A. WAYRICH.

THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 18, 1913.

1,154,950.

Patented Sept. 28, 1915.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

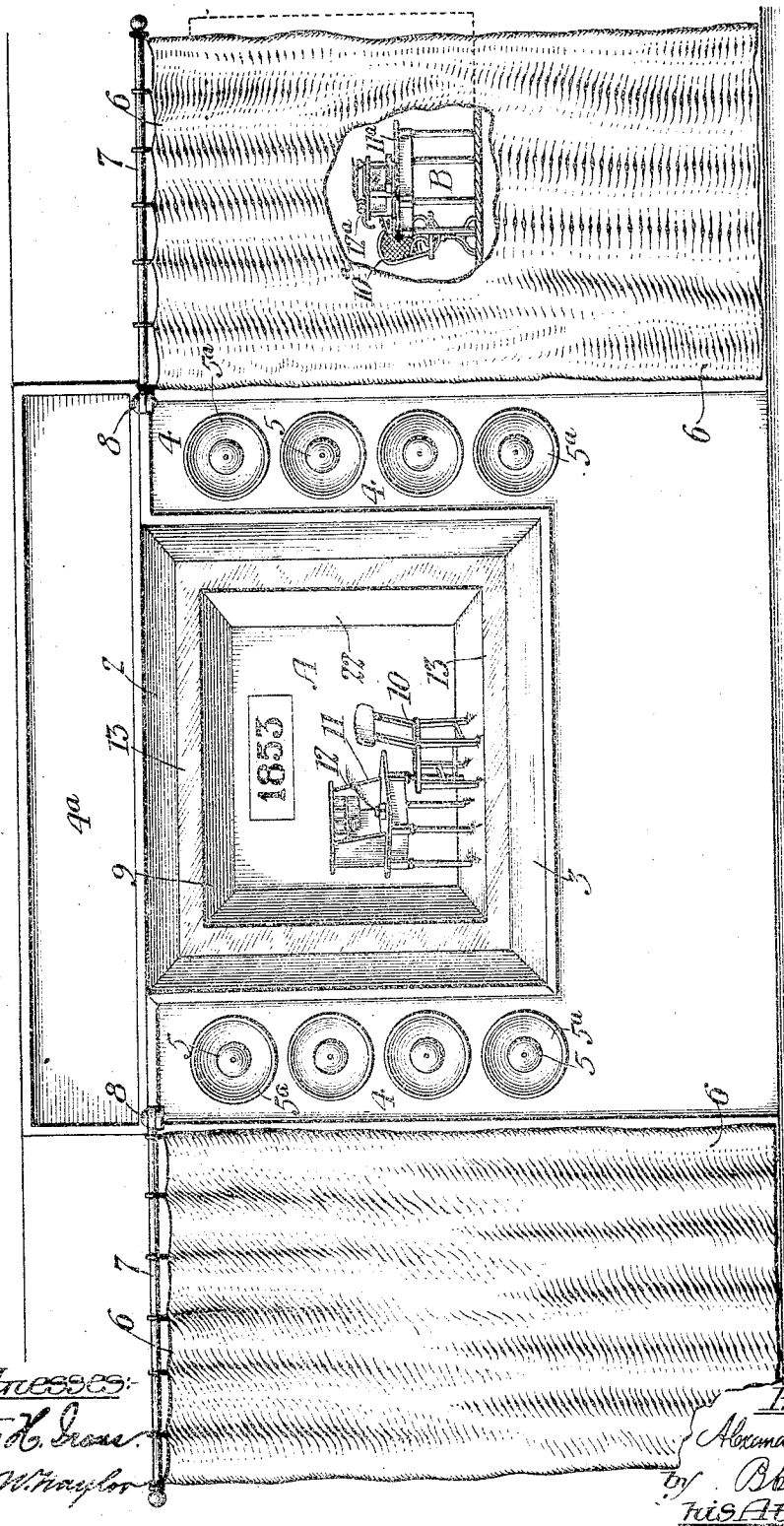

Fig. 1.

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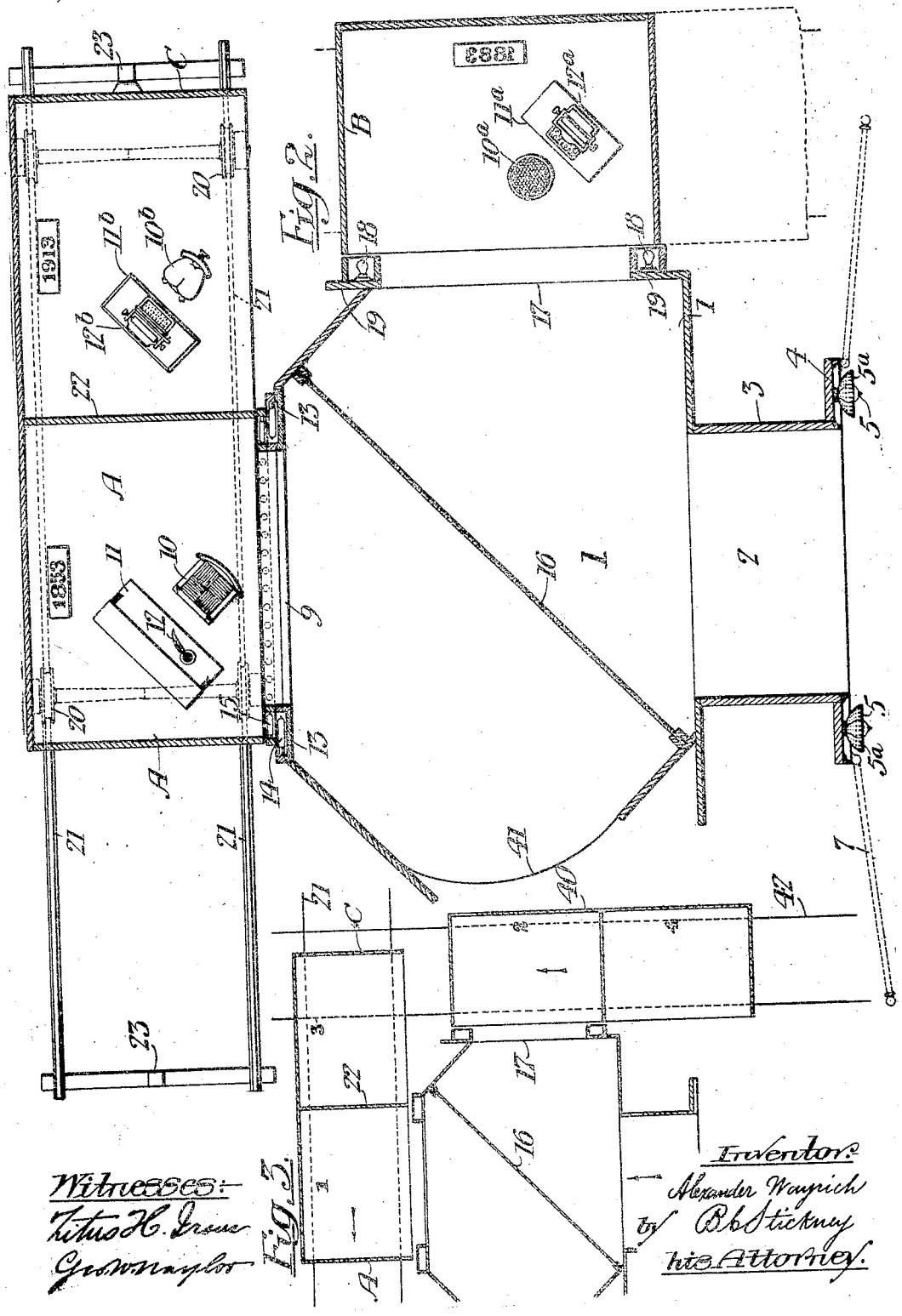

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Witnesses:
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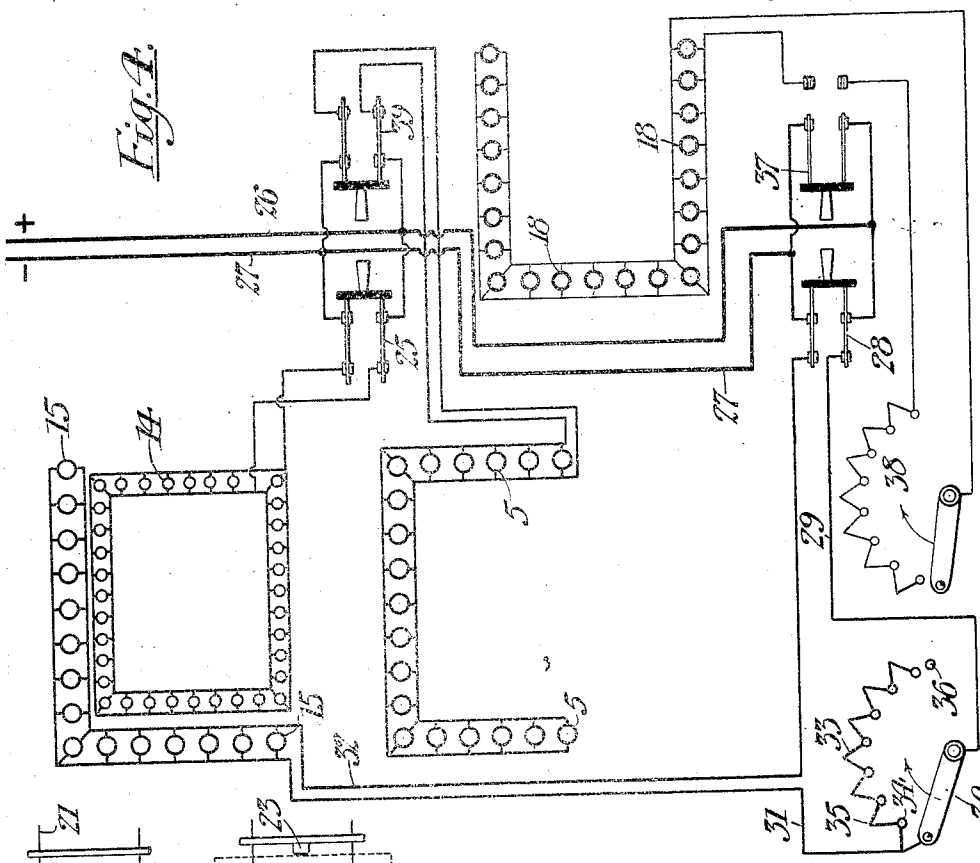
3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.



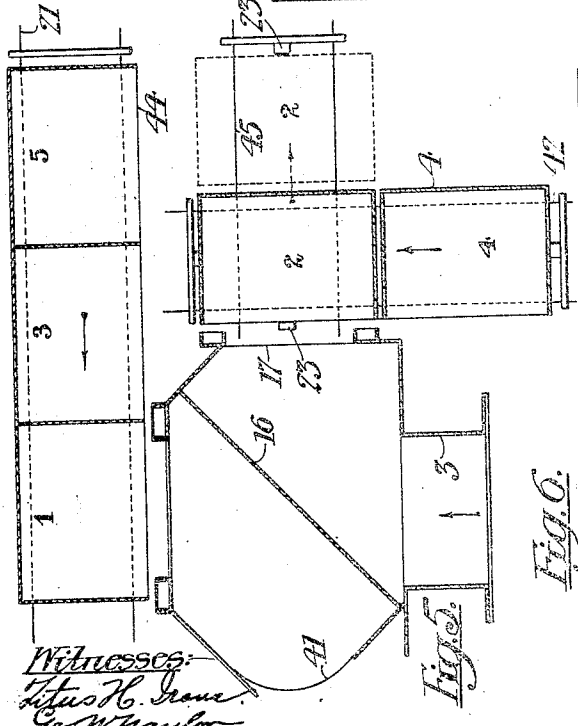


Fig. 5.

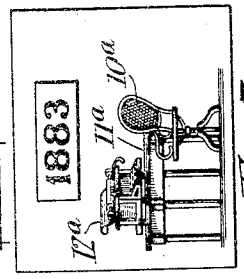


Fig. 7.

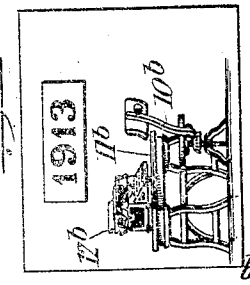


Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER WAYRICH, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

THEATRICAL APPLIANCE.

1,154,950. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 28, 1915.

Application filed October 18, 1913. Serial No. 795,691.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER WAYRICH, a citizen of the United States, residing in Brooklyn borough, city of New York, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Theatrical Appliances, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an illusionary apparatus adapted to present a series of views, scenes, performances or the like, which are brought to the view of the spectator in succession, one scene gradually fading away as a succeeding one is brought to view in the same location, and the two scenes usually appearing simultaneously more or less distinctly, and apparently in the same place during the transition, one dissolving into another.

The invention may be used to illustrate the development of an art, the successive scenes giving, for example, a panoramic display of the construction and operation of some line of apparatus or machinery at different periods in the development of the art, or the invention may be used to illustrate a series of historical events, or a series of performances, or for various other purposes.

The general arrangement of the invention as herein shown, comprises a darkened room or compartment, in the front of which is a window or opening through which the views are observed, and at the rear of which is another opening presenting to view a booth, stage, or compartment, in which may be located the apparatus, performers, or other objects it is desired to bring to the view of the spectators. Within the darkened room is a vertical plate glass disposed at an angle to the line of vision of the spectators, and through which the display at the rear of the darkened compartment is seen, the glass, however, being invisible to the spectators.

The booth is suitably lighted by a series of hidden electric lights, which may be gradually dimmed. A similar booth, containing another apparatus, performer, or the like, is located at an opening in one side of the darkened room, and in such position that when lighted up it is reflected on the plate glass, which forms an oblique mirror, so that the second view or scene appears to the spectators to be in the same position as the first. The second booth is gradually lighted concomitantly with the dimming of the lights for the first booth, so that as the scene in the second booth gradually comes into view, the one in the first booth gradually fades away, there being an intermediate moment during which both views appear more or less distinctly and apparently occupy the same space.

When the second scene is fully in view, and the first darkened, the first booth may be replaced by a third booth or stage-setting, and the latter thereafter may be gradually illuminated and thus brought to view as the second one is dimmed down and disappears. In like manner any desired number of views or performances may be successively displayed.

A stationary frame, which may be lighted by a series of lamps transmitting light through translucent material forming the frame, is located in position to surround the front of the first booth. The frame also apparently surrounds the second booth when the latter is lit up. Said frame being stationary, and permanently lighted, and appearing as a permanent part of the booth, makes the illusion more complete. The opening at the front of the darkened compartment may also be surrounded or partially surrounded by a series of subdued lights which are not only ornamental, but also serve as blinders to prevent the spectators from seeing the darkened booths or other objects apart from the scene which is being displayed.

Other objects and advantages will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings which show several forms of my invention as adapted to illustrate the development of the typewriter art, Figure 1 is a front elevation view illustrating the method of writing before the advent of the modern typewriting machine. Fig. 2 is a sectional plan view. Fig. 3 is a diagrammatic plan view showing a modification adapted to illustrate a series of four or more scenes instead of three. Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic view of the lighting system adapted for the arrangement shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 3, but showing a further modification adapted

for illustrating five or more scenes. Fig. 6 is an elevation view of a booth containing an up-to-date typewriting machine. Fig. 7 is a similar view showing a machine at an earlier stage in the development of the art.

A darkened room or compartment 1 is provided at the front with a window or opening 2 surrounded by a passageway or casing 3 of considerable depth to limit the range of view of the spectators located in front of the compartment 1, and said casing is surrounded by a front frame 4 carrying a series of lamps 5 set in reflectors 5^a which have an ornamental effect, and also serve as binders to prevent the spectators from seeing the darkened booths. An upper panel 4^a of the frame 4 may be used for advertising or display purposes if desired. A pair of curtains 6 draped from horizontal arms 7, pivoted at 8 to the framework and adjustable about their pivots, serve to obscure the apparatus outside of and behind the window 2, and also cut off the view except from a position within a limited angle in front of the apparatus, so that the range of vision may be restricted to the display booths.

At the rear of the compartment 1 is a second window or opening 9 which is preferably approximately the same size as the window 2, and through which is seen the interior of a booth A, in which may be located any object or objects which it is desired to illustrate, as for example, any kind of machinery, either running automatically or actuated by an operator, or any other performance or scene which it is desired to display.

In the particular form of the invention shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 4, the development of the typewriter art is shown. For this purpose within the booth A is a scene representing the means of writing before the typewriting machine came into use, as, for example, in the year 1853. Antique furniture corresponding with such date is shown, comprising a chair 10, a desk 11, and a quill pen 12. At the front of the booth A is a stationary frame 13, which may comprise colored ground glass, or other translucent material, behind which is a series of electric lamps 14 by which the frame is evenly illuminated with a subdued light. Said frame appears to the spectators to be a part of the booth A. The booth is lighted by a series of electric lamps 15 located behind the lamps 14, said lamps 15 not being visible to the spectators, but throwing a light directly into the booth, so that the latter and objects therein are brilliantly lighted, and plainly visible to the spectators. The lamps 15 may extend along the top and one or both sides of the booth as indicated respectively in Figs. 4 and 2, or may be otherwise disposed as desired.

Within the darkened compartment 1 is a large, vertical plate glass 16 preferably placed at an angle of forty-five degrees to the windows 2 and 9. The compartment 1 has also a side window or opening 17 behind which is located a second booth B within which, as shown, is illustrated an early, or intermediate stage in the development of the typewriter art, as for example, in the year 1883, said booth containing a chair 10^a and a table 11^a on which is placed a typewriter machine 12^a, said machine being of the type in which the writing takes place out of sight beneath the platen, requiring the latter to be lifted each time the writing is viewed. The booth B is in such position that when lighted by means of a series of lamps 18, the booth and its contents will be reflected in the plate glass 16 which forms a mirror, so that the booth B appears to the spectators to be in the position occupied by the booth A. The permanently lighted stationary frame 13 is seen through the glass 16 at the same time the booth B is reflected in the glass, the booth B being apparently behind said frame. The lights 18 located in the opaque framework 19, are invisible to the spectators.

In use, the booth A is first lighted, the booth B being entirely dark and invisible from the front. A person, preferably dressed in an attire corresponding with the date indicated, is seen sitting at the desk 11 writing with the quill pen. As the spectators watch this operation, the lights 15 are gradually dimmed, by means hereinafter referred to, and the lamps 18 for the booth B are gradually lighted up. As the scene in the booth A is fading from view, a person in the booth B is seen sitting at the desk 11^a and operating the typewriting machine 12^a. During a portion of this transition period, the persons and apparatus in both booths are seen at the same time apparently in the same position, and as the booth A fades from view the second scene in the booth B is brought clearly to view. After the booth B has been lighted, the booth A may be removed, and a third booth C moved into position in front of the window 9. The booth C, as shown, contains a chair 10^b and a desk 11^b, on which is placed a modern typewriting machine 12^b, representing the typewriter art in the year 1913. After the booth C has been brought to position in front of the window 9, an operator being seated at the machine, the lights 18 are gradually dimmed and the lamps 15 lighted, so that the booth B and its contents gradually disappear, and the booth C is brought into view, showing a person operating the typewriting machine 12^b with a speed commensurate with the present development of the art.

As shown in Fig. 2, the booths A and C

are in the form of a carriage mounted on the wheels 20 which travel on rails 21, the booths A and C being formed into separate compartments by a wall or partition 22. The movement of the carriage may be limited in both directions by stop posts 23 which also serve to accurately position the booths behind the window 9. The booth B may be either stationary or mounted to travel to a position indicated by broken lines permitting access to its interior from a point outside of the room 1.

Fig. 4 illustrates diagrammatically an electric lighting system adapted for use with the apparatus shown in Fig. 2. The lamps 14 which illuminate the frame 13 in front of the booth A, are shown as a series of incandescent lamps arranged in parallel in a circuit connected through a switch 25 to the positive and negative mains 26 and 27 respectively, through which current is supplied to the entire lighting system. The lamps 15 for lighting the booths A and C are connected in parallel in a circuit which may be traced from the positive main 26 through one blade of the switch 28, conductor 29, rheostat arm 30, conductor 31, lamps 15, conductor 32, and through the opposite blade of the switch 28 to the negative main 27. This circuit includes a rheostat or dimmer 33 comprising the arm 30 movable over a series of contacts 34 to gradually introduce into the circuit resistance 35, and thereby gradually dim the lamps 15, the arm 30 moving finally onto an open contact 36, thus opening the circuit and cutting off all current from the lamps 15.

The lamps 18 for lighting the side booth B are also arranged in parallel in a circuit connected through a switch 37 to the mains, said circuit containing a rheostat 38 similar to the rheostat 33, and therefore adapted for dimming down the lights 18 and opening the circuit for said lights. The lamps 5 on the front frame 4 are arranged in parallel in a circuit connected through a switch 39 to the mains. As shown in Fig. 4, the lamps 15 for the booth A are fully lighted, all of the resistance 35 being cut out. The circuit for the lamps 18 is open at the rheostat 38 so that the booth B is dark. The dimmers or rheostats are located close together in convenient position for the operator to manipulate one with each hand. To shift the scene from the booth A to the booth B, the rheostat arms are simultaneously moved gradually to the right, thereby cutting out of one circuit the resistance of the rheostat 38 to light up the lamps 18, and at the same time introducing in the other circuit the resistance of the rheostat 33 to dim the lamps 15. The resistances in the rheostats are preferably so proportioned, and the rheostats so manipulated, that the amount of light combined from the two sets of lamps 15, 18, remains substantially constant, so that little or no change in the lighting is observed by the spectator.

It will be understood that the plate glass 16 is invisible, or substantially so, at all times, and any reflection therefrom which may tend to indicate to the spectator the presence of the glass, gives the impression that the glass is located directly at the front of the booth A, or forms a covering for the window 9. Any such illusion, however, is dispelled by an attendant entering the room 1 through an opening normally closed by a curtain 41 behind the glass 16, and either entering the booth A or receiving a work-sheet from the hand of the typewriter operator within the booth in plain view of the spectators.

Fig. 3 illustrates diagrammatically a modified arrangement in which the stationary booth B is replaced by a car 40 mounted to travel on rails 42, said car comprising compartments designated "2" and "4", adapted to be brought alternately in position before the opening 17. The booths A and C may likewise be mounted to travel on rails, as in Fig. 2, said booths consisting of compartments designated "1" and "3" respectively. This arrangement comprises a series of four scenes to be successively presented to view, the first three being brought to view as already described, and while the third scene is in view, the compartment "3" is in position to permit the car 40 to be moved up and bring the compartment "4" opposite the window 17, permitting said compartment in turn to be lighted.

Fig. 5 illustrates a further modification comprising five booths. The booths or compartments designated "1", "3", and "5" may form a single car 44 adapted to travel on the rails 21. The compartment designated "2" may be mounted on a truck to move on rails 45 parallel with the rails 21, stops 23 limiting the movement of said compartment. When said compartment "2" is moved outwardly on the rails 45, the compartment "4", traveling on rails 42, may be moved up in front of the window 17, the five compartments thus being moved into position for exhibition in the order in which they are numbered.

With any of the arrangements shown, the number of scenes or acts may be increased indefinitely, as the stage-setting apparatus, etc., for one or more compartments may be changed while the others are being exhibited. For instance, in Fig. 5 when the compartment "5" is in view, the setting for the compartments "4" or "2" may be changed and then brought into position for the sixth scene. In the meantime the settings for compartments "1" and "3" may be changed, and so on indefinitely. It will also be un-

derstood that the number of compartments or booths may be increased to any desired extent within the scope of my invention.

Variations may be resorted to within the scope of the invention, and portions of the improvements may be used without others.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room having a window in the front side, a frame surrounding said window and projecting outwardly therefrom a sufficient distance to materially restrict the range of vision of an observer looking into said window, a window in the rear side of said room in line with the first window, a stage located behind said last-named window, a plate glass mirror vertically disposed in said room and extending diagonally thereacross between said windows, a third window in said room substantially at right angles to the first-named windows, a second stage behind said last-named window, and apparatus for successively lighting said stages, said rear window being of a size and in a position to form a border to limit the range of view of each stage.

2. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room provided with a front window having a casing of sufficient depth to materially restrict the range of vision from the view point of a spectator and also reduce the amount of light entering said window, rear and side windows in said room, scenes located behind said last-named windows, a vertical, diagonally disposed mirror in said room invisible to a spectator looking through said front window, and mechanism for alternatively lighting said scenes, one of said last-named windows being continuously visible to the spectators during the changing of the lighting of the scenes, and forming a border limiting and defining the range of view of each scene as it is lighted.

3. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room provided with a front window having a casing extending rearwardly therefrom, said casing having considerable depth to reduce the amount of light entering said window and to restrict the range of view of an observer looking through the window into said room, rear and side windows in said room, scenes located behind said last-named windows, a vertical, diagonally disposed mirror in said room invisible to a spectator looking through said front window, mechanism for alternatively lighting said scenes, and a series of lights located adjacent to said front window and forming blinders to obscure the view through said window in a lateral direction.

4. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room provided with a front window having a casing of considerable depth, rear and side windows in said room, scenes located behind said last-named windows, a vertical, diagonally disposed mirror in said room invisible to a spectator looking through said front window, mechanism for alternatively lighting said scenes, a frame of translucent material surrounding one of said windows, and means to transmit light through said translucent material, and cause said frame to appear as a continuously illuminated frame surrounding each scene as the latter is lighted.

5. In an apparatus of the character described, the combination of a darkened room having openings at its front, rear and one side, a stationary booth at the side opening, booths movable alternately to a position behind the rear opening, a diagonal transparent mirror between said front and rear openings, and means for alternately lighting the booths at said rear and side openings.

6. The combination of a darkened compartment, a stage at the rear of said compartment, a second stage at the side of said compartment, said compartment having openings opposite said stages, a frame surrounding one of said openings, means for illuminating said frame, a window at the front of said compartment, a transparent mirror within said compartment between said window and the rear stage and so positioned that the side stage is reflected therein and appears when viewed through the window to be in the same position as the rear stage within the illuminated frame, and means for alternately lighting said stages, said frame being continuously illuminated during the alternate lighting of the stages.

7. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened compartment having openings at its side and rear, stages located behind said openings, a front window, a plate glass extending diagonally across said compartment so that from a viewpoint in front of the window the side stage reflected in the glass appears in the same position as the rear stage seen through the glass, an illuminated frame for said rear stage, to also coöperate with the reflection of said side stage, lamps for lighting each of said stages, said lamps hidden from view, and means for gradually lighting the lamps for one stage and simultaneously gradually dimming the lamps for the other stage while the illumination of said frame remains constant.

8. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened compartment having openings at its side and rear, stages located behind said openings, a front window, a plate glass extending diagonally across said compartment so that from a viewpoint in front of the window the side stage reflected in the glass appears in the same position as

the rear stage seen through the glass, lamps for lighting each of said stages, said lamps hidden from view, means for gradually lighting the lamps for one stage and simultaneously gradually dimming the lamps for the other stage, and a permanently lighted stationary frame surrounding one of the stage openings in position to appear as part of whichever stage is lighted.

9. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a compartment having a window or opening, booths mounted to run on tracks and movable alternately into position at said opening, a second opening in said compartment, a booth at said second opening, means for successively lighting said booths, and a reflector so positioned that the booth at the second opening appears from the viewpoint of an observer to be in the same position as the booth at the first-named opening.

10. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a compartment having a rear opening and a side opening, booths movable alternately into position behind the rear opening, additional booths movable alternately into position opposite the side opening, a reflector so positioned that the side booths appear in the position of the rear booth, and means for successively lighting said booths.

11. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room having a rear opening and a side opening, a transparent mirror extending across the room between said openings, a car mounted to travel on rails located behind said rear opening, said car divided into compartments forming booths movable alternately into position behind said rear opening, a second car mounted to travel on rails at the side of said room and divided into compartments forming booths movable alternately into position at said side opening, and means for alternately lighting the booths at the rear and side openings.

12. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a room or compartment having a rear opening and a side opening, a car located adjacent said room and mounted to travel in a transverse direction, said car being partitioned to form a number of booths movable successively into position behind said rear opening, a booth located at the side opening and movable in the direction of travel of said first-named booths into and out of a position adjacent said opening, an additional booth mounted to travel in a direction perpendicular to the direction of travel of the other booths into and out of position opposite said side opening, and means for alternately lighting the booths at said side and rear openings.

13. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a darkened room having an opening at the rear thereof and a second opening at the side thereof, a front window in said room, a vertical plate glass mirror extending across the room between the front window and said rear opening, a frame surrounding said rear opening, means for lighting said frame with a subdued light, a scene located behind said frame, a series of lamps between said frame and said scene for lighting the scene, said lamps being obscured by the frame, a second scene located at the side opening, a second series of lamps for lighting said second scene, and rheostats connected respectively in series with said first and second series of lamps, and each operable to gradually introduce resistance into its circuit and thereby gradually dim and finally darken its series of lamps, said rheostats being positioned to permit an operator to simultaneously operate them to gradually light one scene simultaneously with the dimming of the other scene.

14. The combination of a series of objects or scenes to be successively viewed, carriers for said objects arranged to bring said objects alternately to two objective points, a reflector positioned to reflect the objects at one objective point so that the objects at both objective points appear from a given viewpoint to be located in the same position, a constantly visible illuminated frame to cooperate with both objects, and means to gradually light each object when at its objective point and simultaneously gradually reduce the light at the other objective point so each object appears to fade and merge into the succeeding object, each object appearing to be set in said illuminated frame.

15. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination of a transparent mirror, a series of objects or scenes to be displayed, carriers for said objects arranged to bring the objects successively into view, the alternate objects of the series being brought to different objective points, from one of which the objects are reflected on the mirror, and from the other of which the light is transmitted directly through the mirror to the common viewpoint, so that the objects appear to come successively into view at the same objective point, a constantly illuminated frame to coöperate with the alternate objects, and means for gradually lighting each object after it is brought to its objective point, and simultaneously reducing the light on the preceding object of the series so that said objects appear to merge one into the other, said illuminated frame being of a size and in a position to appear as a setting for each of said objects as it is brought into view.

16. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a darkened compartment having a front observation opening, and containing a diagonally arranged glass partition, said compartment having openings re-

spectively at its rear and one side, and different scenes presented behind said rear and side openings, of means for alternately illuminating and darkening said scenes to disclose them in succession, respectively through, and by reflection from, said glass partition, and an illuminated frame for said rear opening, to constantly border the same before the observer during the appearance therein of the scenes from both the rear and side openings.

17. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a darkened compartment having a front observation opening, and containing a diagonally arranged glass partition, said compartment having openings respectively at its rear and one side, and different scenes presented behind said rear and side openings, of means for alternately illuminating and darkening said scenes to disclose them in succession, respectively through, and by reflection from, said glass partition, and a translucent illuminated frame with opaque background at said rear opening, to project soft light forwardly while permitting the scene behind the frame to be darkened, said illuminated frame being constantly in view of the observer during the appearance therein of the scenes from both the rear and side openings.

18. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a transparent reflector arranged diagonally to the direction of view of the observer, of means for supporting a scene in position to be viewed through said reflector, means for supporting a scene in position to be seen by reflection on said reflector, at apparently the same position as said first-mentioned scene, one of said supporting means movable into position to permit a third scene supporting means to take its place, and means for alternately illuminating and darkening the scenes in succession, to alternately present to the observer the scenes viewed through said reflector and by reflection on said reflector.

19. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a glass forming a transparent reflector, and placed diagonally to the direction of view of the observer, of a booth to contain a scene in position to be viewed directly through said glass, a second booth in position to contain a scene which may be viewed by the observer by reflection in said glass, so as to appear in the same position as said first-mentioned scene, additional booths to contain additional scenes, each of said first-mentioned booths being movable into position to be replaced by one of said additional booths, and means for alternately illuminating and darkening each scene while within the range of view of the observer, the scenes viewed directly and by reflection being illuminated in alternation, whereby a series of scenes contained in said booths may be presented to the observer in succession and apparently in the same location.

20. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a compartment having a sight aperture, of a diagonally arranged glass partition in said compartment, said compartment having openings respectively at the rear and one side of said partition, a booth at one of said openings, a plurality of connected booths movable to bring them in succession opposite the other of said openings, and means for alternately lighting the booths at the two openings.

21. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a compartment having at the front a sight opening, of a diagonally arranged glass partition therein, said compartment having in its rear wall a window behind said partition in line with said partition and opening, and a window in the side wall of the compartment, a series of booths each having an open front and movable to bring said booths in succession to an observation position behind said rear window, with their open sides opposite the window to permit an illuminated scene therein to be viewed through said partition, an additional series of booths each having an open front and movable to bring them in succession to an observation position with the open front opposite said side window, to permit an illuminating scene therein to be reflected in said partition and appear to the observer looking through said sight opening to be behind or at the rear window, the individual booths of one series movable to observation position in alternation with the individual booths of the other series, and means to illuminate and darken each scene while in observation position, so that the scenes presented in the booths of one series will be seen in alternation with the scenes in the booths of the other series.

22. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a compartment having a rear window and a side window, of a glass mirror extending diagonally between said windows and arranged to permit an observer to see through said mirror a scene set behind the rear window, and to see, by reflection in said mirror, a scene set behind the side window, a series of booths each of a size to accommodate a person or persons and apparatus designed to be presented in a scene at said rear window, tracks on which said booths are mounted to travel to permit the booths to be brought in succession into position behind said rear window, a second series of booths also of a size to accommodate persons and apparatus which may appear in additional scenes designed to be presented in alternation with said first-mentioned scenes, said second series of booths movable to bring them successively into position at

said side window, and means for illuminating and darkening each scene while it is at its window, the individual booths of the two series movable to position in alternation to permit a change of scene at either window while a scene is being presented at the other window.

23. In an illusionary apparatus, the combination with a stationary compartment provided with a front sight opening, a side window and a rear window, of a glass mirror placed diagonally in said compartment, between said side window and said rear window, and arranged to reflect objects presented at the side window so that they will appear, when viewed through said opening, to be at the rear window, a plurality of booths connected to move together to be brought in succession into position at one of said windows, each booth being of a size to accommodate a person or persons and each having the side presented to the window open, to permit objects within the booth to be seen by the observer, the open side of each booth being moved to a position to permit the entrance and exit of a person or persons from a point outside of the said stationary compartment while another of said booths is opposite its window; an additional booth or booths for presenting views at the other window, and means for alternately illuminating the views presented at the two windows.

24. A theatrical apparatus comprising a cabinet having openings in front and rear and also a side opening, theatrical performance booths similar to each other and arranged at said rear and side openings, a transparent reflector arranged diagonally in said cabinet between the rear and side openings, means for gradually darkening one booth and gradually lighting up the other booth, whereby the theatrical performance in one booth may be made to dissolve into the performance in the other booth, one of said booths being movable away from said cabinet, and a third booth movable to position to take the place of said movable booth.

25. A theatrical apparatus comprising a cabinet having openings in front and rear and also a side opening, theatrical performance booths similar to each other and arranged at said rear and side openings, a transparent reflector arranged diagonally in said cabinet between the rear and side openings, means for gradually darkening one booth and gradually lighting up the other booth, whereby the theatrical performance in one booth may be made to dissolve into the performance in the other booth, one of said booths being movable away from said cabinet, a third booth movable to position to take the place of said movable booth, and means on said cabinet for illuminating either of the movable booths.

26. A theatrical apparatus comprising a cabinet having openings in front and rear and also a side opening, theatrical performance booths similar to each other and arranged at said rear and side openings, a transparent reflector arranged diagonally in said cabinet between the rear and side openings, means for gradually darkening one booth and gradually lighting up the other booth, whereby the theatrical performance in one booth may be made to dissolve into the performance in the other booth, said cabinet having a vestibule at its front opening to serve as a screen, and lighting means arranged around said vestibule to serve as a binder.

ALEXANDER WAYRICH.

Witnesses:
TITUS H. IRONS,
F. E. ALEXANDER.