No. 871,510. PATENTED NOV. 19, 1907.

W. M. KERR.

SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 20, 1906.

Fig. 1.

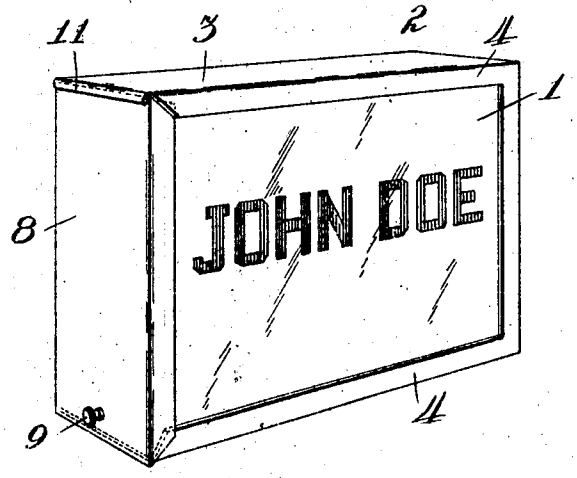


Fig. 4

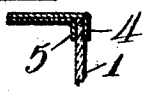


Fig. 2.

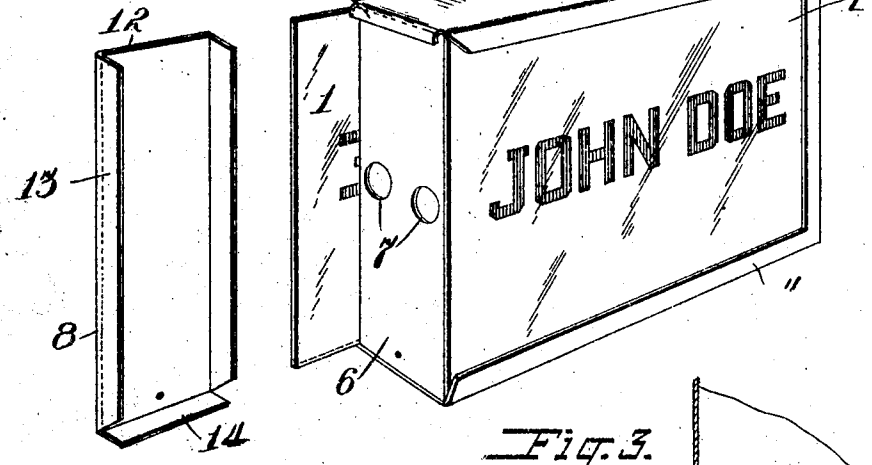
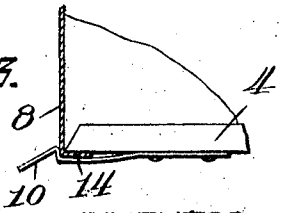


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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Application filed July 20, 1906. Serial No. 326,976.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM M. KERR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Stamford, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to signs and more particularly to illuminated signs, although, in some of its aspects, the invention may be adaptable to signs generally.

Objects of the invention are to provide a sign structure which is of attractive appearance, simple construction and economical of manufacture; to provide a sign structure which permits of the matter to be displayed being quickly and readily changed, or removed and replaced; to provide a casing which allows easy access to and manipulation of the member bearing the displayed matter, and which at the same time may be tightly closed for protection against the elements, dust, and otherwise. These and other objects of invention will in part be obvious from, and will in part be particularly pointed out, in the description and claims.

The invention consists in the novel parts, articles, arrangements, improvements and combinations herein shown and described.

The accompanying drawings, referred to herein and forming a part hereof, illustrate one embodiment of the invention the same serving in connection with the description herein to explain the principles of the invention.

Of the drawings: Figure 1 is a general perspective view of a sign structure constructed in accordance with some of the principles of the invention; Fig. 2 is a similar view of one of the design-carrying members partly withdrawn and with the cap plate removed; Fig. 3 is a detail showing one form of fastening means for holding the cap plate and casing together; and Fig. 4 is a sectional view of a detail of the construction.

It is desirable in sign structures to provide a structure which, while attractive to the eye and while of substantially simple and economical construction, admits of the displayed matter being readily changed and also provides for protecting the structure from the elements. This is perhaps especially true of illuminated signs.

This invention contemplates the providing of a sign structure which realizes the objects of invention and advantages herein set forth, together with other objects and advantages. The design-carrying member which bears the matter to be displayed is shown in the accompanying drawings as being removably supported in the case, such casing being shown in the drawings as adapted for holding a source of light so that in conjunction with a design-carrying member of suitable material the matter displayed upon the sign may be visible at night as well as by day.

The structure herein shown as being constructed in accordance with the principles of the invention comprises a design-carrying slide 1 which, according to certain features of the invention, may be of a transparent or translucent material, many such materials being well known, such as ground or polished glass, paper, or other suitable material. For the purpose of holding this slide, a casing 2 is provided, herein shown as of rectangular form, although according to certain features of the invention the particular form thereof is immaterial. Said casing is shown as having a portion 3 provided with a lip 4, constructed and arranged to receive and hold the design-carrying slide. A suitable device may also be provided for assisting in guiding the slide 1 inwardly or outwardly with reference to the casing. In Fig. 4 of the drawings such a guide device is shown substantially as a lip arranged to form with the part 4 a groove for the slide 1, and is indicated by the reference numeral 5. The said casing is further shown as having in addition to the portion 3 another portion 6 which is somewhat narrower in width than the portion 3 so as to permit the design-carrying slide to be slid past it into and out of engagement with the lip 4.

In Fig. 2 of the drawings, wherein the casing is shown as being provided with a design-carrying slide upon either side, one of the slides is shown as being partly withdrawn, illustrating the manner in which the slides readily pass the narrower portion 6 of the casing. By reason of this structure it will be noted that the portion 6 together with the portion 3 forms a continuous casing which gives great strength and rigidity as compared to the material used and while being simple and inexpensive of manufacture. There may be provided, if desired, in the portion 6 of the casing finger holes 7 for use in withdrawing the slide, such an arrangement furnishing an easy and certain manner of engaging the slide and withdrawing it until it

may be engaged by the hand exteriorly to the casing. There is also provided by the invention, for the purpose of protecting the structure against the elements, and from the dust of the street, and also conducing toward a neat and attractive appearance, which latter is of great importance in connection with signs and display matter generally, a cap plate 8 which is constructed and arranged to fit closely over the narrower portion of the casing and over the end of a design-carrying slide, or slides carried by the casing. A suitable fastening device for said cap plate is provided which may be of any approved and convenient form. One form thereof, shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings, consists of a screw 9 having a shouldered head which engages the plate 8 while its threaded portion engages with a thread tapped in the portion 6 of the casing. In Fig. 3 of the drawings a fastening device is shown as a spring snap or hook 10.

For the purpose of assisting in rendering the case dust proof and proof against the elements and also to assist in holding the cap plate 8 in place, the casing is provided with a flange 11, the cap plate having a part constructed and arranged to fit closely beneath the said flange. Where the casing is of rectangular form the lip 4 will generally be carried by three sides of the casing, and projecting inwardly therefrom, and the fourth side, which is the narrower side past which the design-carrying slides move inwardly and outwardly, carries the raised flange at one end thereof and at the corner of the casing. This arrangement is the one shown in the drawings herewith, the end 12 of the cap plate in such case being adapted to fit closely beneath the flange 11. The cap plate is also preferably provided with a lip 13 corresponding to the lip upon the other three sides of the casing. The cap plate 8 is further shown in the drawings as having at the end opposite the end 12 a lip 14 adapted to pass over, or into engagement with, the contiguous side of the casing although in some cases it may be found convenient to omit the said lip.

Suitable devices for providing ventilation, or for the escape of heated air from the casing, as well as devices for supporting the casing in a suspended position, may be provided. Such devices are not illustrated herein, however, as forms thereof are well known and, simply as such, they form no part of this invention.

From all the foregoing it will be understood that a structure has been provided which realizes the objects of invention and advantages set forth, together with other other objects and advantages.

The invention, in its broader aspects, is not limited to the particular constructions shown, nor to any particular constructions by which it has been or may be carried into effect, as many changes may be made in the construction without departing from the main principles of the invention as set forth in the appended claims, and without sacrificing its chief advantages.

What I do claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

1. A sign structure including in combination a design-carrying slide, a casing for holding said slide, a portion of said casing having a lip constructed and arranged to receive and hold the said design-carrying slide and another portion thereof being narrower so as to permit the design-carrying slide to be slid past into and out of engagement with the lip, a flange upon the said casing, and a cap plate constructed and arranged to fit closely over the narrow portion of the casing and over the end of the slide and also having a part adapted to fit closely beneath said flange.

2. A sign structure including in combination a design-carrying slide, a casing for holding said slide, a portion of said casing having a lip constructed and arranged to receive and hold the said design-carrying slide and another portion thereof being narrower so as to permit the design carrying slide to be slid past into and out of engagement with the lip, a flange upon the said casing, a cap plate constructed and arranged to fit closely over the narrow portion of the casing and over the end of the slide and also having a part adapted to fit closely beneath said flange, and a fastening device for holding the cap and casing together.

3. A sign structure including in combination a design-carrying slide, a rectangular casing having upon three sides an inwardly projecting lip and the fourth side being narrowed so as to permit the slide to be slid into and out of position beneath the said lip, a raised flange on said fourth side at the edge of the casing, a cap plate having a lip corresponding to the flange upon the casing and having an end adapted to fit closely beneath the said flange, said cap plate being also constructed and arranged to fit closely over the fourth side and over the end of the slide, and means for fastening said cap plate and casing together.

4. A sign structure including in combination a design-carrying slide, a casing for holding said slide, a portion of said casing having a lip constructed and arranged to receive and hold the said design-carrying slide and also having a narrower portion of such width as to permit the design-carrying slide to be slid past it into and out of engagement with the lip, said narrower portion also having a finger hole for use in withdrawing the slide, and a cap plate constructed and arranged to fit closely over the narrow portion of the casing and over the end of the slides so as to render the casing proof against the elements.

5. A sign structure including in combination a design-carrying slide, a rectangular casing having upon three sides an inwardly projecting lip and the fourth side being narrowed so as to permit the said design-carrying slide to be slid into and out of position within the said lip, said fourth side being also provided with a finger hole for use in withdrawing the slide, a raised flange on said fourth side at the edge of the casing, a cap plate having a lip corresponding to the lip upon the casing and having an end adapted to fit closely beneath the said flange, said cap plate being constructed and arranged to fit closely over said fourth side and over the end of the design-carrying slide, and means for fastening said cap plate and casing together.

In testimony whereof, I have signed my name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM M. KERR.

Witnesses:
E. L. BELL,
S. E. MILLER.