A. O. HABESHAN.

KNOCKDOWN MERRY-GO-ROUND.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 30, 1917.

1,271,892.

Patented July 9, 1918.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

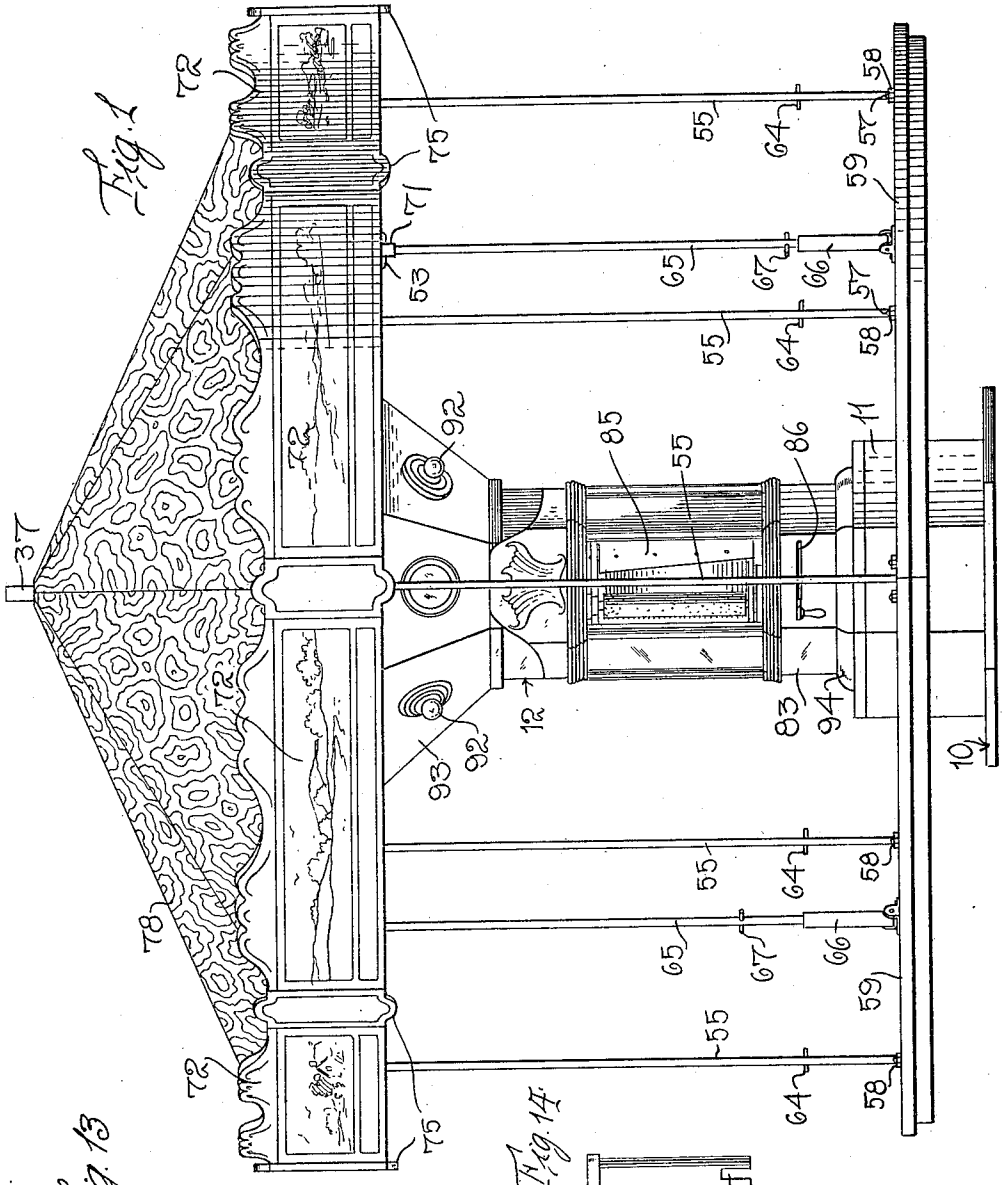


Fig. 13.

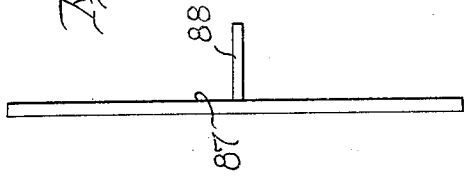
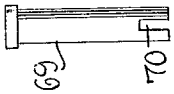


Fig. 14.



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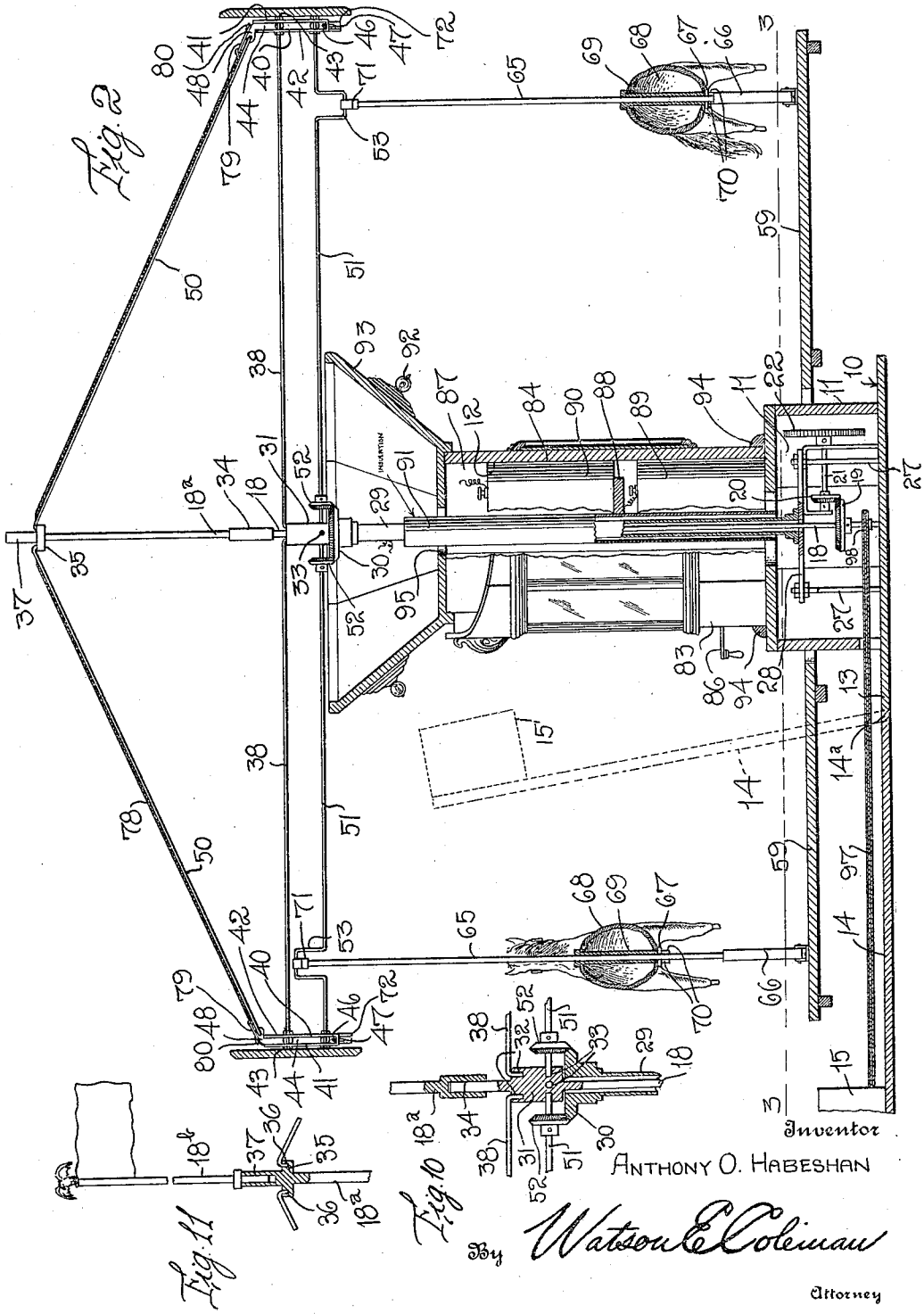

Fig. 2

Fig. 10

Fig. 11

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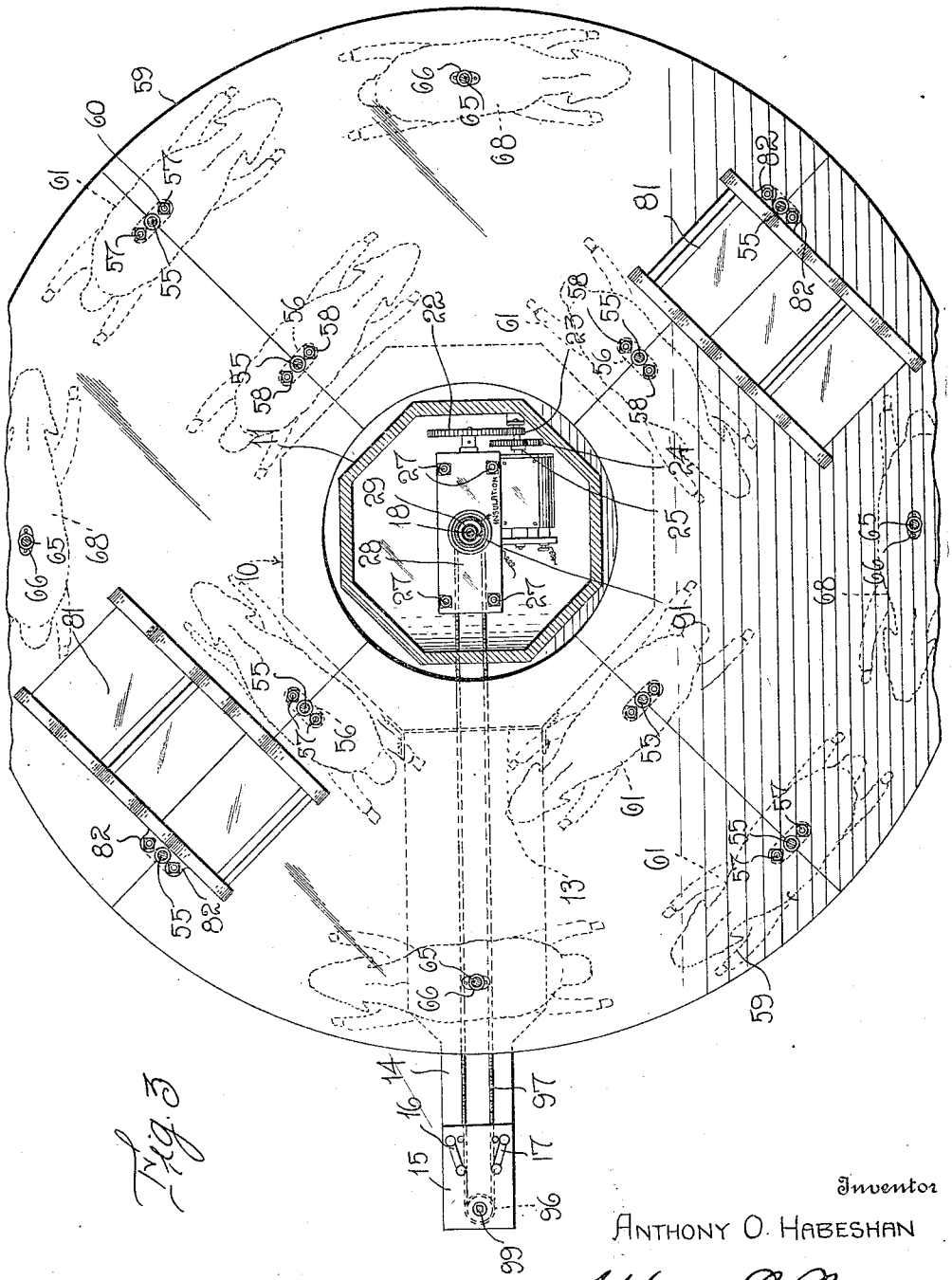

Fig. 3

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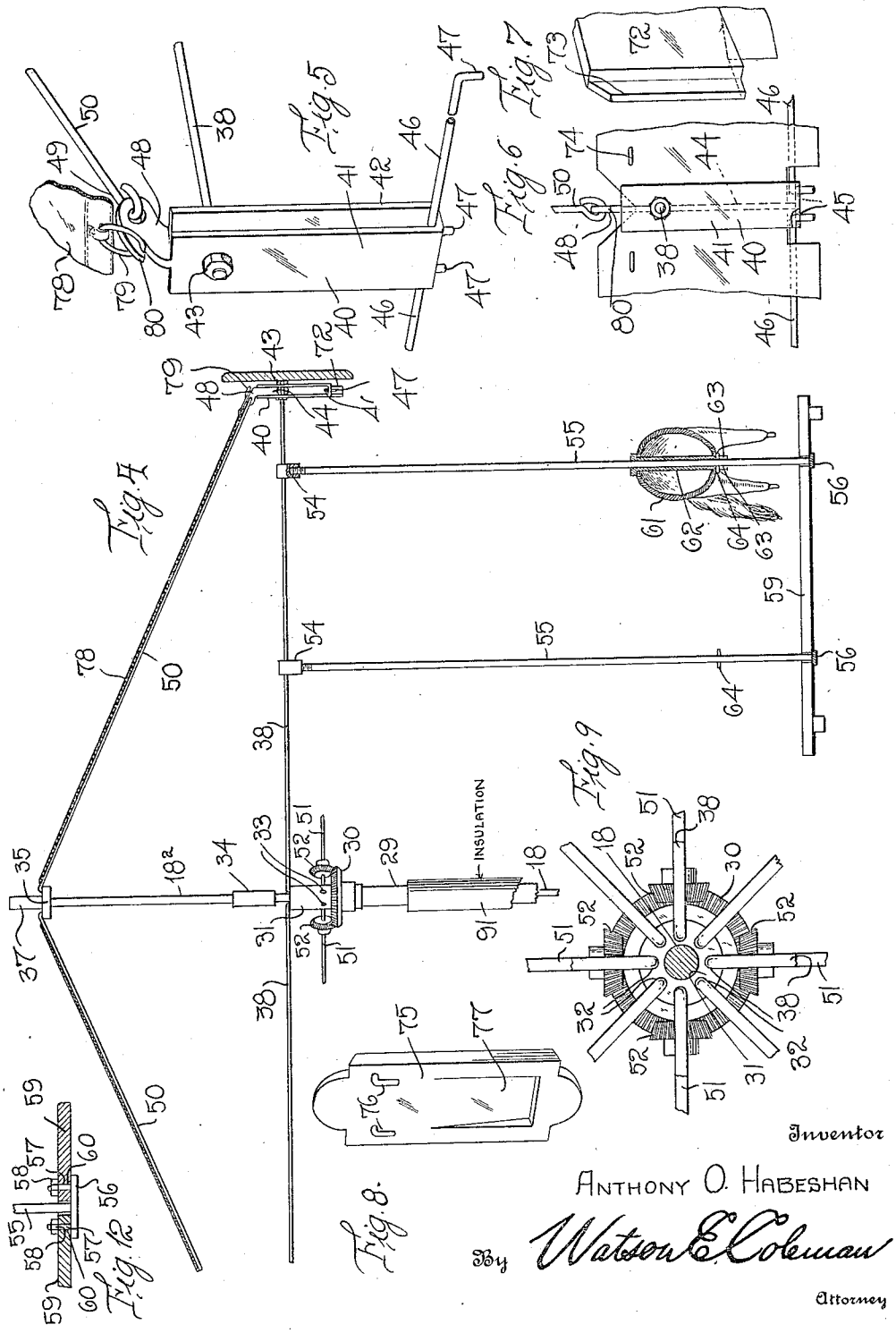

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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KNOCKDOWN MERRY-GO-ROUND.

1,271,892. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 9, 1918.

Application filed April 30, 1917. Serial No. 165,419.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANTHONY O. HABESHAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bogota, in the county of Bergen and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knockdown Merry-Go-Rounds, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to merry-go-rounds, or like devices, and particularly to merry-go-rounds designed as toys.

The general object of the invention is to provide a structure of this character so constructed that it may be readily taken apart and "knocked down" so that the parts may be readily packed, and further so constructed that the setting up of the merry-go-round and the taking apart of the structure will be of great interest to children.

A further object is to so construct this merry-go-round that it may be packed in a small compass for transportation.

A further object is to provide a merry-go-round or like structure so arranged that it may be driven either by a battery or by hand, and in this connection to provide animal figures supported upon the merry-go-round so arranged that they may be reversed in position, thus permitting the merry-go-round to be rotated in either direction.

A further object is to so mount these figures of animals that while they may be lifted at certain times, as for instance to disengage the platform from the supporting rod, the animals, when in operative position, will not shift laterally but will be held from any movement which would tend to dislodge dolls, or other objects, disposed in riding position upon the animals.

A further object is to provide a construction of this character in which certain of the animals are caused to rise and fall, as the structure rotates, while others are held from a rising and falling movement.

A further object is to provide a construction of this character in which there is a central operating shaft operatively geared to the driving mechanism and carrying socket members with which radially disposed arms are detachably connected, these arms supporting the platform and supporting the animals.

Still another object is to provide radially disposed arms with coacting braces, the braces being adapted to fold upon the arms so that the arms may be stowed away compactly.

And a further object is to provide a structure of this character in which the arms are connected by braces extending from the end of one arm to the ends of the adjacent arms and to provide means for supporting ornamental panels between the extremities of the arms and to provide ornamental cleats detachably connected to the panels and extending across the joint between the panels.

A further object is to provide an awning operatively supported upon the arm braces and detachable therefrom, the cleats being detachably engaged with the awning to hold it stretched.

Still another object is to provide a centrally disposed housing inclosing two batteries, one of which is designed to be connected to electric lights and the other to the motor whereby the merry-go-round may be driven, the current from these batteries being controlled by suitable switches.

A further object is to provide means immediately surrounding the central mast or rotatable shaft for supporting the batteries and housing the batteries within the ornamental housing.

And still another object in this connection is to provide an ornamental housing formed of a plurality of sections, one of said sections being so formed as to contain a music box.

Still another object is to form the central mast or shaft of sections having detachable engagement with each other.

And another object is to provide for a slight lateral swinging movement of the platform supported upon the rotatable arms and for the arms themselves, so that pressure exerted upon one side of the merry-go-round will not tend to bend the central mast or snap it.

A further object is to so construct the motor that it will run steadily, without jerks.

Further objects have to do with the details

of construction and arrangement of parts as will hereafter appear.

My invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved merry-go-round, the animals and seats, however, not being shown;

Fig. 2 is a vertical diametrical section to show certain details of construction;

Fig. 3 is a section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary transverse sectional view;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the members to which the braces and panels are connected, the figure also showing a portion of the awning;

Fig. 6 is a front elevation of the construction illustrated in Fig. 5 with two panels disposed in place;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of an end of one of the panels;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view of the cleat which covers the joint between the panels;

Fig. 9 is a top plan view of the crown gear and shafts coacting therewith;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view of the lower socket member;

Fig. 11 is a sectional view of the upper socket member.

Fig. 12 is a fragmentary sectional view through the platform sections 59 showing the manner of engaging the hangers 55 with these sections;

Fig. 13 is a fragmentary elevation of the lower end of one of the sleeves 62.

Fig. 14 is a detailed elevation of the vertical internal sleeve for mounting the animals upon the rods 65.

Referring to these drawings, 10 designates a base, which is preferably made of wood and upon which is mounted a hollow casing 11, which incloses the motor and the gears for driving the merry-go-round. Disposed upon this casing 11 is a sectional housing designated generally 12, within which a music box and the batteries are inclosed. The details of this housing will be later described. The base 10 has attached to it the lateral extension 13, which has a hinged section 14, so that this lateral extension may be turned up to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2 for packing. The extremity of this extension supports a switch box 15 having a light switch 16 and a motor switch 17.

Operatively supported in a step bearing on the base 10 is a shaft 18, which extends up through the housing 12, but which at its lower end carries a beveled gear wheel 19. This shaft 18 is the vertical driving shaft of the merry-go-round. The beveled gear wheel 19 meshes with a small beveled pinion 20 carried by a shaft 21, this shaft 21 carrying a relatively large gear wheel 22, (see Fig. 3) which meshes with a driving pinion 23, upon the shaft of which is carried a relatively large gear wheel 24, meshing with a beveled pinion 25 mounted on the shaft of the motor 26. This motor is an ordinary electric motor. It will be seen that this train of gears reduces the speed of the motor. This motor is connected to batteries contained in the housing 12, as will be later stated, and these batteries are thrown into and out of electrical circuit with the motor by means of the switch 17 or any like instrumentality.

Disposed above the motor and mounted upon downwardly extending supports 27 is a plate 28, which supports a metallic sleeve 29, which extends up above the housing 12 and through which the shaft 18 passes. This sleeve, at its upper end, carries a crown gear 30. The sleeve is fixed and thus the crown gear is fixed. Forming part of the shaft 18, above the crown gear, is a hub 31 formed, as illustrated in Fig. 10, with a plurality of sockets 32, these sockets extending vertically downward from the upper face of the hub and being disposed concentrically to the axis of the shaft. The hub is also formed with a plurality of sockets 33, for engagement by shafts which operate the horses. The shaft section 18 terminates above this hub 31 and disposed upon this shaft section is a second shaft section 18^a formed at its lower end with a socket 34 engaging over the tip of the first shaft section. This second shaft section is formed at its upper end with a hub 35, as illustrated in Fig. 11, this hub having a series of downwardly extending sockets 36, for engagement with radial braces and the upper end of the hub is formed with a socket 37 into which the lower end of a third shaft section 18^b is stepped, this third shaft section 18^b extending upward and carrying a flag, or otherwise formed to add attractiveness to the device.

Engaged in the sockets 32 are the bent extremities of a series of radially extending braces or arms 38, as illustrated in Figs. 4 and 9. These arms 38 are bent at their inner ends so that they may be readily inserted in the sockets 32 or removed therefrom, and normally extend radially outward and at their extremities, as illustrated in Fig. 5, each passes through a member 40. This member 40 is formed of a block of material formed to provide outer and inner walls 41 and 42. The braces 39 pass through these walls and at their extremities are provided with nuts 43 and a spacing web 44 is disposed on each brace 38 between the walls 41 and 42. The bottom of each member 40 is formed with perforations 45 for engagement by circumferentially extending

braces 46, these braces being formed with hooks 47 at their ends engaging in the sockets. Thus the braces 46 may be readily detached from the members 40 or applied thereto and connect these members 40 entirely around the merry-go-round, so as to hold the members 40 in proper spaced relation and thus hold the radially disposed arms 38 in proper spaced relation.

The upper end of each member 40 is formed with a lug 48, having an eye 49 for engagement by the hook shaped end of an upwardly and inwardly extending brace 50. There are as many of these braces 50 as there are braces 38. These braces 50 extend upward and inward and at their upper ends are bent downward to engage in the sockets 36 of the hub 35.

Disposed below the braces 38 are a plurality of radiating shafts 51 which, at their inner ends, are disposed in the sockets 33 of the hub 31 and which, at their outer ends, are rotatably and detachably mounted in certain of the members 40, as illustrated most clearly in Fig. 2. These shafts carry upon them the beveled gear wheels 52, which mesh with the crown gear wheel 30, and each of these shafts, adjacent its outer end, is formed with a cranked portion 53.

The braces 38 are formed with sockets 54, which are screw-threaded interiorly and detachably engaged with these sockets 54 are a plurality of pairs of hangers 55. The lower end of each hanger is formed with a T-shaped head 56 having upwardly extending pins 57, these pins being screw-threaded for the reception of nuts 58. Detachably mounted upon these hangers 55 is a platform 59, composed of a plurality of sections. As illustrated, the platform is composed of four sections. These sections are segmental in form and each section, at its margin, is provided with openings 60 to receive one of the pins 57 of the corresponding hanger (see Fig. 12). Thus the platform sections 59 are supported from the hangers but may be lifted up upon the hangers when the nuts 58 are removed and may be detached from the hangers in this manner. These hangers 55 also carry horses, or other animals, designated 61, these animals 61 being vertically shiftable upon the hangers by the provision of a tube 62 extending vertically through the animal and through which the hanger 55 passes, this tube 62 being formed at its lower end with a pair of slots 63 engaging over transversely extending pins 64 extending through the hanger 55. This transversely extending pin 64, when engaged with the slot 63, holds the animal from rotation upon the hanger, but if the animal be lifted up, it may then be rotated to a reverse position and then again lowered into locking engagement with the pin 64.

Depending from the cranked portion 53 of each shaft 51 is a vertically reciprocating rod 65, which is best illustrated in Fig. 2. This rod 65, at its lower end, has telescopic engagement with a vertically extending tubular socket 66, hingedly mounted upon the upper face of the platform 59. The rod 65 is also provided with a transverse extending pin 67 corresponding with the pin 64 and the animal 68 mounted upon the rod 65 is formed with an internal sleeve 69, which passes vertically through the animal and has sliding engagement with the rod 65, this sleeve at its lower end being vertically slotted as at 70, so as to engage with the pin 67. Thus it will be seen that the animal 68 may also be turned around so as to face in an opposite direction but that when lowered they will be locked by the pin 67 and prevented from any rotation. It will likewise be seen that as the shafts 51 rotate the rod 65 will have a vertical reciprocation which is permitted by the hinged socket 66 and thus the animals 68 will be given vertical movement, with a slight horizontal component depending upon the length of the crank 53.

It will be seen from the construction heretofore described that the rotation given to the central shaft 18 will cause the arms or braces 38 to rotate and will cause the shafts 51 to rotate and that this will carry the platform around the central case 11, in the usual manner of a merry-go-round, and that certain of the animals are fixed from vertical movement, while certain other animals have a vertical or galloping movement. It will be also obvious that the animals may be removed form the rod 65, as these rods at their upper ends have screw-threaded connection with a socket member 71, which engages with the crank 53. Thus various animals may be used and the animals changed, if desired.

For the purpose of firmly bracing the members 40 from each other and at the same time adding to the ornamental quality of the toy merry-go-round and making it more nearly simulate the ordinary large merry-go-round, I provide a series of ornamental panels 72, which are painted in lively colors and carry ornamental scroll work. The ends of these panels are reduced in thickness as at 73 (see Fig. 7) and these reduced ends are inserted between the walls 41 and 42, as shown clearly in Fig. 6. These panels extend downward below and act to conceal the brace rod 46, as clearly shown in Fig. 6, and each panel at its ends and adjacent its upper edge is provided with an eye 74. Engageable with these eyes 74 and acting to bridge the joint between the panels 72 and extend over the corresponding member 40 is a cleat 75, illustrated in Fig. 8, which is

ornamental in its character and which is provided adjacent its upper end with the two downwardly extending hooks 76. The inner face of the cleat is recessed as at 77, so as to receive the lower end of the member 40 and fit over this lower end, while the hooks 76 extending through the eyes 74 support the ornamental members at intervals between the panels 72, as shown most clearly in Fig. 1.

Fitting over the member 35 and resting upon the downwardly extending truss rods or braces 50 is an awning 78, the extremity of which is provided with eyes 79, as shown in Fig. 5, these eyes engaging with hook shaped bills 80 formed upon the lugs 48, as illustrated in Fig. 5. The awning is simply dropped over the central mast which carries the flag and then pulled out with the eyes 79 engaged with the hooks 80 which stretches the awning and holds it firmly in place. In addition to the horses, which are mounted upon the rods 65 and the hangers 55, a plurality of seats 81 may be provided, as illustrated in Fig. 3, each of these seats being provided with ears 82, through which the screw-threaded pins 57 may pass, the seats being held down upon the platform by the nuts 58.

As before stated, a casing 12 rests upon the lower casing or box 11 and extends upward therefrom for the greater portion of the length of the lower shaft section 18. This casing is approximately octagonal in form, as illustrated in Fig. 3, and is made of wood, the outer face of the casing being highly ornamented, provided with mirrors, gilded ornaments, etc., in the manner of the ordinary merry-go-round. The casing is made in two sections 83 and 84, one of the sections carrying a music box 85, of any ordinary or usual construction the spring of which may be wound by means of the handle 86. Inasmuch as the music box forms no part of this invention, it is not believed necessary to describe it. The other section 84 is intended to support a light battery and a motor battery and to that end, there is adapted to be disposed within the casing 12, a vertically extending supporting member 87 which is made of wood and which has the laterally projecting platform 88. This strip 87 is simply inserted within the casing 12, before the battery is put in place, or removed from this casing when the merry-go-round is knocked down. The platform 88 is for the purpose of separating the lower cells 89 of the battery from the upper cells 90, so that the poles of the two sets of cells will not come in contact.

Surrounding the sleeve 29 is a second sleeve 91, which is formed of hard fiber or other insulating material, so that the wires from the battery will not by any chance come in contact with the metallic parts of the mechanism. It will be understood that the lower cells 89 are electrically connected to the motor 26 and that the upper cells are electrically connected to certain electric lights 92. These electric lights 92 are supported upon an outwardly flaring cap 93, which is made of wood and which is adapted to fit over the upper ends of the sections formed in the casing 12 and hold the sections in proper engagement with each other, the lower ends of the sections of the casing 12 fitting within a socket formed by a bead 94. This outwardly flaring cap 93 has a central aperture 95 through which the sleeve 91 extends and is preferably octagonal in form to form a plurality of highly ornamented panels, each of these panels carrying an electric light 92. This cap 93 extends upward to a plane just below the shafts 51 and conceals the gears 30 and 52.

For the purpose of operating the merry-go-round by hand, instead of through an electric motor, I provide in the box or casing 15, a sprocket wheel 96, from which a sprocket chain 97 extends, passing around the sprocket wheel 98 mounted upon the lower end of the shaft 18, as illustrated in Fig. 2. This sprocket wheel 96 is mounted on a shaft 99 and is provided with a crank whereby it may be rotated.

Oftentimes a child playing with this toy will bear down too hard upon one side of the overhead frame composed of the members 72, 40, 39 and 46 and if there was no play given to the central shaft, the shaft would be liable to break, snap off or bend. For this reason, as illustrated best in Fig. 10, there is a space between the sleeve 29 and the shaft 18, so as to permit the shaft 18 to rock laterally or bend a slight amount, without being rigidly held. It has been found in practice that this amount of play is amply sufficient to permit the outer portion of the upper structure of the merry-go-round to be forced downward quite a considerable degree, without injuring the mechanism.

As before stated, one of the main objects of this invention is to provide a structural toy, which may be set up or taken down by children and which may be packed in a relatively small compass. This invention does not reside so much in the provision of a toy merry-go-round simulating a real merry-go-round, as it does in providing a toy which may be readily set up or taken down and which will thus appeal to children. It will be seen that the taking down of the toy is a relatively simple matter. The nuts 58 are first unscrewed and the seats 81 removed. The removal of the nuts 58 permits the sections of the platform 59 to be removed, the rods 65 slipping out of the sockets 66, which are pivotally mounted on the platform sections. The awning 78 may be, of course,

removed at this time and then the panels 72 may be removed with their cleats 75. After the panels 72 are removed, rods 65 or hangers 55 may be disengaged from the sockets and then the braces 38 or arms may be detached from the hub 31 and from the members 40. The braces 46 may be detached from the members 40 previous to the detachment of the braces 49 and then the shafts 51 may be removed from engagement with the hub 31 and from the bearings in the members 40. The trusses or braces 50 may then be disengaged from the members 40 and from the socket member 35. This permits the detachment of the flag staff section from the socket 35 and the detachment of the shaft section 18ª from the socket 34. Then the cap 93 may be removed and if desired, the two sections of the casing 12 be removed and the batteries removed from the sections. This, however, is not necessary in order to pack up the toy. The foldable portion of the extension 13 may then be folded up as illustrated in dotted lines in Fig. 2 and the merry-go-round is ready for shipment or for being stored away. Of course it is obvious that it may be as readily set up as it may be taken down.

While I have illustrated certain details of construction which are particularly effective, I wish it understood that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and that I have used for illustration an embodiment of the invention which has been found particularly effective.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. A merry-go-round comprising a central shaft, radiating arms extending horizontally from the central shaft, radiating downwardly extending braces extending from the central shaft, a series of vertically disposed members with which said braces and arms detachably engage, a series of circumferentially extending braces detachably engaging said members and spacing them and the arms and braces from each other, and panels disposed between said members and extending over and concealing the circumferential braces, said members having end sockets in which the ends of the panels are disposed.

2. A merry-go-round comprising a central shaft, radiating arms extending from the central shaft, radiating downwardly extending braces extending from the central shaft, a series of vertically disposed members with which said braces and arms detachably engage, a series of circumferentially extending braces engaging said members and spacing them and the arms and braces from each other, and panels disposed between said members and detachably engaged therewith, said panels extending over and concealing the circumferential braces, and a series of cleats formed to detachably engage the adjacent portion of each pair of said panels and extend over and conceal the corresponding member with which the panels are engaged.

3. A merry-go-round including a central shaft, a series of radiating arms extending from the shaft, a series of downwardly extending radiating braces extending from the shaft, a series of vertically disposed members, one for each arm and corresponding braces, each arm extending through its corresponding member and having detachable engagement therewith, and each brace having detachable engagement with the upper end of the corresponding member, said members being formed with vertically disposed lateral grooves, the lower end walls of each groove being formed with downwardly extending perforations, a series of circumferential braces having terminal ends engaged in the perforations of said members and spacing the members apart, and panels disposed between each pair of members and having reduced extremities extending into said grooves in the members, the panels extending down below the circumferential braces and concealing them, and covering cleats detachably engaged with the adjacent portions of each panel and extending over the outer faces of the members and concealing them.

4. A merry-go-round including a central shaft, a series of radiating arms extending from the shaft, a series of downwardly extending radiating braces extending from the shaft, a series of vertically disposed members, one for each arm and corresponding braces, each arm extending through its corresponding member and having detachable engagement therewith, and each brace having detachable engagement with the upper end of the corresponding member, said members being formed with vertically disposed lateral grooves, the lower end walls of each groove being formed with downwardly extending perforations, a series of circumferential braces having terminal ends engaged in the perforations of said members and spacing the members apart, and panels disposed between each pair of members and having reduced extremities extending into said grooves in the members, the panels extending down below the circumferential braces and concealing them, said panels at their adjacent ends being formed with outwardly projecting eyes, and covering cleats, one for each member, having hooks at their upper ends engageable in said eyes, said cleats when in place covering and concealing the outer face of said member and the joint between the panels.

5. A toy merry-go-round including a central shaft, a plurality of radiating arms

connected to the central shaft, a plurality of radiating braces extending downward and outward from the central shaft and disposed above the arms, vertically disposed members having eyes at their upper ends with which the downwardly and outwardly extending braces are engaged, the radiating arms extending from said members and being detachably engaged therewith, a series of circumferential braces having hook-shaped ends detachably engaging said members, panels disposed between the members and having detachable engagement therewith and extending over and concealing said braces, and cleats detachably supported over the outer faces of said members and concealing the joint between the panels and the members.

6. A toy merry-go-round including a central shaft, a plurality of radiating arms detachably connected to the central shaft, a plurality of radiating braces extending downward and outward and disposed above the arms, the inner ends of the braces being detachably connected to the shaft, members to which said arms and braces are detachably connected, a series of circumferential braces detachably engaging said members with each other, panels disposed between said members and having detachable engagement therewith, and ornamental cleats detachably engaged with the extremities of each pair of panels and extending across the corresponding member.

7. A toy merry-go-round including a central shaft, radiating arms detachably connected to the shaft, downwardly and outwardly extending radiating braces detachably connected to the shaft, a plurality of members one for each brace and arm to which the braces and arms are detachably connected, said members extending vertically and being formed with laterally opening sockets, a series of circumferential braces detachably connecting said members, and a series of panels having their extremities slidably disposed in said laterally opening sockets of the members and bracing the members from each other.

8. A toy merry-go-round including a central shaft, radiating arms detachably connected to the shaft, downwardly and outwardly extending radiating braces detachably connected to the shaft, a plurality of members one for each brace and arm to which the braces and arms are detachably connected, said members extending vertically and being formed with laterally opening sockets, a series of circumferential braces detachably connecting said members, a series of panels having their extremities slidably disposed in said laterally opening sockets of the members and bracing the members from each other, said panels being formed adjacent their extremities with eyes, and ornamental cleats having hooks on the inside faces engaging said eyes, said cleats extending over the said members and concealing them.

9. A toy merry-go-round including a central driving shaft, a series of radiating arms detachably connected at their inner ends to said shaft, a series of radiating braces extending downward and outward and detachably connected at their inner ends to said shaft, a plurality of vertically disposed members with which said braces and arms are detachably connected, said braces being hollow and formed at their lower ends with perforations, a series of circumferentially extending brace rods having hooked extremities detachably engaging in the perforations of said members and bracing said members from each other, a series of panels having reduced ends adapted to be disposed within said members, and a plurality of ornamental cleats detachably engaged with the extremities of the panels and extending over the outer faces of said members and concealing them.

10. A toy merry-go-round including a central shaft, a plurality of radiating arms detachably connected to the shaft, a plurality of radiating downwardly and outwardly extending braces detachably connected to the central shaft, a plurality of members one for each brace and arm, said members extending vertically and the corresponding arm passing through the corresponding member, each of said members being formed with an upwardly extending lug having an eye with which said braces detachably engage, a plurality of circumferentially extending braces detachably engaging the lower ends of the members and holding them in spaced relation to each other, an awning having a central opening through which the central shaft extends, said awning being supported by the braces and having eyes on its margin, the upwardly extending lugs of said members being formed with hooks engageable with said eyes.

11. In a merry-go-round of the character described, a base, a shaft mounted upon the base and having radiating arms, a motor mounted upon the base and operatively engaging the shaft, electric batteries operatively supported upon the base, a lateral extension on the base and hinged thereto and adapted to be turned into a vertical position, a switch mounted on the lateral extension, and electric wires leading to the said switch and in circuit with the battery and motor.

12. In a merry-go-round of the character described, a base, an electric motor mounted thereon, a vertical shaft operatively supported upon the base and carrying radiating arms, the motor being operatively connected to the shaft to drive it, a sprocket

wheel on the shaft, an extension hinged to the base and adapted to be turned to a vertical position or into an operative position, a motor controlling switch mounted upon the extension, a driving sprocket wheel mounted on the extension, and a sprocket chain connecting the sprocket wheels.

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

ANTHONY O. HABESHAN.

Witnesses:
FREDERIC R. WRIGHT,
ROSWELL BELCHER.