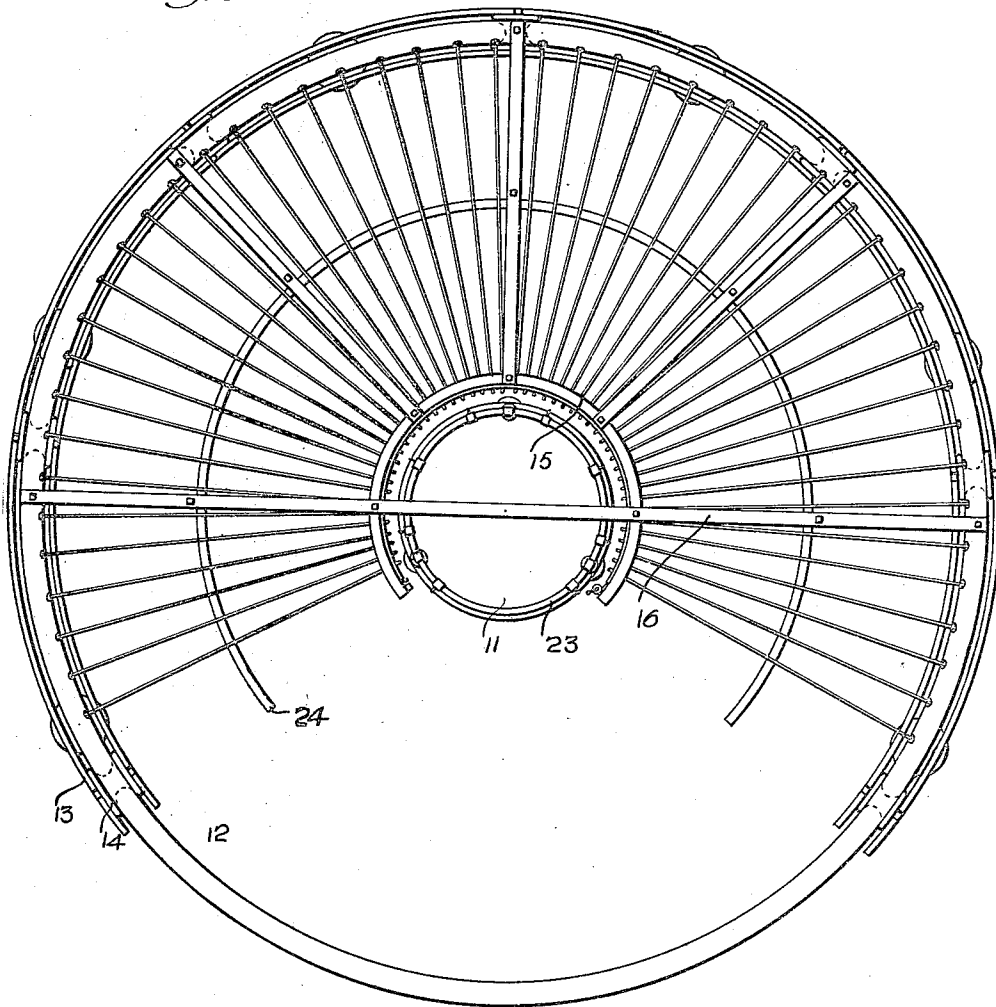


A. VAN COTT AND J. EVANS.  
SORTING MACHINE.  
APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1921.

1,422,800.

Patented July 11, 1922.  
4 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

*Fig. 1.*



WITNESSES

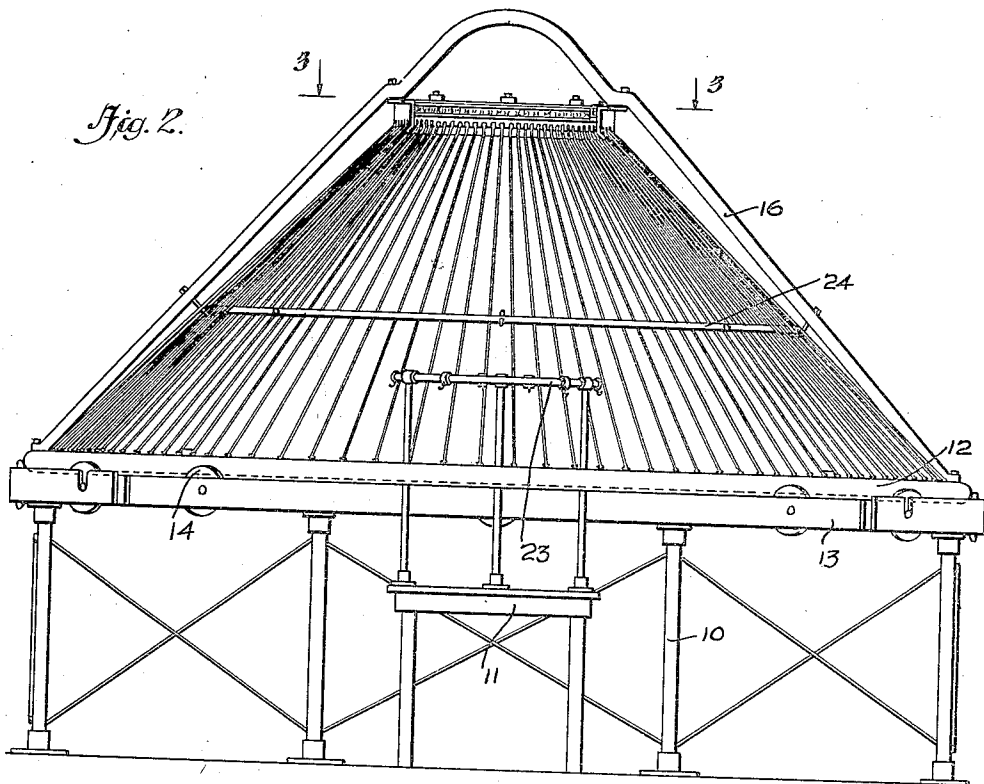
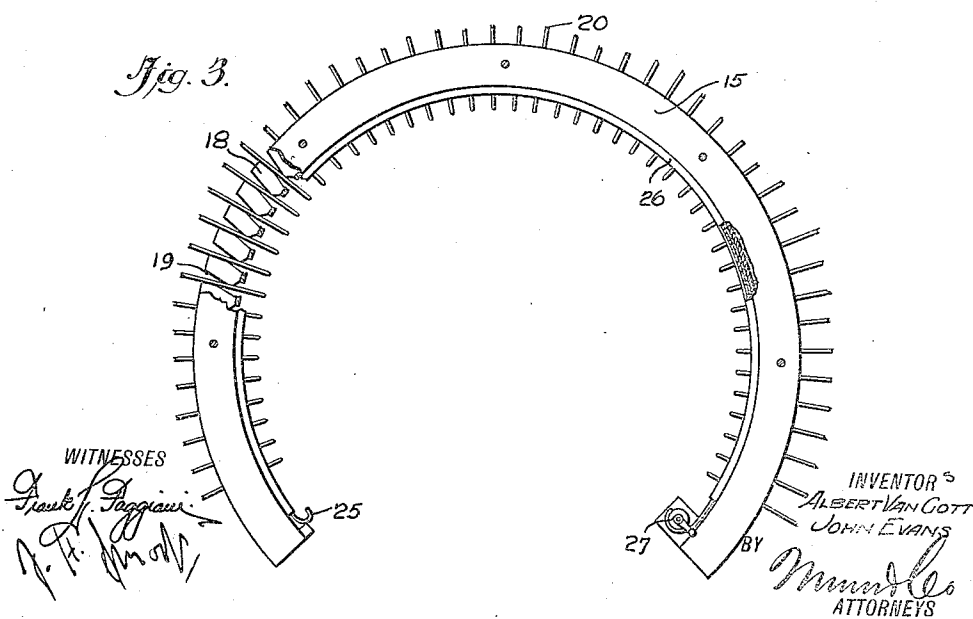
*Frank J. Aggarino*  
*J. H. Mark*

INVENTOR<sup>S</sup>  
ALBERT VAN COTT  
JOHN EVANS  
BY *Munroe*  
ATTORNEYS

A. VAN COTT AND J. EVANS.  
 SORTING MACHINE.  
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1921.

1,422,800.

Patented July 11, 1922.  
 4 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

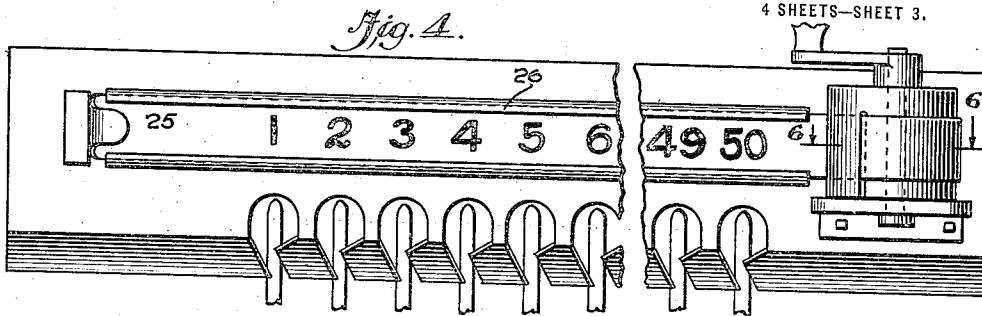
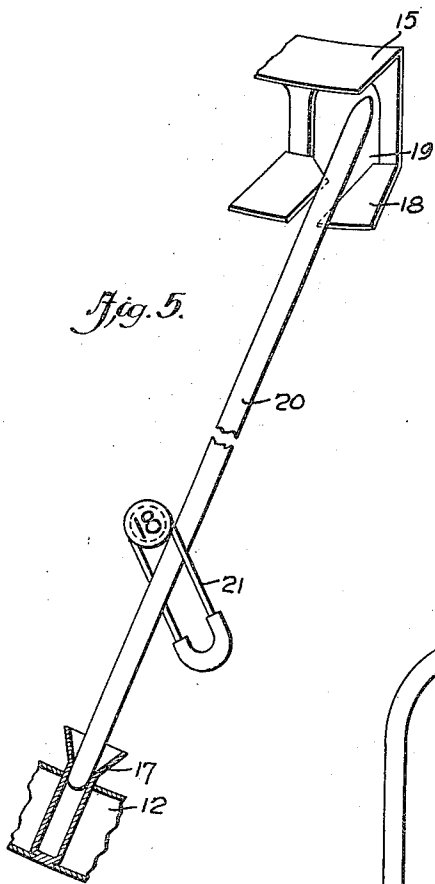
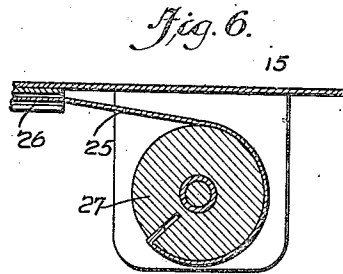
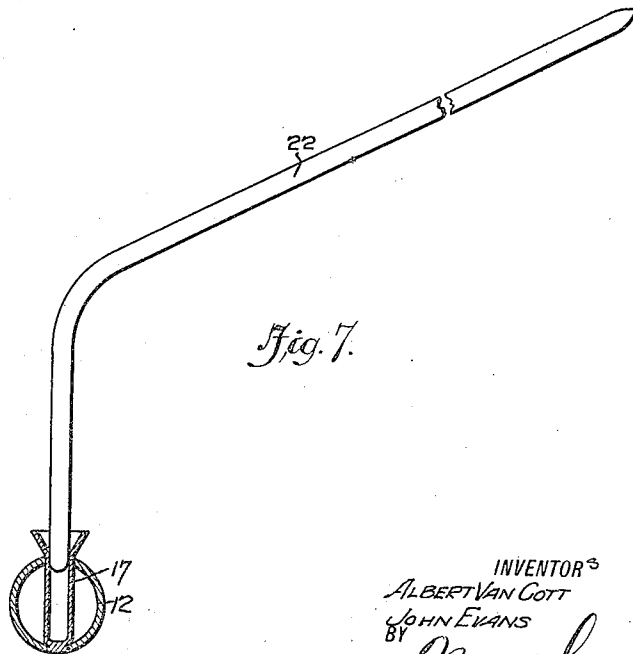


A. VAN COTT AND J. EVANS.  
 SORTING MACHINE.  
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1921.

1,422,800.

Patented July 11, 1922.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 3.



WITNESSES  
*Frank J. Faggiani*  
*J. H. [unclear]*

INVENTOR'S  
 ALBERT VAN COTT  
 JOHN EVANS  
 BY *Mumford*  
 ATTORNEYS

A. VAN COTT AND J. EVANS.  
 SORTING MACHINE.  
 APPLICATION FILED JAN. 26, 1921.

1,422,800.

Patented July 11, 1922.

4 SHEETS—SHEET 4.

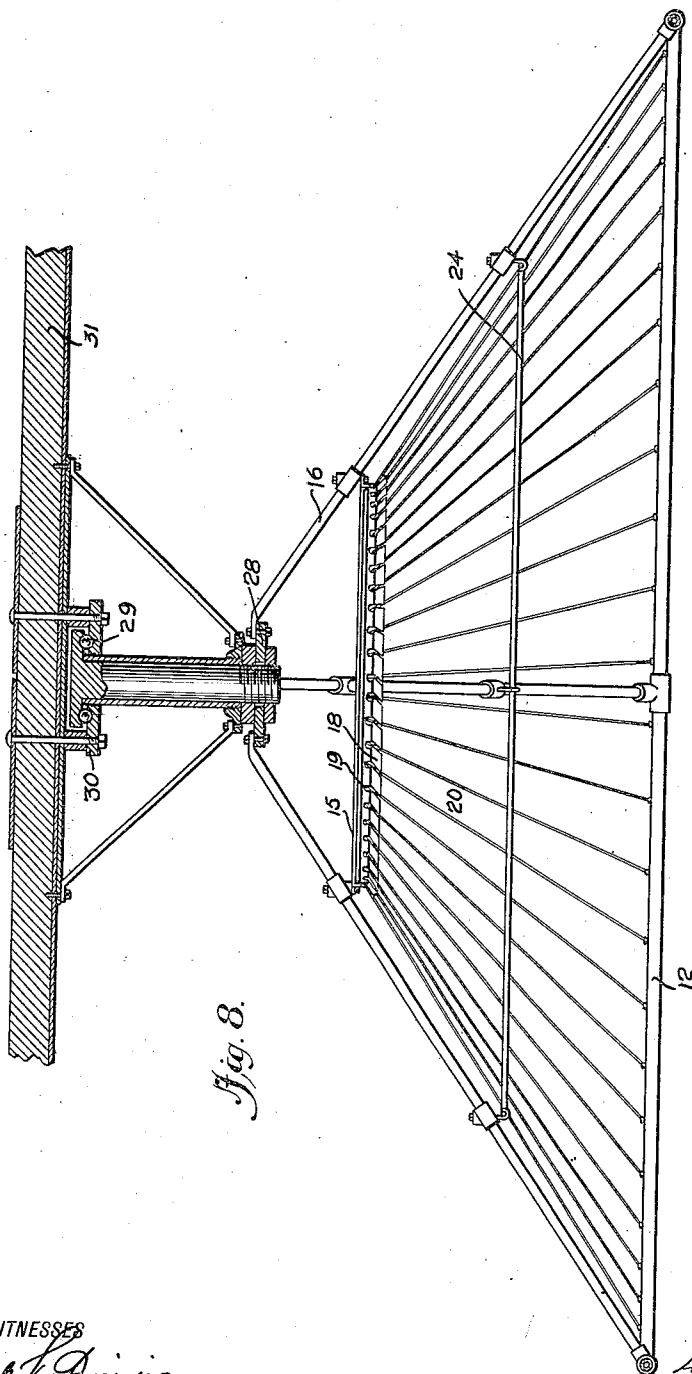


Fig. 8.

WITNESSES  
*Paul L. Higgins*  
*J. H. [illegible]*

INVENTORS  
 ALBERT VAN COTT  
 JOHN EVANS  
 BY *Mumford*  
 ATTORNEYS

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT VAN COTT AND JOHN EVANS, OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

## SORTING MACHINE.

1,422,800.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 11, 1922.

Application filed January 26, 1921. Serial No. 440,095.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, ALBERT VAN COTT and JOHN EVANS, both citizens of the United States, and residents of Salt Lake City, in the county of Salt Lake and State of Utah, have invented a new and Improved Sorting Machine, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Our invention relates to a sorting machine, and aims to provide a device of this character more particularly adapted for use in connection with laundry work, but not necessarily limited to this particular class of work.

It is a well appreciated fact with regard to commercial laundries that it is customary to affix an identification member in the nature of a pin, to each garment of a customer, subsequent to its receipt. The garments are then subjected to the laundering process, and it is necessary to again group the garments according to the customer to whom they are to be returned.

With a view of accomplishing the final sorting action, it has been customary to utilize a series of cabinets which bear identification marks similar to those affixed to the garments, and the pins are subsequently removed.

Aside from the space which a sorting system of this nature occupies, it will be appreciated that a great amount of labor is necessary in that an operator must walk from cabinet to cabinet to effect a proper sorting of the laundered garments.

Having this in mind, we have constructed a sorting machine which is peculiarly adapted for use in connection with laundry work as aforesaid, and by means of which, aside from the fact that but a minimum of space will be occupied, one operator is capable of handling the work previously requiring the services of two or more persons.

Further objects of our invention will appear in the annexed specification and drawings, which latter present one practical embodiment, and in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a sorting machine.

Figure 2 is a side view thereof.

Figure 3 is an enlarged sectional plan view taken along the lines 3—3 and in the direction of the arrows indicated in Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a fragmentary side view of

one of the elements utilized in connection with the sorting.

Figure 5 is a fragmentary perspective view of one of the elements utilized in connection with the sorting.

Figure 6 is a sectional plan view taken on the line 6—6 and in the direction of the arrows indicated in Figure 4.

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 5 but illustrating a slightly different form of sorting member which may be utilized to aid in certain adaptations, and

Figure 8 illustrates our sorting machine where the same is supported by suspending.

In these views, the reference numeral 10 indicates supporting elements, such as legs, upon which the body of the machine rests, it being noted that these legs are preferably arranged in the form of a circle and provide a cap within which an operator's stand may be positioned.

The body of the machine preferably includes an annular member 12, which forms the base of the body and which rests upon a band 13 carried directly by the legs 10, it being noted that the member 12 and band 13 are anti-frictionally spaced and rotatable with respect to each other by any suitable means, such as rollers 14.

A similar annular member 15 is arranged above the member 12, and is retained in this position by any suitable means such as struts 16, extending between the same. Thus an operator, upon the stand 11, may effect a rotation of the annular member 12 by grasping any of the struts 16 and moving the same bodily.

Associated with the member 12 are any desirable number of members presenting sockets 17, and it will be noted that the annular member 15 includes in its body, the outwardly extending flange 18 presenting a plurality of slots 19, which latter are arranged at a tangent to the radial for a purpose hereinafter more fully specified.

Receiving rods 20 have their lower ends resting in the sockets presented by the members 17, and extend towards a common center, and upwardly, so that their upper ends rest against the outer and inner edges presented by the opposite side walls of the slots 19. Thus it will be obvious that an element in the nature of a pin 21, illustrated in Figure 3 may be associated with the rods 20 by

passing the body of the pin over the free upper end of one of the rods, these latter being retained in position by means of the slot construction, afordescribed, it being noted however, that this latter construction will in no way interfere with the association of the pin with the rod.

It is to be noted, reference being had to Figures 5 and 7, that I may utilize any desired type of rod in this connection, it being seen that the body of the rod 20, appearing in Figure 5, is straight, while that presented in Figure 7 and identified by the reference numeral 22 is bent preferably adjacent its lower end.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that we have constructed a sorting machine in which an operator will be enabled to stand upon the support 11, and to receive a bundle of clothes to be sorted, at any desirable position, such as for instance, upon the railing 23 of the stand 11.

These garments or articles may now be placed upon their receiving rods 20 or 22 by means of identification hereinafter described, and it will be appreciated that the articles attached to pins such as 21 will slide towards the lower end of the rods. Upon one batch of articles having been sorted, it will not be necessary for the operator to discontinue work to remove the same from the machine, as by means of placing a ring or other suitable element 24 within the space embraced by the rods 20 or 22, and in contact with the same, a second sorting may be immediately resorted to, the articles of this second sorting being incapable of sliding along the bodies of the rods further than the plane occupied by the ring 24. In the interim, a second operator may remove the articles of the first batch by lifting the lower ends of the rods from within their socket member 17, permitting of the detachment of these properly sorted articles.

A third batch may be handled by the operator upon the stand 11 by removing the ring 24 for an instant, and permitting the articles of the second batch to slide to the base of the rods, subsequent to which the entire performance may be repeated.

To now provide means serving to permit of an identification and proper sorting of the articles, we conveniently utilize a band 25 bearing identification marks, corresponding to the marks carried by the pins 21, and this band is preferably applied to the annular member 15, as has been illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 by means of guide elements 26 serving to retain the same, and a roll 27 receiving one end of the strip 25, the opposite end being preferably bent, as has been indicated in Figure 3 to permit of its engagement with the free end of the band 15.

Thus a removable identification element is provided, and it will readily be appreciated

that the same may be quickly attached by the operator to correspond to the identification mark of the batches of articles to be sorted.

It will also be appreciated that the method of supporting the sorting machine is not necessarily limited to a base support, and that we might readily suspend the same from the ceiling, by utilizing the structure illustrated in connection with Figure 8. In this figure, it will be seen that all of the elements are similar to those described in connection with the figures afordereferred to, with the exception that the struts 16 are preferably secured to a collar 28 which is in turn rotatably supported as at 29, to a member 30 fixedly secured to the ceiling 31.

It will be understood that the operation of the device in connection with Figure 8, is the same as in preceding figures, the only difference being that the same is suspended rather than supported.

From the foregoing it will be understood that we have constructed a sorting machine which is ideally adapted for use in connection with the sorting of washed articles, but not necessarily limited to this adaptation, and by means of which the cabinet sorting system now in vogue may be dispensed with, together with all of the objections incident thereto, by reason of the fact that one operator is capable of sorting with a minimum of effort and with great rapidity, a large batch of articles without moving from the operator's stand provided for this purpose. Obviously numerous modifications of structure might readily be resorted to without in the least departing from the spirit of our invention, which is—

1. In an assorting device of the class described, the combination of a frame, a series of rods secured to the frame and extended upwardly and inwardly toward a common center, the said rods being so arranged and positioned that an operator adjacent to the upper ends thereof may place upon selected ones of said rods laundry articles or the like which will then slide downwardly and outwardly by gravity and all of the articles on one rod will then stand grouped at the lower outer end of said rod.

2. An assorting device of the class described, comprising a frame, a series of rods secured to the frame and extended upwardly and inwardly toward a common center, and standing spaced apart from the common center, whereby an operator at the center of the assorting device may place upon the upper ends of the rods laundry articles or the like which will then move by gravity downwardly and outwardly to the outer ends of the rods where all of the articles placed upon a selected rod will stand grouped at the outer end of said rod.

3. An assorting device of the class de-

scribed comprising a frame, a series of rods supported by the frame and extended upwardly and inwardly toward a common center, the upper ends of the rods being spaced apart from the common center and being designed to receive laundry articles or the like at the upper ends of the rods, which articles will move downwardly and outwardly on the rods by gravity, and means for stopping the downward and outward movement of the articles whereby all of the articles on a selected rod will stand grouped together at said stopping means.

4. A sorting machine, including a plurality of rods, movable with respect to each other and a member for supporting the lower ends of said rods, the bodies of said rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, and means for supporting the upper ends of said rods, said means permitting of the passage of elements along said rods and past their upper ends.

5. A sorting machine, including a plurality of rods, movable with respect to each other and a member for removably supporting the lower ends of said rods, the bodies of said rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, and means for supporting the upper ends of said rods, said means permitting of the passage of elements along said rods and past their upper ends.

6. A sorting machine, including a plurality of rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, means for rotatably supporting the body of said machine, and means for sub-dividing the length of all of said rods into a plurality of spaces.

7. A sorting machine, including a plurality of rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, means for rotatably supporting the body of said machine, and means removably attached to said sorting machine and adapted to engage said rods for sub-dividing their bodies into a plurality of spaces.

8. A sorting machine including a pair of spaced members, a flange forming a part of one of said members, said flange being provided with a plurality of slots, rods having their lower ends supported by the second of said members, the upper ends of said rods normally resting within said slots.

9. A sorting machine including a pair of spaced members, a flange forming a part of one of said members, said flange being provided with a plurality of slots extending at a tangent to the radial, rods having their

lower ends supported by the second of said members, the upper ends of said rods normally resting within said slots.

10. A sorting machine including a pair of annular members, socket elements associated with one of said members, rods adapted to have one of their ends lying within said socket elements, their opposite ends bearing against said second member.

11. A sorting machine including a pair of annular members, socket elements associated with one of said members, rods adapted to have one of their ends detachably resting within said socket elements, their opposite ends bearing against said second member.

12. A sorting machine including a pair of members, one of said members being formed with a plurality of slots, rods carried by the second of said members and being adapted to extend one into each of said slots, and an identification element associated with the first of said members and having its body lying adjacent to said slots.

13. A sorting machine including a pair of members, one of said members being formed with a plurality of slots, rods carried by the second of said members and being adapted to extend one into each of said slots, and a band having one of its ends connected to said slotted member and bearing identification marks adapted to individually identify said rods, a roller rotatably carried by said member, the opposite end of said band being connected to said roller.

14. A sorting machine including a plurality of rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, means engaging said rods adjacent their ends for supporting the same, and a substantially ring-shaped member engaging the body of said rods for sub-dividing the same into a plurality of spaces.

15. A sorting machine including a plurality of rods extending upwardly and towards a common center, means engaging said rods adjacent their ends for supporting the same, and a movable member engaging the body of said rods for sub-dividing the same into a plurality of spaces.

16. An assorting device of the class described comprising a frame, means for rotatably supporting it, a series of rods carried by the frame and extended upwardly and inwardly toward a common center, and an operator's platform mounted adjacent to the common center.

ALBERT VAN COTT.  
JOHN EVANS.