

Jan. 2, 1923.

A. W. SILKWORTH.
HEN'S NEST.
ORIGINAL FILED JAN. 24, 1922.

1,441,182.

Fig. 1.

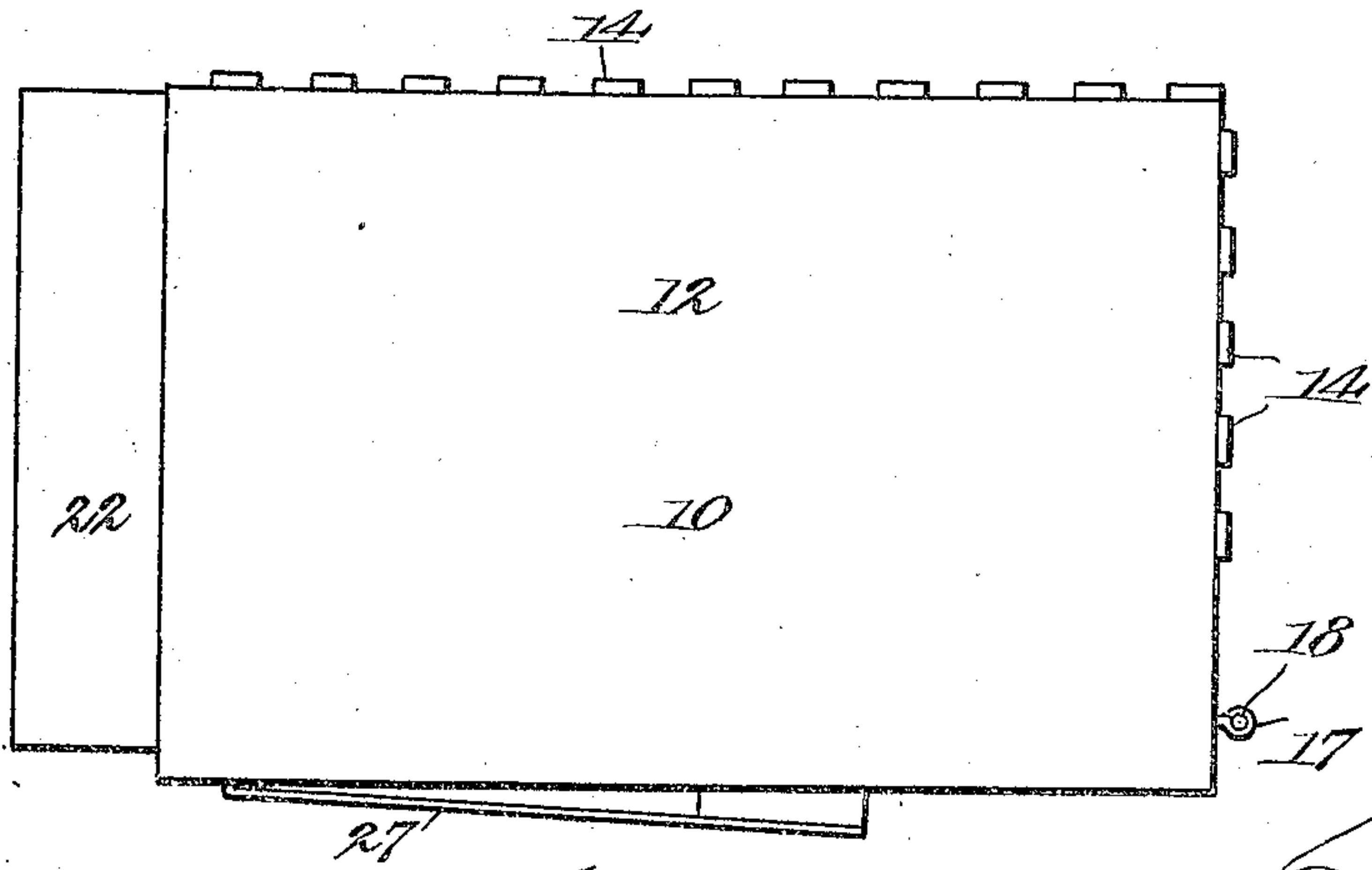


Fig. 4.

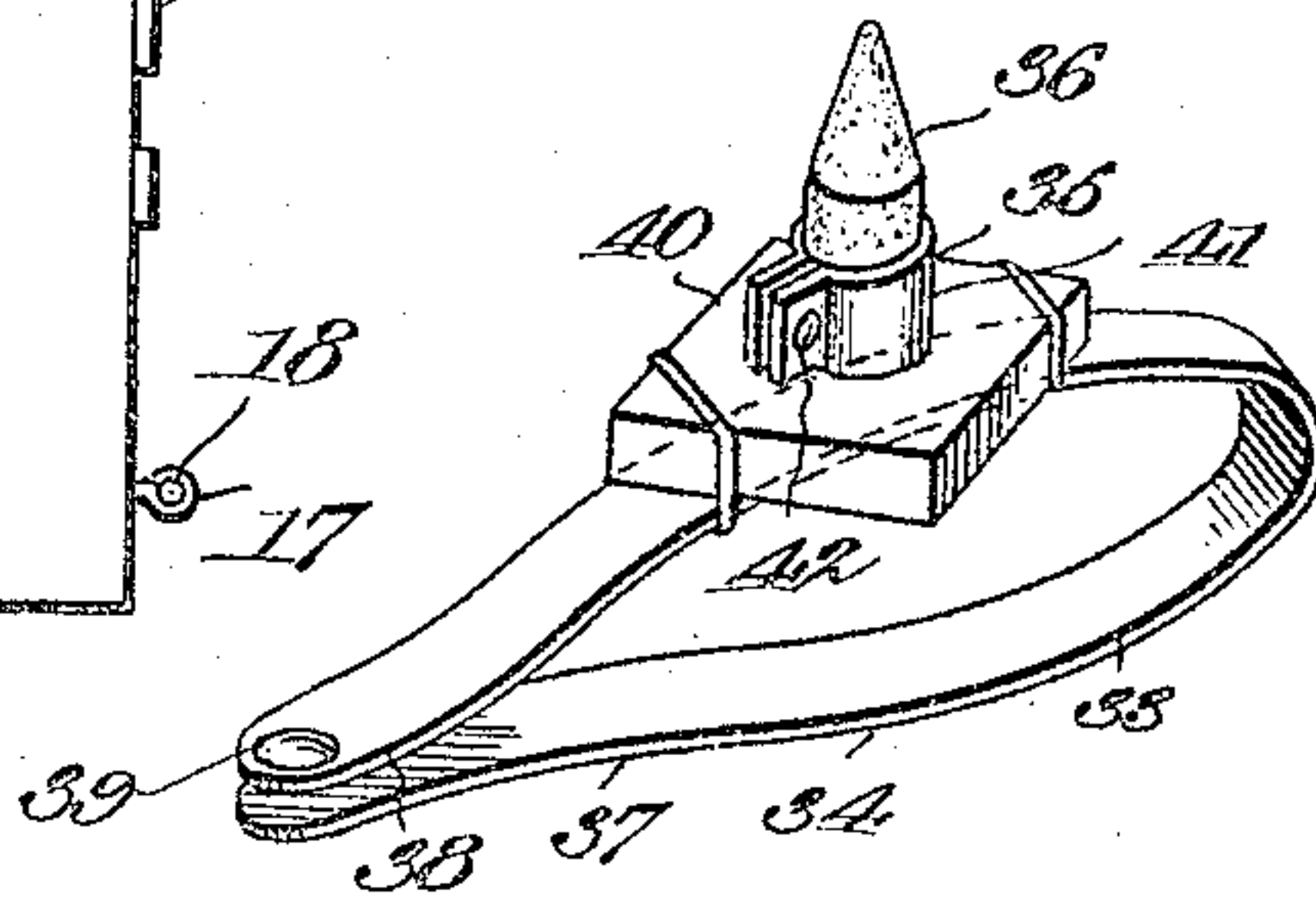


Fig. 2.

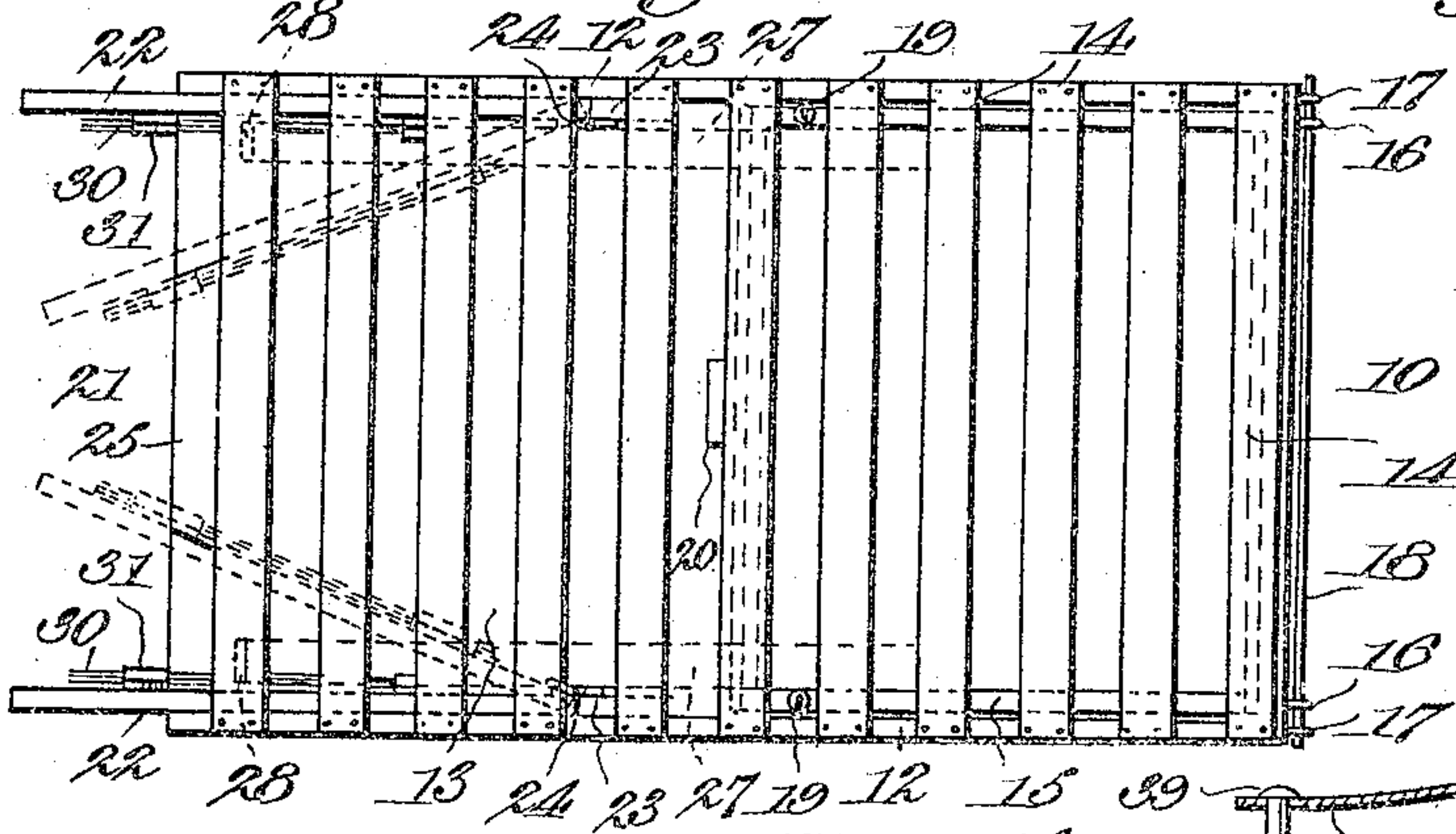


Fig. 5.

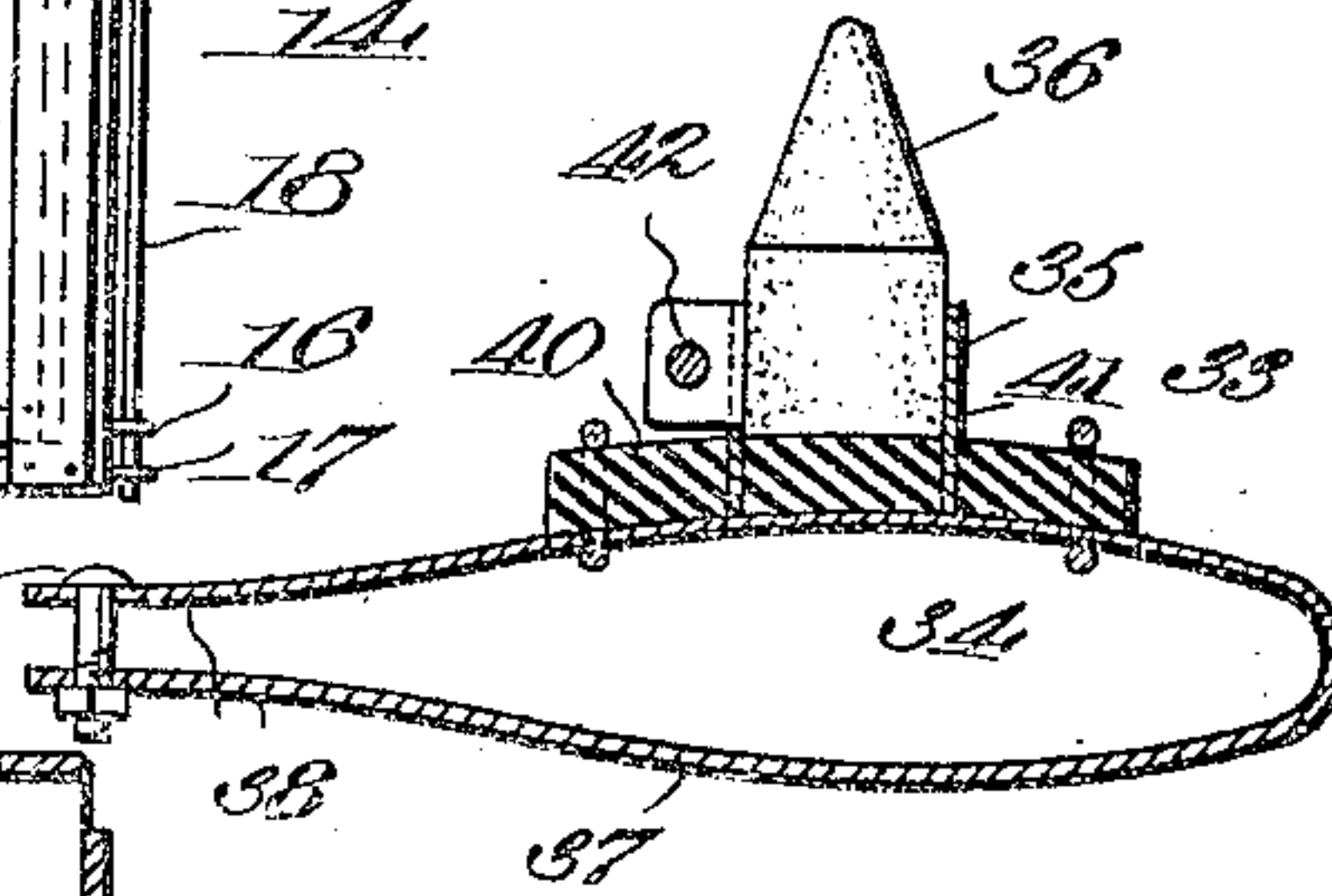
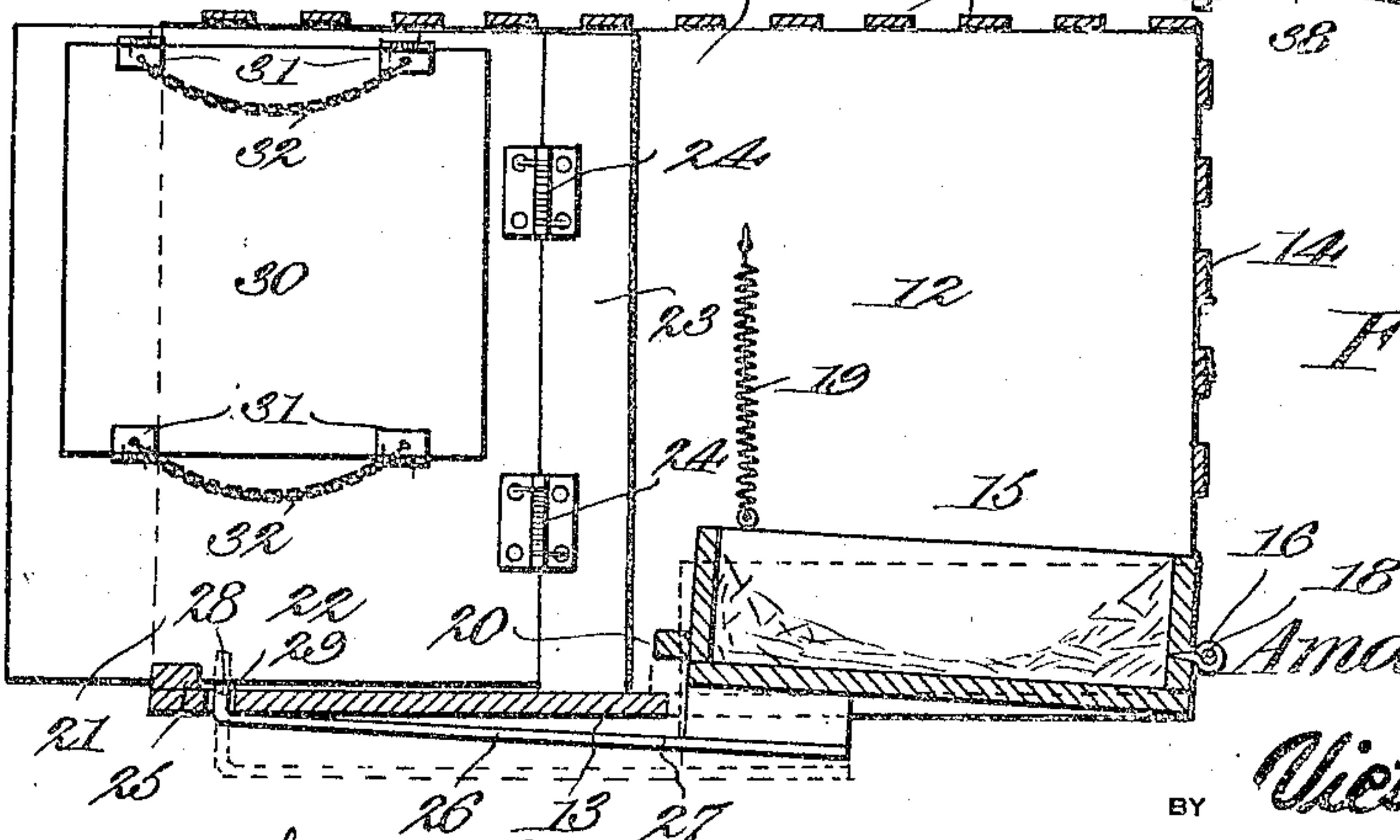


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AMOS W. SILKWORTH, OF PORT JEFFERSON, NEW YORK.

HEN'S NEST.

Application filed January 24, 1922, Serial No. 531,491. Renewed November 24, 1922.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AMOS W. SILKWORTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Port Jefferson, in the county of Suffolk and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Hens' Nests, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to hens' nests.

More particularly the invention relates to devices for registering or recording the visits of hens to a nest.

Some of the objects of the present invention are: to simplify the construction and operation of devices of the character mentioned; to employ a novel form of marking device which is adapted to be attached to the wing of a hen in such a manner as not to interfere with the circulation of blood, and so positioned on the wing to mark on a record sheet, upon the hen leaving the nest; to produce comparatively inexpensive devices thus giving an economic advantage in the use of device of this character in large numbers. With these and other objects in view the invention resides in the particular provision, construction and operation of parts hereinafter fully described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the nest proper.

Figure 2 is a plan view.

Figure 3 is a sectional view.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the marking device forming a part of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a sectional view through the marking device.

Referring now more particularly to the several views of the drawing for all of the details, it will be apparent that, the nest proper 10 includes a compartment 11 which may be of any desired size and proportion. The compartment 11 is formed of side walls 12, bottom 13, and strips 14 which latter serve as a lattice. A nest 15 of any desired construction is arranged in the rear of the compartment 11. The nest 15 is mounted for pivotal movement. The pivoting of the nest 15, in the present instance, is effected by the employment of screw eyes 17 attached to the walls 12, screw eyes 16 attached to the nest 15, and a wire or rod 18 which passes through all of the said screw eyes. The nest 15 is yieldingly supported in a normal elevated position by springs 19. One

end of each spring 19 is attached to the nest 15, while the opposite ends of the springs are attached to the walls 12. The nest 15 has a stop lug 20 which limits the downward movement of the nest when under the weight of a hen. The lug 20, in the downward movement of the nest under the weight of a hen engages the end of bottom 13. The compartment 11 has an entrance and exit opening. In other words the opening 21 serves for the exit as well as the entrance of a hen from and to the compartment 11. Doors 22 are arranged at the opening 21. The doors are hingedly mounted to strips or jambs 23 attached to the insides of the walls 12, as at 24. The hinges 24 are spring hinges and have a normal tendency to move the doors 22 toward each other. Means to be hereinafter described serve to hold the doors in parallelism with the walls 12 in open positions, and upon the operation of the said means the doors are allowed to be moved toward each other under the influence of the spring hinges 24. A block 25 limits the movements of the doors 22 toward each other and in fact holds the doors relatively spaced at their free ends, and in which positions of the doors they are relatively angularly disposed.

Means 26 is provided between the nest 15 and the doors 22 to hold the doors open against movement and allowing the movement of the doors to partly closed positions upon the operation of the said means. The means 26 in the present instance consists of members 27 attached to the nest 15 and which extend forwardly in the direction of the doors. The free end of each member 27 has attached thereto a door engaging obstructing member 28. The members 28 extend upwardly through openings 29 in the bottom 13. By moving the doors 22 to open positions, the members 28 may be disposed so as to prevent the doors from moving toward each other until the nest 15 is again lowered by pressure or weight applied thereto. For instance when the weight of a hen is applied to the nest 15 the doors 22 may spring inwardly toward each other and they may also open outwardly when the hen pushes against them in making its exit from the compartment 11. It should also be manifest that the doors are also under the action of the spring hinges 24.

Each of the doors 22 has secured thereto in any suitable manner, a multiplicity of

5 sheets of paper 30. In the present instance the sheets 30 are held in place on each door by spring-clamps 31 which are attached to the door in pairs, and each pair of spring-clamps is actuated by a small chain 32. It is obvious, and it is to be understood that in lieu of the sheets 30, a black-board or the like may be employed. The sheets 30 are employed to receive identifying marks from marking devices carried by hens and presently described.

10 The marking device 33 comprises yieldable attaching means 34, and crayon supporting and securing means 35; the crayon being designated 36. The means 34 is in the nature of a flexible band 37 whose ends 38 carry a screw bolt and nut or the like 39. The means 35 consists of a rubber member 40 having a split collar 41 which receives an end of crayon 36, and a small screw 42 with the collar 41 serves to detachably secure the crayon. The means 35 in its entirety is carried by the band 37. The band 37 is made to pass through an incision in the web of a hen's wing, and then between the first and second flight feathers of the secondary of the wing. It is to be understood that two marking devices may be carried by a hen or only one. Each hen can be identified by the color or colors of the crayon or crayons it carries, its visit to a nest can be ascertained by the mark or marks it leaves on the sheet or sheets so that if the hen entered the compartment 11 and laid an egg, it could afterward be determined, which hen of many hens, laid the particular egg. As the hen leaves the compartment it registers on the sheets and the doors spring back to their partly closing positions and thus prevent the entrance of another hen upon the nest until the egg, if one has been laid has been removed, and the doors placed under the control of the members 28.

What is claimed is:

1. For the purpose of registering the visit of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment comprising a nest arranged within the compartment for movements, doors, means for moving the doors, means between the nest and the doors for holding the doors against movement and allowing the movement thereof upon the operation of said means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said record sheets upon the exit of the hen from the compartment.

2. For the purpose of registering the visit of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment comprising a yieldingly mounted nest arranged within the compartment for movements, doors at the entrance and exit opening of said compartment, means for moving the doors, means between the nest and the doors for holding the doors against

movement and allowing the movement thereof upon the operation of said means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to the wings of a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said sheets upon the exit of the hen from said compartment.

3. For the purpose of registering the visit of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment comprising a nest arranged within the compartment for movements, spring actuated hingedly mounted doors at the entrance and exit opening of said compartment, means between the nest and the doors for holding the doors against movement and allowing the movement thereof upon the operation of said means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to the wings of a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said sheets upon the exit of the hen from said compartment.

4. For the purpose of registering the visit of a hen to a nest, the combination of a latched compartment, a nest arranged within the compartment for movements, doors arranged at the entrance and exit opening of the compartment, the said doors being capable of being moved to partly close the said opening, means for moving the doors to their partly closing positions, means between the nest and the doors for holding the doors against movement in full open positions and allowing the movement of the doors upon the operation of said last mentioned means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on said doors, marking devices adapted to be attached to the wings of a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said sheets upon the exit of the hen from said compartment, the door moving means serving to yieldingly maintain the doors contiguous the out-coming hen.

5. For the purpose of registering the visit of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment, a nest arranged within the compartment for movements, doors, means for moving the doors, means for holding the doors against movement and allowing the movement thereof upon the operation of said last means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, said last means including door engaging obstructing members; record sheets on each of said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said record sheets upon the exit of the hen from said compartment.

6. For the purpose of registering the visits of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment having an entrance and an exit opening, a nest arranged within the compartment for movements, means for maintaining the nest in a normal elevated

position and allowing the nest to move downwardly under the weight of a hen on the nest, doors at the said opening of said compartment, means for holding the doors against movement in open positions and operable upon the downward movement of said nest to allow the doors to move toward each other, means for effecting the movement of said doors toward each other, means limiting the movement of the doors toward each other, record sheets on each of said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said record sheets upon the exit of the hen from said compartment.

7. For the purpose of registering the visits of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment having an entrance and exit opening, a pivoted yieldingly mounted nest arranged within the compartment, spring actuated hingedly mounted doors at the opening of said compartment, means between the nest and doors for holding the doors open against movement and allowing the movement thereof to partly closed positions upon the operation of said last means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on each of said doors, and marking devices adapted to be attached to a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said record sheets upon the exit of the hen from the compartment, each of said marking devices including a crayon or chalk, and means for detachably supporting said crayon or chalk.

8. For the purpose of registering the visits of a hen to a nest, the combination of a compartment having an entrance and exit opening, a pivotally mounted spring actuated nest arranged within the compartment,

spring actuated hingedly mounted doors at the opening of said compartment, means between the nest and doors for holding the doors open against movement and allowing the movement thereof to partly closed positions upon the operation of said last means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on each of said doors on the inside thereof, and marking devices adapted to be attached to the wings of a hen and positioned thereon to mark on said record sheets upon the exit of the hen from the compartment, each of said marking devices comprising yieldable attaching means, and detachably mounted water-proof crayon.

9. For the purpose of registering the visits of a hen to a nest, the combination of a latticed compartment having an entrance and exit opening, a yieldingly mounted normally elevated nest arranged within the compartment, spring actuated hingedly mounted outwardly opening doors at the opening of said compartment, means between the nest and the doors for holding the doors open against movement and allowing the movement thereof to partly closed positions upon the operation of said last means by virtue of the weight of a hen on said nest, record sheets on each of said doors, means on each door for holding a multiplicity of the record sheets thereon, and a marking device adapted to be attached to the wing of a hen and positioned thereon to mark on a record sheet on one of said doors upon the exit of the hen from said compartment.

In testimony whereof I hereby affix my signature.

AMOS W. SILKWORTH.