No. 815,796. PATENTED MAR. 20, 1906.

F. CONHAIM.

APPARATUS FOR DRESSING WINDOWS.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 17, 1905.

5 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

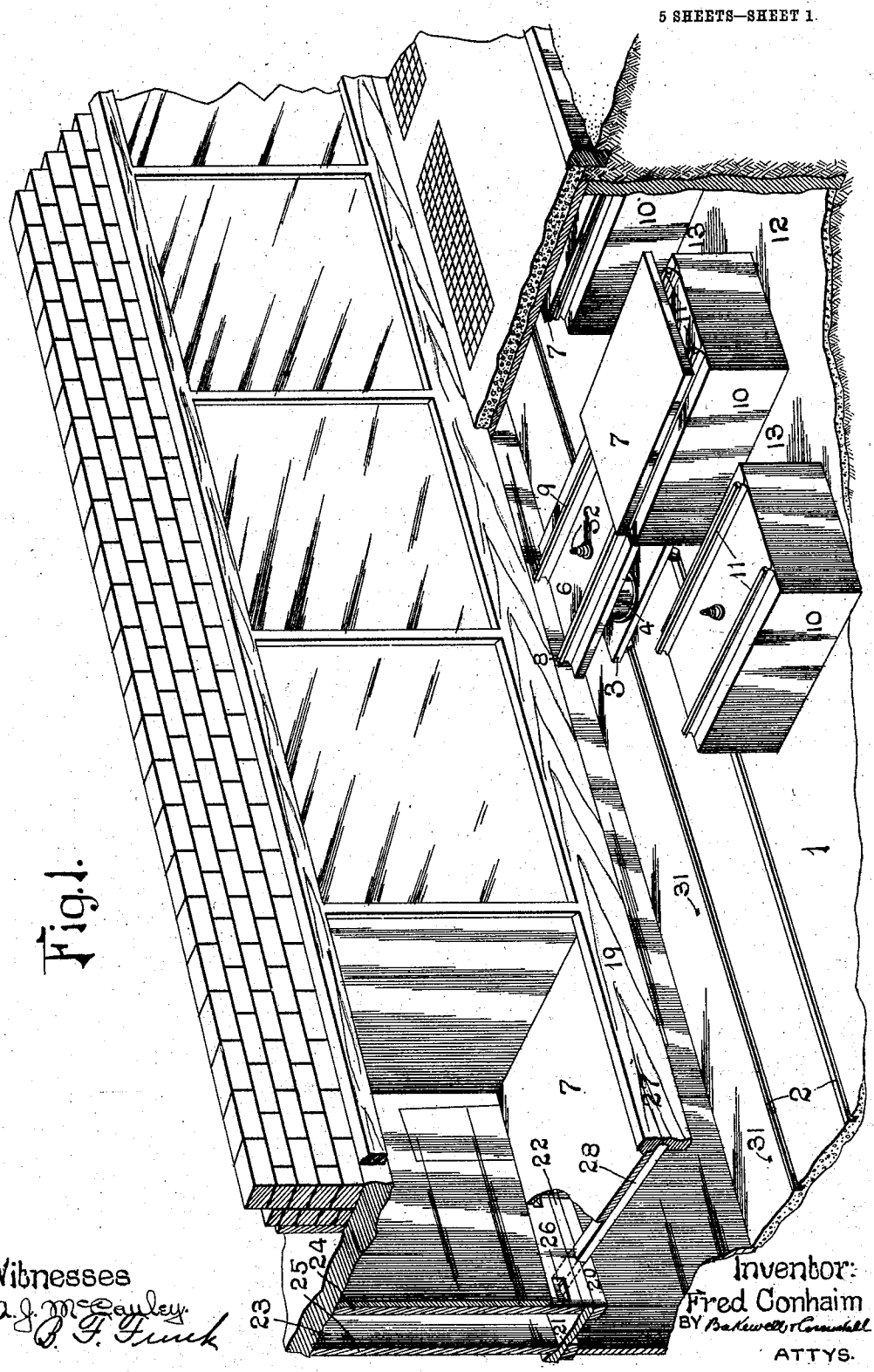


Fig. 1.

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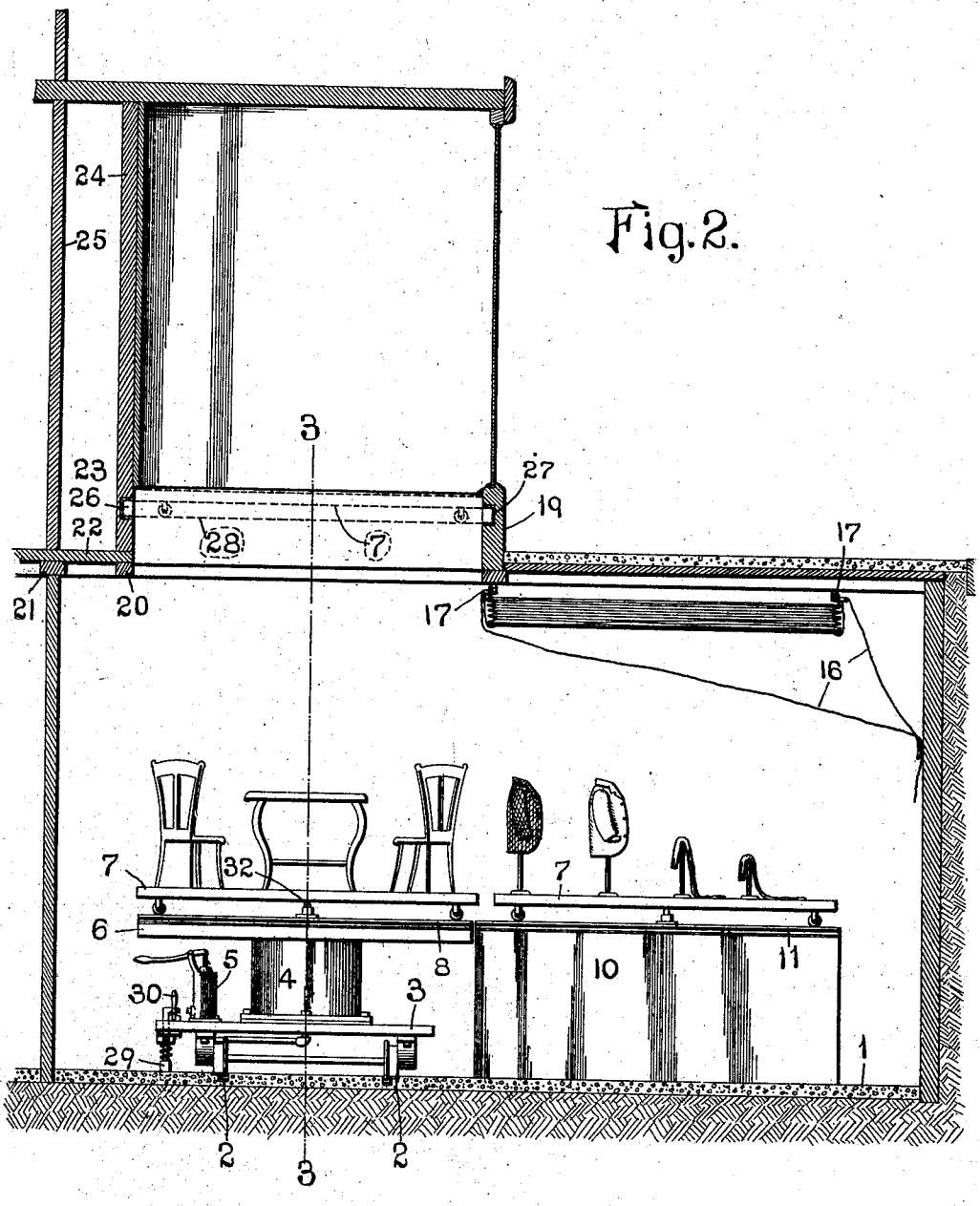
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.



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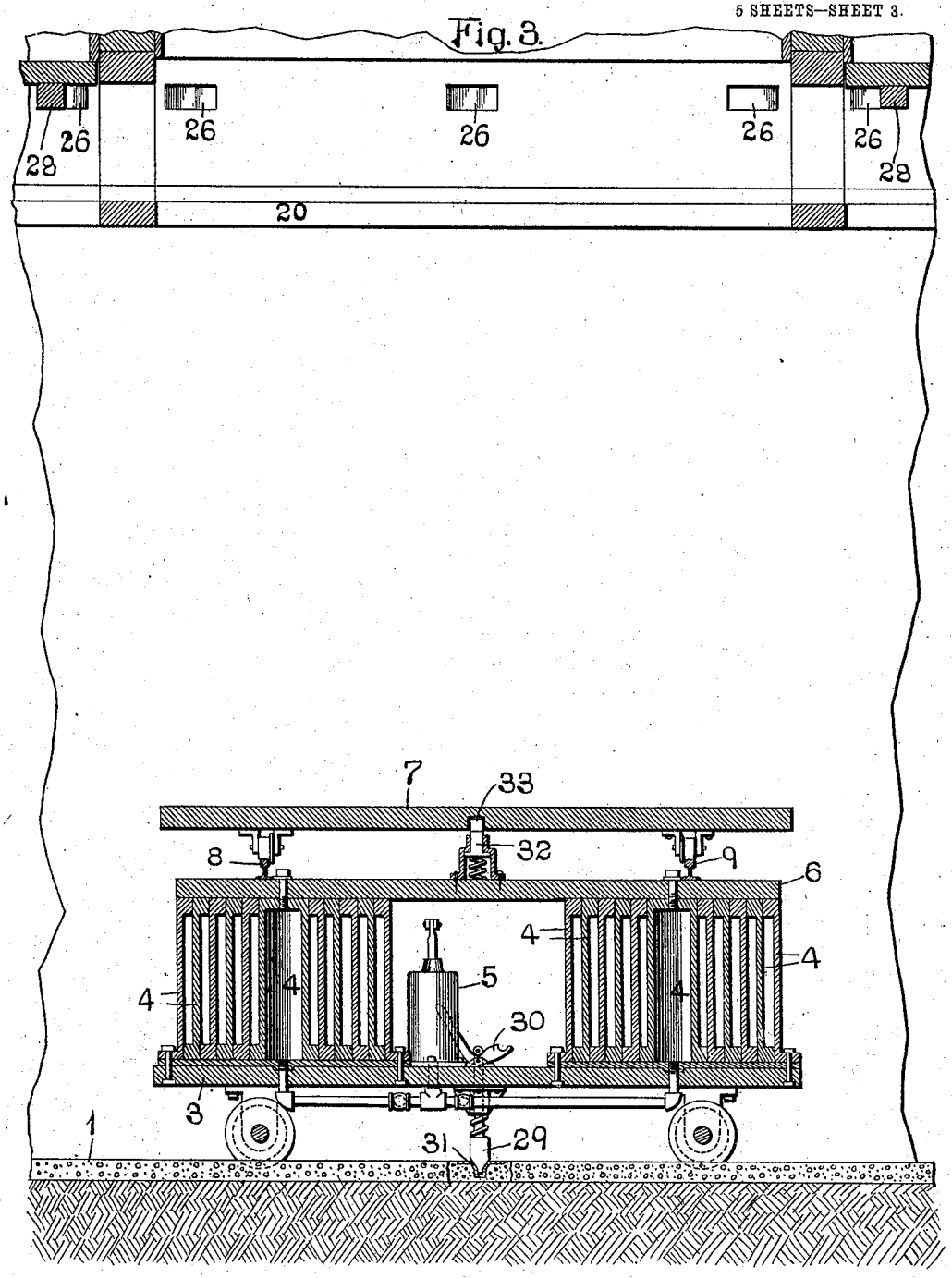
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 3.



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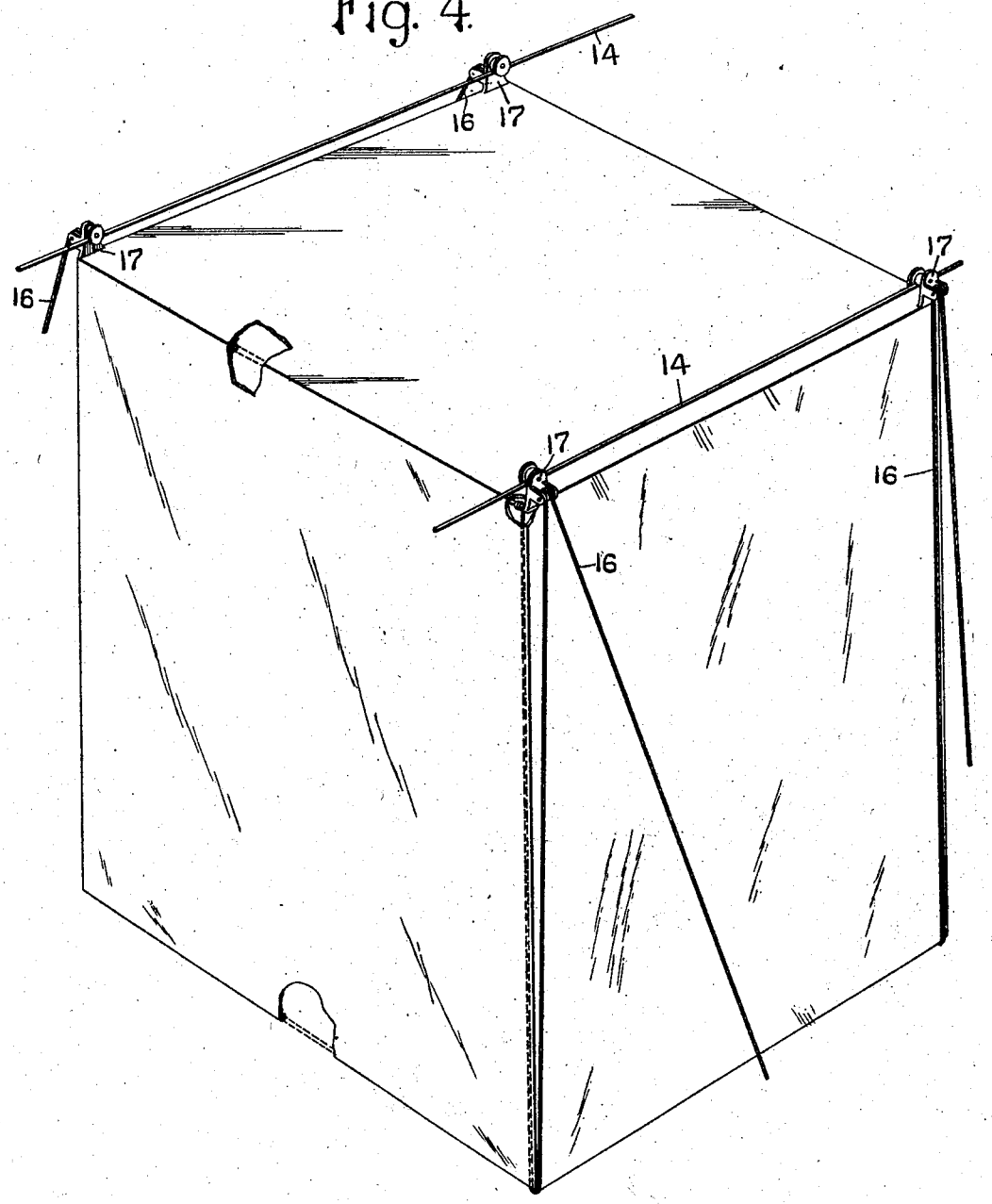
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

Fig. 4.



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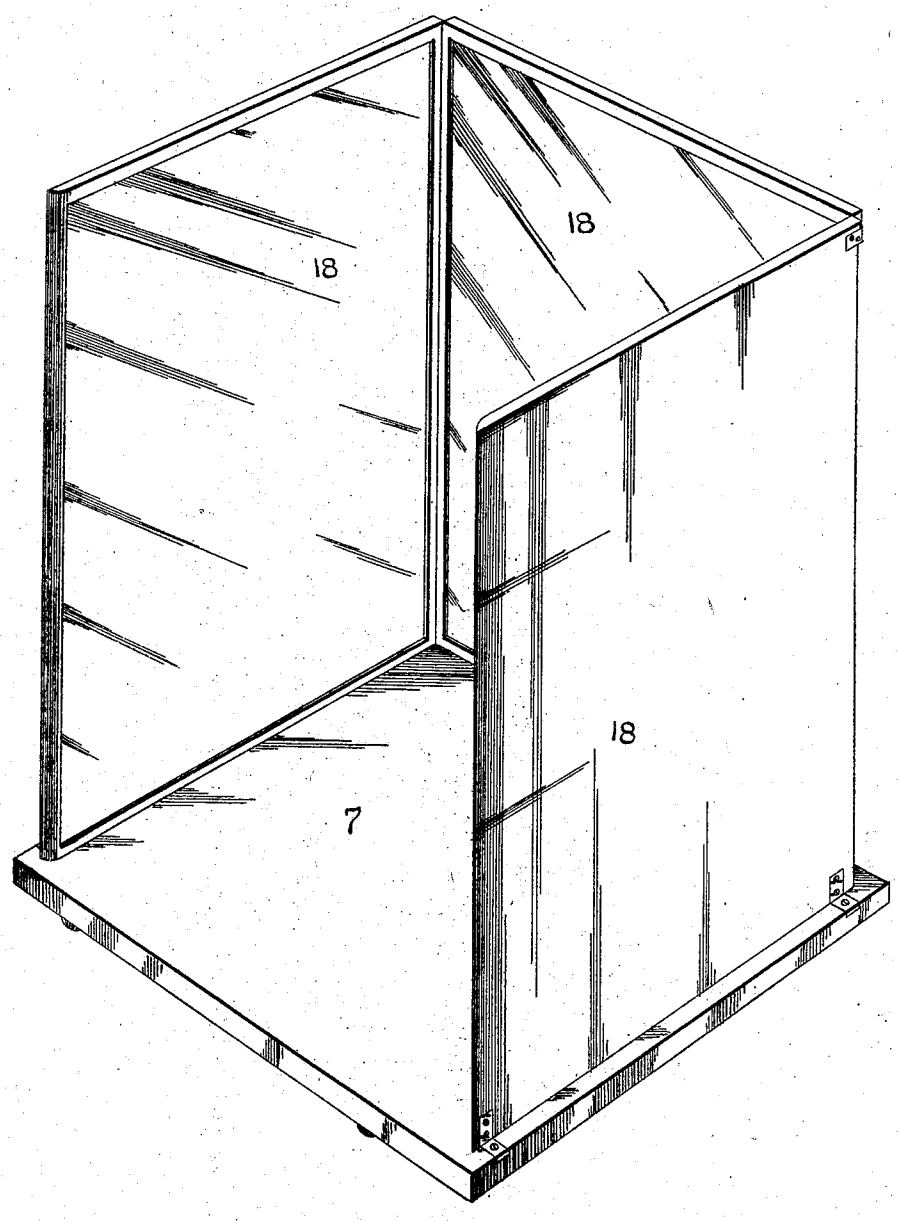
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5 SHEETS—SHEET 5.

Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED CONHAIM, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

APPARATUS FOR DRESSING WINDOWS.

No. 815,796. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented March 20, 1906.

Application filed March 17, 1905. Serial No. 250,656.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED CONHAIM, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, Missouri, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Apparatus for Dressing Windows, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of a portion of a building arranged for use with my invention, parts being broken away to show the interior construction thereof. Fig. 2 is a sectional view through a portion of the basement or cellar and the window of a store or other like premises. Fig. 3 is a sectional view through the hoisting apparatus, the rear wall of the building being shown in elevation. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a canopy employed in connection with the invention, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a removable background.

This invention relates to an improved means of arranging window-displays and for changing them as applied to stores or similar premises.

One of the objections now generally raised to frequent dressing of windows is that in order to arrange or rearrange the display the window must be shielded from inspection from the exterior by screens, shields, or similar devices and during the time occupied in dressing the window the proprietor of the store or premises in which it is located must lose the particular space occupied by the window for advertising purposes.

It is the purpose of my invention to provide means whereby the window-display may be arranged at a convenient point, preferably in the basement, and then introduced into the window through the floor thereof; and it is further the object of my invention to arrange the displays so that they may be quickly removed from and introduced into the window, thus obviating the necessity of shutting off the window from the view of the public.

Other objects and advantages as well as the novel details of construction of my invention will be more fully described hereinafter, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

The reference-numeral 1 designates the floor of the basement or cellar beneath the building in which my invention is utilized. The rails of the track 2 are preferably sunk in the floor, so that the top edges will be approximately level therewith, and these tracks receive one or more trucks 3, specifically illustrated in Fig. 3. The truck is provided with a hoisting apparatus comprising a plurality of hoisting-cylinders 4, preferably a set at each end. A compressed-air or hydraulic pump 5 is carried by the truck for introducing a hoisting fluid into the cylinders to raise the platform 6 to the bottom of the window to be decorated. A transfer-truck 7 is adapted to be supported on the rails 8 and 9 on the top 6 of the hoising-truck, which transfer-truck 7 may temporarily constitute the floor of the window. Arranged at suitable points below the window are platforms 10, having rails 11 at right angles to the rails of the track 2 to receive the transfer-trucks while they are being dressed.

In actual practice it is contemplated to generally utilize the space in the cellar or basement immediately below the sidewalk, which space in Fig. 1 is designated by the reference-numeral 12. The platforms 10 will generally be arranged in this portion 12, and each will be of such height as to most conveniently support the transfer-trucks constituting the temporary floors of the windows. The platforms 10 are spaced apart so as to form aisles 13, so that the operator providing the display may have access to the display from all sides. Supported on tracks or guideways 14, secured to the ceiling of the cellar, is arranged one or more collapsible canopies, which may be raised or permitted to fall by manipulating the cords 16, connected to the respective corners of the canopy and passing over pulleys in the hangers 17. The canopy or canopies may be moved along the track so as to register with the display, and by properly manipulating the cords in an obvious manner the display may be entirely enveloped so as to protect the same from dust, dirt, and other foreign substances. The advantage of providing the canopy will be apparent when it is considered that it becomes desirable to remove a certain display for an indefinite period while another is being substituted therefor. For example, suppose the window contained a display of dress

goods or the like and the exhibitor desired to temporarily have an umbrella-display in this space. The dress-goods display might be easily removed and transferred to one of the stationary platforms 10. The canopy would then be caused to envelop it to prevent it from becoming soiled until the umbrella-display was removed from the window, when the dress-goods display might be again introduced into the window. When it is considered that some of the more elaborate displays require the expenditure of considerable time, it will be apparent that the utilization of this canopy is an important feature of the invention.

In Fig. 5 I have illustrated a removable background, (designated by the numeral 18,) which background is provided with a back and sides which may contain a mirror, landscape, or suitably-decorated panels adapted to be quickly inserted into or removed from the window as occasion may demand.

By reference to Figs. 1 and 2 it will be observed that the window is supported by the usual lower rail 19 at the front portion thereof, the rear portion being supported by joists 20 and 21, said last-mentioned joists supporting a floor 22 of a passage or alley way 23, formed between the back of the window 24 and a rear wall 25. The rear window-panel is provided with a plurality of curved openings or recesses 26, while the lower rail 19 is provided with recesses 27. These recesses 26 and 27 are to receive the transversely-arranged floor-supporting beams 28, which support the removable floors of the windows, as will be presently explained. Arranged at suitable points on the truck 3 is a spring-pressed bolt 29, adapted to be raised by a cam-lever 30. This bolt is designed to be arranged in one of a plurality of recesses 31 in the floor adjacent the rails 2, so that the operator in moving the truck along the track may cause the bolt 29 to spring into the desired recess, and thereby center the truck with respect to the particular window in which the display is to be located. A spring-pressed bolt 32 is carried by the platform 6 of each truck and is adapted to spring into an inverted-**V**-shaped recess 33 in the bottom of the transfer-truck 7. The engagement of this bolt 32 with the recess 33 will insure the proper centering of the transfer-truck on the hoisting-truck platform, so that all that is necessary is to actuate the pump so that the hoisting-truck will be operated and the transfer-truck will be moved into the space to be occupied by the transfer-truck as a floor. After the transfer-truck has been moved into proper position the transverse floor-supporting beams 28 are inserted into the openings 26 and 27, and the hoisting-truck may then be removed. In the event that it becomes necessary to remove the display the hoisting-truck may be again brought under the transfer-truck or "temporary floor," as it may be called, and after removing the transverse supports 28 the whole display in that particular window may be lowered therefrom and another substituted.

In actual practice it has been found that considerable annoyance to persons in the store results from the dressing of windows, and in order to avoid this annoyance the passage-way 23 is provided, to which access may be had through a single door at the end thereof, so that the window-dresser may have access to any of the windows from this single passage-way without disturbing any person in the store.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination with a building having a plurality of show-windows and a basement below the show-windows, removable floors for the windows, a hoisting-truck, tracks for the hoisting-truck, and means adjacent the tracks for interlocking engagement with a part of the truck when the truck is immediately below any one of the several windows; substantially as described.

2. The combination with a show-window, of a removable floor for said window, a truck having a vertically-movable platform to move the removable floor into and out of engagement with the window, and transverse beams having means for engagement with recesses in the lower portion of said window to hold the floor in place; substantially as described.

3. The combination with a show-window, of a removable floor therefor, a receiving-platform out of line with and below the window, a track below the window, and a truck movable over the track and having transverse guides to aline with the receiving-platform, said guides having vertical movement for removing the floor from the window to the platform; substantially as described.

4. The combination with a show-window, of a removable floor therefor, a receiving-platform below the window, a track below the window, and a truck on the track, said truck having transverse guides for lowering the floor from the window whereby it may be transferred to the platform, and means for hoisting the floor into operative position with the window; substantially as described.

5. The combination with a show-window, of a removable floor therefor, a track beneath the floor, a truck movable on the track, means for temporarily holding the truck in rigid alinement with the floor, and a hoisting apparatus carried by the truck; substantially as described.

6. A building including a series of windows, parallel walls in rear of the window forming a passage-way, separately-arranged removable floors for the windows, means for

lowering the floors independently of each other, a truck carrying said lowering means, means for temporarily holding the truck rigid beneath any one of the floors, a track over which the truck may move, and means for retaining the floors in proper positions with relation to the windows; substantially as described.

7. The combination with a building having a plurality of show-windows and a basement therebeneath, removable floors for said windows, a truck having a vertically-movable platform for coöperation with the floors to move them into and out of position, transverse tracks on said vertically-movable platform, a truck-supporting track over which the truck may move to aline with any of the windows, platforms arranged beside the truck-supporting track, and rails on the last-mentioned platform to aline with those on the vertically-movable platform; substantially as described.

8. The combination with a building having a show-window, of a removable floor for the window, a truck having a vertically-movable platform to temporarily receive the removable floor, a track over which the truck may move, means for temporarily holding the truck in rigid alinement with the removable floor, and a platform adjacent to the truck to temporarily receive the removable floor from the truck-platform; substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature, in the presence of two witnesses, this 13th day of March, 1905.

FRED CONHAIM.

Witnesses:

B. F. FUNK,

GEORGE BAKEWELL.