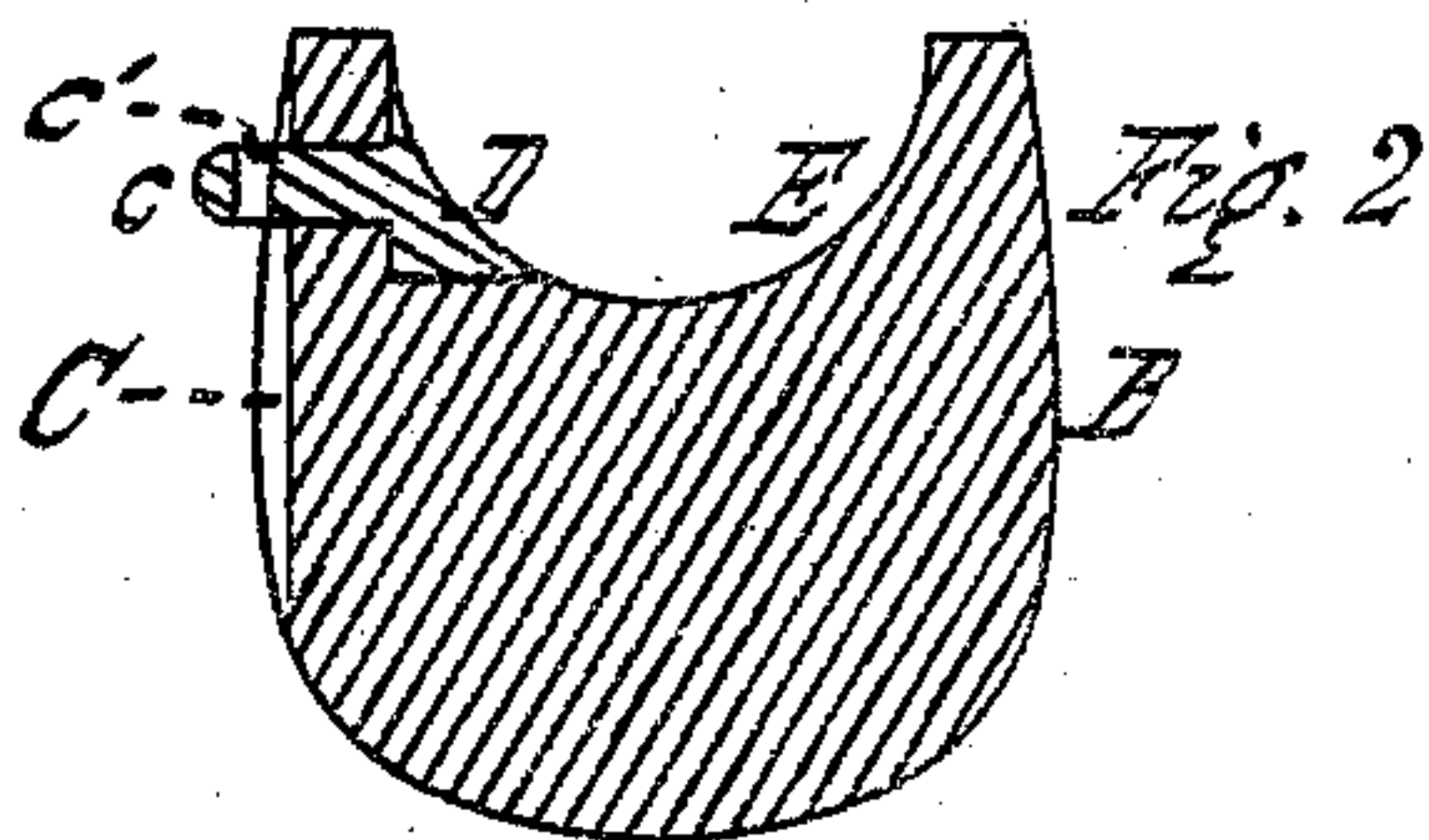
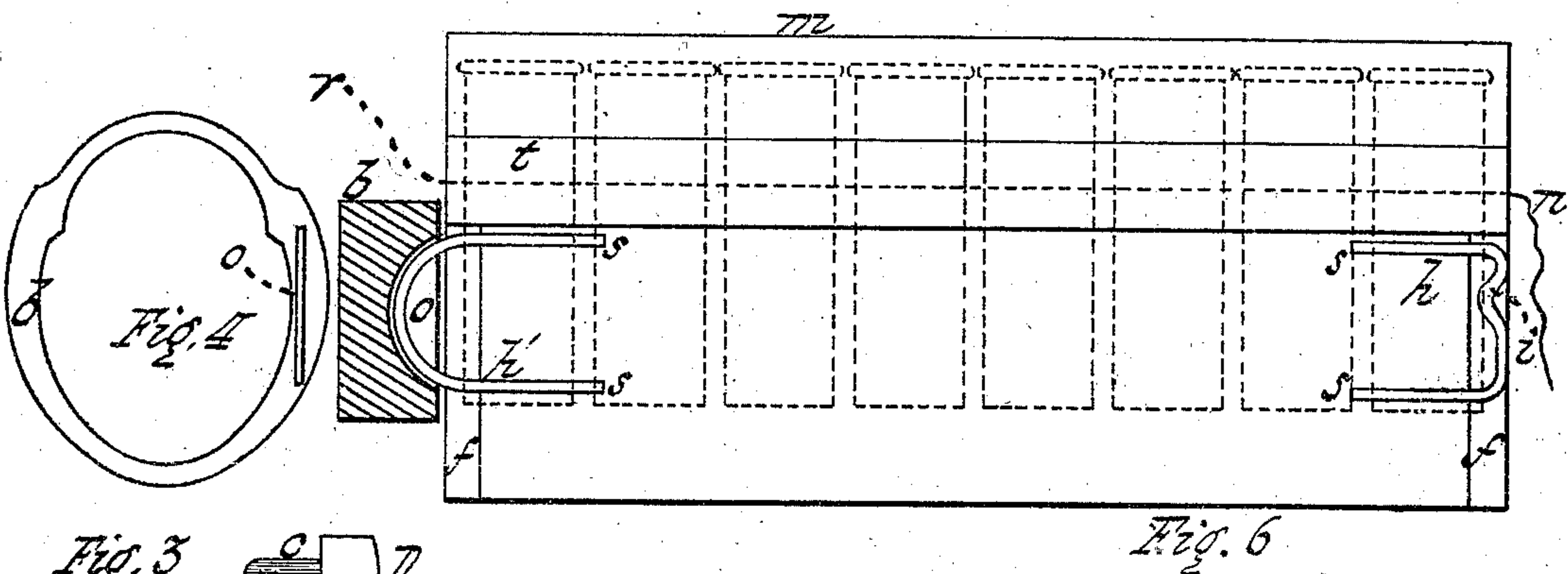
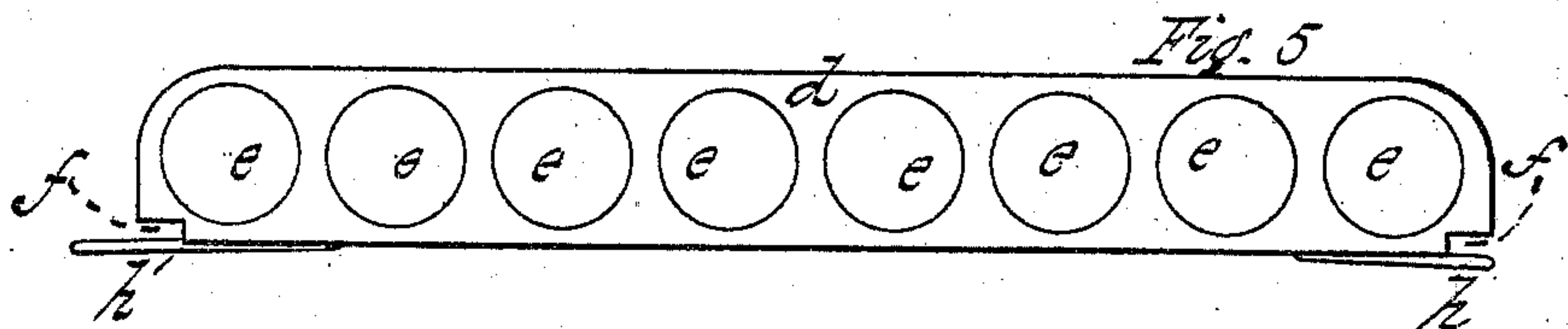
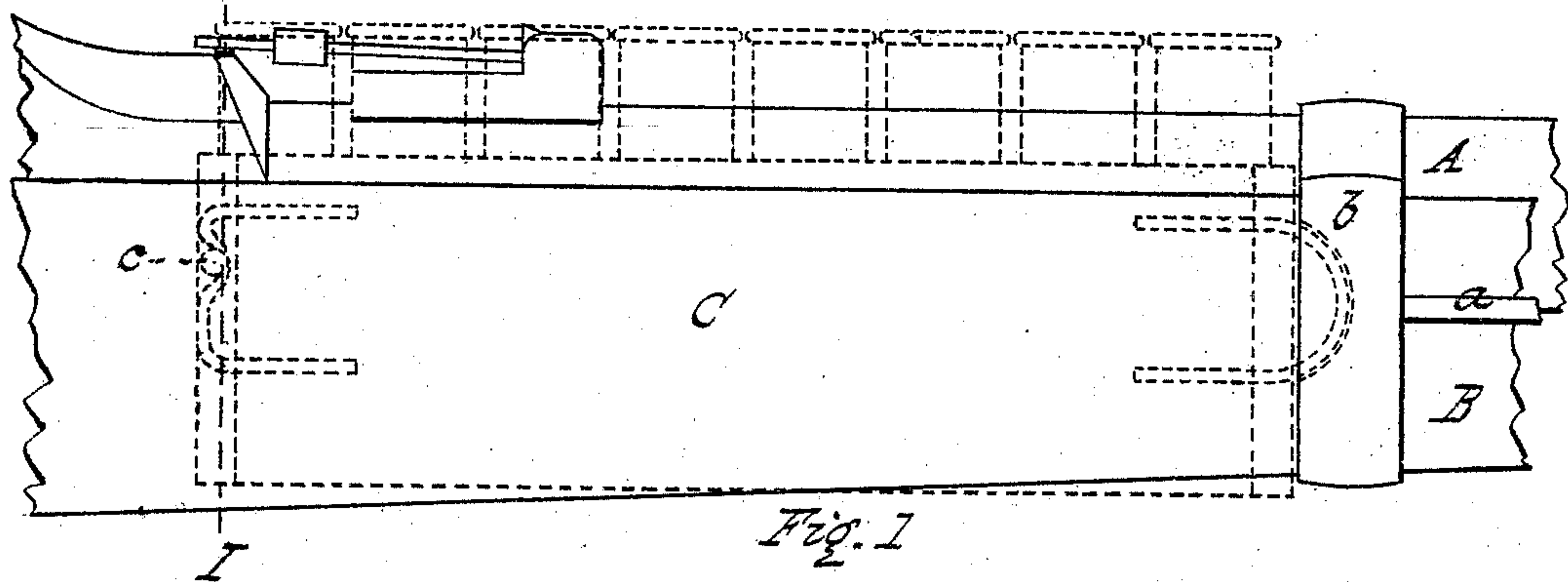


H. METCALFE.
Means of Attaching Cartridge Magazine Blocks to
Fire-Arms.

No. 143,415.

Patented Oct. 7, 1873.



Witnesses,

C. Eugene Buckland
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By J. A. Curtis
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY METCALFE, LIEUTENANT, UNITED STATES ARMY.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE MEANS OF ATTACHING CARTRIDGE MAGAZINE-BLOCKS TO FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 143,415, dated October 7, 1873; application filed May 19, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY METCALFE, Lieutenant in the United States Army, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Attachments to Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings making a part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a portion of a breech-loading fire-arm adapted to my invention. Fig. 2 is a transverse section through line I of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the retaining-pin. Fig. 4 is a rear-end view of the rear barrel-band as adapted to my attachment. Fig. 5 is a plan view of the block or cartridge-holder with the cover removed; and Fig. 6 is a side view of the holder and section through the band at line H of Fig. 4, showing the position of the retaining-wire in the band of the gun.

My invention relates to an attachment to a breech-loading gun whereby the operator may have the cartridges in convenient position for loading and firing the arm rapidly; and my invention consists of mechanical devices, as hereinafter explained, whereby the cartridges may be placed together in a receptacle, and the latter attached to the gun for convenient use in rapid firing, said receptacle being conveniently arranged for carrying the same in the cartridge-box, and which receptacle may be thrown away after the cartridges have been removed therefrom.

That others skilled in the art may be able to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe the same.

In the drawings, A represents the barrel of a breech-loading gun; B, the stock, and *b* the rear barrel-band, which secures the two together. *c* is a pin having a notch, *c'*, therein, and provided with a head, D, which is made concave at the end to correspond with the groove E of the stock, and a hole is made through the side of the stock, into and through which the pin *c* is inserted from the inside of the barrel-groove E, the head D fitting a recess in the stock made to receive it, as shown clearly in Fig. 3, so that when the stock is secured to the barrel the pin *c* is secured firmly

in place. The band *b* is provided with a vertical slot or recess, *o*, which is concave at its inner end, as shown clearly in Fig. 6, and the stock of the gun may be made flat upon the side C between the pin *c* and the band *b*, the latter being properly secured to the gun in any desirable manner. The block or holder which contains the cartridges may be made of wood or other suitable cheap material, and is provided with a series of holes, *e*, as shown in Fig. 5, and the block *d* is chamfered at the ends, as shown at *f*, to permit the block to slip into place easily when the wires *h* and *h'* are bent close to the block. These wires are secured in the side of the block near each end, and are bent backward into a position nearly parallel with the block, that shown at *h'* being bent in a circular form, as shown clearly in Fig. 6, to correspond with the inner end of the recess *o* in the band, while the wire *h* at the opposite end of the block is bent with a short crook or indent, *i*, therein, as shown in Fig. 6. The cover *m* of the block or holder *d* is provided with a series of holes, corresponding with those in the block, to receive the heads of the cartridges when in place in the block; and the joint between the block and its cover is represented by the dotted line *r* in Fig. 6, and this joint is covered, when the cartridges are all in the block, by a strip of paper, *t*, which is pasted to the block and its cover all around, with a string beneath at the joint *r*, with its end left loose, as shown at *n*. These blocks or holders *d* may be carried in an ordinary cartridge-box provided with pins, flanges, or bent pieces of metal secured to the inside of the box, or by any other suitable and convenient means of securing the blocks, and three of these blocks or cartridge-holders may be packed in the cartridge-box, each block containing eight cartridges, or twenty-four in all, and so arranged that the blocks may be quickly taken from the box and attached to the gun.

The operation of the invention is as follows: One of the blocks or holders *d* is taken from the cartridge-box, and the circular part of the wire *h'* is inserted in the recess *o* in the band *b*, and the other end of the block *d* forced down, the wire *h* impinging against the pin *c* in its notch *c'*, and, the wire springing inward a little, the block and wire pass down until the

pin enters the short crook or indent *i* of the wire *h*, when the wire springs outward again. The position of the block or holder *d* when thus in place upon the gun is shown clearly in dotted lines in Fig. 1. The operator then seizes the end of the string *n*, and by giving it a quick pull it tears the strip of paper *t* at the joint *r*, so that the cover *m* is thrown clear of the block. As the holder is then in position upon the gun, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, with the cartridges projecting above the block *d*, they may be conveniently and readily seized with the fingers, and used in loading and firing the arm. After all the cartridges of one holder have been used the block or holder *d* is thrown away and another one containing cartridges taken from the cartridge-box and attached to the gun, as before, and so on.

This arrangement of blocks or holders, and their attachment to a breech-loading gun, as described, will enable a soldier to load and fire his gun nearly or quite as rapidly as a magazine-gun could be used, and the soldier will not be obliged to carry any extra accouterments or conveniences for accomplishing this change in the manipulation and management of his gun, as the blocks or holders may be manufactured so cheaply that they may be thrown away after the cartridges are used.

Instead of a recess, *o*, in the band, two pins projecting from the stock, similar to the pin *c*, may be used, sufficiently far apart to place the block or holder between, one pin being placed above the other at each end in any convenient manner to support the block, without departing from the principle of operation.

I am aware that devices have heretofore been used for attachment to a gun to facilitate rapid firing, and I do not claim the same irrespective of my invention thereof, as above described; but

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

1. The combination, with a gun-stock, of hooks or projections, substantially such as described, so that a block or cartridge-holder provided with a bent wire at each end, as set forth, may be attached thereto.

2. A block or cartridge-holder, *d*, when provided with a bent wire at each end, substantially as set forth, and adapted to be carried in a cartridge-box and to be attached to a gun-stock, as described.

HENRY METCALFE.

Witnesses:

HUGH SEIBERG,
LOYALL FARRAGUT.