

It was in the summer of 1902 that the *Daily Mail* announced from one of its correspondents 'A most remarkable claim, the genuineness of which it is as yet impossible to test', made by Señor **Clemente Figueras**, an engineer of woods and forests (whatever that might be) in the Canary Islands, and for many years professor of physics at St Augustine's College, Las Palmas. I quote:

'Senor **Figueras** for many years has been working silently at a method of directly utilising atmospheric electricity, and of making practical application of it without the need of employing any motive force. He claims to have invented a generator which can collect the electric fluid, to be able to store it and apply it to infinite purposes, for instance, in connection with shops, railways and manufactures. He will not give the key to his invention, but declares that the only extraordinary point about it is that it has taken so long to discover a simple scientific fact. According to letters received in London from a friend, Mr. E. Ley, of Teneriffe, "Senor **Figueras** has constructed a rough apparatus by which, in spite of its small size and its defects, he obtains a current of 550 volts, which he utilises in his own house for lighting purposes and for driving a motor of 20 horse-power. Senor **Figueras** is shortly coming to London, not with models or sketches, but with a working apparatus. His inventions comprise a generator, a motor, and a sort of governor or regulator, and the whole apparatus is so simple that a child could work it."'

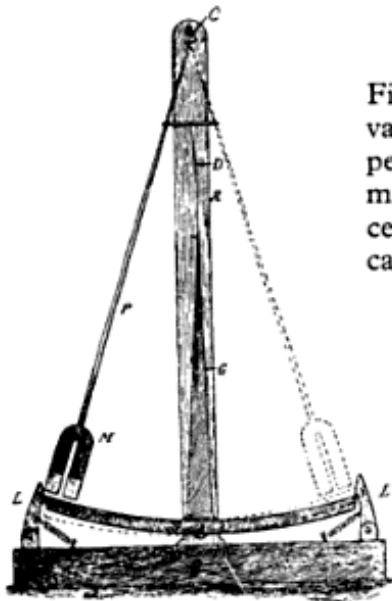


Fig. 49. G. W. Francis of Reading, Pennsylvania, thought up this method of keeping a pendulum swinging forever by the use of a magnet, a rocking curved beam normally centred by a spring at *D* and two spring-loaded catches.