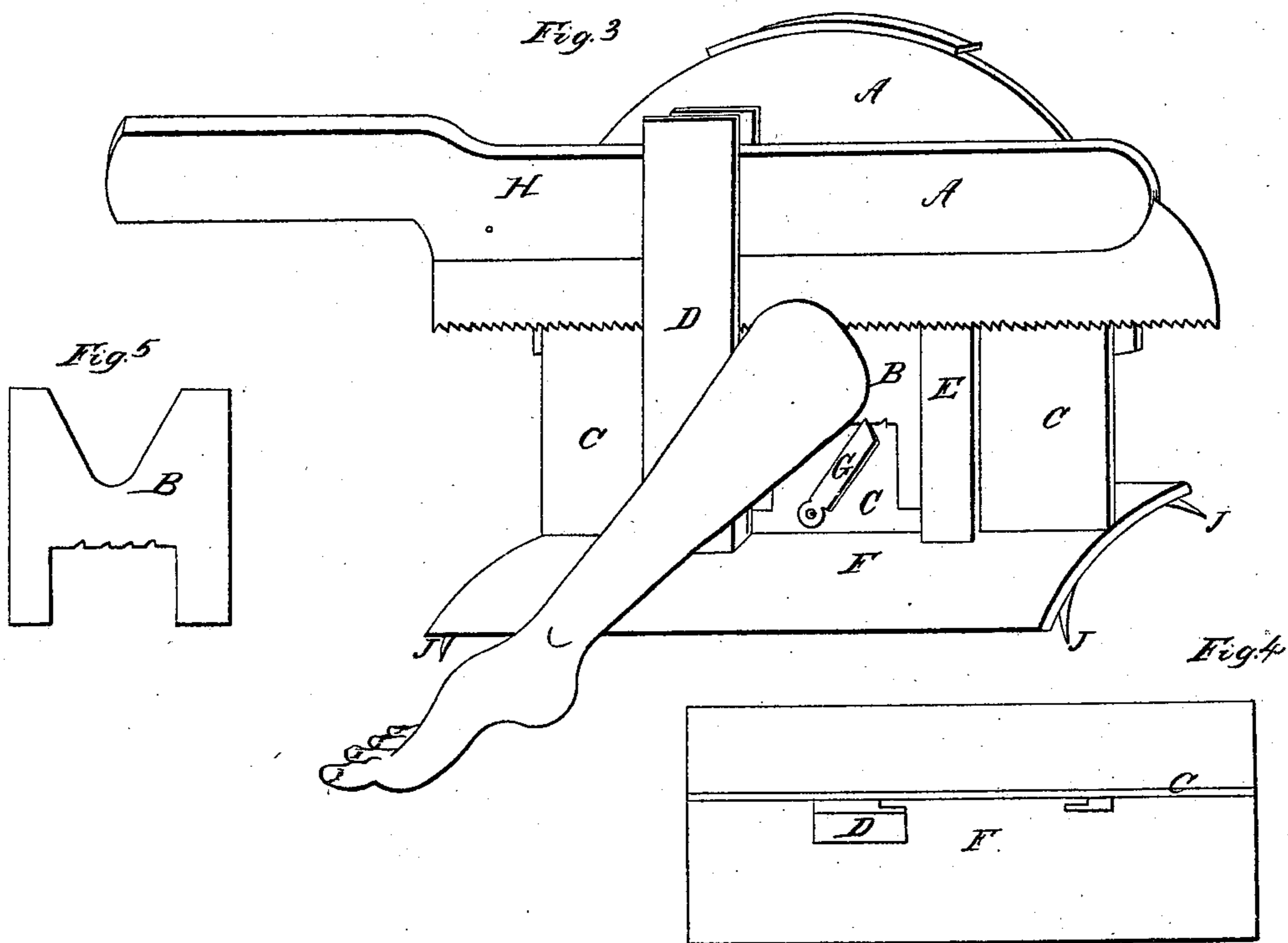
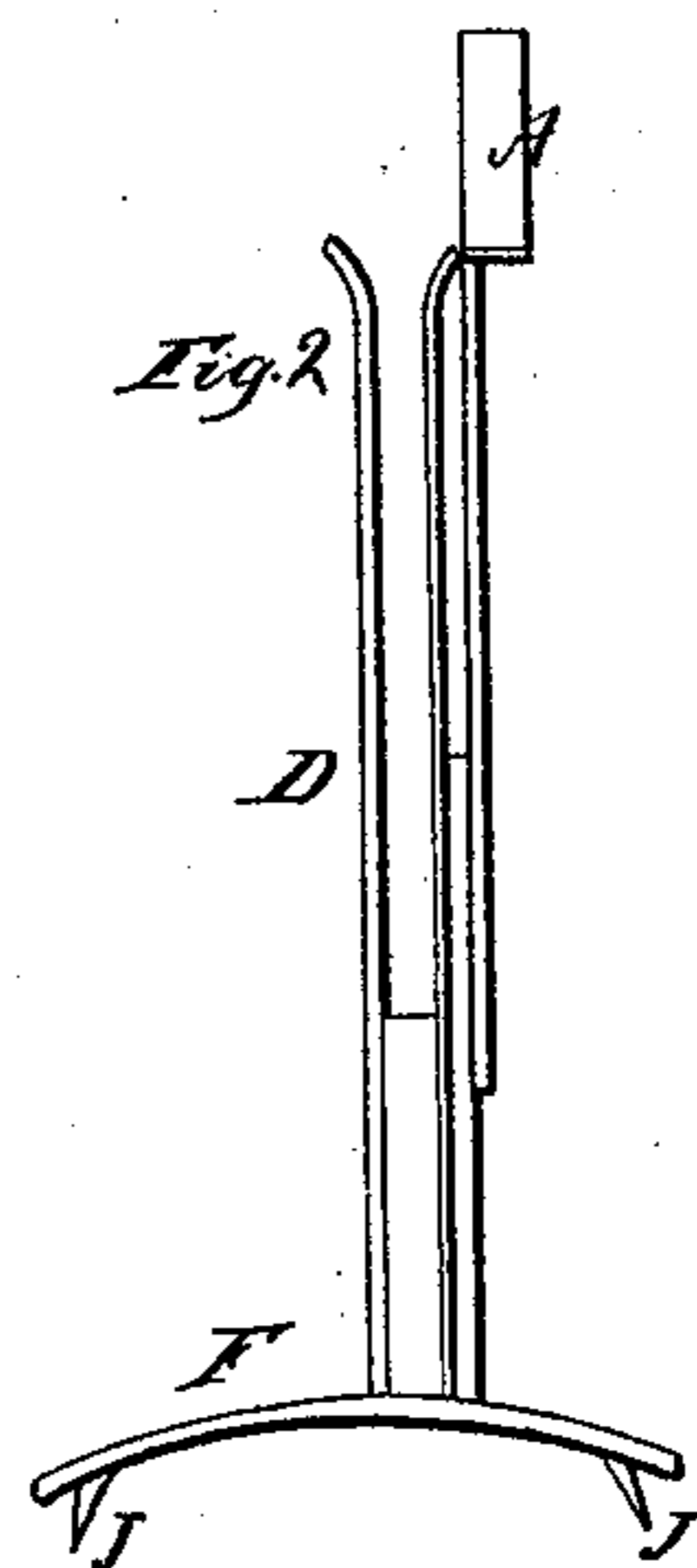
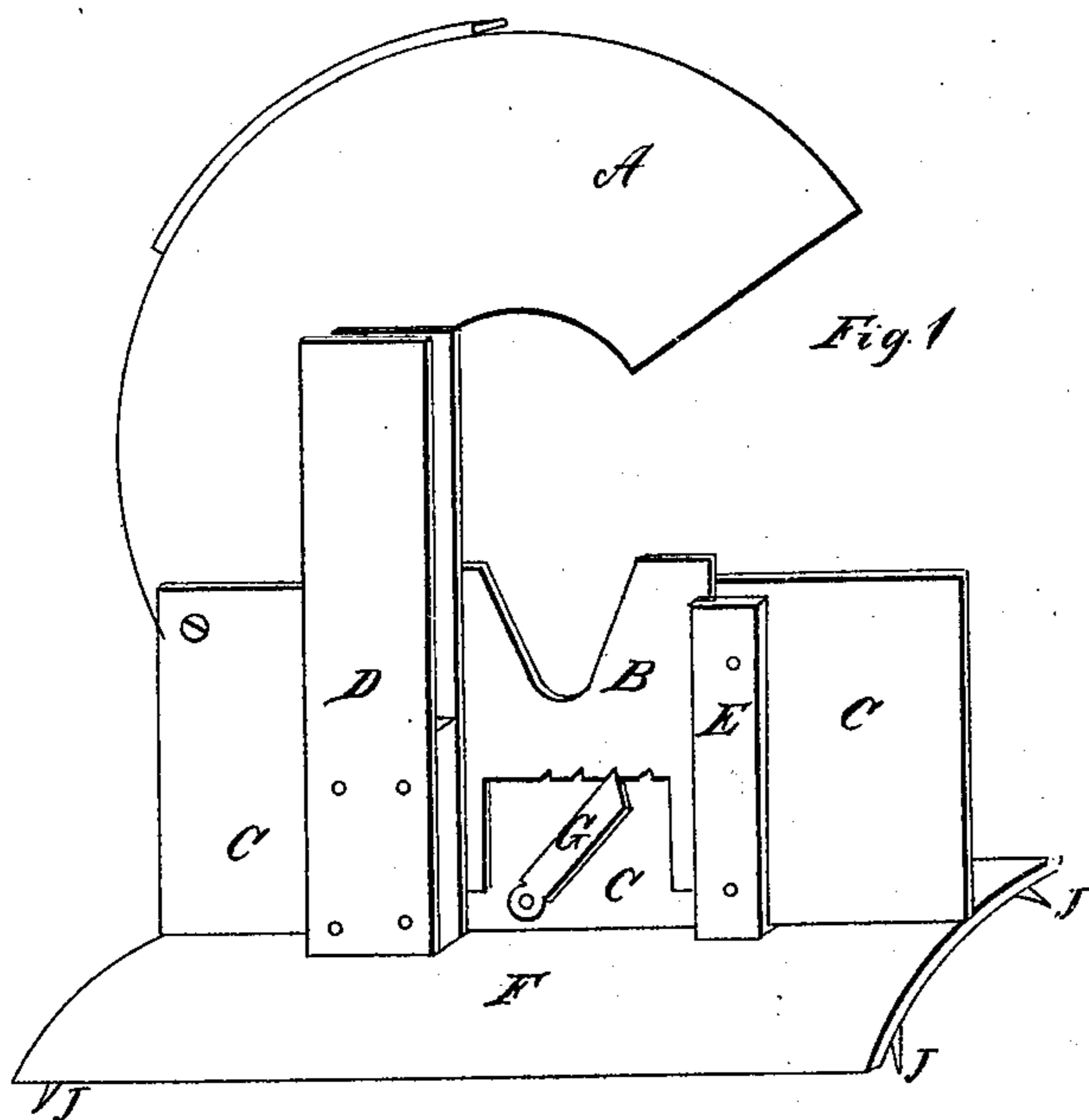


*G. W. Griswold,*  
*Amputating Limbs.*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 10,435.      Patented Jan. 17, 1854.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEO. W. GRISWOLD, OF CARBONDALE, PENNSYLVANIA.

## AMPUTATING APPARATUS.

Specification of Letters Patent No. 10,435, dated January 17, 1854.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE W. GRISWOLD, of Carbondale, county of Luzerne, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Surgeon's Instrument to Assist in Amputating Limbs; and I hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description.

It is called "Griswold's amputator's assistant."

To enable others to make and use my invention I proceed to describe its construction and operation, reference being had to the annexed drawings which make part of this specification.

Figure 1, side and perspective view of the apparatus; Fig. 2, elevation of the end; Fig. 3, the apparatus as arranged at the time the bone is being sawed off; Fig. 4, plan of the base; Fig. 5, the adjustable rest, or elevator, on which the bone rests.

In cases of amputation it is very important to hold the limb firmly and still more important to hold the bone firmly at the time it is sawed off. By the ordinary mode, persons unskilful in the use of the saw, and even the most experienced, will find it difficult to hold the bone firmly. In the ordinary mode of holding the bone to be sawed, the result is painful to the patient, and sometimes fatal, in consequence of a protracted operation by want of some apparatus which is furnished in the "amputator's assistant," and of course more intended for inexperienced, than skilful surgeons, though valuable to all.

The apparatus as seen at Fig. 1 is used after cutting the flesh of the limb. Instead of the use of handkerchiefs or cloths for retractors, this apparatus is used. The rest, B, is adjusted to the proper height for the bone, (which is to lie in the cavity of the rest) by means of the brace, G. Being thus adjusted and ready after the flesh is cut, this apparatus is placed beneath the limb and the bone laid upon the rest. The semi-circular plate, A is then pressed down upon the bone firmly. The apparatus is first used as a retractor. Being shut upon the bone it is drawn firmly up toward the body, laying the bone bare, as far as desirable. The

pointed feet, or points which are under the base, F, set firm in the table and hold the flesh in place, while the operator with one hand pressing down upon the semi-circular disk, A, holds the bone, and with the other hand saws it off.

The construction is quite simple. Upon a base, F, made of wood or metal a plate, C, is erected—with a portion cut out from the top at the middle. Two channeled cleats, E (one only being seen) are erected upon the base and connected with the plate, C. In the grooves of these cleats the rest, B, slides up and down. The "rest" is a thin plate, Fig. 5, with an angular cut at its top adapted to receive the bone large or small at the bottom of the cut. This rest is adjusted by a small brace G beneath it, hinged at the bottom. To elevate it the brace is set in one of the notches in the under side of the rest, B.

The semicircular disk A is hinged at one end and is made to shut over the rest, on the rear of the plate, C, so as to close upon the bone. There is a flat piece upon the top edge of the disk for the hand of the operator.

Upon the base is set the guide D, which consists of two standards (see Fig. 2) between which the saw is operated. In this guide, D, the saw moves with certainty, and cannot catch, as is the case when the bone is loose, in the ordinary mode of amputation. Beneath the base are set four or more pointed feet J, that stick into the table or board on which the patient lies, and hold the apparatus in place when used.

What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

The combination of the adjustable rest B, movable disk A, and guide or standard D, for holding the bone, retracting the flesh, and guiding the saw, in amputating limbs, the whole being made and operating substantially as described.

G. W. GRISWOLD.

Witnesses:

OWEN G. WARREN,  
C. B. HACKLEY.