No. 783,831. PATENTED FEB. 28, 1905.

A. B. GRIFFEN.

TRICK HOUSE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 30, 1904.

Fig. 1.

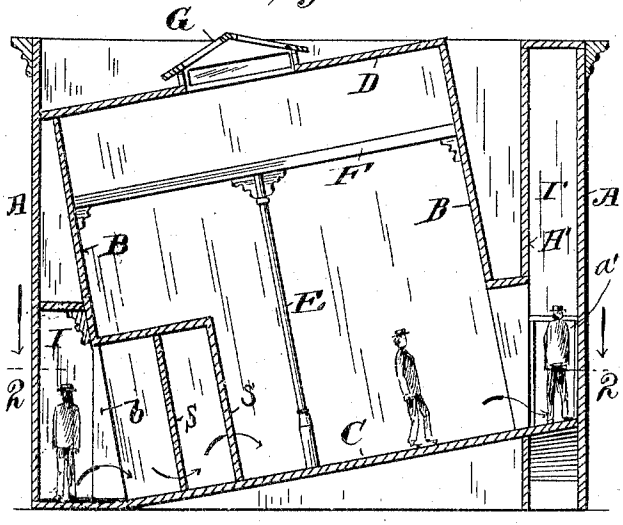


Fig. 4.

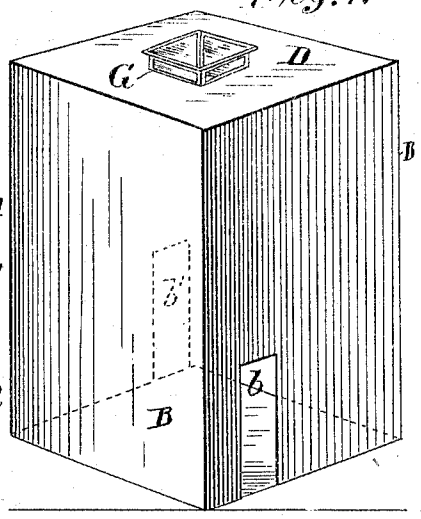


Fig. 2.

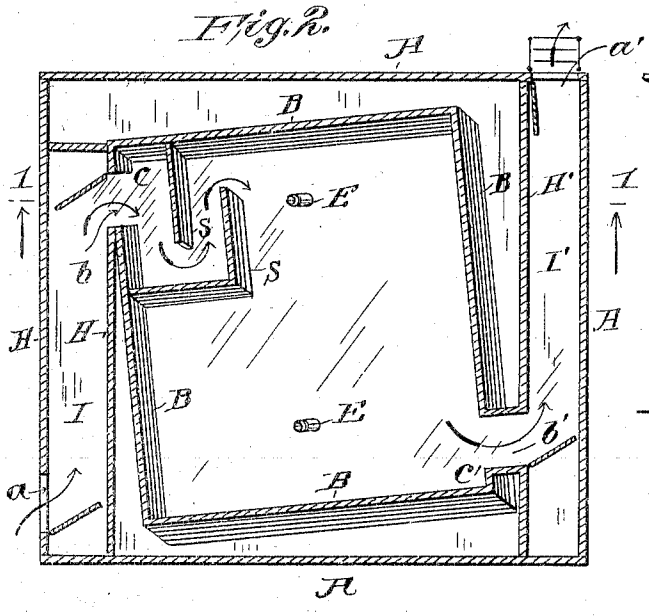
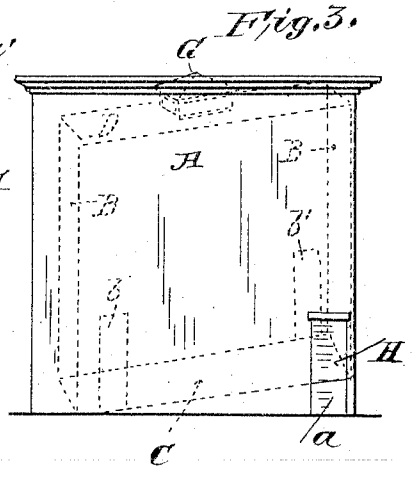


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
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No. 783,831. Patented February 28, 1905.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARTHUR B. GRIFFEN, OF VERONA, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, AND WILLIAM C. CLARKE AND CLARKSON A. COLLINS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TRICK-HOUSE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 783,831, dated February 28, 1905.

Application filed July 30, 1904. Serial No. 218,845.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR B. GRIFFEN, a citizen of the United States, residing in Verona, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have made a new and useful Invention of a Trick-House, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a means of amusement, recreation, and instruction.

To this end I make use of the principle, upon which the operation of my invention is based, of the unconscious adaptation of the muscular movements of the body to the physical conditions under which one believes one's self to be acting.

In carrying my invention into effect I construct a house having outer walls which are perpendicular or at right angles with the plane of the horizon in the usual manner. Within these outer walls is a room or rooms, the floors of which are sloping—*i. e.*, form an angle with the plane of the horizon. The ceilings of such room or rooms are parallel with the floor. The walls of the room or rooms are at right angles to the floor, and the rooms are preferably provided with natural accessories—such as supporting-posts, window-frames, and such other articles as may be desired—which are also at right angles with the floor. Entrance to and exit from the room is effected by means of a passage or passages within the outer walls of the house and doors so arranged that no view can be had from the inner room of objects exterior thereto nor of the interior of the room from without. For this purpose also the room is lighted by day by means of a skylight placed in the ceiling instead of by windows in the walls, so that there is no opportunity to compare the position of the room with external objects. The result of this construction is that to a person entering the room the floor appears to be level and the walls perpendicular, as in an ordinary room. Consequently the movements of a person walking in the room are based on the assumption of this condition, with the amusing and puzzling result that when a person attempts to walk from one part of the room to another he will invariably find himself without apparent cause arriving at a different point from that aimed at or compelled to exert a considerable sidewise or turning effort to enable him to reach the desired point.

The invention will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, which show a house constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 1 shows a vertical section on the line 1 1 in Fig. 2, and Fig. 2 a horizontal section on the line 2 2 in Fig. 1. In Fig. 3 the inner room is shown in dotted lines within the outer walls; and Fig. 4 is a perspective of the inner room, showing the lifting of one corner.

The same letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the different figures.

A A A A are the outer walls of the house, which are perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, as in an ordinary house. Within the walls A A is a room having walls B B B B and a floor C, which, as shown, is inclined at an angle to the plane of the horizon, such inclination being, preferably, from one corner of the room to the diagonally opposite corner. In the drawings the corner c' is shown as being the highest part of the floor C, which slopes downwardly from all parts to the corner c, which is the lowest part of the room. The walls B B B B of the room are at right angles or substantially right angles to the floor C—that is, they occupy the same position in relation to the floor C as do the walls of an ordinary room to the floor thereof.

D is the ceiling of the inner room. E E are posts or columns therein which extend from the floor to the ceiling or to cross-beams F F.

G is a skylight in the ceiling D, by means of which the room is lighted.

Between the outer walls A A and the walls B B of the inner room are false walls H H′, which form passages I I′ between the inner and outer walls and conceal the inclination of the inner walls B B.

a a' are entrance and exit doors in the outer walls A A, and b b' are entrance and exit doors between the inner room and the passages I I′. The floor of the passage I, leading to the door b at the lower corner c of the inner room, is

parallel with the plane of the horizon or at right angles with the outer walls A A, since the entrance-corner *c* is on a level with the door *a*. Preferably the door *b* is surrounded with a screen S, so that the interior of the room is invisible from the passage I. The floor of the passage I′ may, as indicated in Fig. 2, be made to slope gradually upward from the level of the door *a′* to the level of the door *b′* and also to gradually assume the inclination of the floor C, so that a person will pass through the door *b′* to or from the inner room without any sudden change of level or inclination. By making the passage I′ of considerable length the change of level and inclination may be effected so gradually that one passing between the outer and inner doors will not be conscious of the change, except through the effect produced. Either the door *a* or the door *a′* may be used as the entrance, though I prefer the door *a′* for this purpose, as I believe the best effects are produced by entering the inner room at its highest part.

The floor C of the inner room may be given any desired inclination, the greater the inclination the greater being the effect produced. The inclination should not, however, be so great as to cause a person or object to slide or fall from one part of the room to another.

The posts E E are at right angles or substantially right angles to the floor C, the ceiling D and cross-beams F are parallel to the floor, and any accessories that may be placed in the room are made to assume the same positions in relation to the floor, walls, and ceiling that they would in an ordinary room.

There are no windows in the walls B B of the inner room through which objects exterior to the building can be seen and their position compared with that of the room and its contents, the daylight being admitted only through the skylight G. Preferably the passages I I′ receive light only through the doors *a a′*, so that the passages outside the doors *b b′* are in partial darkness.

The result of this construction is that to a person entering the inner room, having no opportunity to compare its position with other buildings or objects in the landscape, the floor C of the room appears to be level, as in an ordinary room. Hence one attemps to walk in the room as upon a level surface, while at the same time the force of gravity tends to draw one from the higher to the lower part of the room, and the consequent lack of coördination between the muscular action and the mental processes gives rise to extremely amusing and puzzling effects.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A house comprising outer walls perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, a room within said house having a floor inclined to the plane of the horizon, and walls at right angles to said floor; walls between said outer walls and the walls of said room, whereby the inclination of the walls of said room is concealed, and passages are provided between the outer walls of the house and the walls of the room, and entrance and exit openings, substantially as set forth.

2. A house comprising outer walls perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, a room within said walls having a floor inclined to the plane of the horizon, and walls perpendicular to said floor, passages between said outer walls and said room, so arranged that the inclination of said room is not observable from said passages, and means of entrance to and exit from said room, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. A house comprising outer walls perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, and a room within said walls having a floor inclined to the plane of the horizon, and walls perpendicular to said floor, and so arranged that objects exterior to the room are not visible from within the room, and that the interior of the room is not observable from any point exterior thereto, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. The combination with a house of a room having a floor inclined to the plane of the horizon, and walls perpendicular to the floor, means of entrance to and exit from said room, and means for preventing the observation of the interior of said room from the exterior thereof, and the observation of objects exterior to the room from the interior thereof, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

5. A trick-house comprising perpendicular outer walls, and a room within said walls having a floor inclined at an angle to the plane of the horizon, and walls at right angles to said floor.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this 19th day of July, A. D. 1904.

ARTHUR B. GRIFFEN.

Witnesses:
CLARKSON A. COLLINS,
JAMES A. LYNCH.