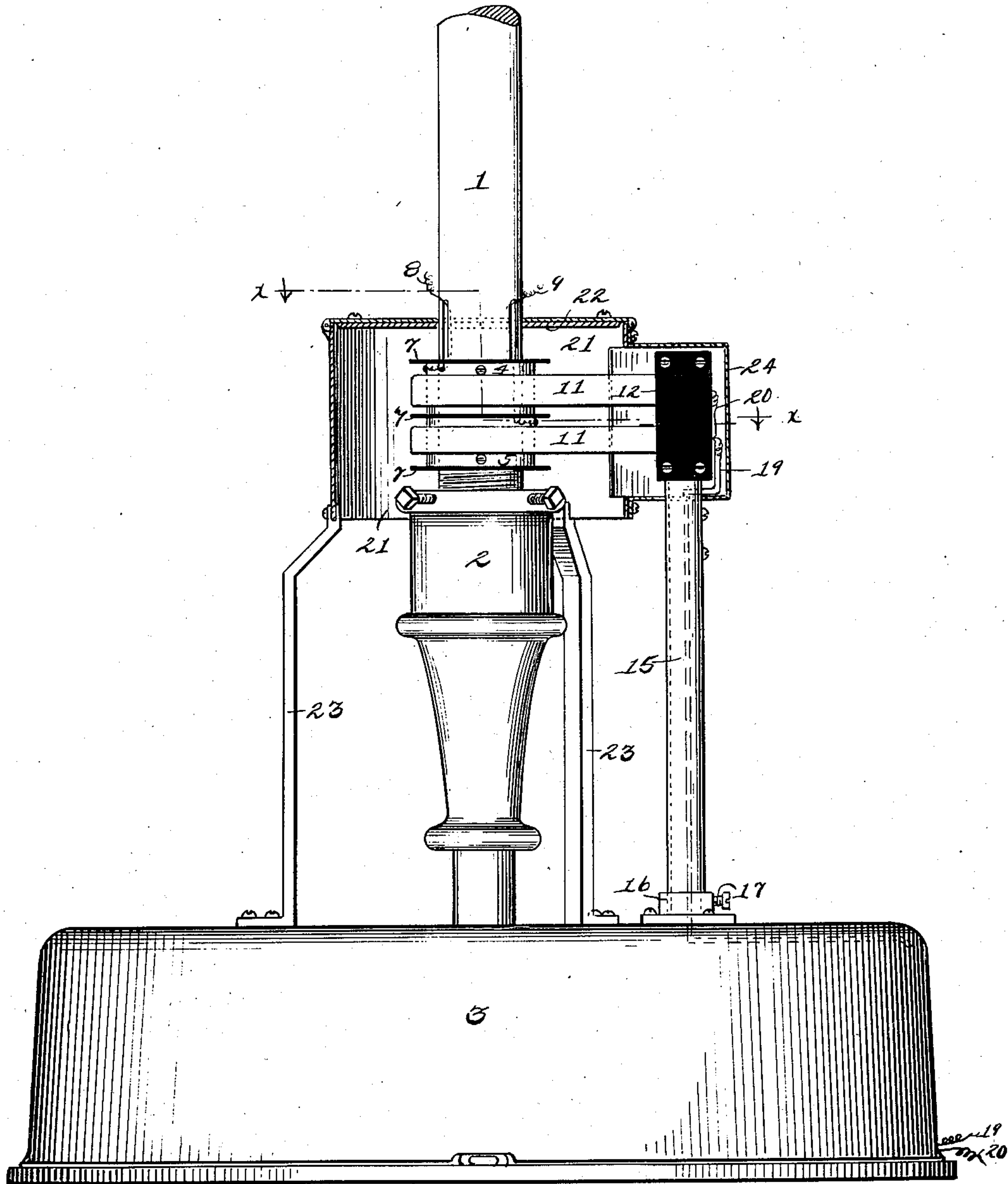
E. J. BUMILLER.  
 MEANS FOR LIGHTING CHRISTMAS TREES.  
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 15, 1910.

966,520.

Patented Aug. 9, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

*Fig. 1.*



*Witnesses:*  
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*B. G. Richards*

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*Eugene J. Bumiller,*  
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

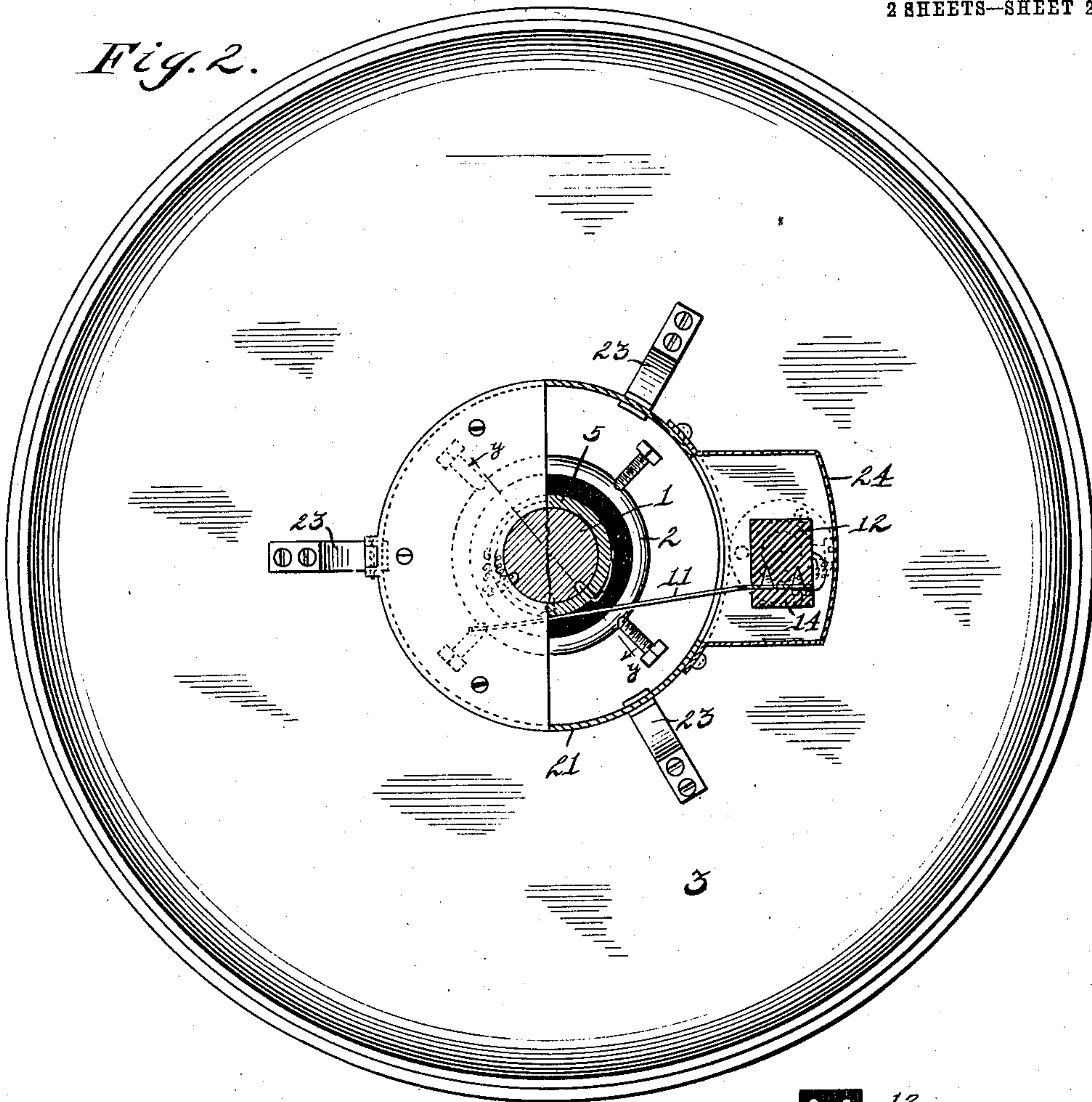


Fig. 3.

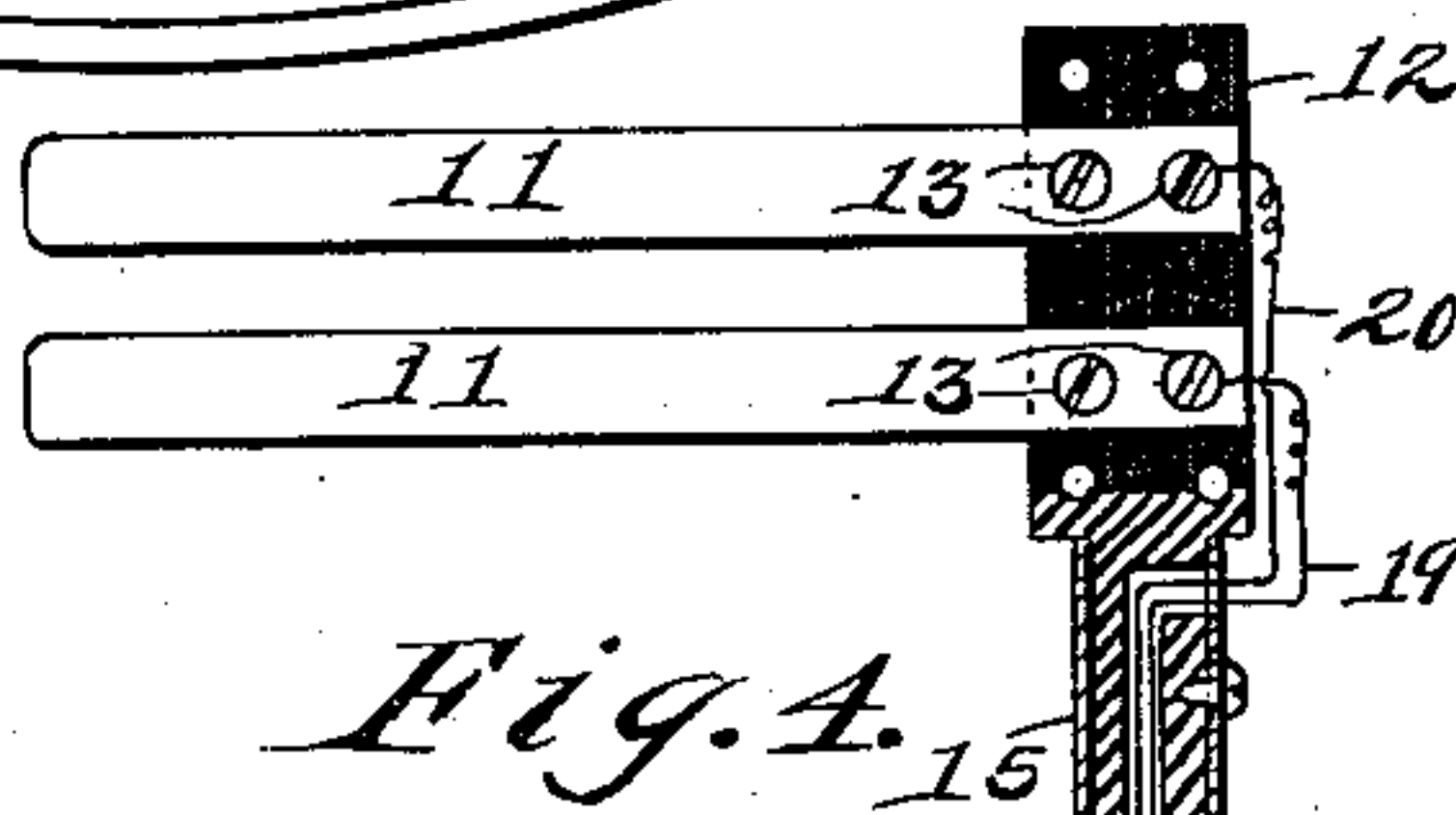
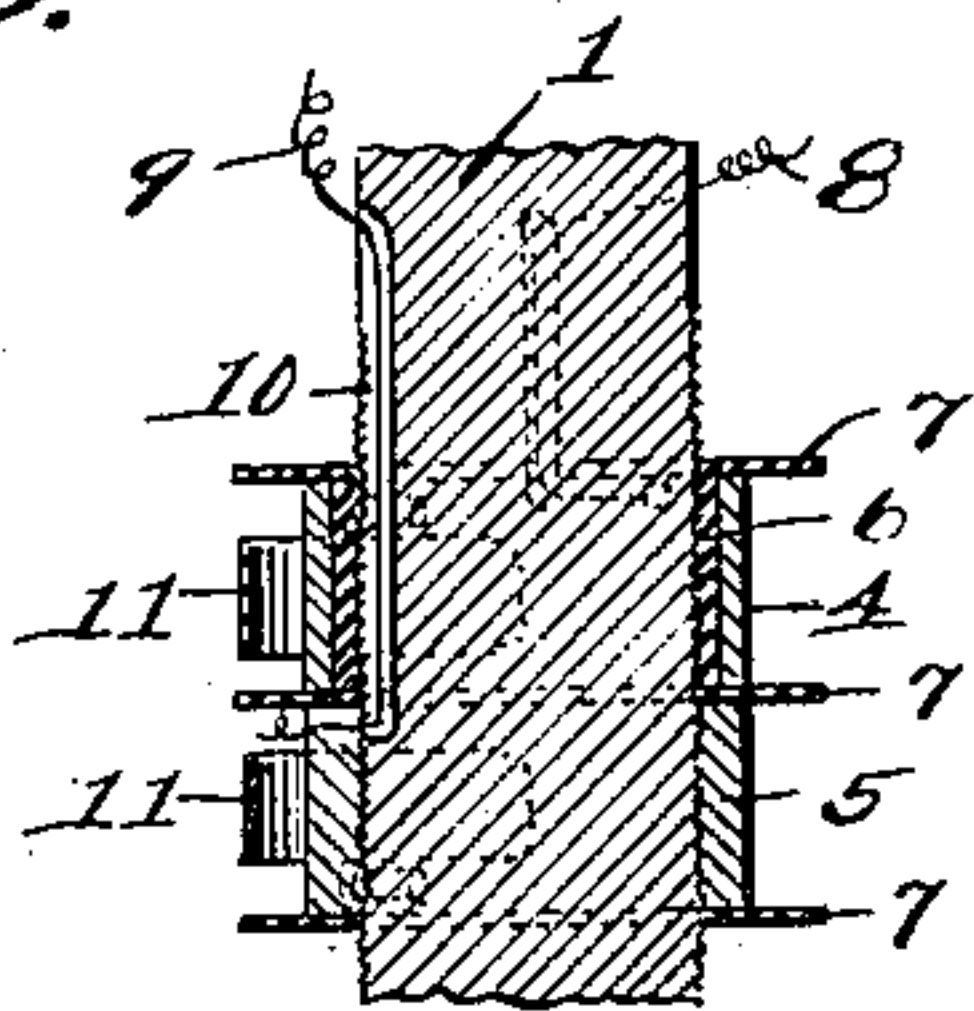
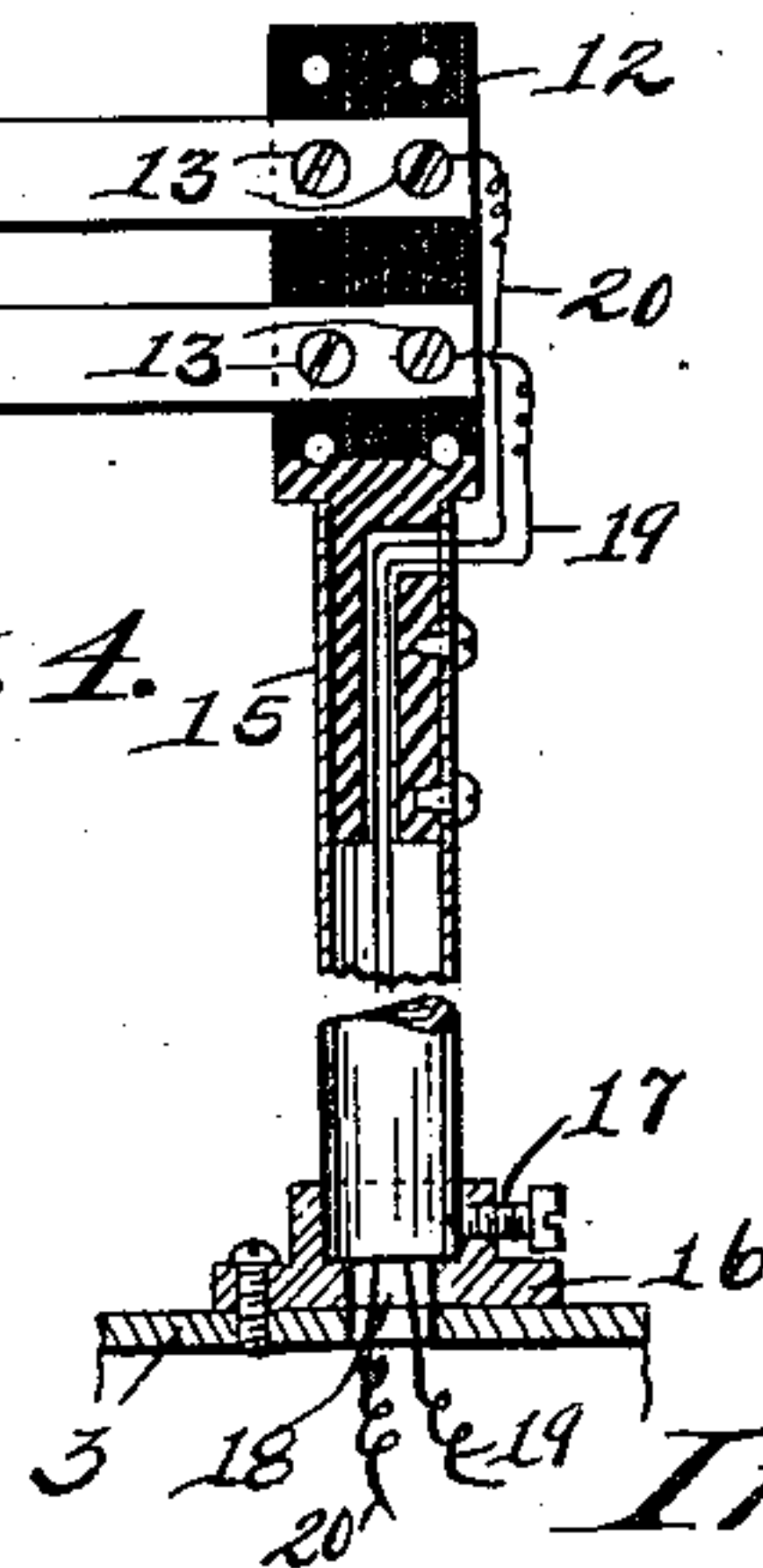


Fig. 4.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EUGENE J. BUMILLER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

MEANS FOR LIGHTING CHRISTMAS TREES.

966,520.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Aug. 9, 1910.

Application filed January 15, 1910. Serial No. 538,272.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EUGENE J. BUMILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Means for Lighting Christmas Trees, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in means for lighting Christmas trees and has for its object the production of simple and efficient means for maintaining electric lights on Christmas trees mounted in rotatable stands.

The invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, and in which,

Figure 1 is a side elevation partially in section of a device embodying my invention, Fig. 2, a horizontal section on line  $x-x$  of Fig. 1, Fig. 3, a section on line  $y-y$  of Fig. 2, and Fig. 4, a sectional elevation of the brushes and their support employed for supplying electric current to the device.

The preferred form of construction as illustrated in the drawings comprises an artificial Christmas tree having its trunk 1 mounted in a rotatable stand 2 which projects upwardly from the center of a suitable casing 3. The casing 3 is in the form of a music box containing mechanism for supplying music and for imparting continuous rotation to the stand 2 and consequently to the Christmas tree. Secured to trunk 1 near its lower end are two metallic conducting rings 4 and 5, the upper ring 4 being separated from the tree trunk by means of a ring 6 of insulating material. Annular rings 7 of insulating material are inserted between said rings and at the top and bottom thereof, as shown. Electric wires 8 and 9 are secured to rings 4 and 5 respectively by soldering their ends thereto and are designed to extend up the trunk of the tree to supply current to a system of lights carried thereby. In securing wire 9 to the lower ring it is passed through a recess 10 in the trunk of the tree, as shown. Metallic leaf springs or brushes 11 are secured to insulating head 12 by means of screws 13 in position to contact with the sides of rings 4 and 5 as they rotate. For their bet-

ter protection an insulating plate 14 is secured over the ends of brushes 11, as indicated in Fig. 2. Insulating head 12 is secured in the top of a metallic tube 15 which is rotatably mounted in a socket 16 provided with a set screw 17 by means of which the angularity of said tube may be adjusted in said socket. A continuous opening 18 is provided through socket 16 and the top of casing 3 for the passage of electric wires 19 and 20 which have their upper ends secured to brushes 11, as shown in Fig. 4. Wires 19 and 20 are connected with a suitable circuit for supplying current to small electric lights, usually the ordinary current furnished in a city for lighting purposes. By this arrangement it will be seen that as the Christmas tree rotates and the music plays the electric current will be transmitted through brushes 11 and rings 4 and 5 to a system of lights placed on the Christmas tree in lieu of candles.

In order to guard against accidents and prevent falling of dirt or other foreign matter onto the brushes and the rings, a housing 21 having a hinged top perforated at the center for the passage of the tree trunk is placed around and over said parts. The cover of the housing is provided with an insulating plate 22 secured to the inner side thereof. The housing is mounted upon the casing 3 upon suitable lugs or standards 23. At one side the housing is provided with an extension 24 adapted to receive the insulating head 12, the upper end of tube 15 and the outer ends of brushes 11.

While I have illustrated and described the preferred form of construction for carrying my invention into effect this is capable of variation or modification without departing from the spirit of the invention. I therefore do not wish to be limited to the exact details of construction set forth but desire to avail myself of such variations and modifications as fairly fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

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

In a device of the class described, a casing forming a base, a socket member rotatably mounted therein, a Christmas tree secured in said socket member, a second casing arranged about the trunk of said tree, standards supporting said second casing at a distance above the base, said second casing



comprising a cylindrical member open at top  
and bottom and provided with a lateral ex-  
tension, a closure for the top of said casing  
apertured to receive said trunk, a pair of  
5 contact rings on said trunk within said cas-  
ing insulated from each other, wires ex-  
tending from said rings to a series of lights  
in the tree, a socket on the base casing  
directly beneath said extension, a tube ro-  
10 tatably mounted in said socket and extend-  
ing upwardly into said extension, means for  
securing said tube in adjusted position with-  
in said socket, an insulating block on the

upper end of said tube, a pair of contacts  
secured to said block and engaging said 15  
rings respectively and wires extending  
through said tube to said contacts for sup-  
plying current thereto, substantially as de-  
scribed.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 20  
name to this specification in the presence of  
two subscribing witnesses.

EUGENE J. BUMILLER.

Witnesses:

JANET E. HOGAN,  
JOSHUA R. H. POTTS.