

J. G. BOSTOCK.
STAGE ILLUSION.
APPLICATION FILED JULY 14, 1910.

976,143.

Patented Nov. 22, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

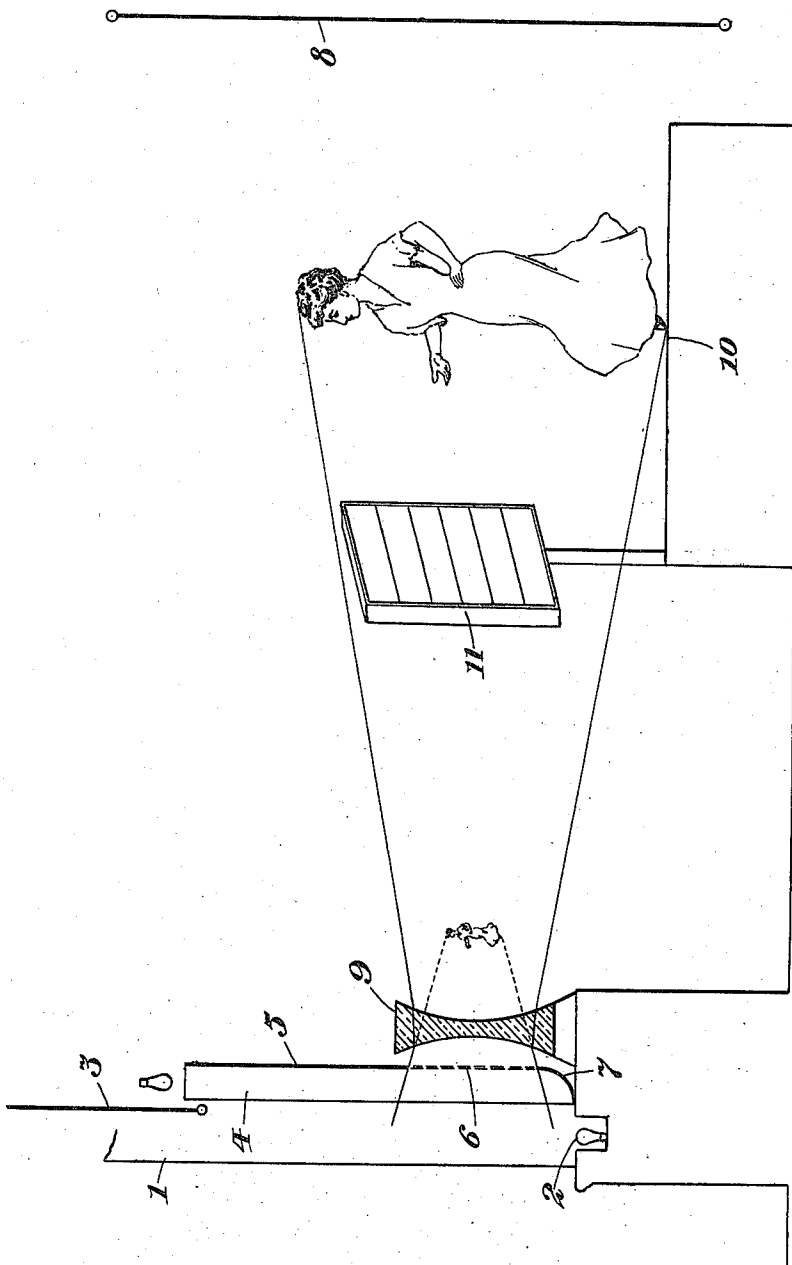


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES

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S. B. Rourke

INVENTOR

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E. C. Scherr Jr. ATTORNEYS

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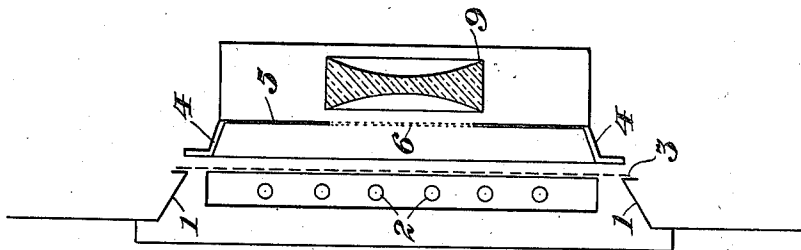
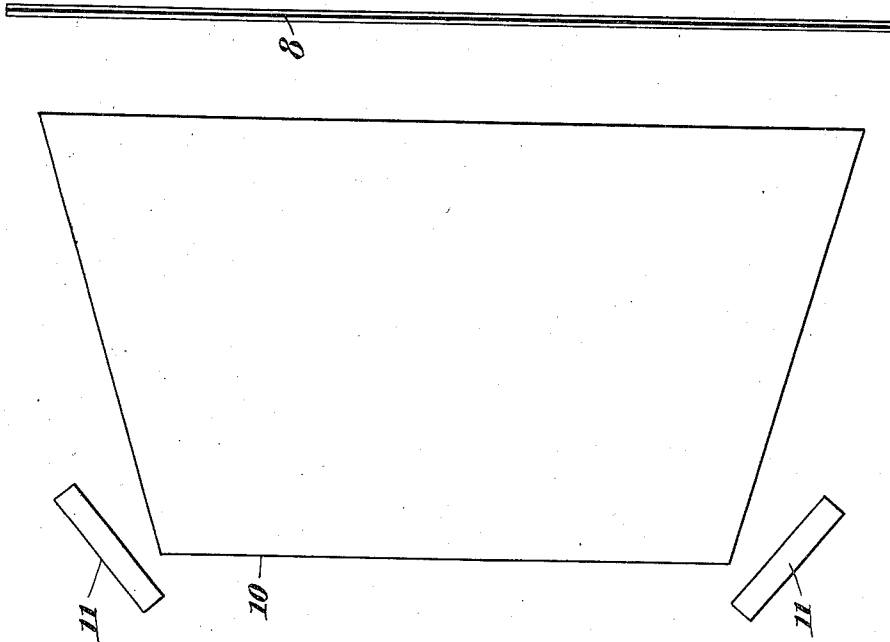


Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES GORDEN BOSTOCK, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

STAGE ILLUSION.

976,143.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 22, 1910.

Application filed July 14, 1910. Serial No. 571,918.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES GORDEN BOSTOCK, a citizen of the United States, residing at 526 West One Hundred and Forty-fifth street, in the city, county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stage Illusions, of which the following is a specification.

10 My present invention relates to a novel stage illusion by which an action in miniature can be carried on before an audience to whom the actors will appear to be miniature men and women less than a foot high.

15 The annexed drawings show my invention diagrammatically as distinguished from showing it after the manner of working drawings and are merely intended to serve in connection with the following description to make the nature of the invention understood.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view partly in vertical section illustrating diagrammatically one form which apparatus within my invention may take; Fig. 2 is the same except that the apparatus is seen in top plan with certain of the parts such as the lens in horizontal section.

I will now describe the devices of the 30 drawings and my invention, reserving it to the claims to point out the novel features and to define the scope of the invention, it being understood that the claims will be given due range of equivalents.

35 1 is the proscenium arch of a theater, 2 the footlights, 3 the drop-curtain, 4 is a frame supporting a scene 5 painted or done in miniature to represent a landscape or other desired setting. This front scene has a 40 rectangular opening at 6 through it and the bottom part 7 of the scene curves downwardly and forwardly toward the front of the stage. Toward the back of the stage is a back scene 8 showing in full size a setting 45 which, when seen in miniature, appropriately fills in the opening 6 in the front or miniature scene 5.

9 is a double concave lens located between the front and back scenes at the opening 6 50 to show the back scene 8 to the audience in

reduced size appropriate to the miniature setting on the front scene. Furthermore, a platform 10 is provided in front of the back scene 8 so that the actors can perform thereon, with the result that they also will be 55 seen by the audience in miniature through the interposed reducing lens 9, all as indicated especially in Fig. 1.

The means for illuminating the back scene and the actors will preferably be two banks 60 of lamps 11 located at the front corners of the platform 10 and projecting their illumination rearwardly as indicated in the drawings.

The total effect is a highly pleasing and 65 apparently inexplicable illusion of extremely small actors performing before the audience.

The above described curved portion 7 at the bottom of the front scene is highly im- 70 portant in blending the back scene with the front scene from the point of view of the audience. Without it, there is a break in the continuity of the two scenes which is liable to disclose the means by which the illusion 75 is accomplished.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is:

1. In a stage illusion, the combination of a front scene done in miniature and having 80 an opening in it; a back scene done in ordinary size; and a reducing lens showing the back scene and the actors before it on a miniature scale at the opening in the front scene. 85

2. In a stage illusion, the combination of a front scene done in miniature with an opening through it and having its lower portion curved downwardly and forwardly to the stage; a back scene done in ordinary 90 size; and a reducing lens between the scenes which shows the back scene and the actors before it on a miniature scale at the opening in the front scene.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 95 in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES GORDEN BOSTOCK.

Witnesses:

E. W. SCHERR, JR.,

WILLIAM R. BAIRD.