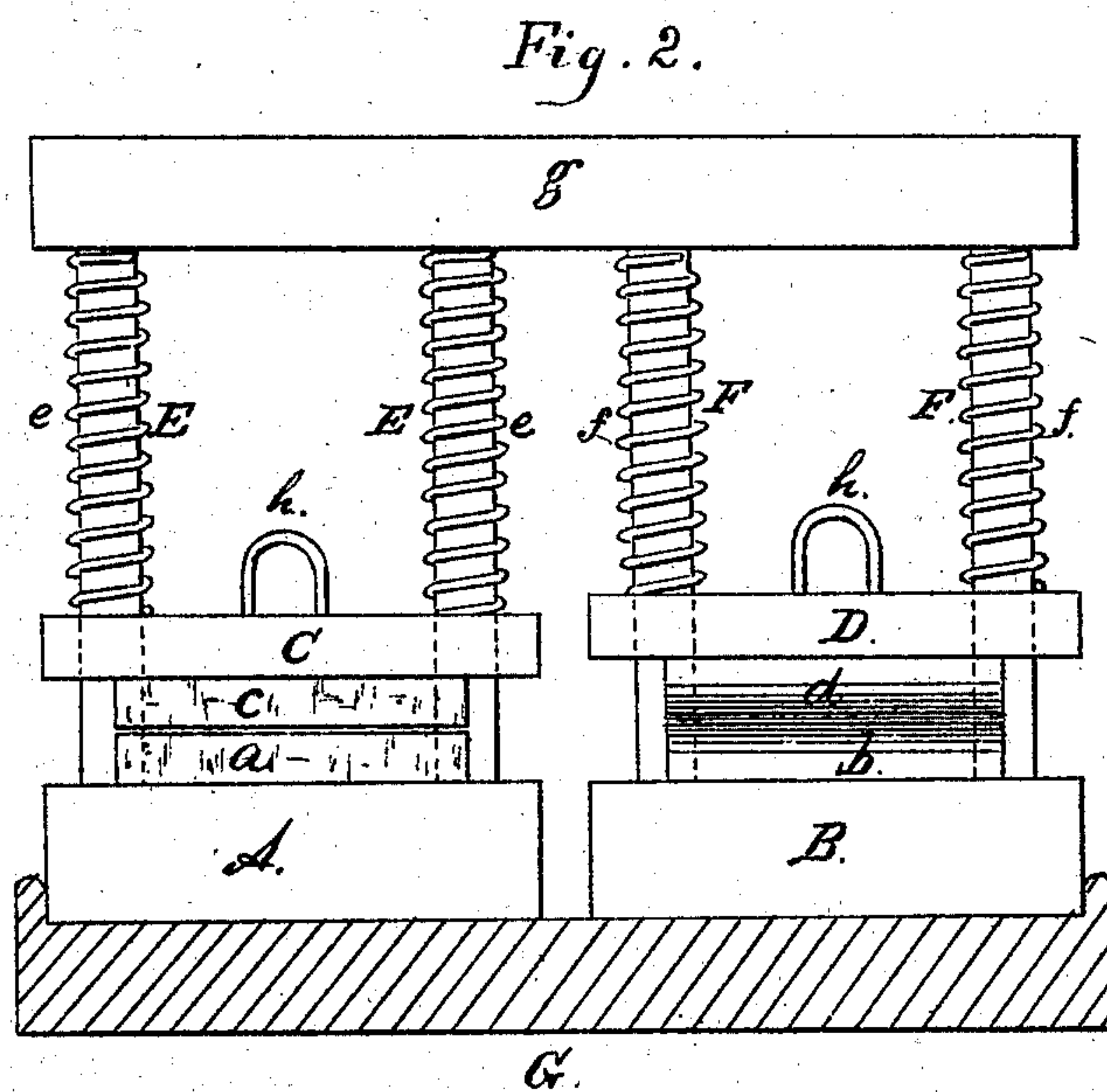
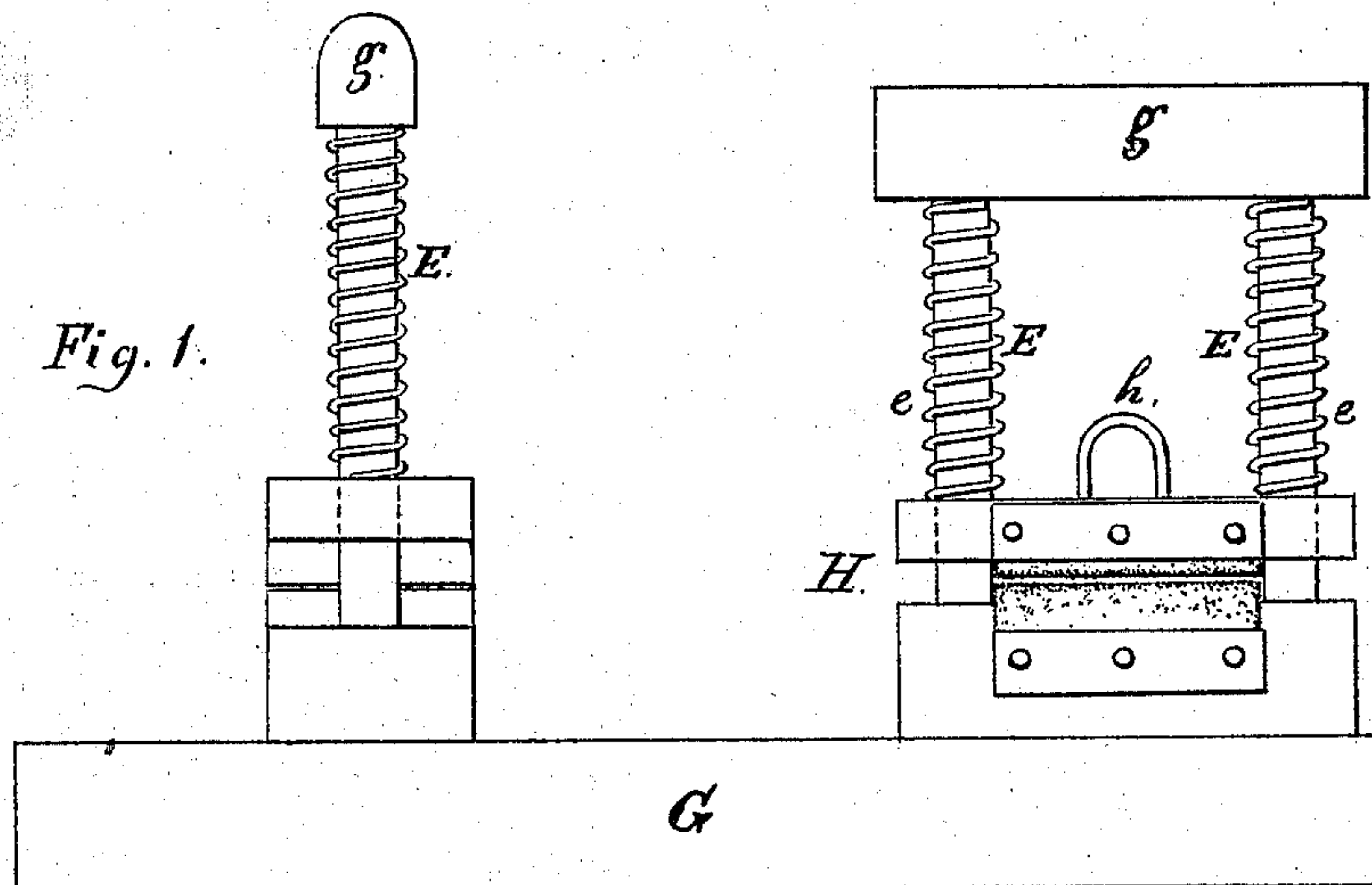


H. C. GILBERT.

Knife-Cleaners.

No. 136,990

Patented March 18, 1873.



Witnesses :

W. Burris
J. V. Wilson

Inventor :

Horace C. Gilbert
By G. B. Towles. Att.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HORACE C. GILBERT, OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN KNIFE-CLEANERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 136,990, dated March 18, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HORACE C. GILBERT, of New London, in the county of New London and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knife and Fork Cleaners and Polishers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawing which forms part of this specification.

Figure 1 is a cross-section through the box of the cleaner and polisher, giving a front view of the cleaning and polishing devices. Fig. 2 is a side elevation.

Like letters in both figures of the drawing indicate like parts.

This invention relates to the class of knife-cleaners having rubbing blocks and plates and posts and springs arranged and attached to a box; and the invention consists in providing the plates with hooks or their equivalents, in combination with a bar attached to the top of the posts, whereby the operator, by grasping the bar and hook with his hand, can readily raise the plates and insert the emery or other polishing matter thereunder, as may be required, to facilitate the cleaning of the knife, as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

A B are the blocks and C D are the plates, provided each with corks *a b* and *c d*. As the shape of the prongs of a fork is such that they could not be cleaned to advantage on a plane or flat surface—the same as that used for knives—the edges of the corks *c d* are rounded on both sides so as to present an easy-rubbing surface to the prongs of the fork. The plates C D are provided with holes large enough to fit and work freely upon the posts E E and F F, suitably attached to the blocks, coiled or spiral springs *e e* and *f f* being placed around the posts to give the plates the required pressure. The posts are all secured to the bar *g* at the top. The plates have a hook or staple, *h*, attached in the center of each, whereby the

operator by grasping the bar *g*, which is rounded on its upper edges to afford an easy grasp to the hand, and taking hold of the hook with his finger, can raise the plates and insert emery or other appropriate material thereunder to facilitate the cleaning and polishing of the knives and forks, as may be required. The blocks A B, with the devices thus attached, are fastened to a suitable part of the bottom of the box G by screws from the under side thereof.

Carpeting, flannel, leather, or other suitable material may be used as a rubbing-surface instead of cork, as may be preferred, the carpeting being fastened by metallic plates on both sides of the blocks and plates, the polisher devices being otherwise the same, as shown at H.

The operation is as follows: The plates are raised by the hooks, in the manner as herein explained, and the emery or other cleaning material placed upon the corks of the blocks, and the knife or fork to be cleaned inserted between the corks and drawn rapidly back and forth till thoroughly cleaned. By a similar process the knife or fork is inserted between the plates of the polisher, and the polishing completed by a like movement.

The base-box catches and retains the emery or other material as it falls from the corks while in use.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim therein as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a knife-cleaner having rubbing-blocks and plates with corks attached to each, in connection with posts and springs arranged and attached to a box, I claim the plates C D provided with the hooks *h*, in combination with the bar *g* attached to the top of the posts, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand.

HORACE C. GILBERT.

Witnesses:

ANDERSON L. CRANDALL,
RICHARD SQUIRES.