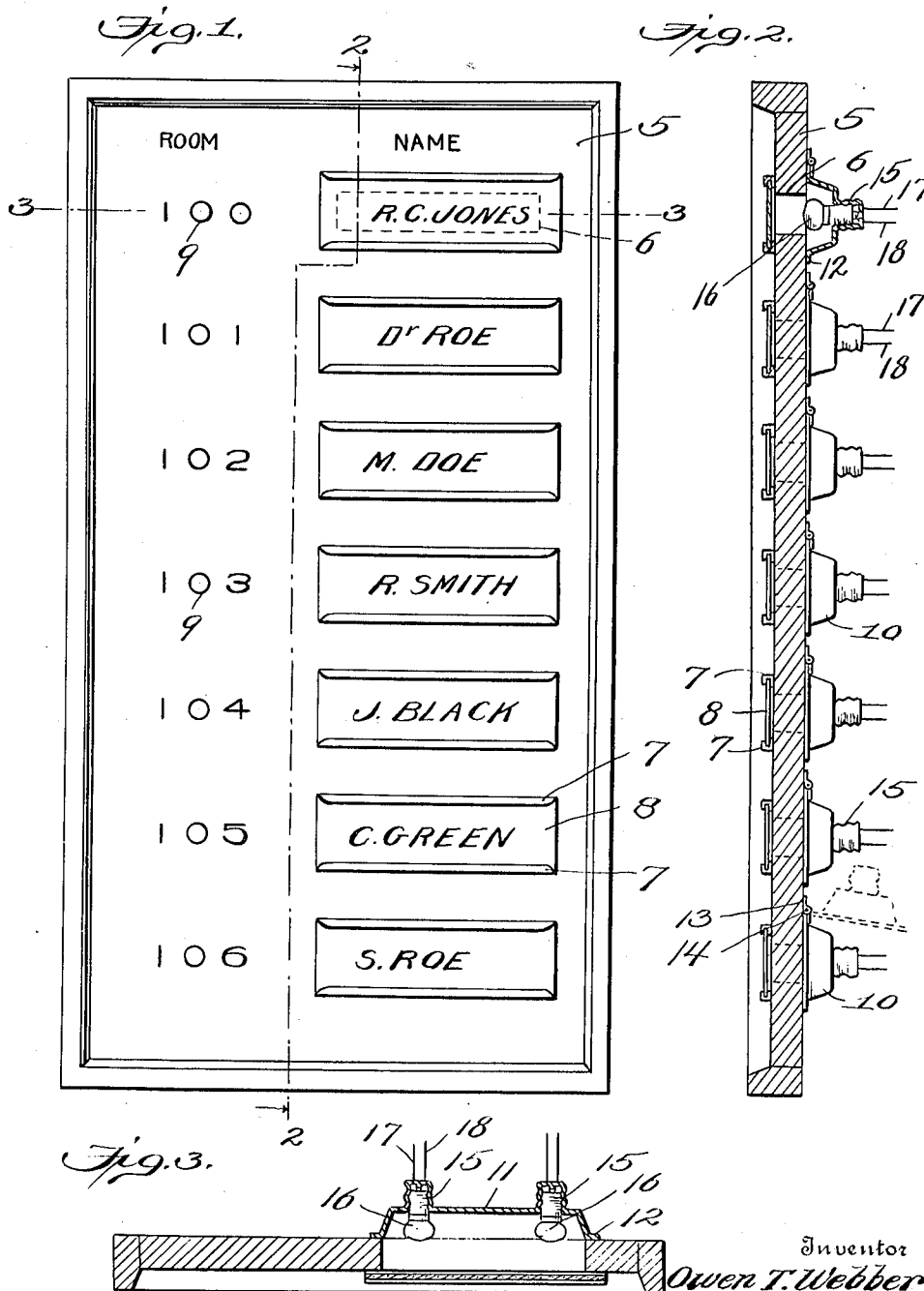


O. T. WEBBER.
ILLUMINATIVE DIRECTORY BOARD.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1917.

1,289,982.

Patented Dec. 31, 1918.



Witness

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OWEN THOMAS WEBBER, OF HONOLULU, TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

ILLUMINATIVE DIRECTORY-BOARD.

1,289,982.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 31, 1918.

Application filed July 27, 1917. Serial No. 183,130.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OWEN T. WEBBER, a subject of the King of Great Britain, having declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, residing at Honolulu, in the county of Honolulu and Territory of Hawaii, have invented new and useful Improvements in Illuminative Directory-Boards, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to an illuminative directory board or indicator designed for disposition in a lobby, main hallway, or other part of a building to show whether or not the occupants of the several offices or rooms in the building are in or out; and the primary object of the invention is to provide a simple and effective means whereby callers or other persons may be readily informed at some given point whether the occupant of a room or office is out and thereby economize in time and effort in endeavoring to find or interview various persons that may be sought, with material advantages in social and business expedition and convenience.

The improved directory board is adapted for general use and may be disposed not only in hotels, apartment houses and other large community dwellings, but is also equally serviceable in the business of firms, wholesale stores, or any concern which has several department heads and the names of the various officers or members of the firm may be placed upon the board at a main entrance or some other point that may be readily accessible without requiring an entrance into the various offices or rooms of a business house, and whereby also the presence or absence of the officers or members of a firm may be readily ascertained.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts which will be more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawing:

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a directory board embodying the features of the invention.

Fig. 2 is a transverse vertical section taken in the plane of the line 2—2, Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a horizontal section taken in the plane of the line 3—3, Fig. 1.

The numeral 5 designates a board of any suitable shape, material and dimensions, and therein a plurality of rectangular slots or openings 6 is provided. These slots or open-

ings 6 are vertically alined and are located preferably nearer one side edge of the board than the other side edge. Above and below the slots or openings 6 on the front of the board are holding or clip flanges 7 which are arranged suitable distances above and below the upper and lower walls of each slot or opening; and in these clip flanges translucent name plates or strips 8 are removably mounted and have painted or otherwise applied thereon the names of the occupants of the rooms of the building, the corresponding rooms being represented by numerals, as at 9, in transverse relation to the said name plates, there being one room number directly in alinement with each name plate. The slots or openings 6 are of less dimensions than the name plates, but the names on the plates are disposed over the slots or openings.

On the back of the board 5 over the rear portions of the slots or openings 6 is a plurality of carriers 10, each having a dished body 11 and a surrounding flange 12, the upper portion of the flange being hinged to an attaching plate 13, as at 14. The center of the back of the dished body 11 is provided with lamp sockets 15, two being shown in the present instance and arranged on opposite sides of the vertical center of the body and in longitudinal alinement. Within the sockets 15 incandescent electric lights 16 are removably secured, the sockets being formed with screw-corrugations or threads to receive the corresponding portions or sockets of the lamps 16. The carriers are so applied to the rear portion of the board that the bulbs of the electric lamps 16 will slightly project into and be in central relation with respect to the slots or openings 6; and the inner surfaces of the dished bodies 11 of the carriers are formed as reflectors or have reflecting material applied thereto. When the carriers 10 are closed against the back of the board, the surrounding flange 12 fits closely against the rear surface of the board and all of the light rays are concentrated relatively to or reflected through the slots or openings 6 and brought to bear with advantageous illuminating effect on the translucent name plates 8 held against the front portion of the said slots or openings. When it is desired to remove and replace or otherwise manipulate the lamps 16 of any one of the carriers, the latter is raised, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 2, and either one or both

of the lamps may be taken out and replaced by new lamps with very little trouble, and subsequently the carrier in which the lamps have been changed or repaired may be closed in normal position. By hinging the carriers at their upper portions they will always tend to remain closed, as will be readily understood.

The electric lamps 16 have circuit wires 17 and 18 connected thereto, and in circuit with these wires may be any suitable switch means located adjacent to or at a distance from the directory board and operable to cause the electric lamps 16 to glow or to extinguish said lamps, in accordance with the presence or absence from a building or office, or a room in the latter, of the person or persons indicated by the name plates. If a person goes out of his office or room in the building or place of business where the improved directory board is installed, the electric lamps behind the name plate corresponding to said person may be extinguished, either automatically or by notification to an operator controlling the said board, and when said person returns the electric lamps will be caused to glow by the same means. This directory board may also be used as a means for indicating whether or not any particular room or rooms in a building are unoccupied or are for rent, and under such conditions the name plates referring to these vacant rooms may carry such information.

What is claimed as new is:

1. In a directory board of the class specified, the combination of a board having a series of vertically alined transverse slots extending therethrough and a series of room numbers also in vertical alinement and individually disposed opposite each slot on the face of the board, a transparent name plate over the front portion of each slot, the slot

being nearly as long as each name plate thereof, and a hinged carrier of inclosing form at the back of the board over each slot, said carrier having electric lights disposed therein in longitudinal alinement and so arranged that the bulbs of the electric lights partially project into the rear portions of the slots in rear of the name plates to illuminate the latter.

2. In a directory board of the class specified, the combination of a board having a plurality of vertically alined slots extending from a point adjacent to one side edge transversely of the board toward the center of the latter, the face of the board in transverse alinement with relation to each slot having a room number thereon and all of the room numbers being vertically alined, transparent name plates removably mounted over the front portions of the slots and exposed at the front side of the board, each name plate being in transverse alinement with one of the room numbers, and carriers applied over and completely covering the rear portions of the slots and hinged at their upper portions for upward movement and having therein electric lamps in longitudinal alinement and provided with suitable electrical connections, the lamps being movable with the hinged carriers and the carriers when closed causing the bulb portions of the lamps to in part project into the rear portions of the slots, the carriers having a dished contour and their inner surfaces provided with reflecting means.

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

OWEN THOMAS WEBBER.

Witnesses:

A. G. FASE,
R. H. TRENT.