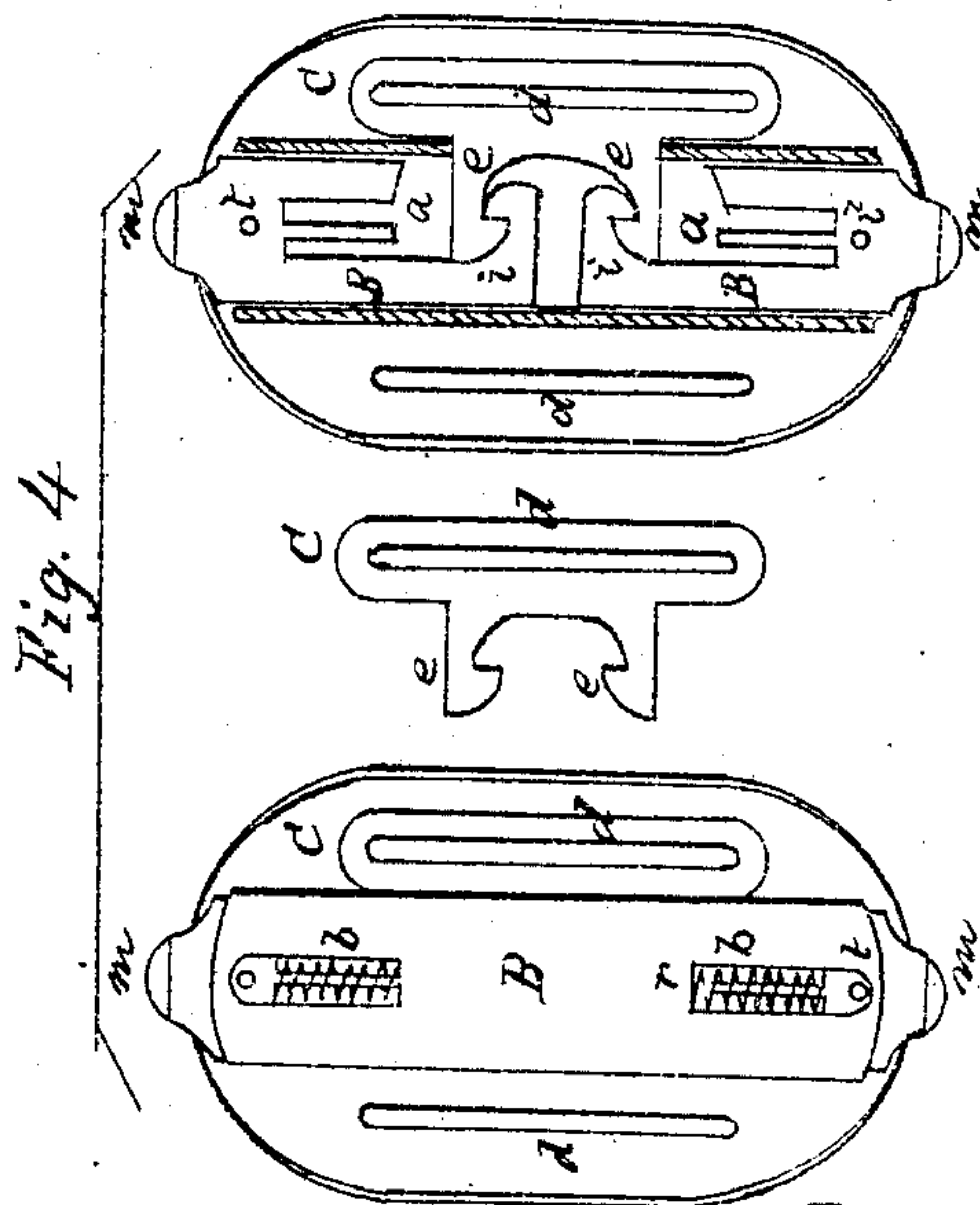
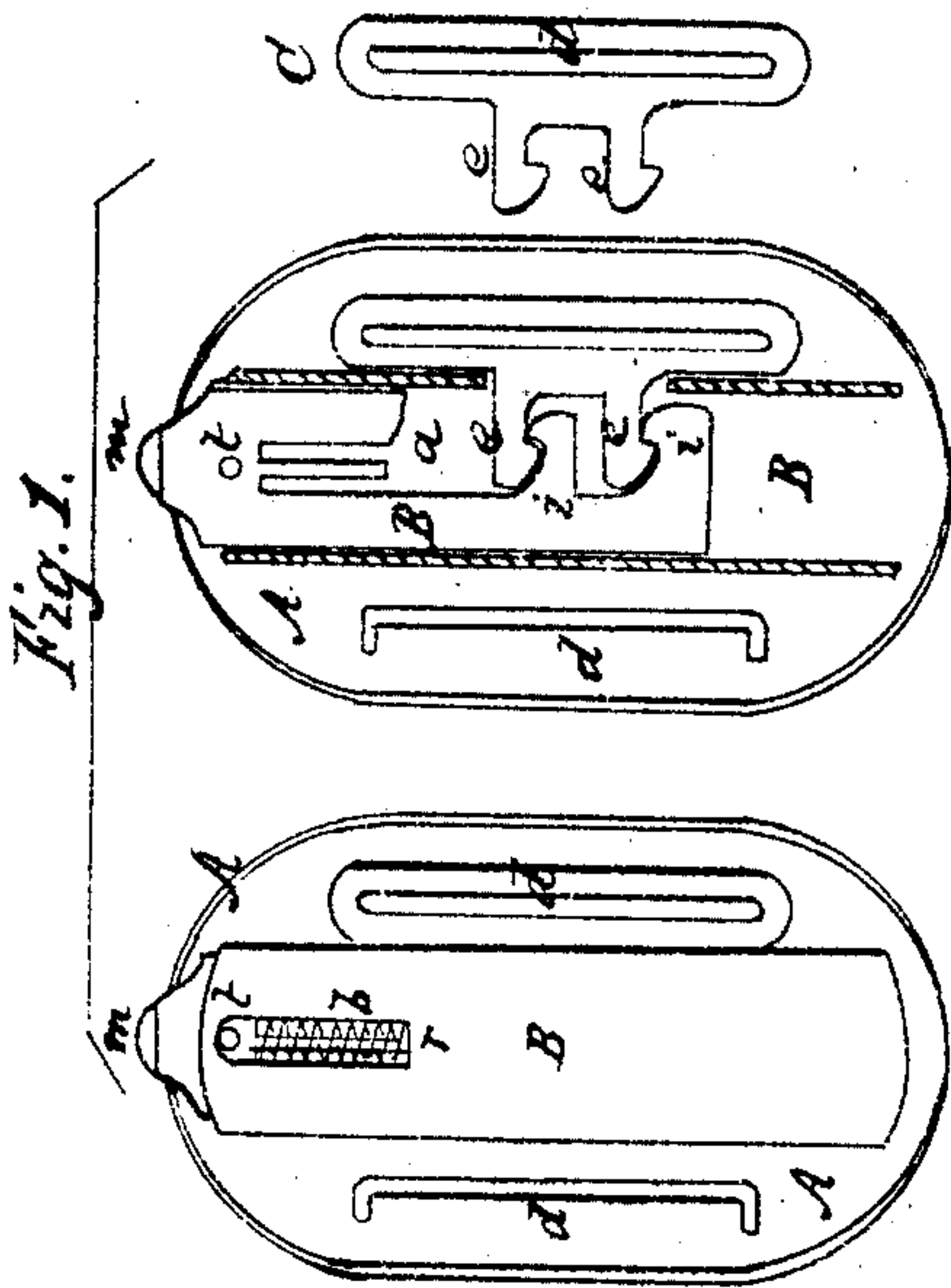
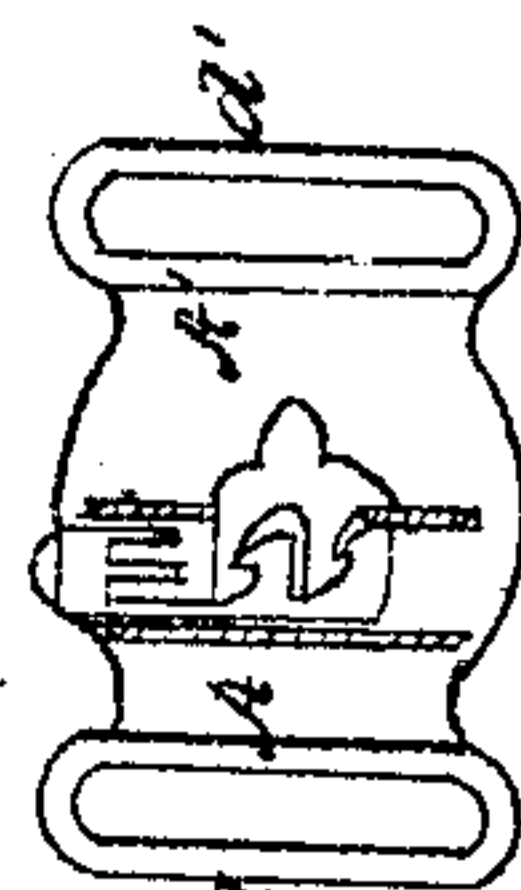
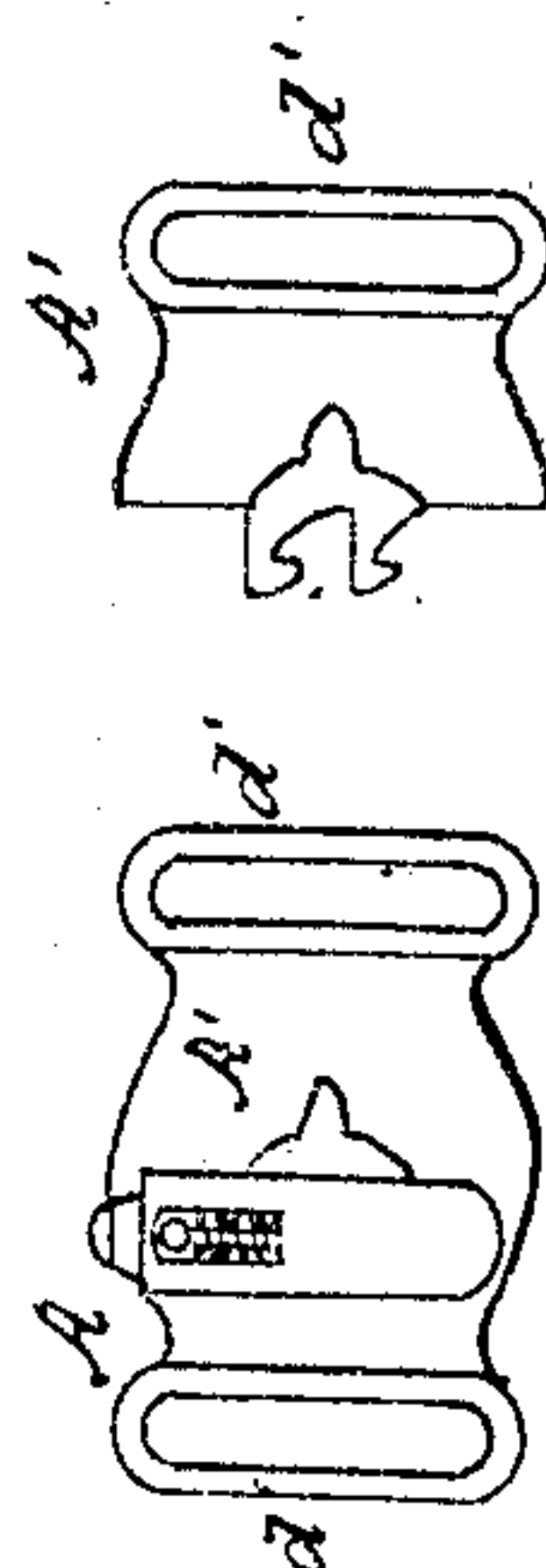
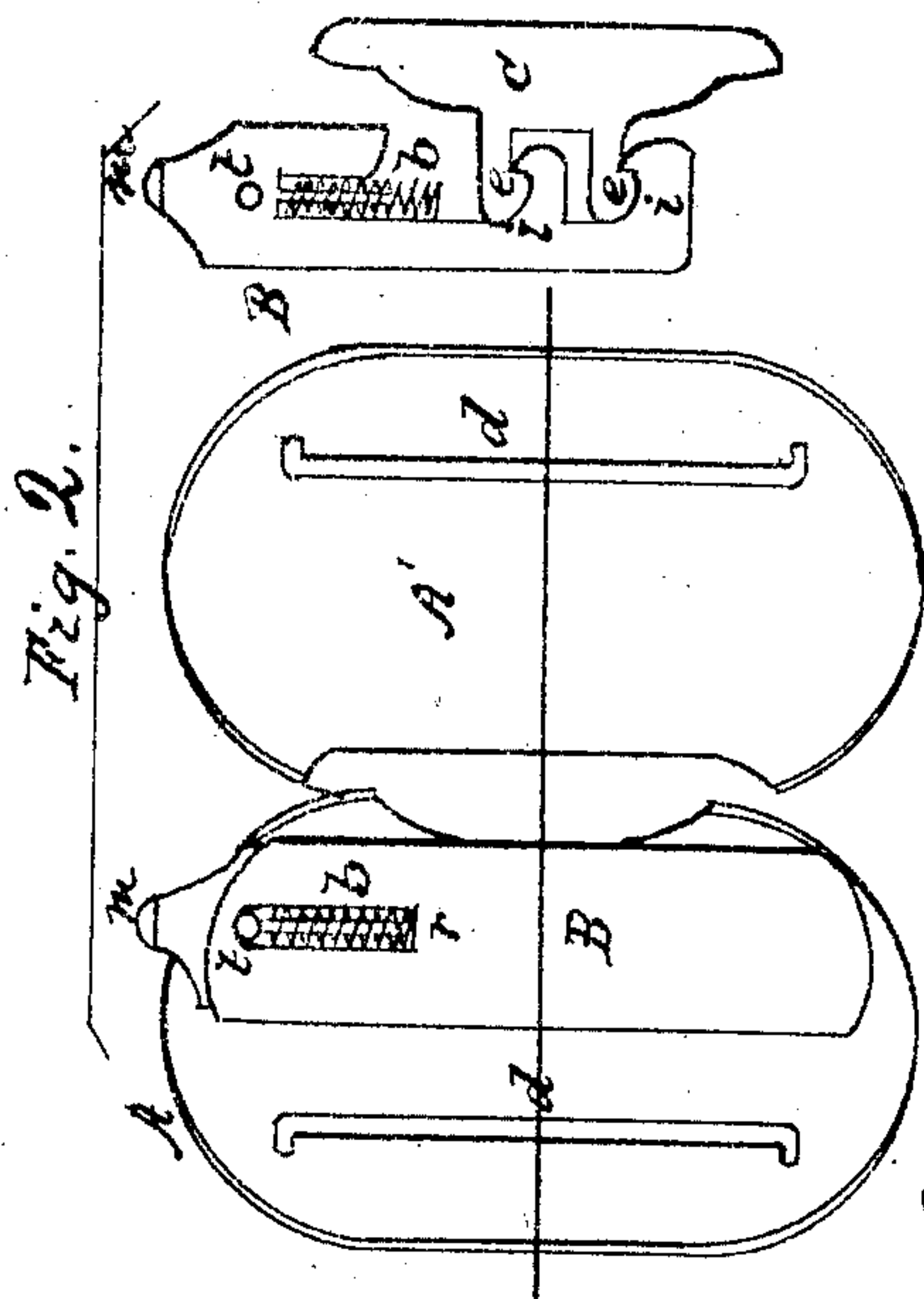


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N^o 75,976

Patented Mar 24. 1868.



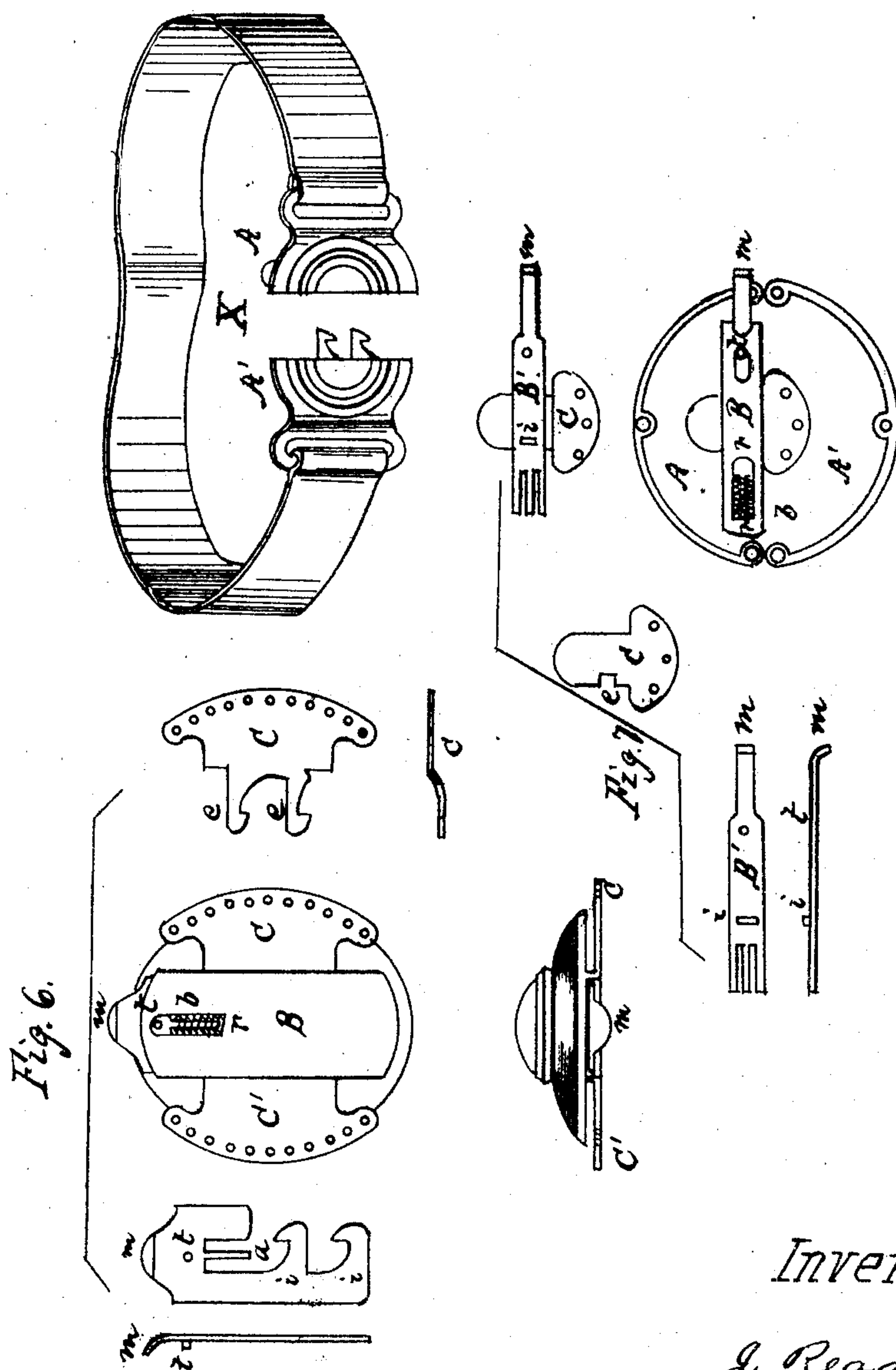
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Fig. 8.

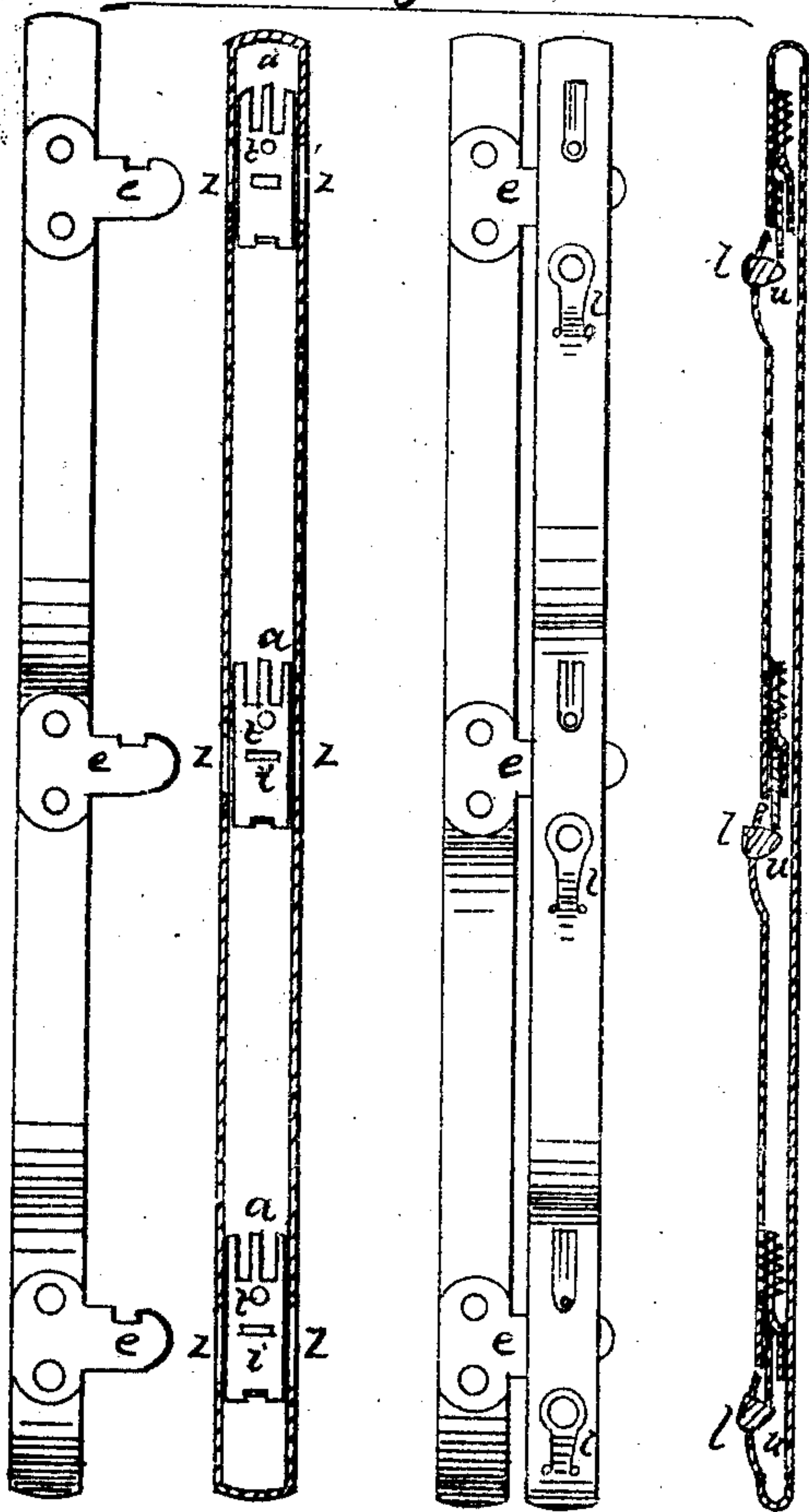
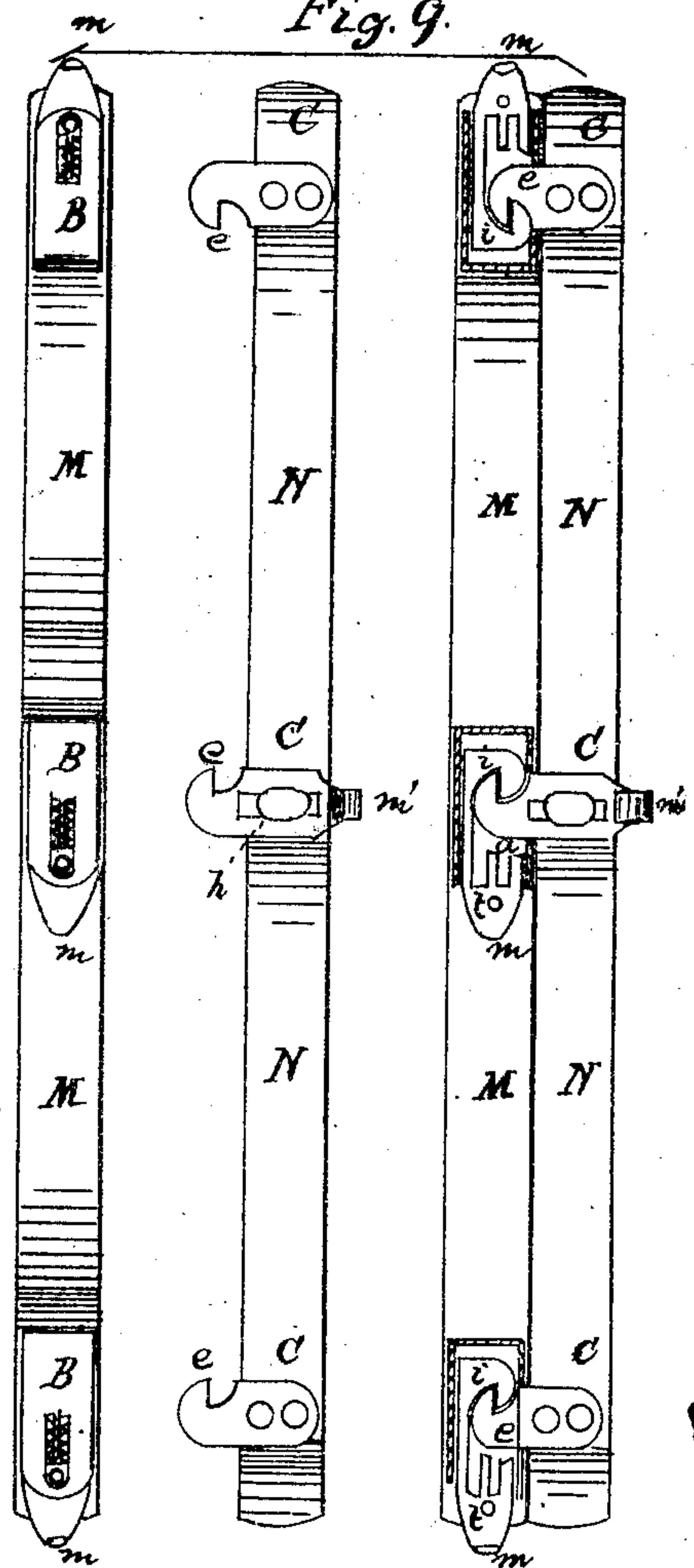


Fig. 9.



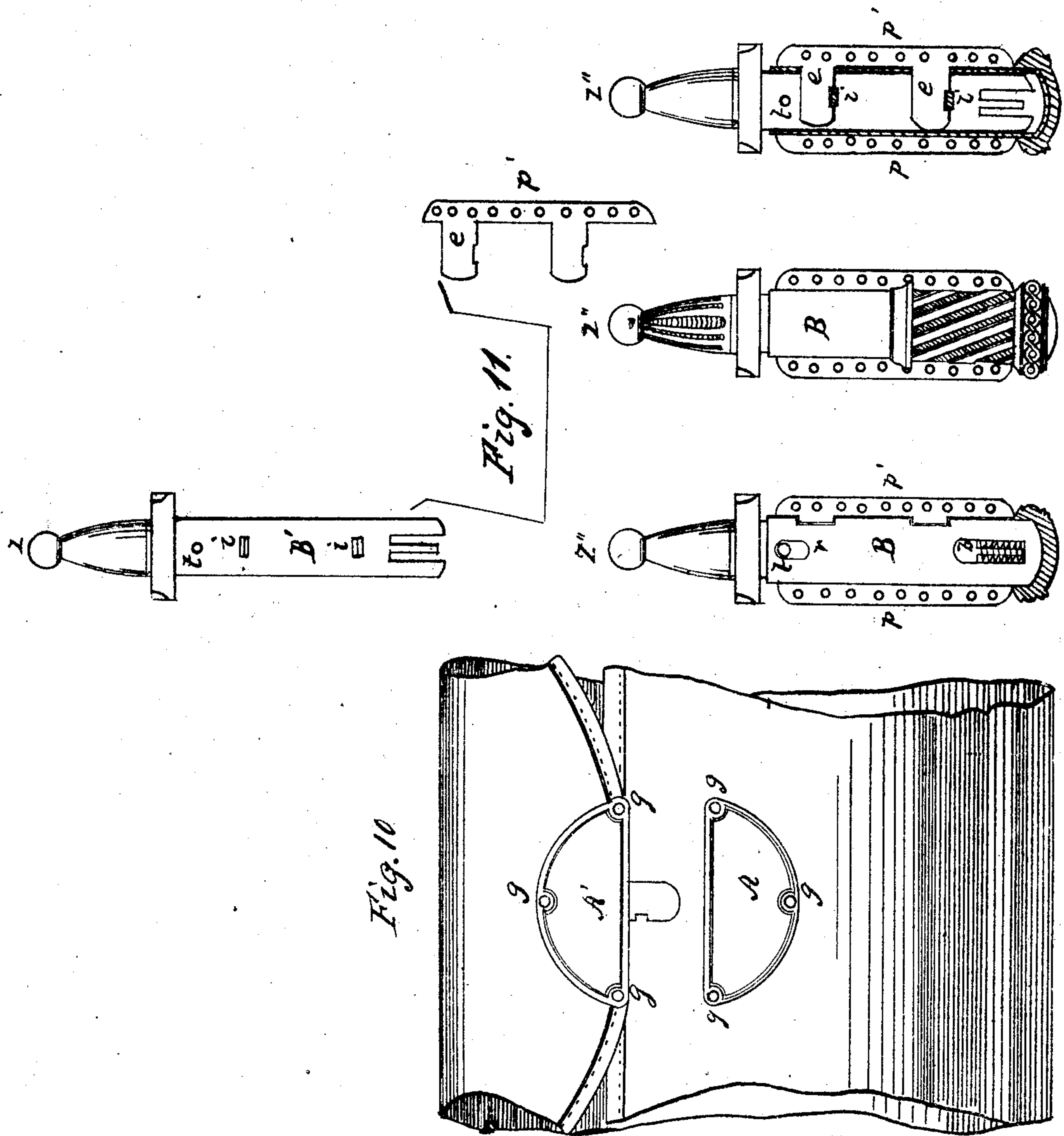
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Letters Patent No. 75,976, dated March 24, 1868.

IMPROVED BELT-CLASP.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, JOHN READING, SAMUEL ALFRED READING, GEORGE EDWARD READING, and FREDERICK FRANCIS READING, of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, England, have invented new and useful Improvements in Belt and other Dress-Fastenings; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

Our invention relates to the manner of constructing and perfecting the action of the catch-mechanism of belt-plates; and while it is applicable to other wear, is more particularly designed for ladies' belts, garters, cloak-fastenings, and the fastenings of such of their dress-appendages for which it may be found expedient to apply it at any future time.

It consists, in principle, of a bolt-catch or catches working against the tension of a helical or other spring or springs, the said bolt being in a case at the back of the belt-plate, and presenting a projection or thumb-bit for depressing the bolt against the tension of the said spring, and thereby releasing the catch or catches upon the other end of the belt or dress-appendage, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

This invention is susceptible of many modifications or modified applications, all partaking essentially of the same principle as to the action of the catch-mechanism; and we will first describe in detail the construction and operation of the belt-fastening, and then proceed to set forth a certain number of modifications of the invention, to ascertain and illustrate its several applications, as aforesaid.

Heretofore ladies' belts were fastened by clasps, buckles, slides, and such like devices, all of which were imperfect for the purpose desired, and their use was attended with certain disadvantages in each case. Our improvements supply an article which is at once cheap and durable, and of satisfactory operation to the wearer.

In Figure 1 is shown a back view of the belt-plate, which bears a case for containing the catch-bolt and its action. A is the plate, and B the case, which latter may be formed by the attachment of a separate plate, bent to form the case, or may be a recess stamped in and formed wholly or partially by the metal of the plate A. B' is the bolt, slotted in the manner shown, which leaves a central tongue, *a*, around which is coiled a helical spring, *b*, as shown. This spring exerts its tension to keep the bolt up, and present a yielding elastic resistance to the entrance upon its catches, *i*, of the other or corresponding catches, which form part of a terminal plate of the belt. Each terminal plate is shown at C, and *e e* are its catches, which, entering in upon the catches *i* of the bolt, present their inclined edges to the inclined edges of the bolt-catches, and cause the latter to recede against the elastic force of the spring *b* until the shoulders of the catches in each part pass beyond each other, when the bolt-catches will return with a firm snap, and hold the terminal catches in a firm and positive connection. The spring *b* exerts its tension upon the bolt *h* by the impinging of one of its terminal coils upon the ends of the slots in the bolt B', before mentioned, while the terminal coil of the opposite end impinges upon the end of the slot *r* in the case B, which slot is made for that purpose, and also to provide a location for the spring to insure its perfect action. A slot or opening is left in the side of the case B, for the entrance of the catches *e e* of the terminal plate C, and the said catches, in entering the said opening, bear against the upper edge of it, and are thus prevented from yielding, while they cause the yielding of the bolt-catches, as aforesaid. The said edge serves to assist in holding the catches *e e* when caught and engaged by the bolt-catches. A wire, *h*, is secured rigidly to, or forms part of, the terminal plate C, and a similar wire is formed on or attached to the rear of the catch-bolt plate A, as shown. To these wires the belt is fastened, by sewing or eyelet-rivets, as may be most suitable. The bolt B' is made with sufficient width to slide with easy contact in the case B, and the catches *i i* of the said bolt, together with the slots forming the tongue *a*, are stamped or cut on the bolt, thus leaving its parts in one and the same piece. The same is likewise true of the catches of the terminal plate C. A stud or pin, *t*, projects from the rear face of the bolt, and works in the slot *r* of the case B, as shown. This slot limits the upward movement of the bolt, as will be obvious. One extremity of the bolt (generally the upper one) is reduced somewhat, and projects beyond both the case and the plate A a short distance, for the purpose of serving as a thumb-bit; so called, upon which the wearer presses.

with the thumb to disengage the catches and leave the belt free to be taken off. This thumb-bit is shown at *m*, and its extreme end is upset or flanged, whereby it serves to limit the downward movement of the bolt by coming in contact with the case B.

Figure 2. In fig. 1 the terminal plate C was intended only as a necessary part or base of its catches *e e*, and when the belt was fastened around the wearer, was hidden from view by the plate A, which covered it; but in fig. 2 this plate is modified, and forms an adjunct to a larger plate, A', which gives an ornamental appearance to the fastening, and is, perhaps, easier to catch and uncatch in the act of putting on and taking off the belt. The clutch-mechanism is, however, identical with that of fig. 1. The rim *d* is attached to the plate A' in this figure.

Figure 3 is a cross-section of fig. 2, and exhibits the position of the catch terminal plate C, which may form a continuous part of the plate A', or may be soldered or riveted thereto.

Figure 4 exhibits a modification of the bolt and terminal plate, the single bolt being replaced by two bolts, and the catches *e e* of the terminal plate turned facing each other, so as to engage the catches of both bolts, as shown. To unclasp the belt, the wearer has only to press upon the projecting thumb-bits with the finger and thumb, and the bolts will recede and liberate the catches *e e* of the plate C.

Figure 5 exhibits a modification, suitable for garters or arm-straps, though applicable also for belts, collar-fastenings for cloaks, and other dress-appendages. In this modification the wires *d* are substituted for oblong rings *d'* formed on the plates A and A', and by which the belt, strap, or garter is attached. The catches *e e* form an adjunct to the plate A', and the two plates A and A' fit closely to each other with a vertical-line joint, whereby the ornamentation of the parts is continued from one to the other, and the ornamented lines or figure thereon is shown perfect only when the parts are brought together. A front view of these plates is shown at X.

Figure 6 exhibits a modification, applicable for fastenings of shawls, coats, or cloaks, in the form of an embossed brooch, to which the case B, as in the before-described figures, can be attached by solder, rivets, or otherwise, and a catch-bolt, similar in principle to those set forth in the foregoing, fitted to operate therein. The edge of the catch-plate C, and likewise the edge of the plate C', attached to the brooch and case, are perforated, as shown, for the purpose of being sewed to the shawl or cloak. The bolt-mechanism and operation of this modification are almost identical with that shown at fig. 1; but its arrangement presents an even surface on the rear of the brooch, for which reason it is preferable to the others for this purpose.

Figure 7 exhibits a further modification, suitable as a brooch or other fastening. The parts A and A', when brought together, form a disk of any desired form and ornamentation. To the rear of the plate A is attached the case B, containing a bolt, B', which is slotted for the reception of the spring, which latter, in this case, exerts its tension at one end against the end of the case B, as shown. The catch of the bolt consists of projection *i*, which catches into a slot, *e*, on the plate C, which latter is soldered or riveted to the plate A'. The detail parts of this figure sufficiently exhibit its manner of operation. The holes in the plate C are for the purpose of fastening it to any fabric.

Figure 8 exhibits an application of our invention to corset, stay, or legging-busks, and its construction is, in principle, similar to that set forth in the foregoing. M is one part, to which is riveted the catches *e e e*. The corresponding part, N, is a hollow metallic case, of the form shown, and containing within it the catch-bolts B' and their springs *b*, which latter rest against the ends of the slots *r*, these slots also serving to limit the extension of the springs, as in the preceding instances. Lateral openings, for the entrance of the catches *e*, are shown at *z z z*, through which the said catches pass, and the projections *i* on the bolts catch into the slots in the said catches *e*, and thereby accomplish the connection of the parts M and N. To liberate these parts, the tongues *l* are cut and stamped up in the manner shown, and seated therein are bosses *u*, which, when the tongues *l* are pressed upon, actuate the bolt within against the tension of its spring, which raises the projections *i* from out the slots in the projections *e*, thus liberating them from the connection, so that there is sufficient elasticity resident in the metal of the tongue to provide the slight spring tension requisite for returning the bosses to their first position. The sectional view is taken through the line *y y*.

Figure 9 exhibits a modification of our invention applicable to leggings or stay-busks, so called. M represents the one leather part, to which are fastened, by rivets or otherwise, these cases B, containing bolts made with a single catch, *i*, as shown. To the other leather part, N, is attached by rivets the catch-plates C. In this modification the bolts are actuated by thumb-bits *m*, as before described. The middle catch-plate is not riveted rigidly to the part N, but works by a slot under rivet-button *h*, in the manner shown, whereby it is easier to engage or disengage the catch *e*.

Figure 10 exhibits the fastening when applied to any broad band or article of dress. The two plates are shown attached, by rivets *g*, to the fabric or leather legging. This figure is more particularly the application of the fastening shown and described at fig. 7.

Figure 11 exhibits an ornamental fastening involving the same principle as set forth in the foregoing. It is applicable as a fastening for shawls or capes, and consists of a case, B, having a perforated flange, *p*, for attaching it to a garment or dress-appendage. A similar flange, *p'*, has catches *e*, as shown. The bolt B' terminates in a handle resembling that of a Roman sword. This bolt is actuated by a spring, *b*; and the projections *i*, for catching into the slots of the catches *e*, also serve as guides to steady the bolt in the case B. The bolt is shown separately on *z*, the back view of the fastening at *z'*, the front view of the same at *z''*, and the internal action of the bolt and catches at *z'''*, thus forming an attractive ornamental fastening.

The parts forming these above-described improvements are easily produced by stamping, and the fastening which they produce is cheap, durable, simple, and effective.

We claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The dress-fastening or clasp, consisting of a bolt or bolts, B', operating within a case, B, or its equivalent.

lent, and provided with a catch or catches, *i*, and a spring or springs, *b*, each or all in combination with a catch or catches, *e*, or the equivalent thereof, and all constructed and operating substantially as and for the purpose shown and described.

2. The slot *r*, in combination with the case B and spring *b* of a belt-clasp or other fastening for dress-appendages, for the purpose of holding and providing a point of resistance to the said spring *b*, and also serving as a stop to the pin *t* of the bolt, all substantially as shown and described, and for the purpose specified.

3. The slotted bolt B' of a dress-fastening, having a tongue, *a*, or its equivalent, for the better holding of the spring *b*, all substantially as shown and described, and for the purpose specified.

4. Forming the bolt B' of a dress-clasp or fastening with projections *i* and a tongue, *a*, or their equivalents, all substantially as shown and described, and for the purpose specified.

5. The case B, made substantially as shown and described, for the purpose of serving as a guide for the longitudinal movement of the bolt B', and for holding the same against the lateral traction of the belt when the same is on the wearer, and also for assisting in catching and holding the catches *e e*, all as set forth.

6. The spring-tongues *l*, in combination with the bolts B', for the purpose of actuating the latter when the formation and employment of the case B render the thumb-bit *m* more or less inadmissible, all as set forth.

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