To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS CRANEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bay City, in the county of Bay and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Attachments for Cash-Registers; and I do hereby 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 is an attachment for cash-registers, and its objects are to provide an indicator actuated by the movement of the cash-drawer of the register to bring to the attention of the purchaser the advertisements of merchants engaged in other lines of trade. To insure that his attention will be attracted to the device it is further adapted to point out one of a series of numbers and to indicate at the same time one of the advertisements displayed when the amount of his purchase is registered. If the number pointed out by the indicator happens to be the same as the amount of the purchase which is recorded by the register, the purchaser is entitled to a prize or to additional goods equal in value to the goods just purchased. The invention provides in a device of this class a simple indicating mechanism which can be easily and quickly applied to cash-registers of the ordinary form without changing their construction, and, furthermore, provides an indicating mechanism which indicates the numbers entirely by chance.

Further objects of the device are to increase sales by offering a chance of gain to each customer in paying for his purchase and to attract his attention and interest when his purchase is indicated by the cash-register for the purpose of acting as a check against the errors by the salesman.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a cash-register, showing the indicator not used for advertising purposes attached thereto. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the indicator and cash-register, broken away in parts to show the connecting means between the cash-drawer and the indicator. Fig. 3 is a front view of a cash-register, showing the indicator used as an advertising display device and located at a distance from the cash-register. Fig. 4 is a back view of the indicator. Fig. 5 is a front view, and Fig. 6 a side elevation, of the same broken away in parts, showing the pointer-actuating mechanism; and Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail.

Although the device is intended for the display of advertisements, as is indicated in Fig. 3, it may be used by the owner only for the purpose of increasing his sales and to act as a check against error by the salesman. It is then customary to secure it to the top of the cash-register, as is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

As is clearly shown in the drawings, the indicator consists in a dial, 1, having a series of numbered pins 2 around the periphery. A balanced pointer 3 is centrally located in front of the dial, and when the cash-register is operated the pointer is given a sudden impulse, causing it to rotate in the direction indicated by the arrows in Figs. 1 and 3. The pointer can revolve only in the direction indicated, but after receiving its impulse revolves in that direction independent of the actuating means, stopping between two of the pins 2 when the force received from the impulse is exhausted, thus indicating one of the numbers on the dial. A mechanism such as is shown in Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 or any other suitable device concealed behind the dial may be used for imparting motion to the pointer.

I prefer to actuate the indicating mechanism by the movement of the cash-drawer, and I accomplish this result by the following means: A hole 4 is provided in the back wall of the cash-register and a hooked bracket or finger 6 is secured to the back of the cash-drawer 7, so as to project through the hole 4 when the cash-drawer is closed. A bracket 8, secured to the back of the register, carries a bell-crank lever 9, one member of which is adapted to be tripped by the hooked finger 6 when the drawer is pulled open, thereby pulling and suddenly releasing the flexible cord 10, which is secured to the other member of the bell-crank lever. The cord 10 operates a pointer-actuating mechanism concealed behind the dial. The outer face of the finger 6 is preferably beveled, so as to slide easily over the point of the lever as the drawer is closed. When the indicator is to be used for adver-
tising purposes, it may be placed above the register, as is shown in Fig. 3, or in any other convenient location, it being only necessary that the indicator be so placed that comparision of its numbers with the amount indicated by the cash-register shall be easy for the customer. In this case segmental advertising-cards A B C are located around the circumference of the indicator, being removable secured to a flat board or back 11 by means of radial guides 12, formed of sheet metal and having projecting flanges 13 for retaining the segmental cards in position. At the left of Fig. 3 is a detached detail showing the end view of a pair of guides 12, and at the right of Fig. 3 is shown one of the segmental advertising-cards 14 detached from its guides.

The number on the dial at which the pointer 3 stops depends entirely upon chance, and the pointer is as free to stop at one number as at another. The chance that it will stop at any particular number depends upon the total number of pins 2 that are employed, and the chance decreases directly in proportion as the number of pins is increased. In the dial shown in the drawings there are four series of ten numbers, each increasing by five from five to fifty. Each number is repeated on the dial four times. The chances are therefore one in ten that the pointer will stop at any previously-selected number. If the number at which the pointer stops agrees with the amount of the purchase as recorded by the cash-register, the buyer is entitled to additional goods or an article as a premium equal in value to any percent. of the total sales that the seller wishes to pay. Therefore, with the numbers arranged on the dial, as shown in the drawings, approximately ten percent of the daily sales will be delivered in goods as premiums or prizes to customers. It is obvious that every tenth purchaser will not receive a premium, for it is possible that several may receive them in succession, although the ultimate chance will remain ten percent. This element of uncertainty greatly increases the interest of the purchaser and draws his attention to the amount indicated on the register, serving as a check against error by the salesman. It also insures that his attention will be called to the advertisements displayed around the dial, which might otherwise escape his notice.

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

1. An indicating device for cash-registers comprising a dial having numbers around its periphery; segmental cards adapted to be used for advertising purposes arranged around the circumference of the dial; means for holding the cards in place; a freely-moving pointer adapted to indicate by chance one of the numbers and one of the segmental cards; and means operated by the cash-register for imparting motion to the pointer when the register is operated for the purpose set forth.

2. In an indicating mechanism for cash-registers the combination of a dial carrying numbers around its periphery and having a freely-moving pointer; a series of segmental advertising-cards around said dial; guides for retaining said cards in place; and a flexible cord actuated by the cash-register mechanism for imparting rotary motion to the pointer.

3. In an indicating mechanism for cash-registers having a dial and a freely-moving pointer mounted to rotate before the dial; a flexible cord for imparting rotary motion to the pointer; a bell-crank lever secured to the case of the cash-register one arm of the lever being attached to the flexible cord; and a hooked finger carried by the drawer of the cash-register and arranged to actuate the bell-crank lever when the drawer is opened, for the purpose set forth.

4. In an indicating mechanism for cash-registers, a dial carrying series of numbers, a pointer adapted to indicate by chance one of said numbers, means for imparting motion to said pointer, said means being operated by the drawer of the cash-register; numbers on said dial corresponding with the amounts which may be indicated by the cash-register, and being so disposed upon the dial that the chance of the indicated dial-number and the amount of the registered purchase being the same will be in a predetermined ratio.

5. Means for operating an indicating device for cash-registers comprising a flexible cord, a bell-crank lever carried by the case of the cash-register, one arm of the lever being attached to the flexible cord; and a hooked finger secured to the drawer of the cash-register and arranged to operate the bell-crank lever when the drawer is opened.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS CRANEY.

Witnesses:
JAMES C. HANSON,
FRANK MARTINDALE.