C. R. B. CLAFLIN.

INDICATING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 11, 1908.

1,072,426.

Patented Sept. 9, 1913.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

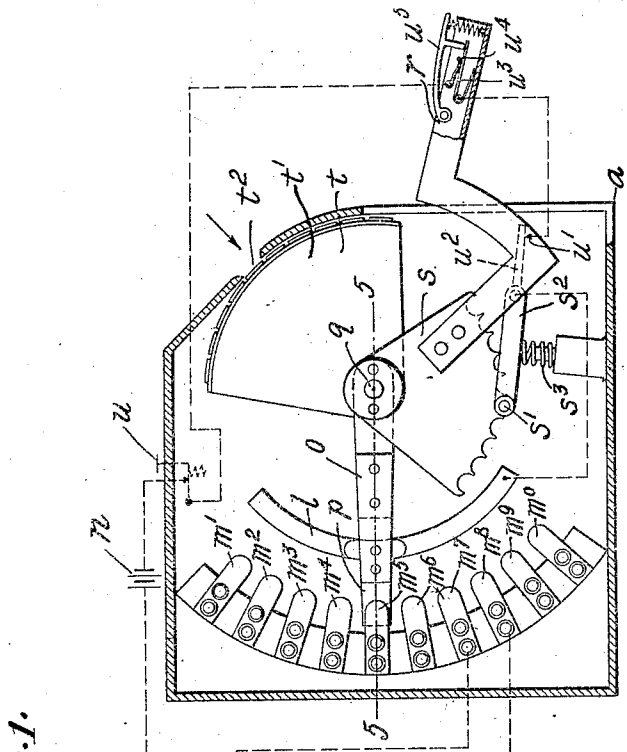


Fig. 1.

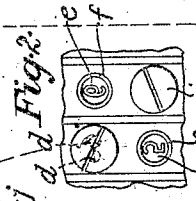
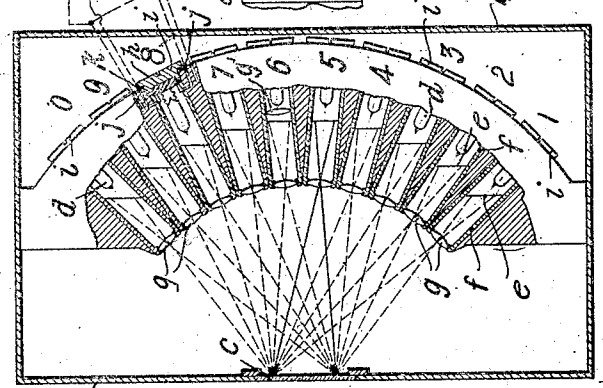


Fig. 2.



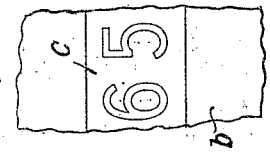


Fig. 3.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

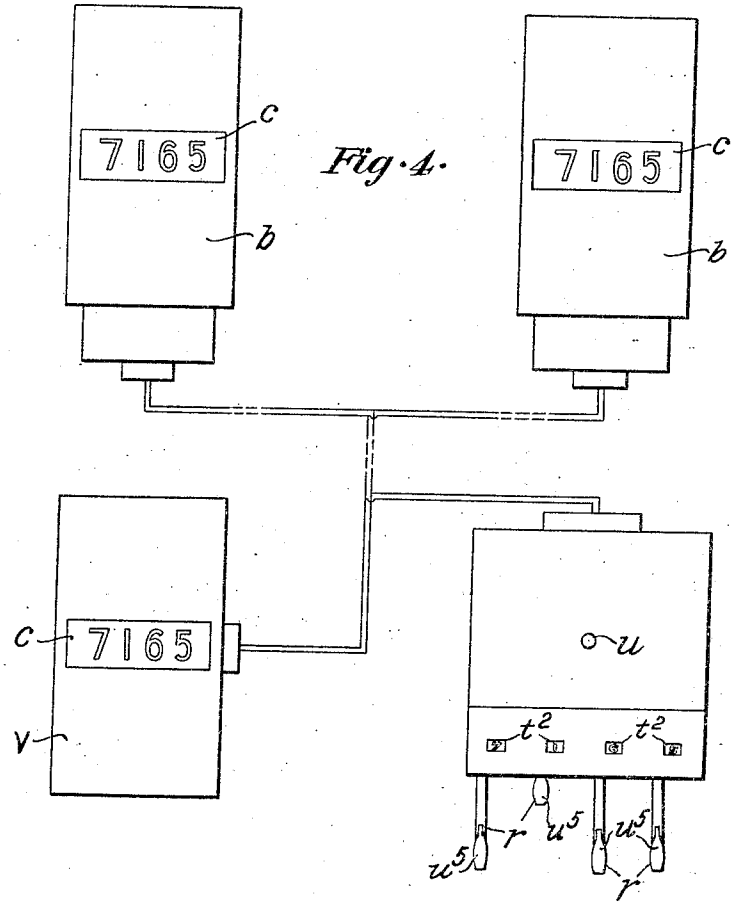


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

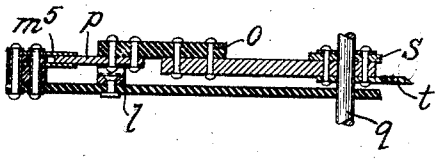
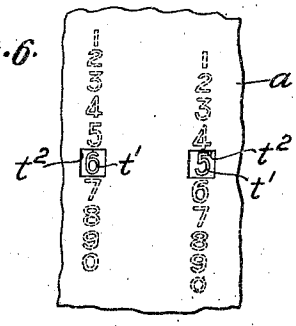


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INDICATING DEVICE.

1,072,426. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 9, 1913.

Application filed May 11, 1908. Serial No. 432,177.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES R. B. CLAFLIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Indicating Devices, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention relates to indicating devices, being more particularly concerned with indicating or signaling systems which are intended for the display of words, numbers, characters or other symbols or manifestations in response to the actuation of a suitable sending or operating device.

This invention, while in some respects applicable to other systems, is more particularly concerned with systems employing one or more groups of signaling or indicating devices, which, without necessary change in relative position, are caused to be selectively actuated so as to display one or more characters, symbols or other visual indication, and thereby convey desired information.

As illustrative of well-known indicators of this class may be mentioned one provided with one or more groups of image-creating devices, such, for example, as incandescent lamps provided each with a screen or other means for converting the light from its lamp when the latter is energized into a characteristic visual symbol, such, for example, as a digit or letter, and provided with means either nearby or at a distance for selectively energizing the individual members of the group. In systems of this class previously known to the prior art, the lamps of any one group, together with their screens or the like, have been arranged adjacent each other as, for example, in vertical lines and where a plurality of groups have been used, the groups have been arranged adjacent each other as, for example, in parallel vertical lines. The objection to this arrangement is that when several individual indicating devices from the various groups are simultaneously rendered effective for displaying a signal consisting of characters intended to be read together such, for example, as a number consisting of three or four figures, they are displayed in a scattered relation upon the field of vision, one number appearing perhaps near the top of one vertical line and the next consecutive number near the bottom of the next vertical line, so that not only is it difficult for the eye to readily take them in, but an additional effort is required mentally to assemble the disconnected numerals into a single number and receive the correct mental impression of the transmitted signal.

One object of my invention is to obviate this disadvantage, particularly in systems of this class, so that other advantages of such systems may be practically availed of.

This, and other objects and advantages of my invention, will be best understood by reference to the following description when taken in connection with the accompanying illustration of one specific embodiment thereof, while its scope will be more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a view in partial section, partly diagrammatic and partly constructional, showing the sending and receiving devices of an indicating system embodying one form of my invention; Fig. 2 is a detail, partly broken away, showing a portion of the rear of the indicator; Fig. 3 is a detail showing a part of the front of the indicator; Fig. 4 is a view, partially diagrammatical, showing one application of the indicator illustrated in Fig. 1; Fig. 5 is a section, partly broken away, taken through the sending device shown in Fig. 1; and Fig. 6 is a view, partly broken away, showing the dial plate on the sending device, such view being shown as looking in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 1.

Referring to the drawings, particularly to Figs. 1 and 4, and to the embodiment of my invention which I have there selected for illustration, the same comprises a sending or actuating instrument *a* which is intended to transmit information to a station either near or remote, to be there displayed in the form of numbers, words, characters, symbols or other visual effects. In the system shown in Fig. 4 I have shown two similar receiving stations provided each with a receiving instrument designated *b*, such receiving instrument being equipped with means to display upon a suitable field or background, such as the plate *c*, preferably of translucent material as, for example, ground glass, one or more symbols for the conveyance of information.