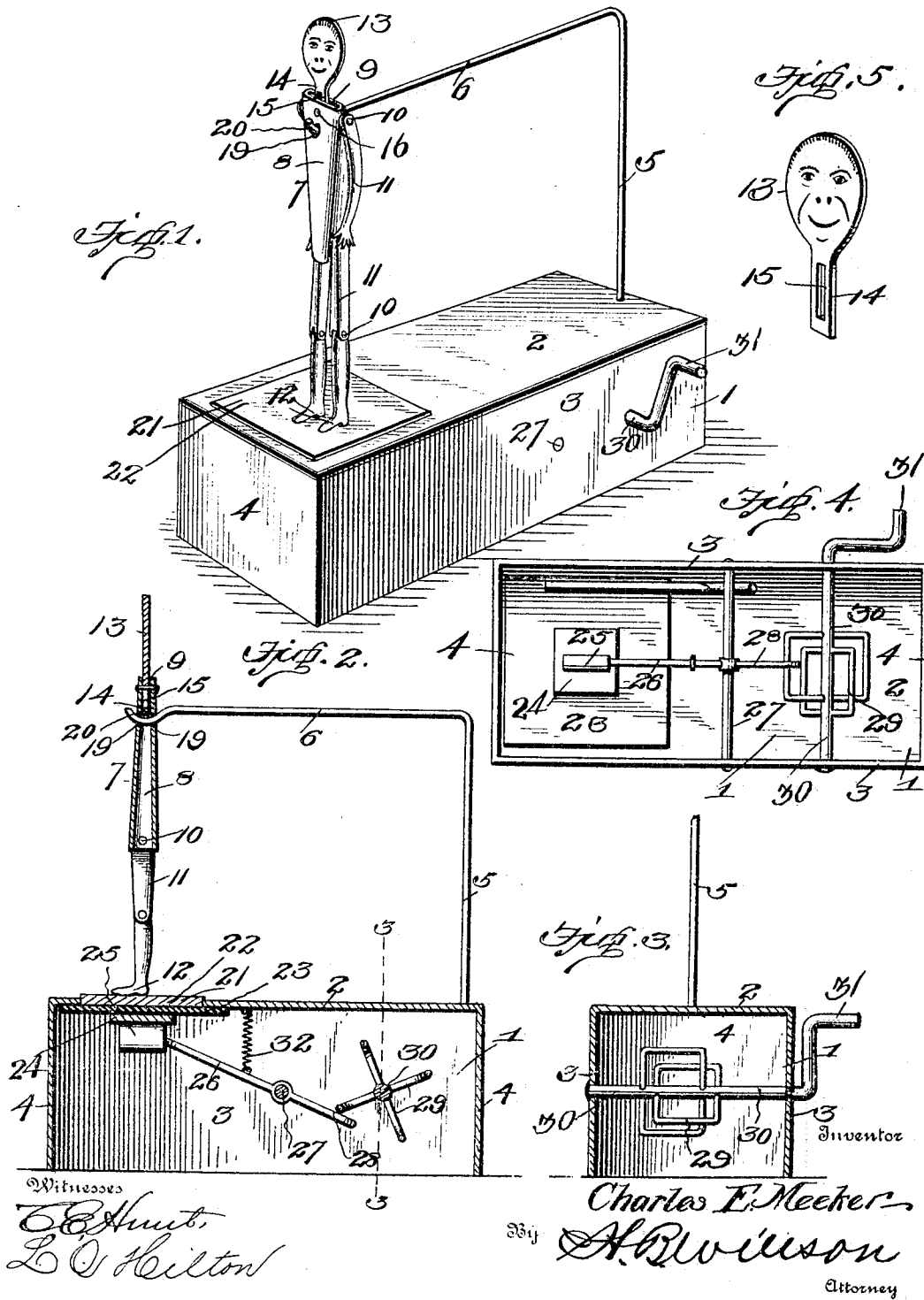


No. 782,156.

PATENTED FEB. 7, 1905.

C. E. MEEKER.
DANCING TOY OR FIGURE.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 6, 1904.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. MEEKER, OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN.

DANCING TOY OR FIGURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 782,156, dated February 7, 1905.

Application filed June 6, 1904. Serial No. 211,361.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. MEEKER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ann Arbor, in the county of Washtenaw and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Dancing Toys or Figures; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to figure toys, and particularly to toys of that kind in which motion is imparted to the figure to simulate the action of dancing.

The object of the invention is to provide a toy of this character which is comparatively simple of construction and inexpensive of manufacture and which provides for a high degree of grotesqueness in the body movements of the dancing figure.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dancing toy embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section thereof. Fig. 3 is a vertical cross-section taken on line 3 3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a bottom plan view, and Fig. 5 is a detail view showing the neck connection of the figure.

Referring to the drawings, 1 represents a hollow or chambered base, comprising a top wall 2, side walls 3, and end walls 4. The base shown in the present instance is of oblong rectangular form and open at the bottom; but it may be of any form and construction to suit the purpose for which it is designed. It may also be made of wood or metal or any other suitable material. Rising from the rear end of the top wall 2 is a figure-support, comprising a standard 5, having a forwardly-projecting supporting-arm 6, from which the dancing figure 7 is suspended. This standard is preferably made of light wire in order that it may vibrate to promote the action of the figure-operating mechanism to secure a high degree of grotesqueness in the body movements

of the figure. The figure 7 is made of sheet metal or other suitable material and comprises a body 8, formed of a strip of metal bent or doubled upon itself and secured at its free edges, the upper portion of the same being flattened to provide an elongated slot or opening 9. Jointed to this body by pivot-pins or like connections 10 are limbs 11, the lower limbs having thigh and knee joints and terminating in feet 12. The head 13 of the figure has a neck 14 in the form of a tin plate, which projects down into the body 8 through the slot 9 and is itself formed with a slot 15 for the passage of a pin 16, said pin and slot permitting the neck to have free lateral or sidewise movement on the body 8, as will be readily understood. The body itself is suspended from the forward end of the arm 6 in such manner as to allow it to have a lateral pivotal movement and a slight movement longitudinally of the supporting-arm 6, which is preferably accomplished by forming said body with openings 19 to receive the forward end 20 of the arm, which is curved or hook-shaped to retain the body in place and yet allow it to swing both longitudinally and transversely of the body 1.

The figure is suspended by the arm of the standard immediately above an opening in the top wall 2 and the feet 12 of the figure raised upon a vibratory platform 21, exposed at said opening. This platform is composed of a plate 22, secured to a flexible flap 23, suitably fastened to the under side of the wall 2. On the under side of this flap is a padding 24, and adapted to engage this padding is a hammer or striker 25, mounted upon one end of a vibrating lever 26, fixed to a transverse shaft 27, journaled at its end in the walls 3. From the rear of the lever or the shaft extends an arm 28, adapted to be engaged by tappets 29 on an operating-shaft 30, also journaled in the walls 3 and provided at its outer end with a crank-handle 31. The lever 26 is connected in rear of the striker 25 with the wall or to a transverse shaft journaled in the wall by a spring, rubber band, or like reactive connection 32, which normally holds the striker in engagement with the padding 24, so that when the shaft 30 is rotated and the arm 28 is forced

upward by the successive actions of the taps 29 the spring 32 upon each downward movement of the lever will be expanded and will then exert its retractive energy to draw up the lever and cause the hammer or striker 25 to strike the padded portion 24 of the vibrating platform 21, so that during the operation of the shaft 30 the hammer 25 will strike the under side of the platform a series of blows in quick succession, thereby causing it to rapidly vibrate. This rapid vibration will of course raise and lower the platform and transmit motion to the figure 7, the body and limbs of which will be caused to assume all sorts of grotesque positions, the ludicrousness of which will be enhanced by the pivotal play of the head 13 and the additional sensibility imparted by the vibration of the spring-wire supports 5. The function of the padding 24, which is made of some soft flexible material, is to muffle the sound of the hammer or striker 25. It will of course be understood that a spring-motor or operating means of any preferred character may be substituted for the crank mechanism herein shown.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings,

the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A toy of the character described, comprising a base, an elastic support rising therefrom, a jointed figure having a slotted and pivoted neck portion, a vibrating platform on the base, padding under the platform, a vibrating lever carrying a hammer to strike the padding and vibrate said platform, and means for operating said lever.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES E. MEEKER.

Witnesses:

ROBT. E. BUNDER,
THEO. E. MAST.