

Jan. 2, 1923.

M. BENTLEY  
TOY BUILDING BLOCK.  
FILED JAN. 31, 1922.

1,440,367

Fig. 1

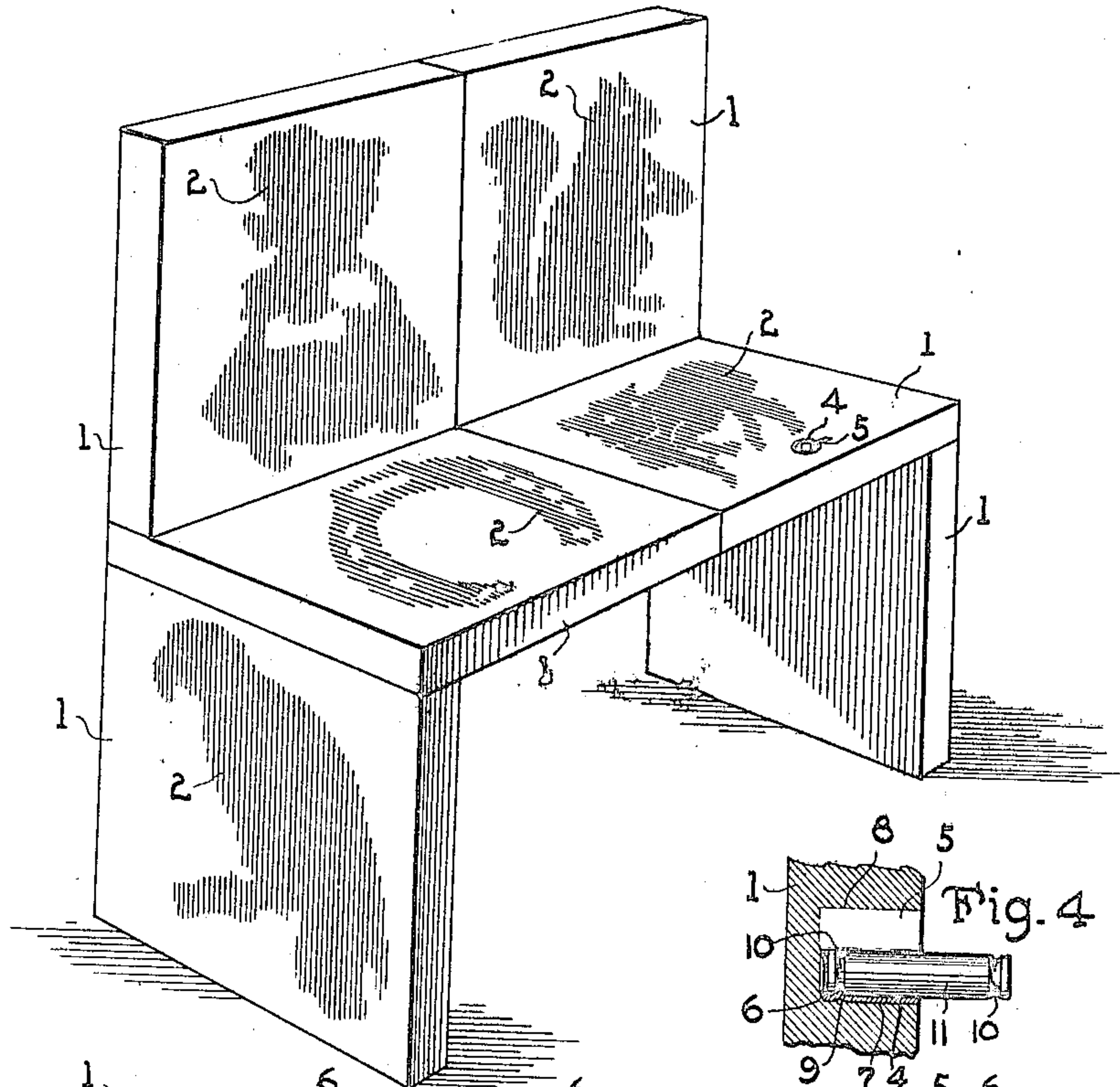


Fig. 2

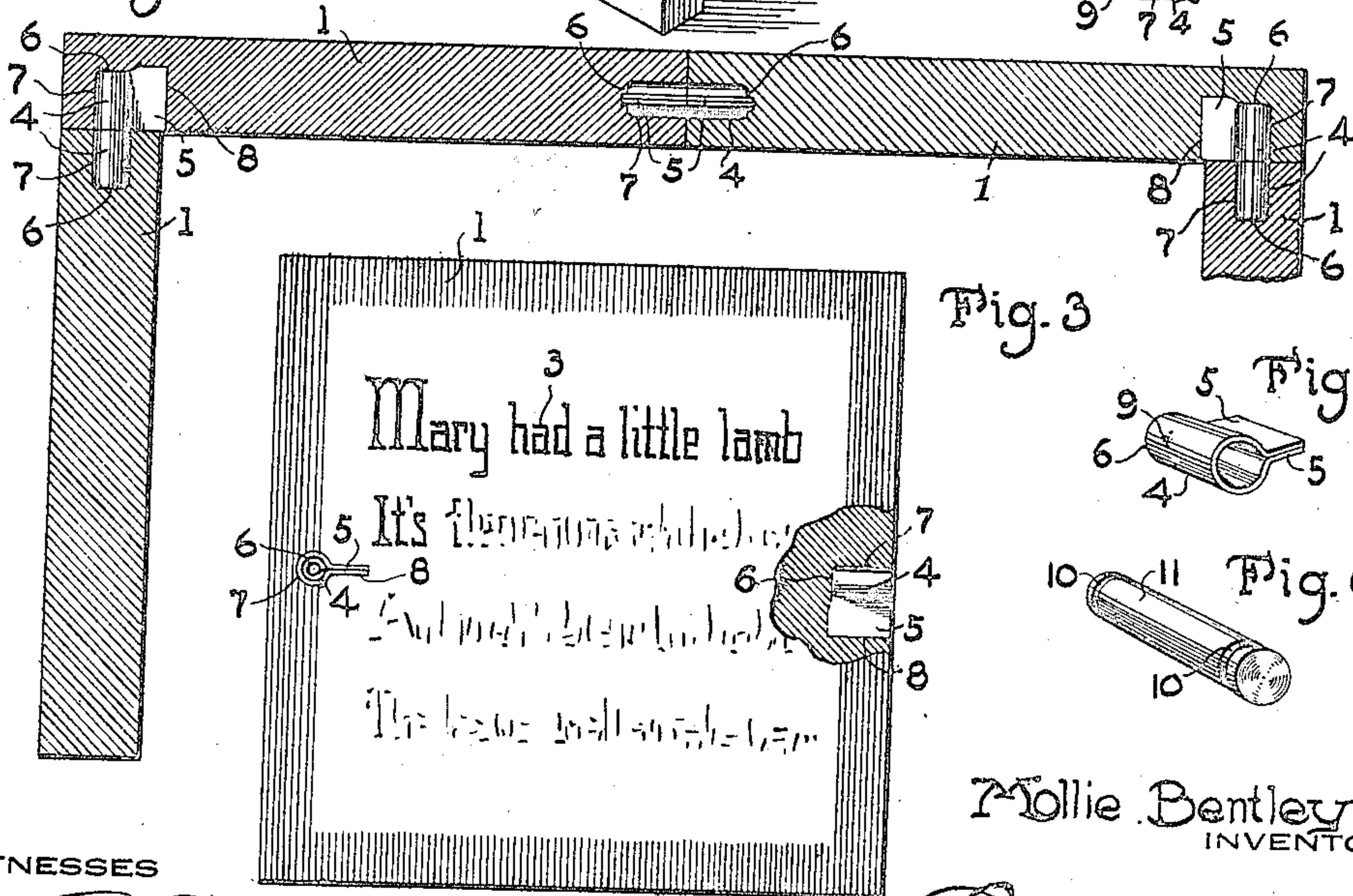


Fig. 3

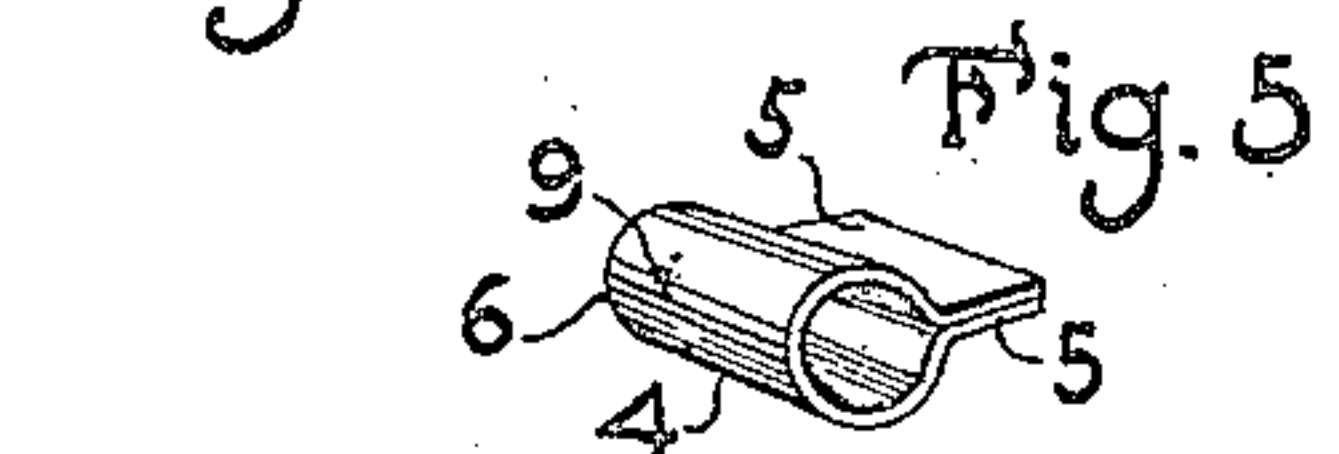


Fig. 5

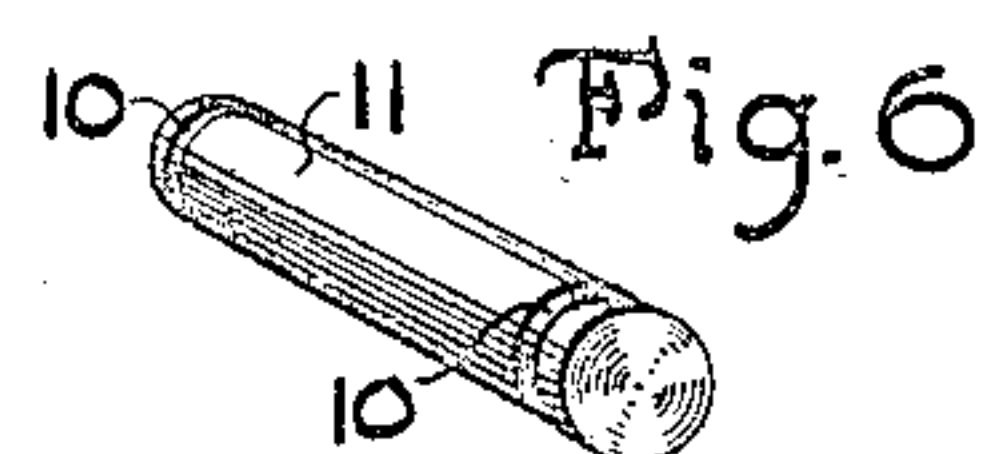


Fig. 6

WITNESSES

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1,440,367

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MOLLIE BENTLEY, OF ORAN, IOWA.

TOY BUILDING BLOCK.

Application filed January 31, 1922. Serial No. 532,044.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MOLLIE BENTLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oran, in the county of Fayette and State of Iowa, have invented new and useful Improvements in Toy Building Blocks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to toy building blocks.

10 The object is to provide blocks of this character, in the form of flat, rectangular slabs, preferably made of some suitable wood, to be used in sets of different sizes or numbers, each set being designed and  
15 equipped with fastening means in a manner to enable the builder to erect simulations of certain buildings or to construct in imitation of different articles of furniture, etc., according to directions, thus serving as an  
20 educational toy both in this respect and in learning the names and appearance of different animals, birds or any other desired and proper articles or figures, pictures of which are preferably painted or applied to  
25 the panel sides of the blocks or slabs, as well as to learn appropriate rhymes or verses which may occupy the space opposite such figures.

Another object is to provide fastening  
30 means in the form of sheet metal sockets for such blocks or slabs which may be cheaply manufactured and applied to the edges or sides of the same in a manner to receive  
35 dowel pins having means for engaging in said sockets and resisting pressure to remove the same, the said sockets and dowel pins serving to hold the blocks in certain  
40 right angular or perpendicular position with relation to each other, in order that the desired object may be produced.

A full and complete understanding of the invention may be obtained from a consideration of the following detailed description, taken in connection with the accompanying  
45 drawing forming a part of this specification, it being understood that while the drawing shows a practical form of the invention, the latter is not to be confined to strict conformity therewith, but may be changed or  
50 modified, so long as such changes or modifications mark no material departure from the salient features of the invention, as specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawing, in which similar reference 55 characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several figures:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a small set of blocks or slabs, six in number and set up in imitation of a buffet, the entire set 60 being utilized;

Figure 2 is a longitudinal section through a portion of the same and showing the manner of anchoring the metallic sockets in the faces or edges of the slabs and of holding 65 the latter together by means of dowel pins;

Figure 3 is a reverse side view of a slab or block, partly broken away and showing the manner of inscribing a verse or nursery rhyme thereon; 70

Figure 4 is a detail sectional view through one of the fasteners;

Figure 5 is a detail perspective view of one of the metallic sockets;

Figure 6 is a similar view of one of the 75 dowel pins.

While the drawing shows a set of blocks or slabs composed of only six units set up and fastened together in the form of a buffet or crude imitation thereof, the same set of 80 blocks are capable of forming a number of other structures by simply applying the same according to set directions, much to the delight and edification of a child. Among those articles or objects of which 85 this particular set of blocks is capable of building are a foot stool, a chair, a bird house, a bed, and by increasing the number of blocks or units to a set, other and more complicated objects may be imitated. All 90 the while the pictures and verses or rhymes are constantly before the child to form a splendid ground work or starting point for his education, and in like manner the letters of the alphabet and numerals or sums may 95 be added or substituted on the opposite faces of the blocks as desired, which may be advisable for older children.

The fastening means for holding the units together consist of opposed sockets secured in the faces or edges of the blocks, and these sockets are placed in registering relation to each other and to hold a dowel pin to bind the same together, and since these sockets are placed in predetermined positions, some in the edges and some in the 105 faces of the blocks to suit the particular set and the particular series of objects to be



simulated, it is deemed not necessary to describe each unit of the set in detail but a description of one will answer for all, as some other arrangement or location of the sockets is found necessary in larger sets in order to bring the pictures to view as the different objects are set up.

The block 1 is rectangular in plan view, a convenient and desirable size being substantially six inches square and formed of suitable boards about seven-eighths of an inch thick. These blocks are preferably painted some light color with a coating of enamel paint so that the same may be washed and kept clean. Upon one flat face pictures 2 may be placed such as those shown in the drawing consisting of a child, a horse shoe, a lamb, a parrot and a squirrel, the remaining block having, say a rabbit, depicted thereon. On the reverse sides of the blocks appropriate verses or nursery rhymes may be printed, such as that indicated at 3 in Figure 3 of the drawing, and it is to be understood, of course, that any other manner of painting or coloring the blocks and any other series of pictures may be employed.

The fastening means which, as has been stated, are placed in some instances in the face of the block and in others in the edges thereof, comprise a tubular socket 4 formed of thin sheet metal having the edges of the same extending laterally outward from the body of the tube, as indicated at 5, the terminal portions of the metal being pressed to lie flat against each other to form a flange or fin and one end of the tube 4 thus formed is partially closed by crimping the edge of the metal inwardly as at 6, for a purpose to be explained.

The tubular socket is set into a bore 7 formed in the block, said bore having a slotted extension 8, radially disposed thereto, for the reception of the fin or flange 5 thus serving, not only to prevent the socket from turning in its seat, but to prevent the same from accidentally becoming dislodged from its seat in the bore 7.

Adjacent to the crimped end 6 of the tubular socket 4, the metal is indented as at 9 to form a slight projection into the interior of the tube, for the purpose of engaging into a peripheral channel 10 formed adjacent to each end of a metallic pin 11. This pin is substantially equal in length to two of the sockets so that when the latter are placed together as shown, the channels 10 are engaged by the indentations 9 of the two sockets and they are held from separation thereby, it being necessary to exert extra pressure to force the pin past the indentation when the tube is slightly expanded to permit of the

same by reason of the space between the extensions 5.

In the event the bore 7 for seating the socket is made a trifle longer than the length of the socket, which should have its outer open end flush with the face or edge of the block, the inturned or crimped end 6 of the socket will prevent the end of the pin from entering the socket too far for the groove or channel to aline with the indentation, so that it is only necessary to force the pin into the socket as far as it will go in order to secure the proper locking engagement.

From the foregoing it will be seen that a simple, cheaply manufactured and durable toy block has been provided, having simple means for holding adjacent blocks of similar design to enable a child to properly operate in building different instructive and educational objects and at the same time learning from pictures and verses or legends, etc.

What is claimed is:

1. Toy building blocks, each block having a plurality of tubular sockets set into bores having lateral extensions, in predetermined positions in the faces or edges of the blocks, the sockets being expansible to frictionally engage in said bores to prevent longitudinal movement and having lateral wings to fit into the extensions of the bore to prevent the tubular socket from turning.

2. Toy building blocks having tubular metallic sockets set into the faces or edges thereof to properly aline with the sockets of other blocks, means for preventing their turning in their seats or removal therefrom, each socket having its inner end crimped to form an abutment and having an inwardly directed projection in spaced relation to the abutment.

3. Toy building blocks having tubular metallic sockets set into the faces or edges thereof to properly aline with the sockets of other blocks, means for preventing their turning in their seats or removal therefrom, each socket having its inner end crimped to form an abutment and having an inwardly directed projection in spaced relation to the abutment and a dowel pin substantially equal in length to two of the sockets and having annular grooves adjacent to its ends, said pin being adapted to enter two adjacent sockets in two blocks and to bear against the crimped abutment with the said projections in the sockets entering the adjacent grooves of the pin to prevent separation of the blocks.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature.

MOLLIE BENTLEY.