A. F. BLANCHARD.

MOVIE WRITER.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 23, 1915.

1,198,401.

Patented Sept. 19, 1916.

Fig. 2.

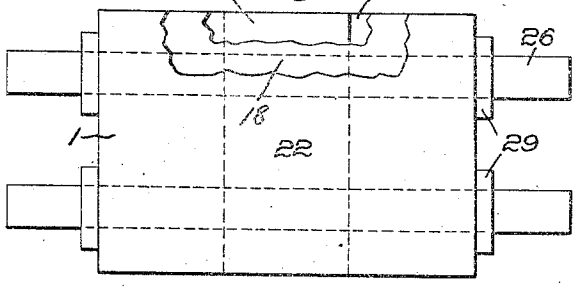


Fig. 5.

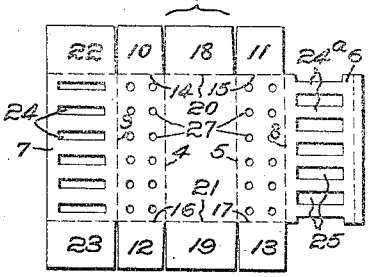


Fig. 1.

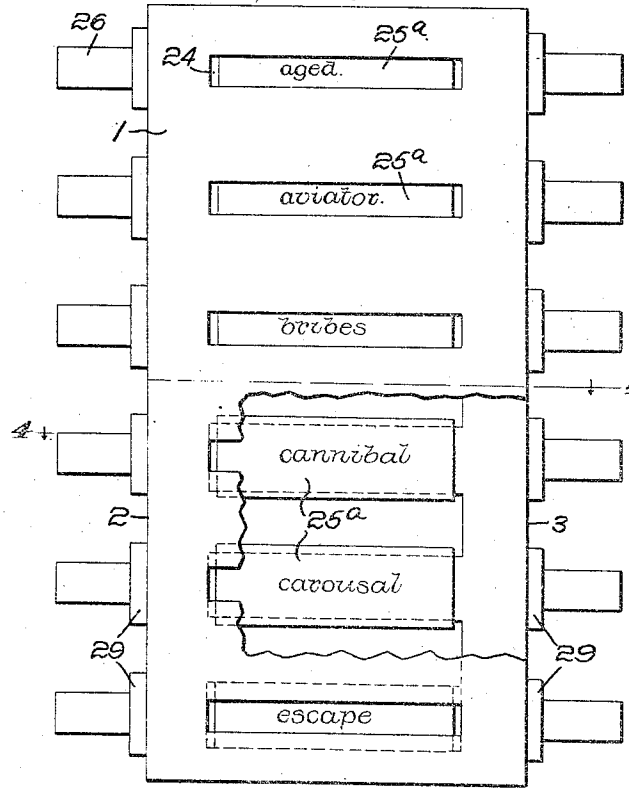


Fig. 3.

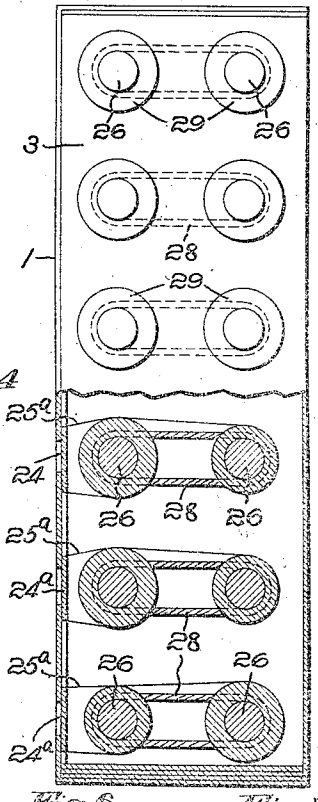


Fig. 4.

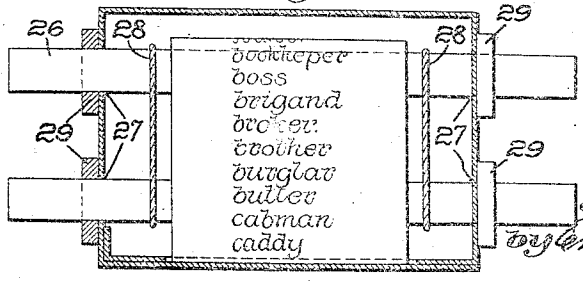


Fig. 6.

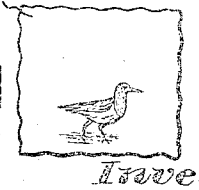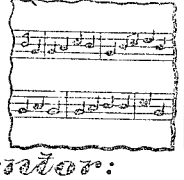


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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MOVIE-WRITER.

1,198,401. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 19, 1916.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ARTHUR F. BLANCHARD, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Cambridge, county of Middlesex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Movie-Writers, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to means or devices to be used as incentives for concise thinking, stimulating the imagination and teaching the basic technique of fiction; and it relates more particularly to a novel and convenient device for effecting the above objects which may be used either as a toy or game for amusement or entertainment, or purely as means for instruction.

In the drawing of one form of my invention selected for illustration and description Figure 1 is a front view, partly broken away; Fig. 2, a top view, partly broken away; Fig. 3, a side view, partly broken away; Fig. 4, a horizontal sectional view on the line 4—4, Fig. 1; Fig. 5, a development of the carton or case containing the novel idea-stimulating media which will be described in detail, and Figs. 6 and 7, modified forms respectively of the thought-stimulating representations.

An important principle of my novel device comprises the grouping or classifying of thought-stimulating representations, as words, illustrations or bars of music, into a plurality of groups or classes, and the production of novel mechanical means for carrying said groups in proper relation to each other, and for presenting in novel predetermined relation one or more representations from each class or group. There is thus presented to the eye and mind of the operator, a plurality of orderly, classified suggestions which may be used as the basis for a story, poetry, parody, epigram, proverb, paradox, moving picture scenario, musical composition, etc.

In the embodiment of my invention disclosed in Fig. 1, the representations are shown as words arranged in six groups or classes which I have termed for convenience respectively as follows: group 1, descriptive, or words, as adjectives describing character A; 2, words, as nouns, representing character A; 3, verbs, or words indicating action or what character A does in relation to character B; 4, words, as nouns, representing character B; 5, words describing reaction or *dénouement;* and 6, words indicating the conclusion.

Referring now to the drawings and particularly to Figs. 1 and 5, my novel device comprises a suitable carton or case 1, of any suitable material, as reasonably stiff pasteboard, scored as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. 5, to permit it to be folded and form a case, as shown in Fig. 1. When scored as illustrated, the carton may be conveniently formed by first folding forwardly the sides 2, and 3, along the lines 4 and 5, next forwardly folding the wings 6 and 7 along the lines 8 and 9, the wings 6, 7, thereby constituting the double front wall of the case; folding the sections 10, 11, 12, 13, laterally on the lines 14, 15, 16, 17, the sections 18, 19, forwardly on the lines 20, 21, and completing the case by folding the corners 22, 23, down upon the sections 18, 19, and securing them in any desired manner, so that the slots 24 in the wing 7 and bars 24ª between the slots 25 in the wing 6, respectively, will register, and thereby constructing the case as shown in Fig. 1.

The several groups of thought stimulating media or representations are arranged and printed or otherwise displayed upon suitable strips of material 25ª, as paper. The two ends of each strip are suitably attached, as by an adhesive, see Fig. 3, each to a roller 26 of suitable material, as wood, each roller being thrust through suitable openings 27, Fig. 4, in the opposite sides of the carton and adapted to be rotated therein. The rollers and their strips of paper are shown as arranged in pairs, see Fig. 3, and are, of course, placed in position when the side members 2, 3, are folded into position. For instance, see Fig. 3, the upper roll of paper has its opposite ends secured to the upper pair of rollers 26, 26, and, when using the device the two rollers comprising a pair in each case, are rotated together and in the same direction, thus feeding forward the paper strip with its thought stimulating media

and presenting the different representations in turn at the aperture 24. For convenience, a rubber band 28, or other suitable means may be provided for each pair of rollers, to keep them in sufficiently close relation to prevent too free rotation of either roller and consequent unwinding of the strip of material therefrom.

To prevent longitudinal movement and possible displacement of the rollers from their bearings, each roller may be provided, either at the outer or inner face of the side walls 2, 3, of the carton, with a suitable flange 29 of wood or other material which may be glued or otherwise secured to the roller after it has been placed in position.

As an illustration of the groups of words and manner of using them, I have displayed in Fig. 1, one word from each group in proper relation and logical sequence to suggest a short story. To construct such a series of suggestions or thought stimulating media, the top, or first pair of rollers is rotated until a representation, in this case a word, is presented at the slot 24 which appeals to the imagination of the operator, or the word may be taken at random as it happens to be presented. In this case the word presented is "aged" and as heretofore stated, is descriptive of character A, which follows on the second roll. The second word having been selected in the same manner or taken at random, we find it represents or defines the principal character, in this case an "aviator". With the subject of the story, an aged aviator, in mind, the third roll is rotated until its presents at its slot 24, a word defining action on the part of character A, for instance, "brides", which appeals to the imagination of the operator. By this time the operator's imagination has been so stimulated that he readily sees the possibilities of a story founded upon almost any series of representations that he may select. The fourth roll presents character B as the object of "bribes", for instance, "cannibal"; the fifth roll, a word denoting reaction or *dénouement*, in this case "carousal"; the sixth and last roll presents a word denoting the conclusion which follows the reaction, in this case, "escapes". These particular words readily suggest, for instance, that an aged aviator after flying through the air on a long trip, lands finally on a desolate island where he is met by a cannibal, whom he is forced to bribe to secure his safety. After an interim which is full of possibilities as a basis of a story, a carousal ensues following which the aviator escapes.

By the use of my improved device, original ideas and suggestions of fiction are evolved without any effort on the part of the operator other than the turning of the several rolls. Of course there may be as many rolls as desired but I have found that six rolls presents a reasonably sufficient and satisfactory number of suggestions. These suggestions following the order mentioned, serve as a basis for the construction of original themes, situations, and complete plots for dramatic or literary productions and ideas upon which may be based serial cartoons. Experience has shown that, with the stimulus furnished by these representations mechanically controlled and presented, it is very easy to construct a story or series of cartoons either as amusement for the time being, or for real literary work. As a game it may be passed from one to another of a group of persons, each one in turn, by rotating a pair of rollers, presenting one or more words for suggestions, and the whole six words completing the basis or outline of a story, which may be still further enlarged and developed by additional rotation of the rollers in turn.

Obviously the rollers may be used for presenting stimulating thought media of other kinds as well as words, for instance, illustrations, see Fig. 6 and bars of music, Fig. 7, and such representations would be particularly valuable in the construction of serial cartoons or rebuses and songs.

Having described one embodiment of my invention which, however, may be modified in many details without departing from the spirit of the invention, I claim:

1. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of groups of plot suggesting representatives therein, and means to present to the operator a representation from one or more of the plurality of groups in a predetermined order.

2. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of groups of plot suggesting media movably mounted therein, and means to present to the operator thought stimulating media in relatively logical sequence.

3. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of strips of flexible material therein, groups of plot suggesting representations thereon, a plurality of rollers in the case carrying said strips, and means in the case for feeding the strips to cause them to present to the operator one or more of such representations.

4. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of strips of flexible material therein, groups of plot suggesting words of different grammatical classification arranged in predetermined order thereon, a plurality of rollers in the case carrying said strips, and means for presenting to the operator a plurality of said thought stimulating representations.

5. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of groups of plot suggesting media movably mounted therein, and means to present to the operator thought

stimulating illustrations in suggestive sequence.

6. A scenario forming device comprising a case, a plurality of groups of plot suggesting media movably mounted therein, and means to present to the operator thought stimulating bars of music from one or more groups.

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

ARTHUR F. BLANCHARD.

Witnesses:

EVERETT I. EMERY,

ELIZABETH P. HILLIARD.