

G. R. DOBSON.
IRONING TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 26, 1910.

993,351.

Patented May 30, 1911.

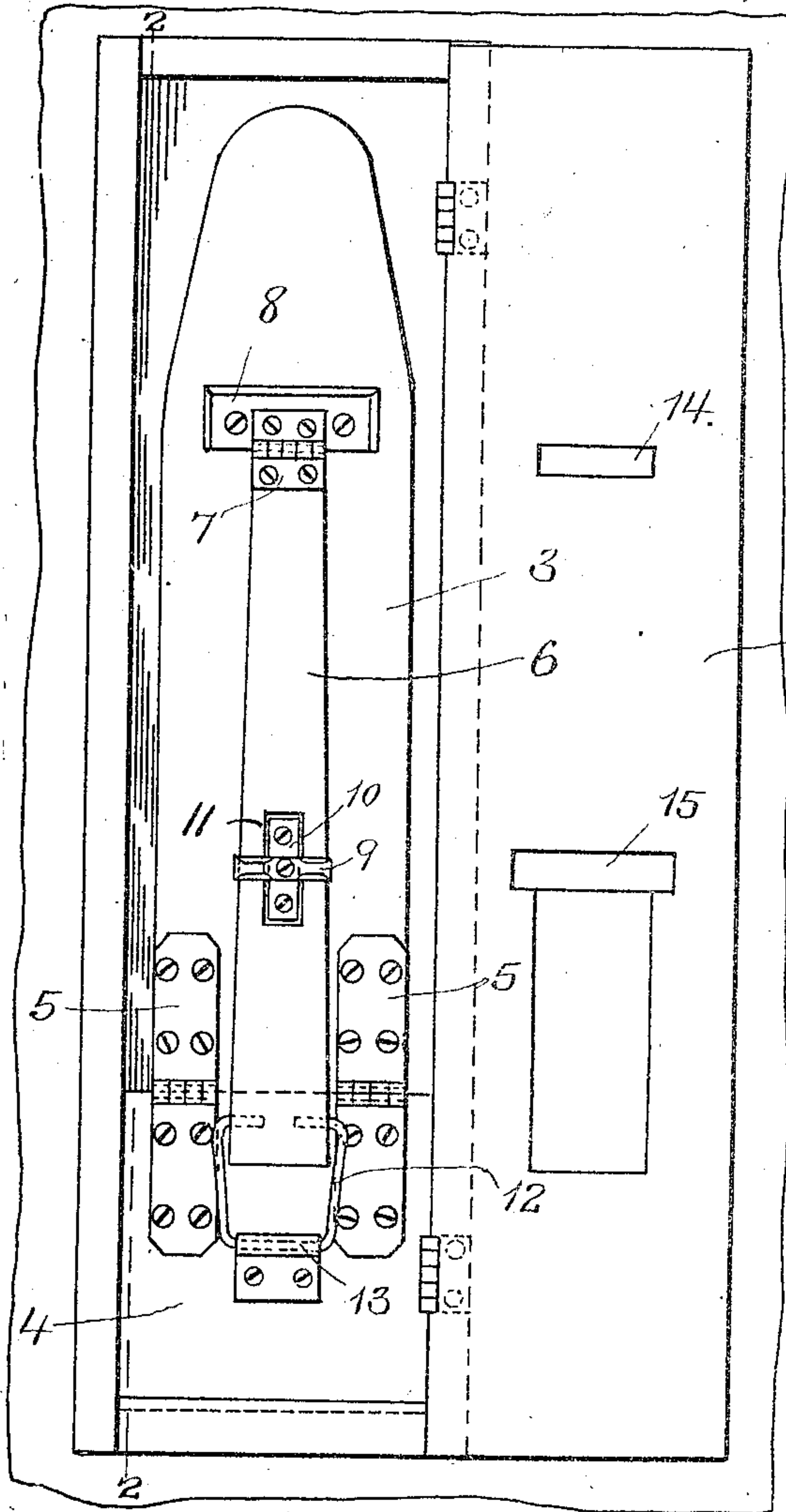


Fig. 1.

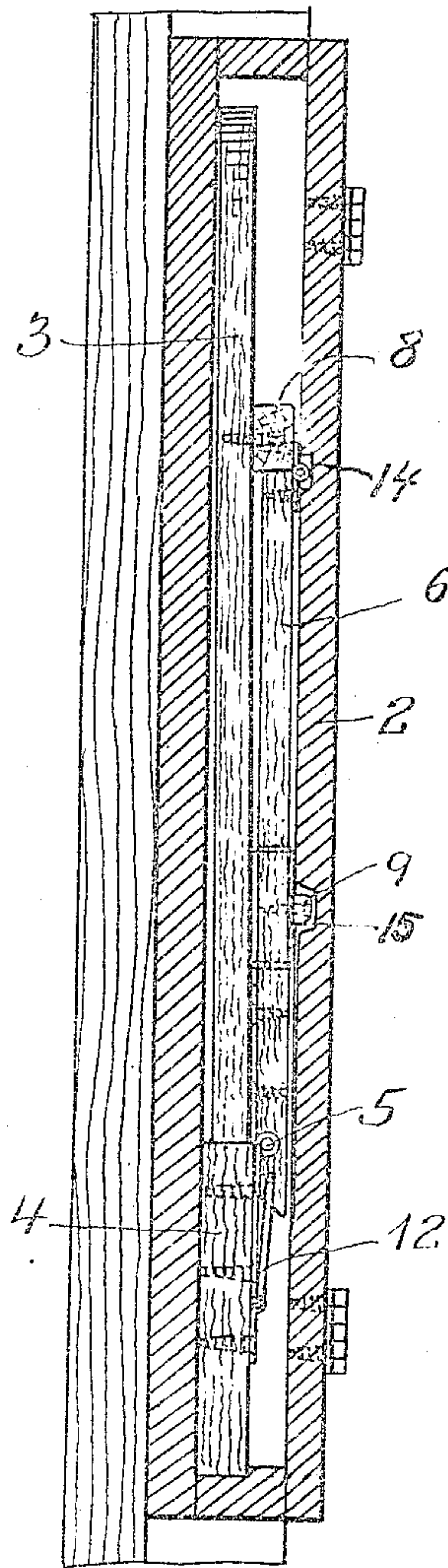


Fig. 2.

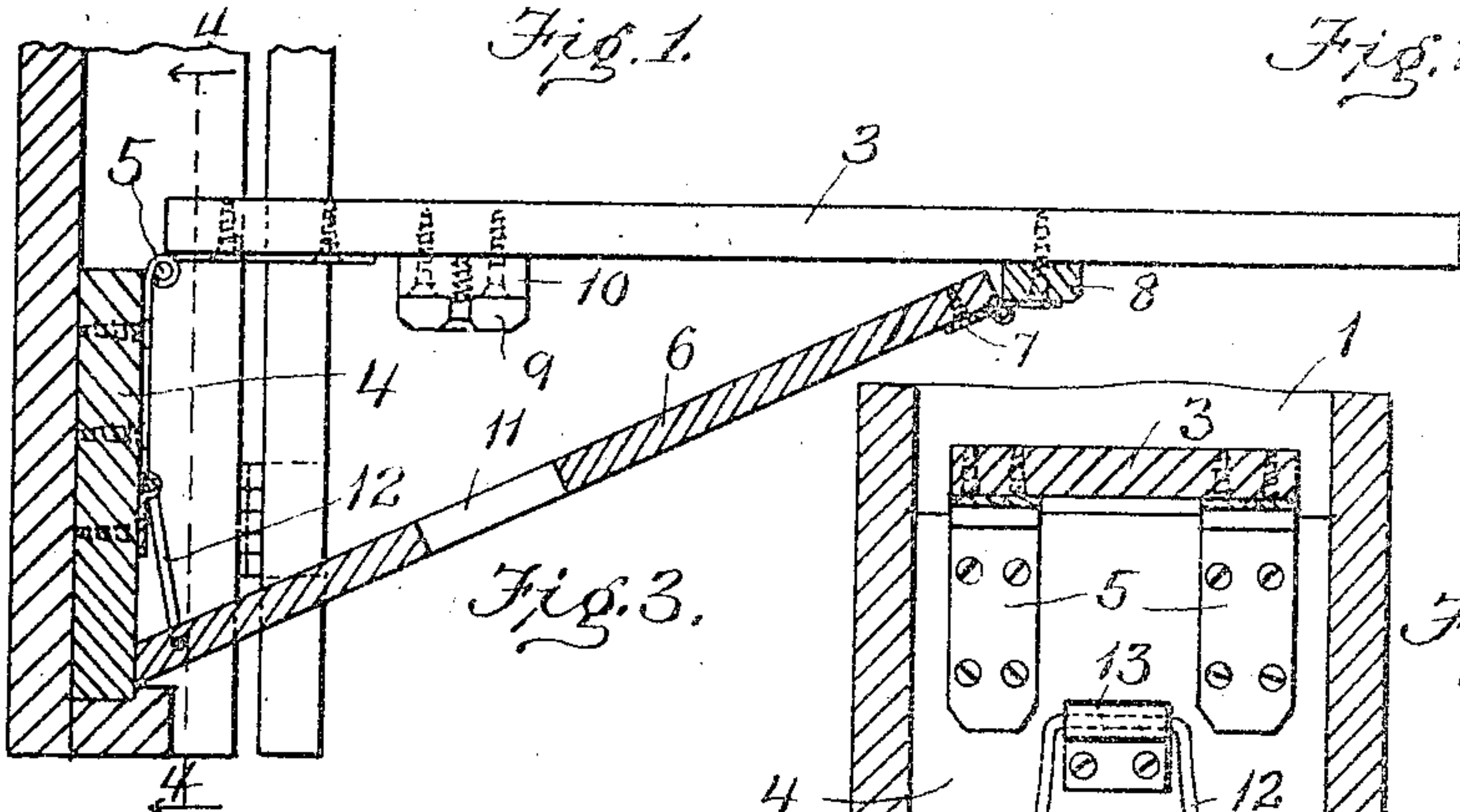


Fig. 3.

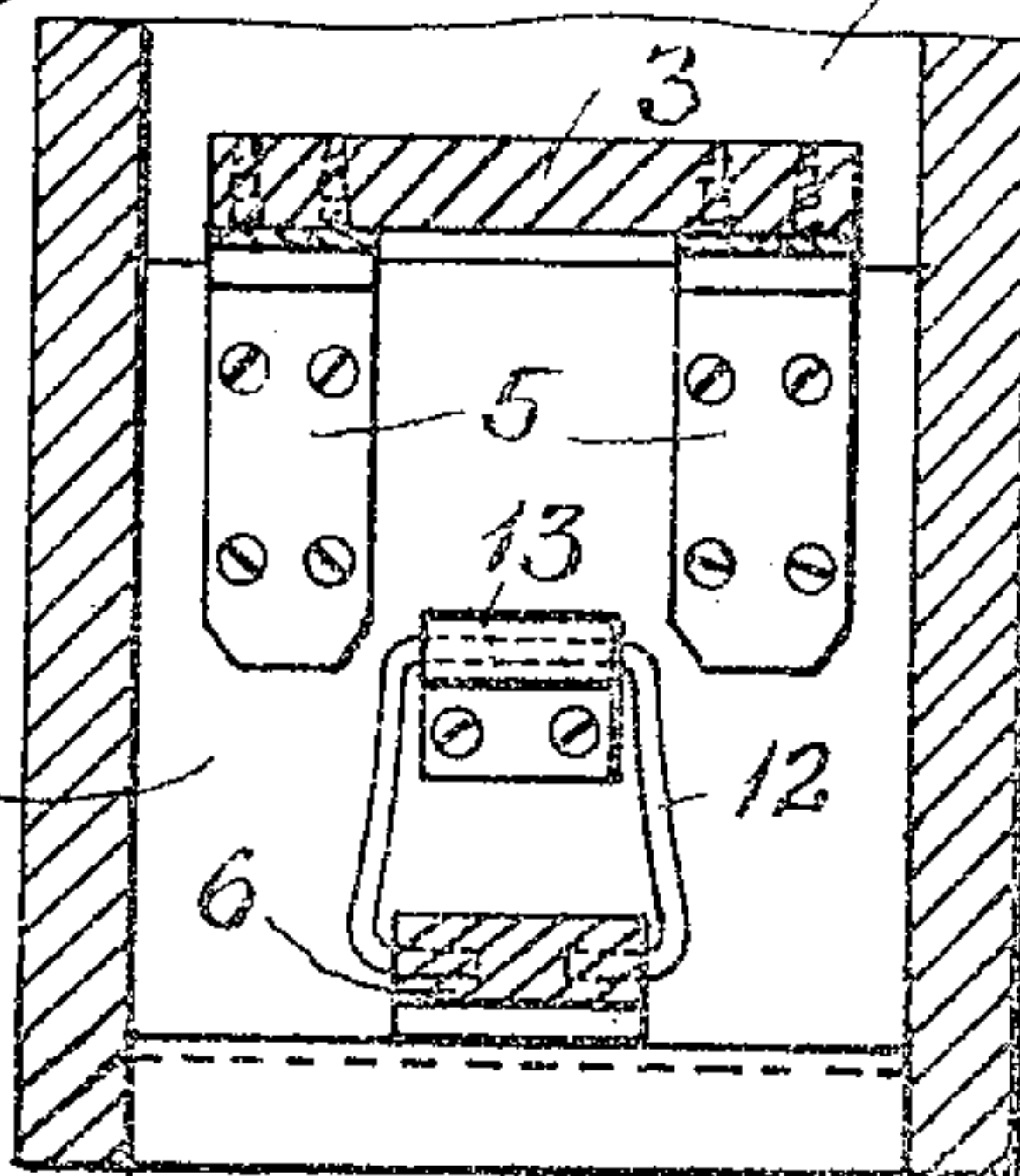


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE R. DOBSON, OF EAST BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS.

IRONING-TABLE.

993,351.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 30, 1911.

Application filed March 28, 1910. Serial No. 551,739.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE R. DOBSON, of East Braintree, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ironing-Tables, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a board or table especially designed and adapted for the purpose of supporting fabrics in a flat condition while being pressed with a hot iron, but adapted also for any other uses as well to which tables or shelves may be put.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved form of ironing board or other table, with means by which the same may be held upright in a small space against or within the wall of a room when not in use, and means permitting the board to be lowered into a horizontal position ready for use in an instant's time, without exertion on the part of the user, or care to adjust or secure the board.

The board or table in which my invention is embodied is hinged at one end, so that it may swing between upright and horizontal positions and has a brace to support it when horizontal.

The feature in which my invention particularly resides is in the means which I use in connection with the brace to cause the latter to lie flat against the board when upright and to be placed automatically in its proper bracing position when the board is swung out.

The apparatus in which my invention is embodied also includes a cabinet adapted to be set into or upon the wall of a room in which the ironing board and its brace may be inclosed when not in use, so as to occupy the least possible space.

In the drawings I have illustrated the invention in its preferred form.

Figure 1 represents an elevation of the board in its inoperative position within a cabinet, the door of the latter being open.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the board in its horizontal position. Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

Referring to the drawings the character 1 represents a shallow box or cabinet having a back wall, sides, ends and a door 2 hinged to one of the sides. This cabinet is adapted

to be set into the wall of a house, provided it is installed when the house is partially built and before the walls are sheathed or plastered. In installing the apparatus in a completed house, when it is not considered desirable to make an opening in the wall, the cabinet may be mounted upon the exterior of the wall and it is so shallow as not to take up much space or to be any material obstruction. When the ironing board is not in use it is entirely inclosed in this cabinet and is covered by the closed door.

The ironing board itself is represented at 3 and is hinged at one end to a base 4, which is secured within the cabinet and rests on the bottom end wall thereof.

The hinges are indicated at 5 and are of any common or desired form. The ironing board or table 3 may be swung into an upright position in line with the base 4, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or it may be brought into a horizontal position, as shown in Fig. 3. When in this position its projecting portion is sustained by a brace 6, secured by a hinge 7 to a block 8 on the under side of the board. The block and hinge are so arranged that the end of the brace bears against the edge of the block. Its lower end is intended to enter the angle between the support or base 4 and the bottom wall of the cabinet, exerting its thrust against the base and being supported by the bottom wall. When the door or table is swung into its vertical position, the brace falls parallel with it, as shown in Fig. 2, and its end overlaps somewhat the base 4. The parts are secured in this position by a button 9 pivoted to a block 10 on the under side of the board which passes through a slot 11 in the brace when the latter is brought into its vertical position, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and may be turned crosswise, as shown in the latter figure outside of said brace. When so placed the button holds the brace against the board and the overlapping end of the brace prevents the door from falling into its horizontal position.

The main feature of the invention is the device which I provide for guiding the swinging end of the brace from the position shown in Fig. 2 to that shown in Fig. 3. This means is a link 12 pivotally connected to the base 4 and to the brace 6. Conveniently the link is a wire bail mounted in a bearing 13, which is fastened to the base 4 and having its ends bent toward each other

and contained in holes in the sides of the brace near its end. This link or bail is of considerably less thickness than the brace and its point of engagement with the latter when the parts are in their vertical position as shown in Fig. 2, is farther from the base member 4 than its point of engagement with said member. Thus while the door or table and the brace are vertical the link is outwardly inclined. As a result of this construction and arrangement, when the ironing board is pulled or allowed to swing outward, the downward thrust applied by the brace on the link passes outside of the point of attachment between the latter and the base, and the link is thus caused to swing and to carry the free end of the brace outwardly and clear of the support or base 4. As the board continues to swing down, the bail guides the end of the brace against the support 4 and resting on the ledge formed by the bottom end of the casing. Conversely, when the board is raised, the link keeps the brace from swinging out and guides it into the vertical position. This link is thus an exceedingly important part of the invention in that it first forces the brace from the support 4, thereby enabling the board to swing down, and then guides the foot of the brace into the proper final position when the board is horizontal, without allowing the brace to fall clear and strike the floor or otherwise get in the way, and without requiring the user of the board to stoop and put the brace in the desired position.

The entire apparatus is compact and simple in operation. When put away in the cabinet and the door closed, the entire depth of the whole apparatus may be made less than four inches, so that even if the device

is placed upon the wall instead of set into the same, it does not project by any material amount and is not in the way. It is also so simple that anyone, even a child, may use it without any appreciable physical exertion. Particularly is this true in placing the board ready for use, as, in this case, it is necessary only to release the button 9 and give perhaps a slight outward impulse to the board, whereupon it will swing down by itself and the brace will automatically slip into place. In order to economize space I may make recesses 14 and 15 in the inner side of the board to receive the hinge 7 and button 9, but this is a detail of construction which is not absolutely essential.

Although the invention as above described is especially applicable to an ironing board, I desire it to be particularly understood that I do not limit the scope of my invention to this particular article, but declare that the invention applies to any sort of swinging table or shelf.

I claim,—

An ironing board or table hinged at one end to a support and movable about its hinged connection into vertical and horizontal positions respectively, a brace pivotally hung from the under side of said board or table between the ends of the latter, a wire bail having its ends bent toward each other and embedded in said brace, and a bearing or eye secured to said support in which said bail is pivotally mounted.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature, in presence of two witnesses.

GEORGE R. DOBSON.

Witnesses:

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