

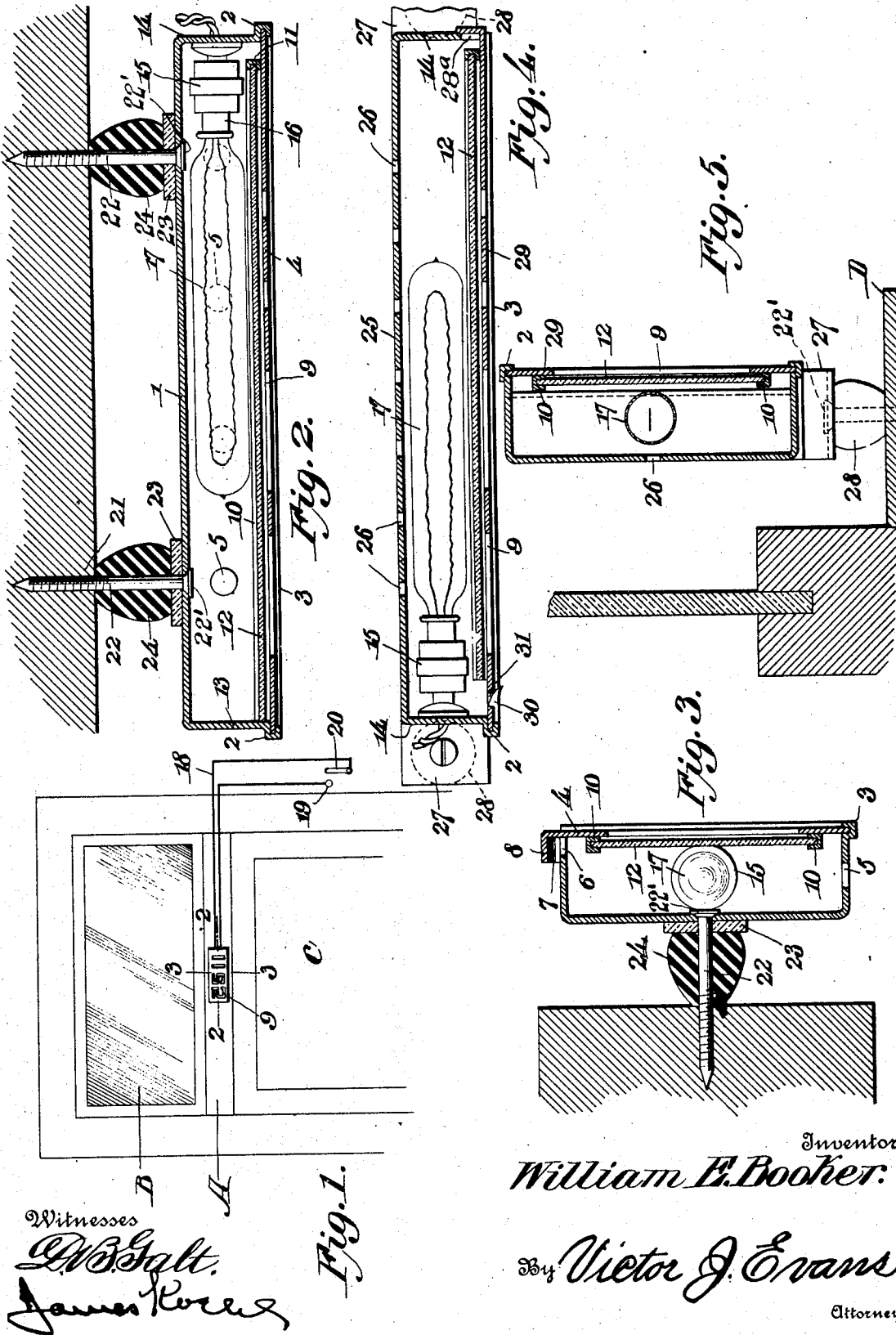
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SIGN.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM EDWARD BOOKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to signs and particularly to one adapted to be used for the purpose of electrically displaying the numbers of dwellings or business houses or the like, the object of the invention being to provide means whereby the numbers of the house will be clearly visible to pedestrians or the one desiring to locate a particular house.

Another object of the invention is to provide a sign which will include an electrically operated bulb, and means for yieldingly supporting the sign to prevent the breakage of the filament of the lamp under vibration.

Another object of the invention is to provide a structure whereby a perfect ventilation of the lamp casing can be obtained so as to prevent the casing from becoming overheated.

In the drawing, forming a portion of this specification and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views:—Figure 1 is a view showing the application of the sign to a door structure. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical section taken on line 3—3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing a slightly modified form of the invention. Fig. 5 is a transverse section through the device shown in Fig. 4.

The device is primarily intended for use upon dwellings where pedestrians can readily ascertain the number of the house on a dark night.

The device shown in Figs. 1 to 3, inclusive, of the drawing, comprises a rectangular casing 1 which is open at its front side. The casing is provided at its front side with the vertical guideways 2. At the bottom, the casing is provided with a stop 3. A closure-plate 4 is slidably mounted in the guide 2 and its movement may be limited through its contact with the stop 3. The bottom wall of the casing has formed therein an opening 5. The top wall has an opening 6 therein. The closure-plate 4 has an upper manipulating flange 7 thereon which is spaced from the top wall of the casing at a point immediately above the opening 6

therein to provide an effective finger-engaging portion 8. The portion 8 is sufficiently spaced from the opening 6 so that the air may be drawn into the casing from the bottom and freely passed from the casing at the top.

The closure-plate 4 is, in effect, a display member and it has stamped therein the numbers 9. At the rear, the member 4 is provided with upper and lower longitudinal guides 10 and at one end the member is provided with a vertical stop 11. A transparent plate 12 of any suitable color is removably mounted in the longitudinal guides 10. It may be brought to bear against the stop 11 and when the plate 4 is in its closed position one end of the transparent plate bears against the wall 13 of the casing 1 and the plate is thereby retained and held operatively associated with the member 4.

The wall 14 of the casing 1 supports a socket 15. This socket, as conventionally shown, is of the usual well known construction and it is adapted to receive the contact plug 16 of the incandescent bulb 17. The bulb is preferably disposed horizontally in the casing and it is located immediately behind the transparent plate 12 so that when the bulb is lighted the numbers of the sign will be in full display. The bulb is arranged in the electric circuit 18. This circuit includes a contact 19 and a circuit-closing switch 20. In practice, I preferably arrange the casing 1 on the separating bar A between the transom B and the door C. The casing 1 is held to the bar A by means of the retaining devices 21. Two of these devices are preferably employed and each comprises a fastening screw 22, a porcelain washer 23, and a yieldable substantially egg-shaped member 24. The screw is passed through the rear wall of the casing 1 and through the washer 23 and the member 24 and it is engaged with the bar A as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The members 24 yieldingly hold the casing 1 on the bar A of the door structure or frame and they operate to absorb the shock on the sudden closing of the door C to thereby prevent the breakage of the filament in the bulb 17. The electric circuit in which the bulb 17 is arranged may be wired into the vestibule into which the door C opens and the switch 20 may be secured in the vestibule where it will be disposed for convenient reach of the operator.

The opening 6 is so constructed that the plate 12 and the guides 10 and 11 therefore may freely pass therethrough when disconnecting the closure plate 4 from the casing 5 or in connecting the same thereto.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the casing 25 is provided in its rear wall with the ventilating passages 26. The bottom of this casing is provided with the attaching flanges 27 which may be secured to the bar D by the yieldable fastening devices 28. The casing 25 has one of its end walls provided with an opening 28^a through which the plate 12 and the guides 10 therefor are adapted to freely pass on adjustment of the stencil plate upon the casing. To prevent the accidental opening of the closure-plate 29 in this form of the invention, I provide the casing 25 with a latch member 30 which is designed to engage in the opening 31 in the closure-plate 29 when the latter is in its full closed position.

The fastening screws 22 are provided within the casing with heads 22' which are adapted to engage against the rear wall of the sign under the influence of the members 24. This construction is such that the sliding movement of the sign will be limited in one direction. It is stated that the members 24 are of substantially egg form, briefly referring to these members it is also true that

they are of gradually decreasing diameter in the direction away from the sign so that the small ends of the members bear directly against the bar A or other support upon which the sign is mounted. Now, it is stated that due to this construction of the members 24 their elasticity is greater toward their small ends, whereby the shock is effectively taken up and subsequently transmitted to the large ends of the members without imparting detrimental vibrations to the sign.

I claim:—

A sign comprising a casing having an open side portion, a stencil plate slidably mounted across the open side of the casing, one of the walls of the casing having an opening therein through which the stencil plate is adapted to be drawn, a transparent member at one side of the plate, an illuminating device located in the casing and disposed behind the said transparent member, and a manipulating portion formed on the stencil plate and overhanging the said opening.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM EDWARD BOOKER.

Witnesses:

STEVEN GRAY,
W. H. PAIRO.