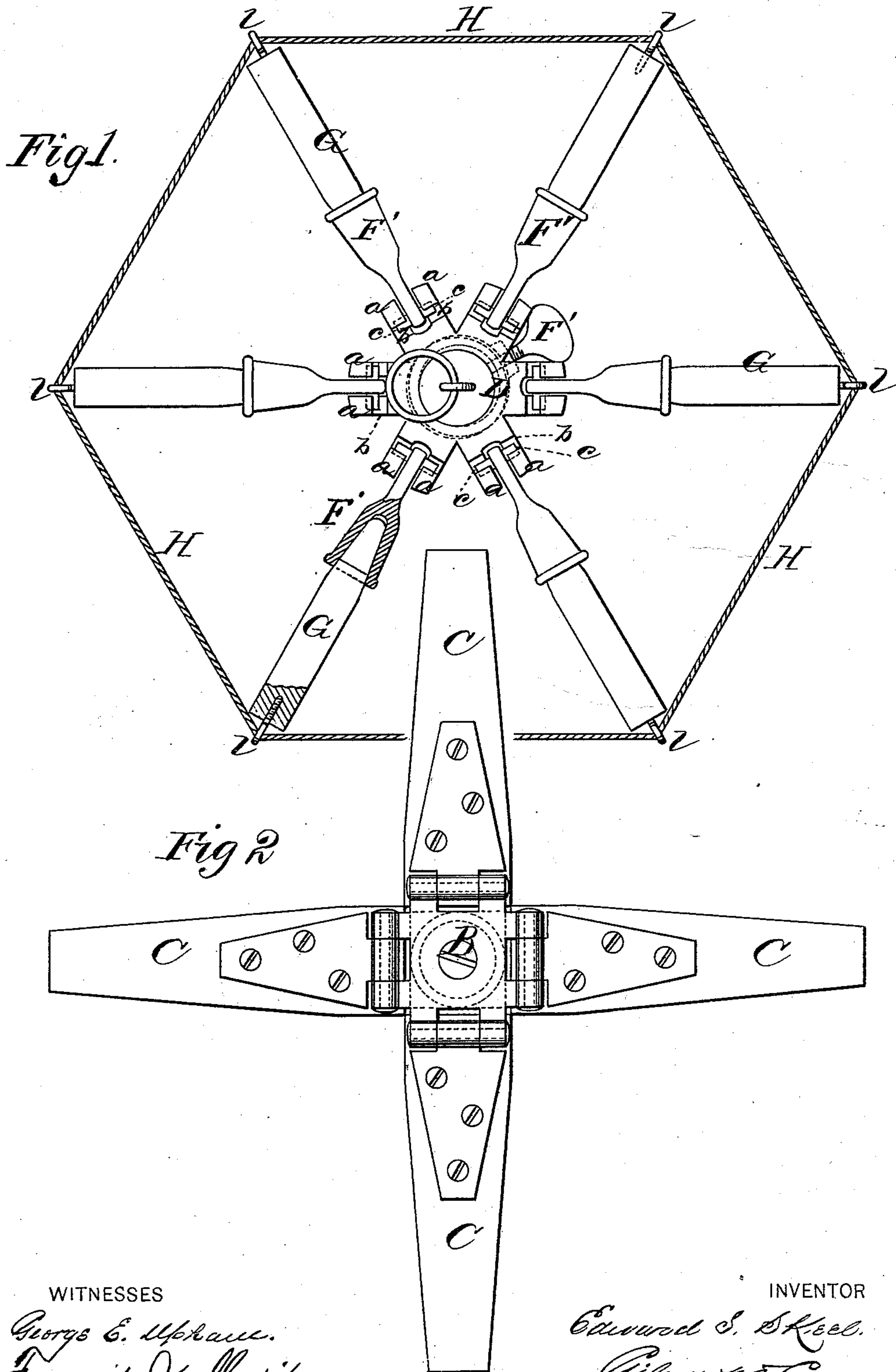


E. S. SKEEL.
CLOTHES-DRIER.

No. 176,366.

Patented April 18, 1876.



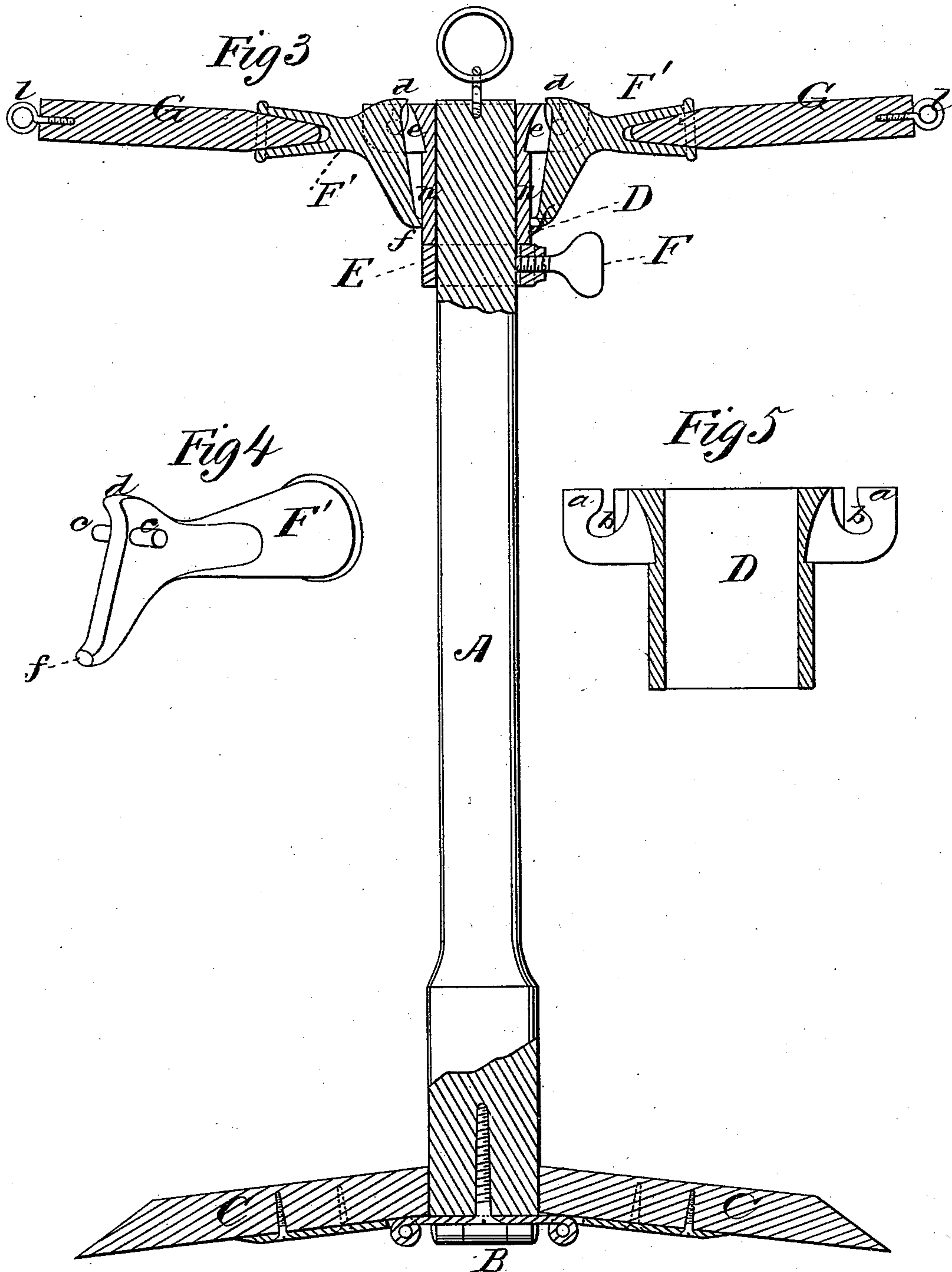
WITNESSES
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INVENTOR
Edward S. Skeel.
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ATTORNEYS

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD S. SKEEL, OF MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLOTHES-DRIERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **176,366**, dated April 18, 1876; application filed January 22, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD S. SKEEL, of Meadville, in the county of Crawford and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Folding Clothes-Rack; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a top-plan view, and Fig. 2 of a bottom-plan view, of my clothes-rack. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the same, and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail views thereof.

This invention has relation to improvements in folding clothes-racks, adapted either for airing or drying clothes or goods; and it consists in the arrangement and novel construction of radial sockets, which are capable of being detached from the supporting-staff, and of being folded around the same, whereby means are provided for removing the arms or sockets when necessary, and thus adapting my improved drying-frame to be placed in a corner of a room, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A designates a preferably cylindrical staff or upright, to the lower end of which is secured a quadruply-strapped hinge, B, to which are rigidly attached arms C, flat on their under sides, which are designed to afford a base for the supporting-staff A. Arms C are preferably of wood; and when they are swung outward into the position shown in Fig. 3 their heels will abut against the lower end of the said staff, and they will thus be held against further outward vibration than what would be required to place them at right angles to the said staff, or nearly so. By this means a folding base will be constituted, which, together with a folding drying-frame, hereinafter explained, will form a drier capable of being folded into a compact form, either for transportation or for being stowed away in a corner or closet. D represents a metallic collar of suitable strength, which is passed over staff A, and is adjustably secured at any de-

sirable elevation on the said staff by means of a metallic sleeve, E, which is clamped against the said staff by means of a thumb-screw, F. This collar is provided with spaced lugs *a*, in the upper edges of which are formed curved notches *b*, adapted to receive trunnions or journals *c* upon a boot-shaped socket, F', made of metal, and adapted to receive a wooden arm, G. This socket is provided with an angular heel, *d*, which is received in a curved recess, *e*, cut in the body of collar D, which serves to hold the said sockets against lateral vibration, and yet allows them free upward vertical vibration. The toe part of socket F' is designed to abut against the cylindrical part *n* of collar D, and will, in practice, be provided with a calk or projection, *f*, which, bearing against the said cylindrical part of the said collar, will hold the socket *s* in a horizontal position, at right angles, or nearly so, to the staff. To detach the sockets from the collar, draw arms G outward, so as to pull the journals of the sockets outward into the lower end of curved notches *b*, when the heel of the socket will be disengaged from the recess between lugs *a*, and, by being raised, will be lifted out of their bearings, and be thus detached from the collar. These arms being detachable, a sufficient number may be removed, and the device set in a corner of a room, where space is wanting, and yet a sufficient number of arms retained to receive a considerable quantity of material to be dried. When the arms are thrown up into a vertical position the heel *d* of the socket will engage deeply in recesses *e* on collar D, and will thus be prevented from being detached from the said collar, and falling free therefrom.

In practice I shall employ two or more drying-frames in connection with a single staff, should it prove desirable. The ends of arms G will be provided with an eyebolt, *l*, through which will be passed a cord, H, the object of which is to afford additional drying-lines for clothing or goods. When these arms are folded upward around the staff, and the folding base-arms C inward toward each other, the said arms and base will be in line, and in close contact with the staff, and, being bound up together, will be in form for compact stowage or transportation. I shall also provide the upper

end of staff A with a ring-bolt, R, so that when desirable the folded apparatus may be hung up out of the way.

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

1. The collar D, having spaced lugs *a*, with curved notches *b*, a cylindrical part, *n*, and a recess between the lugs in the said cylindrical part, in combination with the boot-shaped socket F, having journals *c*, an angular heel, *d*, and a calk, *f*, substantially as specified.

2. In combination with the collar D, the vertically-vibratory and detachable sockets F', substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

EDWARD S. SKEEL.

Witnesses:

W. A. SELBY,

W. N. LOCKWOOD.