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MOVING PLATFORM OR STAIRCASE APPARATUS FOR PURPOSES OF AMUSEMENT OR DIVERSION.

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1,354,744.

Patented Oct. 5, 1920.

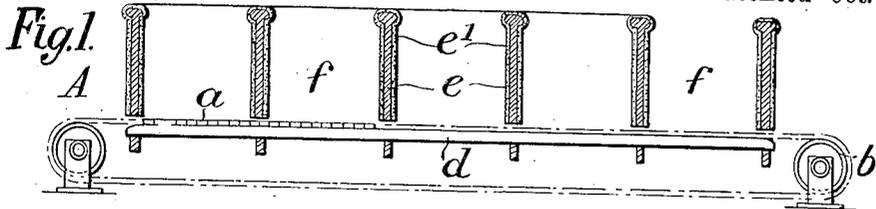


Fig. 2.

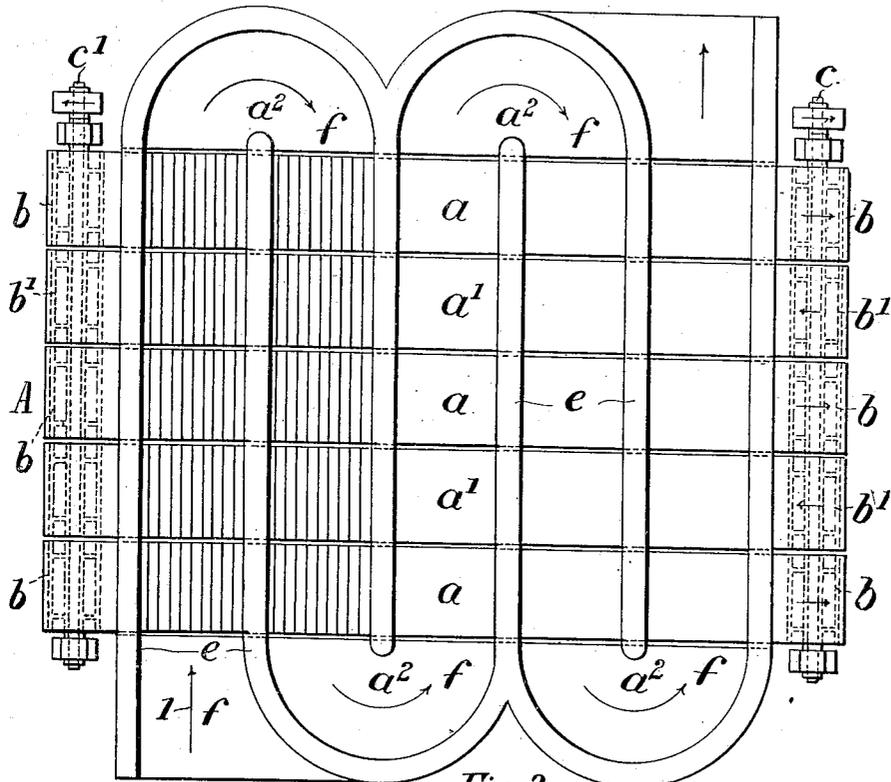


Fig. 3.

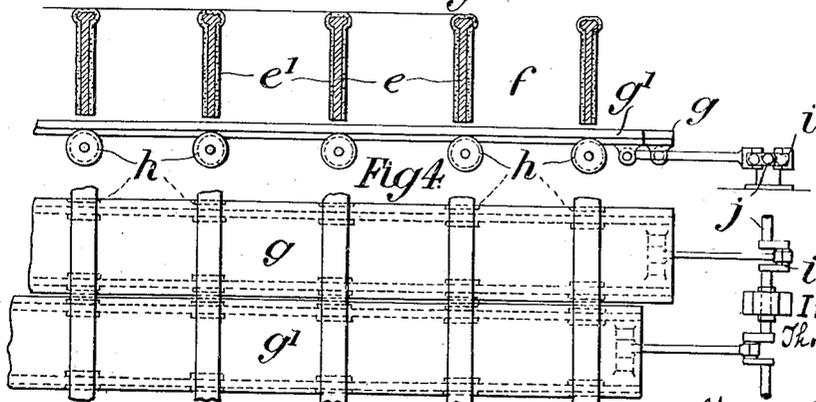


Fig. 4.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS HEFFERNAN, a subject of the King of Great Britain, residing at 2 Habelany Kent Road, East Molesey, Surrey, England, have invented a new and useful Moving Platform or Staircase Apparatus for Purposes of Amusement or Diversion, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to apparatus of a type frequently erected at exhibitions, fairs and like places of entertainment, such for instance as those known as the joy wheel and witching waves, for the amusement or diversion of venturesome persons and spectators.

The apparatus forming the subject of my invention is in the form of a platform or of a staircase, circular or sinuous and has for its object to offer difficulties to the progress of persons walking upon or along the same.

For this purpose the platform is made in sections which are adapted to be moved by mechanical or electrical means in various directions so that a person stepping from one section to another will have difficulty in maintaining his balance. Or, in the case of a staircase the treads may be arranged to be moved in a similar manner.

In practice the platform or staircase will be preferably arranged between barriers or balusters suitably padded or protected to prevent injury to persons falling against them.

The movements of the sections may be to-and-fro with relation to the barrier and the movements of adjacent sections in opposite directions.

To enable the invention to be fully understood, I will describe the same by reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation illustrating the invention, and

Fig. 2 is a plan of the same.

Figs. 3 and 4 are respectively a sectional elevation and a plan illustrating a modification.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2 A indicates the moving platform of the apparatus, which is composed of a series of endless belts or sections a , a^1 mounted upon rollers or pulleys b , b^1 , respectively, the said rollers being mounted upon shafts, c , c^1 designed, to be independently driven, the rollers b and b^1 on the shaft c being respectively fixed to

and free on the said shaft and vice versa with respect to the shaft c^1 , so that when the said shafts are independently rotated in opposite directions as indicated by the arrows in Fig. 2, the belts a will be caused to travel in one direction and the belts a^1 in the reverse direction. The belts a and a^1 are designed to travel across a fixed platform d which will support the weight upon them, and across the said platform a series of barriers e extend which will constitute a continuous gangway f along which persons using the apparatus will be compelled to walk, these barriers e being of sufficient height and strength to support people leaning against them. e^1 , Fig. 1, indicates suitable padding on the barriers e to prevent injury to persons falling against them.

With this arrangement it will be understood that a person entering at one end of the gangway f as indicated by the arrow 1 and stepping on the platform section or belt b will be moved from left to right, and as he steps on to the next section b^1 he will be moved in the reverse direction, and so on over the whole length of the gangway.

In the drawing the gangway is arranged so as to provide a zig-zag course for the users and at the end, of each straight portion thereof a rigid or stable platform a^2 is employed so that a person having passed over a straight portion can rest on the said rigid platform if he so desires, before passing over the next straight portion and so on.

Instead of rotating the shafts c , c^1 continuously, they may be rotated intermittently by means of mutilated gear wheels or other devices.

In some cases the platform instead of being made in the form of belts may be made of a series of rigid sections g , g^1 as indicated in Figs. 3 and 4, the sections being mounted upon anti-friction rollers h and operated by means of cranks, i on the shaft j the cranks being arranged so as to reciprocate the adjacent sections g , g^1 in opposite directions.

This form of platform is also advantageously used in connection with a staircase, the treads of which are designed to be moved in opposite directions.

Claims.

1. An amusement apparatus including a pathway over which a person may walk, a plurality of parallel endless belts extending

transversely across said pathway, and means for simultaneously moving alternate belts in opposite directions transversely of the pathway.

5 2. An amusement apparatus comprising a tortuous pathway including several longitudinal sections, a plurality of parallel end-

less belts arranged side by side and extending transversely across the longitudinal sections of said pathway, and means for simultaneously moving alternate belts in opposite directions transversely of said longitudinal sections of the pathway. 10

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