W. HUSTON.

DEVICE FOR MAKING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 17, 1914.

1,164,816. Patented Dec. 21, 1915.

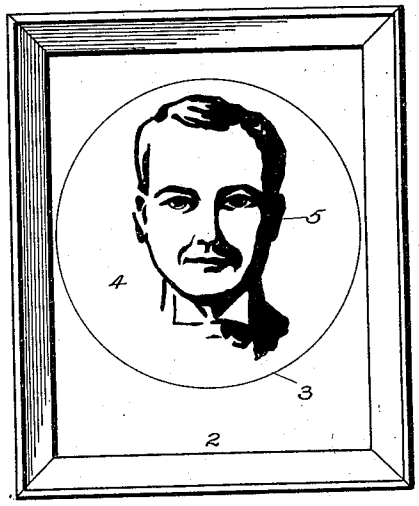


FIG. 1.

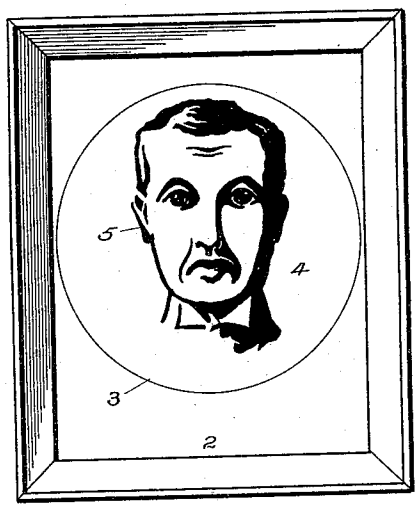


FIG. 2.

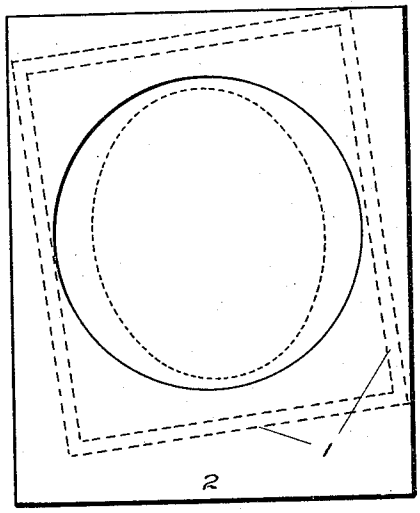


FIG. 3.

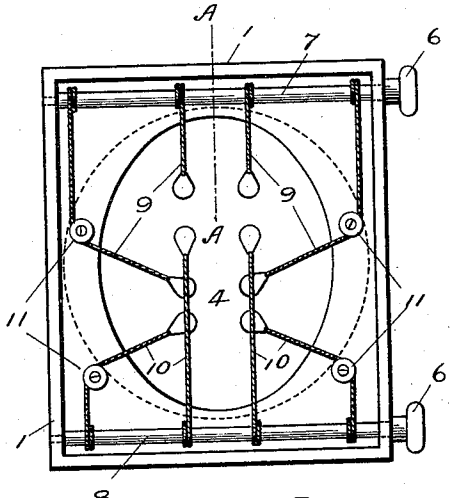


FIG. 4.

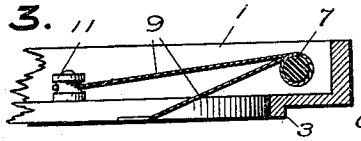


FIG 5

Witnesses

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DEVICE FOR MAKING FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

1,164,816. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 21, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER HUSTON, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York and Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Devices for Making Facial Expressions; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

The present invention relates to a device for making facial expressions in a very simple and effective manner, particularly of such subjects as may be superficially set forth upon a plane surface; and it has for its object to provide an entertaining and amusing device for producing facial expressions suitable for theatrical productions, or advertising and other purposes.

Characteristic of this invention is, the latitude of its application in the choice of subject to be superficially depicted upon the plane surface of the flexible support; also the facility with which a change of subject, alterations or additions thereto, may be effected. The features or other portions of the depicted subject are not only capable of being distorted, but can be partially displaced according to the arrangement of and the tension applied through the medium of the cords made fast to the reverse side of the flexible support.

The invention consists in part of the application and the arrangement of the tension-cords for producing motion in any desired direction, whereby through the mode of grouping the same with their operating rolls, portions having relative positions with respect to the subject depicted upon the flexible support, are simultaneously disturbed, while the divisions of the operating mechanism permit of the respective groups being operated conjointly or independently, and certain details of construction, as hereinafter set forth and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which similar figures of reference refer to like parts throughout.

Figure 1 is a view in front elevation of my improved device for making facial expressions, the subject depicted therein being represented as normal. Fig. 2 is a similar view to Fig. 1, with the expression of the subject changed through the disturbance of the tension of the flexible support. Figs. 3 and 4 are views in rear elevation, showing the supporting panel of the device, and the case containing the operating mechanism for making facial expressions, respectively, and; Fig. 5 is a detail view in vertical central section of a part of the operating mechanism on the line A—A, of Fig. 4.

In carrying out my invention, I have found it to be advantageous in attaining the best results that, the proportions adapted should be in keeping with the subject to be depicted thereon; likewise, the arrangement and disposition of the operating mechanism should conform to the character of the subject when producing motion to form different expressions therein.

The case 1, within which is contained the mechanism for making facial expressions, is—preferably—of less extent than that of the supporting panel 2, so as to be concealed thereby, when viewed from the front. For the purpose of increasing the effect given to the facial expressions, the case 1 is movably mounted within the supporting panel 2, so as to be readily canted to one side or the other of its vertical position, as indicated in dotted lines, in Fig. 3.

The projecting circular portion 3 of the front of the case 1, indicated in dotted line in Fig. 4, is provided at its periphery with a short bearing surface, as shown in Fig. 5. This projecting portion 3 is adapted to fit within the circular opening in the panel 2, and lies flush with the outer surface thereof and forms the supporting means whereby the case 1 may be canted to one side or the other when moved out of its vertical position, as indicated in dotted line in Fig. 3, in which the elliptical outline indicates the central opening in the circular portion of the case 1. The circular portion 3 is partially or wholly covered with a thin flexible material, such as rubber or a like substance, adapted to be made fast thereto at its edges and forming the flexible support 4, upon which is depicted the subject 5.

Pivotally mounted within the side walls of the case 1, extending through and provided with manipulating knobs 6, there are operating rolls 7 and 8, each provided with its group of tension cords 9 and 10, respectively, whereby the turning of the rolls will wind or unwind the cords made fast thereto;

while the free ends of the tension cords which are cemented or otherwise made fast to the back of the flexible support 4, the reverse side to that upon which is depicted the subject 5, will produce motion to form different expressions through distending portions adjacent to where they are made fast to the flexible support. The central portion of the front of the case 1 is cut away sufficiently to provide ample latitude for the operation of the tension cords, as shown.

To enable motion to be produced in any desired direction, without complicating the mechanism, there are idler-pulleys 11, located at the sides of the case 1, when the operating rolls are located at the ends thereof. The grouping of the tension cords with their respective operating rolls admits of simultaneous motion to distend relative portions of the depicted subject or other portions of the same to form different expressions therein.

Various modifications in the arrangement of the tension cords and the grouping of the same with their respective rolls, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

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

1. In a device of the character described, a flexible support of plane extent, a subject superficially depicted thereon, a series of tension cords made fast to the reverse side thereof, and means for actuating said tension cords and producing motion to distend portions of said flexible support so as to form different expressions of the subject depicted thereon.

2. In a device of the character described, a flexible support of plane extent, a subject superficially depicted thereon, a series of tension cords made fast to the reverse side thereof, and operating rolls interacting with said tension cords to produce motion distending the flexible support to form different expressions therein.

3. In a device of the character described, a flexible support having a subject superficially depicted thereon, a plurality of tension cords made fast to the reverse side thereof, said tension cords arranged in groups, and said groups of tension cords adapted to interact with their respective operating rolls to produce motion simultaneously distending portions of said flexible support relative to symmetrical divisions of the subject depicted thereon to produce different expressions of the subject.

4. In a device for making facial expressions, a supporting panel having a case movably mounted therein, said case provided with a surface of thin flexible material, a subject superficially depicted thereon, a series of tension cords made fast to the reverse side of said flexible material, and operating rolls pivotally mounted within said case and adapted to interact with said tension cords, for the purpose hereinbefore set forth.

Toronto, September 17, 1914.

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Witnesses:
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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."