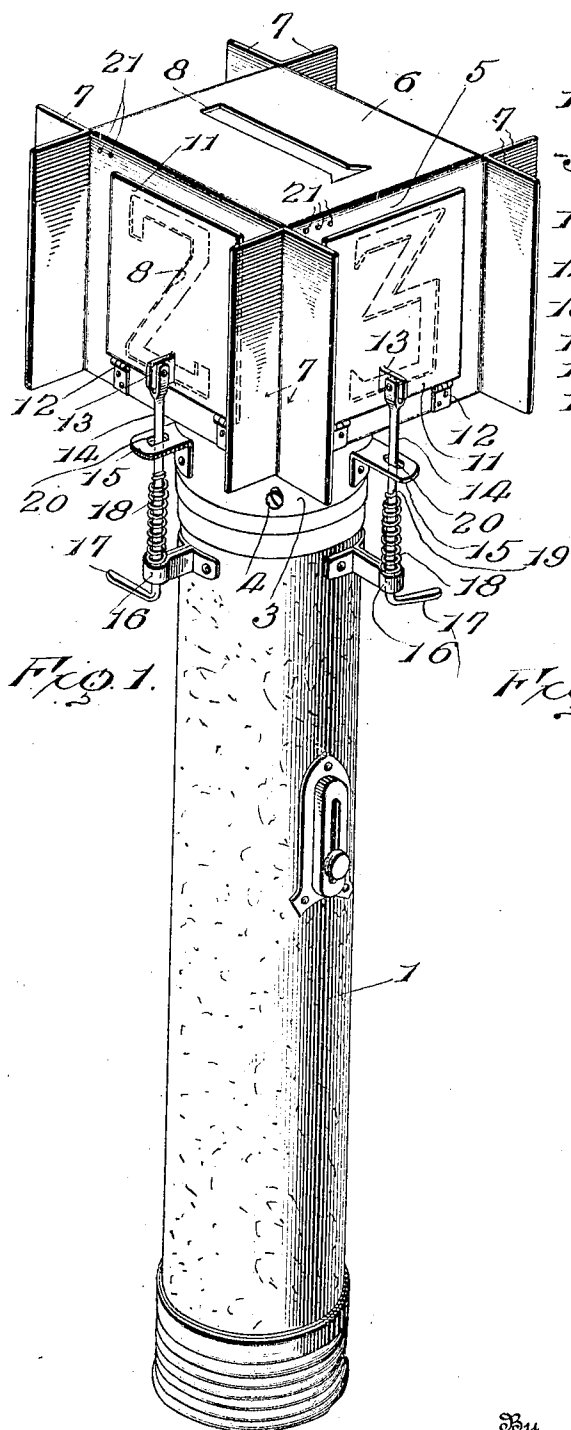
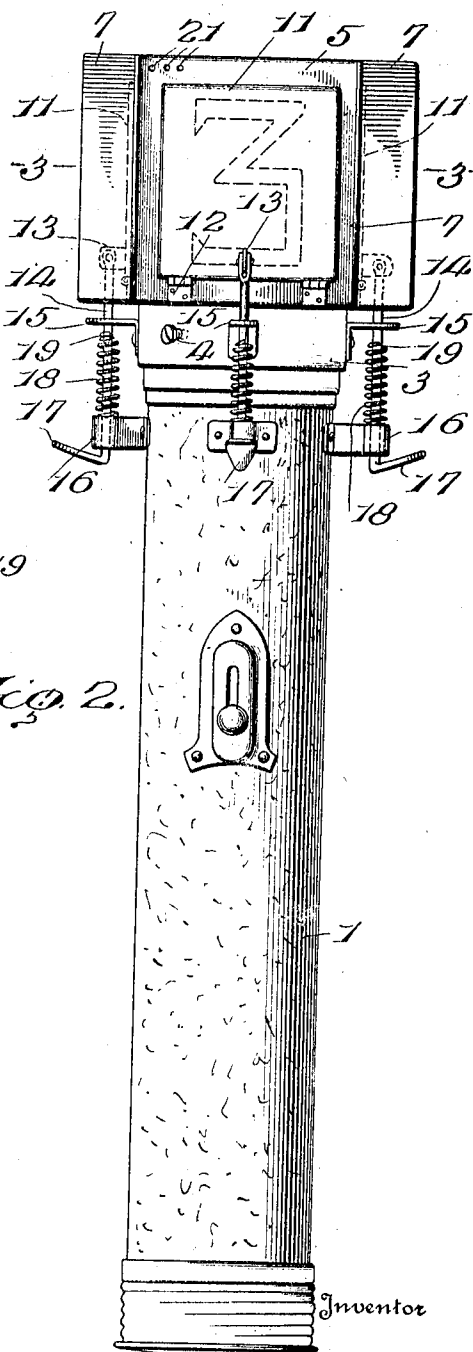


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C. A. HALL.
INDICATOR.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 7, 1917.

Patented Jan. 14, 1919.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



By

Clyde A. Hall

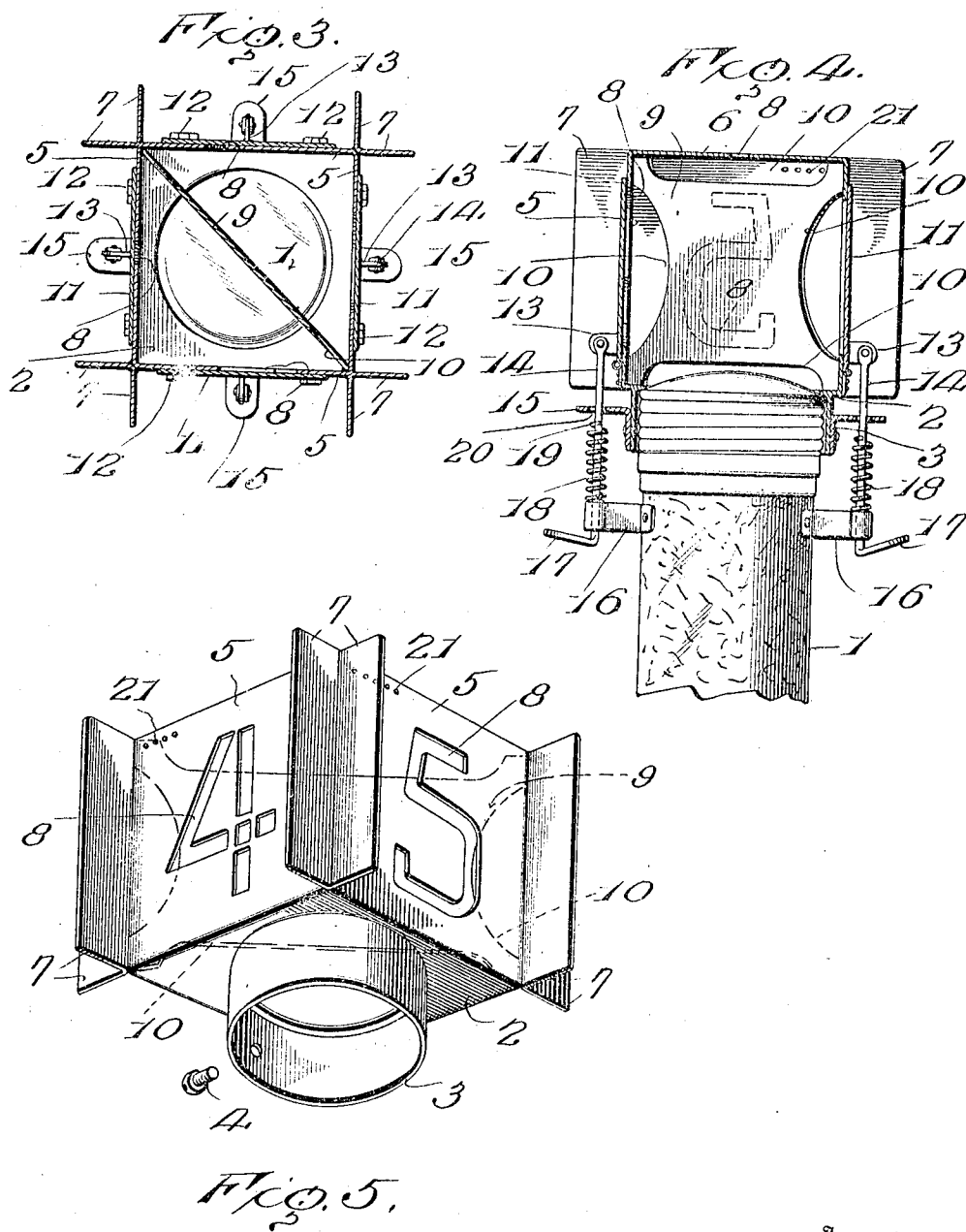
Attorneys.

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Inventor

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLYDE A. HALL, OF CANONSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

INDICATOR.

1,291,493.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 14, 1919

Application filed November 7, 1917. Serial No. 200,791.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLYDE A. HALL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Canonsburg, in the county of Washington and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to indicators or signals and is intended more particularly for use in darkened auditoriums to permit an usher to notify an attendant or spectator at the back of the room how many vacant seats may be found in the row from which he is signaling. The invention seeks to provide a device for the stated purpose which is simple in construction and easily operated, and when in use will cut-off from the spectators at the rear of the room all the indicating characters except the one denoting the number of vacant seats which may be had.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings and will be hereinafter first fully described and then more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved indicator or signal showing it arranged for use;

Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same;

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section through the indicator;

Fig. 4 is a transverse vertical section;

Fig. 5 is a perspective view looking at the under side of the indicator and having the shutters removed.

The indicator is intended for use in connection with a flash light 1 which may be of any well-known construction. The device comprises a housing which will preferably be rectangular and will comprise a base or bottom plate 2 from which a collar 3 depends centrally, said collar being adapted to fit upon the flash light casing and be secured thereto in any desired manner. In the present drawings, I have illustrated a set screw 4 mounted in the collar 3 and adapted to be turned home against the end of the flash light casing so as to secure the housing in position, but any other preferred securing means may be employed. As shown clearly in Fig. 5 and as previously intimated, the base plate 2 is rectangular, and from each side or edge of said plate a wall 5 rises while a top plate 6 is secured to or formed integral with the upper edges of said side walls. Flanges 7 are provided at the corners of the

side walls and these flanges will project from the respective side walls at right angles thereto so as to serve as shutters or screens to prevent light passing from the housing in such manner as to confuse the reading of the displayed indicating character. In each side wall and in the top plate 6, I construct slots or openings, indicated at 8, which will be of such character as to form Arabic numerals. It will be readily understood, of course, that the slot or opening in each side wall is of a different shape from all the others and from the top plate so that if the indicator be properly turned and held by the usher the character turned toward the rear of the room will denote the number of vacant seats at the usher's disposal. In order to prevent the character in the side wall diametrically opposite the wall which is turned toward the spectators showing through and confusing the reading, I provide a partition 9 within the housing which extends diagonally across the same and will thereby effectively prevent the numerals on the opposite walls being confused, it being understood that this partition will be of metal or some other opaque material. In order to reduce the weight of the device, I cut away the edges of the partition, as indicated at 10, and the openings will provide passages through which the light may reach the entire interior of the housing without, however, directly illuminating the opposite walls in such manner that they can be confused.

The construction thus far described will be found practical and efficient but in order to enhance the utility of the device and positively prevent confusion in the reading of the display characters, I provide upon each side of the housing a shutter 11 which is adapted to extend over the indicating slot formed in the side wall. These shutters are respectively secured to the housing by hinges 12 at their lower edges and upon each shutter is a lug 13 to which the upper end of a push bar 14 is pivoted, said push bar being slidably mounted in lugs 15 and 16, secured respectively upon the collar 3 and upon the casing of the flash light, and the lower end of the push bar being turned laterally to form a thumb-piece or handle 17 by which it may be manipulated. The push bar is held normally projected toward the housing and the shutter closed by a spring 18 coiled around the bar between the lower bracket 16 and a stop 19 of any preferred form upon

the bar. In order to accommodate the relative angular movement between the shutter and the guiding brackets or lugs, the opening in the upper bracket is in the form of a slot 20 and the free end of the lower bracket is formed into a collar of sufficient diameter to permit lateral play of the push bar. It will be readily understood that when the shutter is raised the opening or indicia in the adjacent side wall will be effectively covered and shut off so that no light may pass through the same and consequently it cannot be viewed. In order that the usher may accurately and readily determine when the proper character is in the position to be displayed to the observers, I provide in the side walls, adjacent the upper edge thereof, pin holes 21 which correspond in number to the character which is readable through the side wall in which the said holes are formed. The flash light is, of course, visible through these pin holes to the usher but cannot be seen by the spectators and the usher is therefore enabled to accurately determine when the light has been turned so as to bring the proper character into the desired position. After the desired character has been brought into the proper position, the usher will press downwardly against the projection or thumb-piece 17 against the tension of the spring 18 and will thereby cause the shutter to swing to open position and permit the light to pass through the character formed in the side wall which is turned toward the spectators and make said character visible.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, it will be seen that I have provided an exceedingly simple device which may be

manufactured at a very low cost and which will be found highly efficient for the purpose for which it is designed. The device may be readily applied to or removed from any well-known form of flash light and will be visible from any part of the auditorium and when properly manipulated will permit the persons standing at the back of a theater to note the number of vacant seats without being confused by rays of light from those portions of the device which are turned from the spectators.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A device for the purpose set forth comprising a housing adapted to be fitted upon an illuminating device and provided in its side walls with indicia to be made visible by said illuminating device and further provided in said side walls with constantly visible indicators denoting the character of the first-mentioned indicia, shutters mounted upon said side walls adapted to cover said indicia, and means for moving the shutters to uncover the indicia.

2. The combination with a flash light, of a housing adapted to be fitted thereto and provided with indicia in its side walls visible when illuminated, shutters mounted upon said side walls and arranged to cover said indicia, guides upon the housing and the flash light, push bars slidably mounted in said guides and pivotally connected to the shutters, and yieldable means acting upon the push bars to hold the shutters normally in closed position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CLYDE A. HALL. [L. S.]