

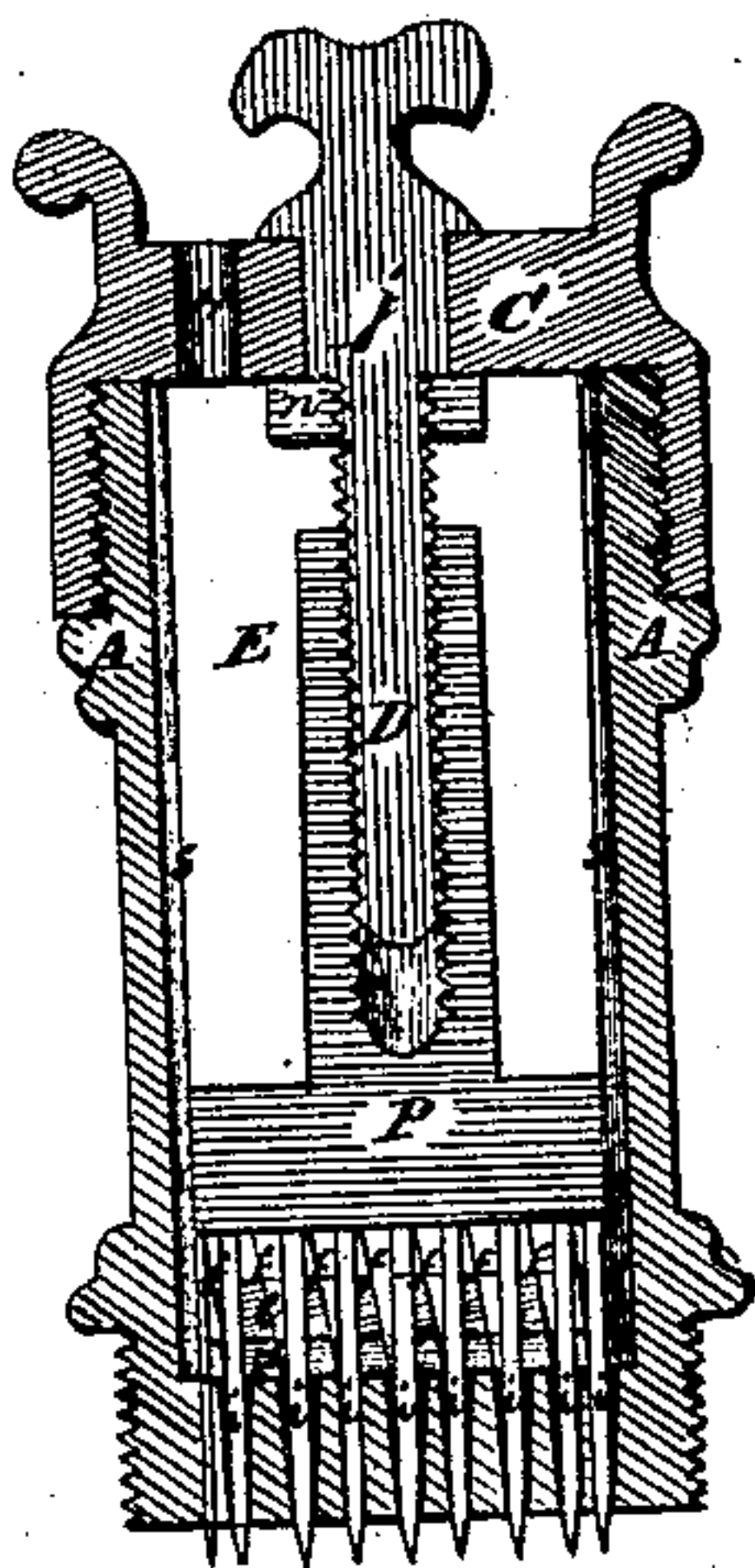
*G. Herrick,*

*Acupuncture Instrument.*

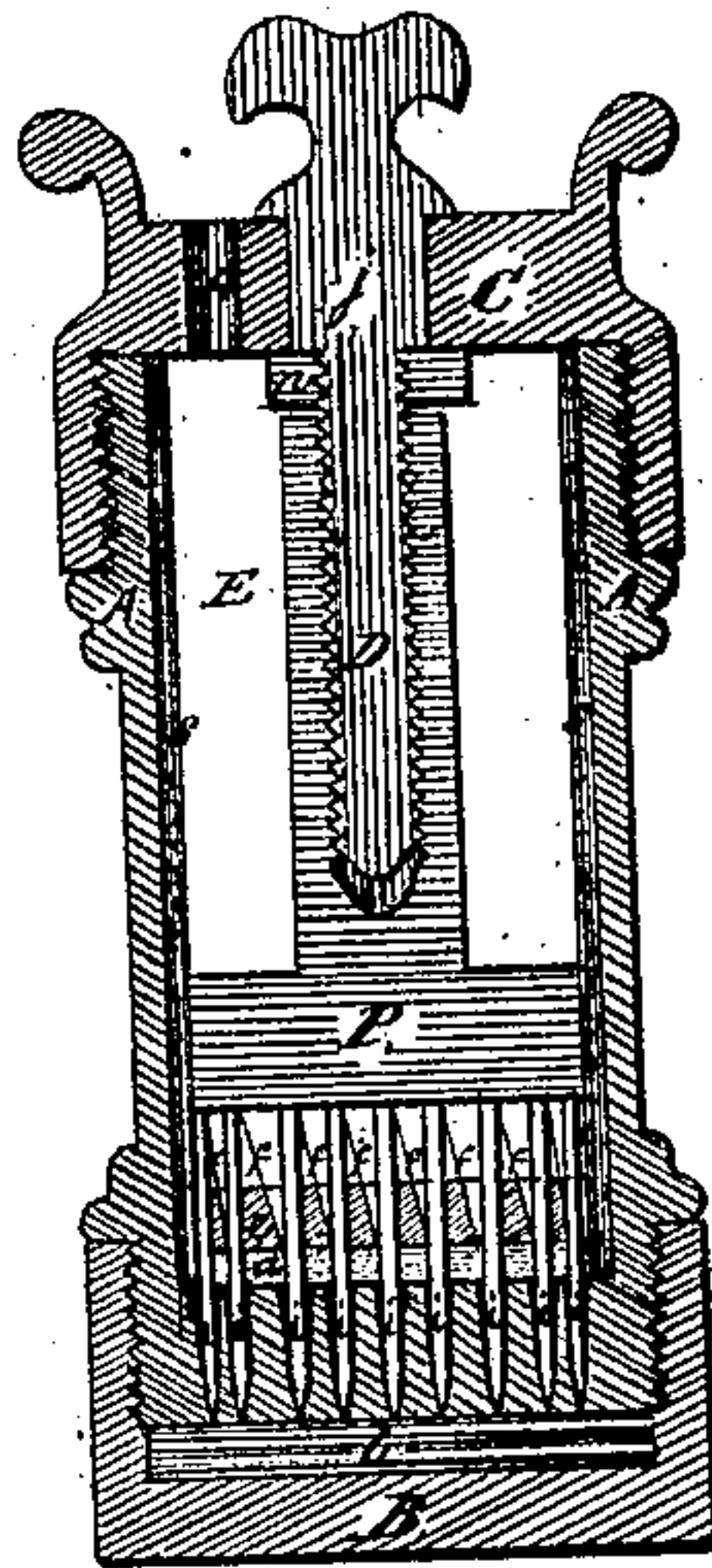
*No. 102262*

*Patented Apr. 26. 1870.*

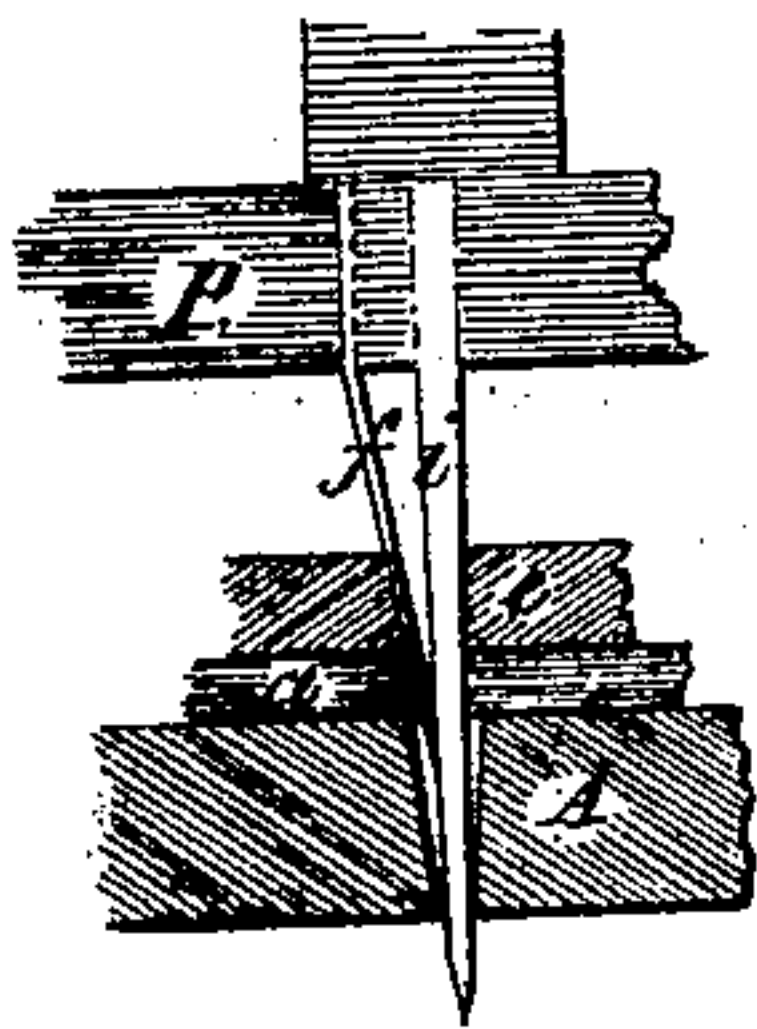
*Fig. 1.*



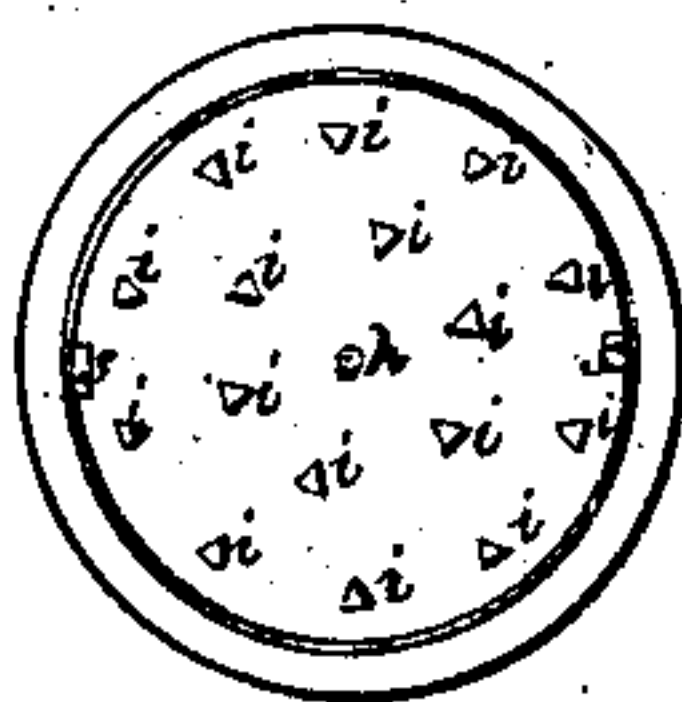
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Witnesses*  
*Albert Patch.*  
*Otto Lee Johnson.*

*Inventor*  
*Gardner Herrick.*



# United States Patent Office.

GARDNER HERRICK, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN.

Letters Patent No. 102,262, dated April 26, 1870.

## IMPROVEMENT IN ACUPUNCTURE INSTRUMENTS.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GARDNER HERRICK, of Albion, county of Calhoun and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Acupuncture Instruments, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a central longitudinal section of the acupuncture instrument, with the guard-cover removed and the lancets protruded ready for use.

Figure 2, a similar section, the lancets being retracted within the case, and the guard-cover screwed on.

Figure 3 is a transverse section in the line *x*; and

Figure 4, an enlarged elevation of a lancet and feeding-strip, with broken sections of other parts.

Similar letters indicate like parts in all the figures.

My invention relates to improvements in instruments employed in acupuncture in which medicated fluids are introduced into punctures or wounds made by lancets; and

It consists in the employment of lancets in combination with converging feeding-strips, the latter not extending to the points of the lancets, so that the feeding-strips will not enter the wounds, as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the accompanying drawings—

A represents a cylindrical case, provided with a cap, C, screwed on its upper end, and having a central bearing for the journal *j* of a thumb-screw, D.

*n* is a nut, secured against a projecting shoulder of the journal *j*, so as to make a close connection with the shoulder of the thumb-screw, to prevent longitudinal play.

B is the guard-cover or cap, provided with an inside packing, said cover being screwed on the lower end of the cylindrical case to protect the lancet points, and prevent the waste of fluid when the instrument is not in use.

P is a piston or plunger, in which the upper ends of the lancets *i i* are cast or otherwise secured, and to which a piston-rod or shank is attached.

This shank has a centrally-threaded bore, in which the thumb-screw D works, moving the piston-head with its attached lancets longitudinally back and forth in the cylindrical case.

S S are guide-strips within the case, fitting into corresponding grooves in the piston-head, so that the latter is forced to move rectilinearly in the same fixed line in the cylindrical case A.

*a* is a layer of felt or other suitable material, and *e* is a layer of rubber or other elastic substance, placed over and in contact with the felt layer *a*.  
*f f* are the feeding-strips, one opposite each lancet.

These feeding-strips are set in the piston-head, and converge toward the lancets, the medicated fluid being held between said feeding-strips and the lancets.

The feeding-strips do not extend to the points of the lancets, but come in contact with them at or about points coincident with the line of contact of the layers *a* and *e* in the case, so as not to enter the wounds or pass out of the cylindrical case, and the function of the feeding-strips is to press out on one side the substance of the layer *a* (when the lancet points have been protruded by turning the thumb-screw) beyond the lower end of the case, so as to permit the medicated fluid in the chamber B to flow through the intervening space and down the lancets to their points, and into the wounds.

H is a hole, through which the medicated fluid is introduced into the cylindrical case, and the layers *a* and *e* may be pushed out of the case when necessary by inserting a wire through a small hole, *h*, in the end of the case, plugs being afterward inserted.

When the piston-head has been drawn back by a reverse motion, and the ends of the feeding-strips withdrawn from the felt layer, the substance of that layer will spring back closely around the lancet, and prevent any further flow of the fluid. By this arrangement of parts, the ends of the lancet may be thoroughly cleaned.

The parts of the instrument subjected to the action of the medicated liquor should be non-corrosive.

Hollow lancets or flat-bladed ones, which converge together at the points of penetration, are unsafe, for it is so difficult to clean them thoroughly after use, that this duty is generally neglected.

The danger of not being able to clean them thoroughly is of two kinds, one is corrosion, and the other is that the virus of malignant disease, such as syphilis, &c., may lodge in the internal angle at the point of contact between the blades in the same manner that ink lodges in a drawing-pen, and if not removed will communicate disease when again used.

By my arrangement of parts these difficulties are entirely obviated.

Having thus fully described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The lancets *i i*, in combination with the converging feeding-strips *f f*, the latter not extending to the points of the lancets, and hence not entering the wounds, as set forth.

GARDNER HERRICK.

Witnesses:

FREDERICK HERRICK  
MY ATTORNEY