

(No Model.)

J. W. & R. J. McKELVEY.
Label Holder for Mail Bag.

No. 229,628.

Patented July 6, 1880.

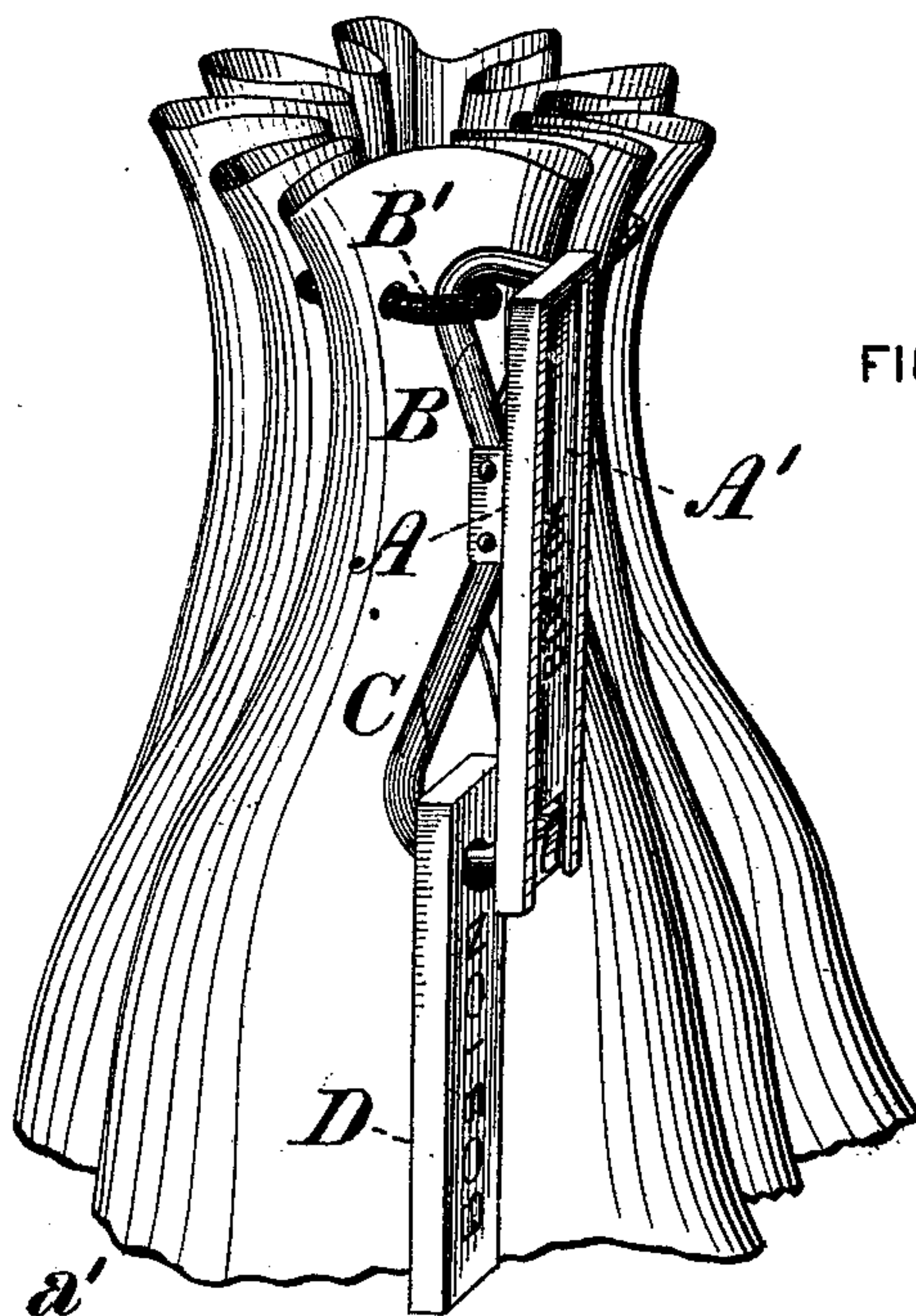


FIG. 1.

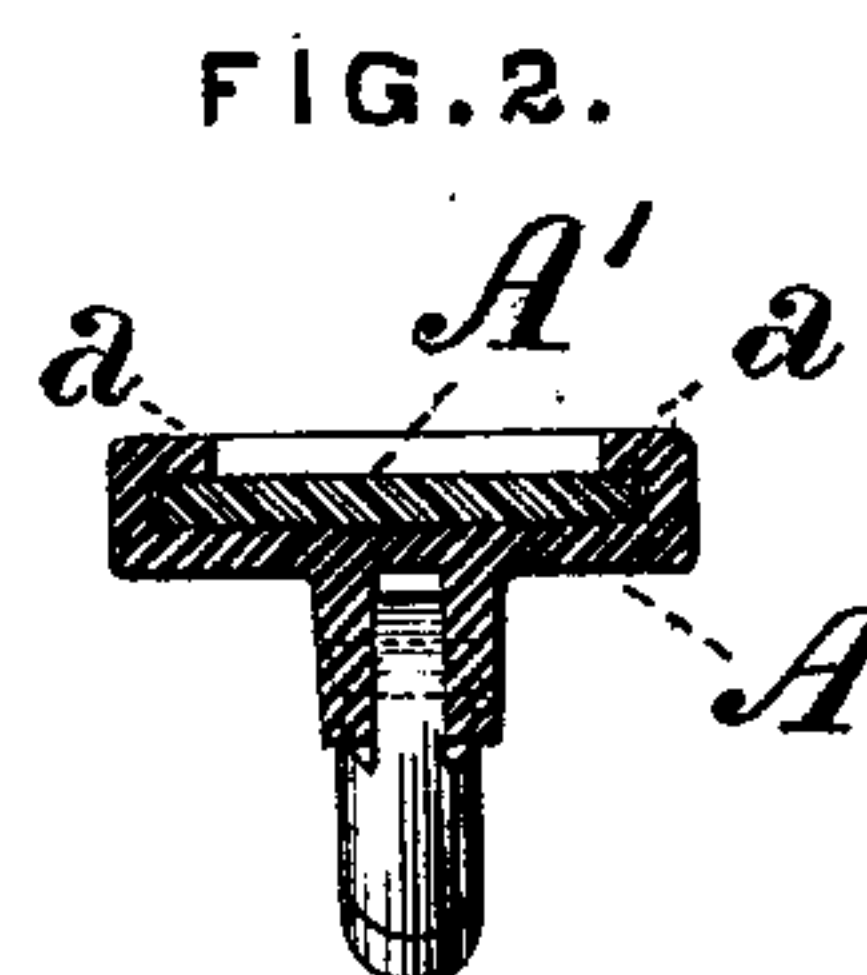


FIG. 2.

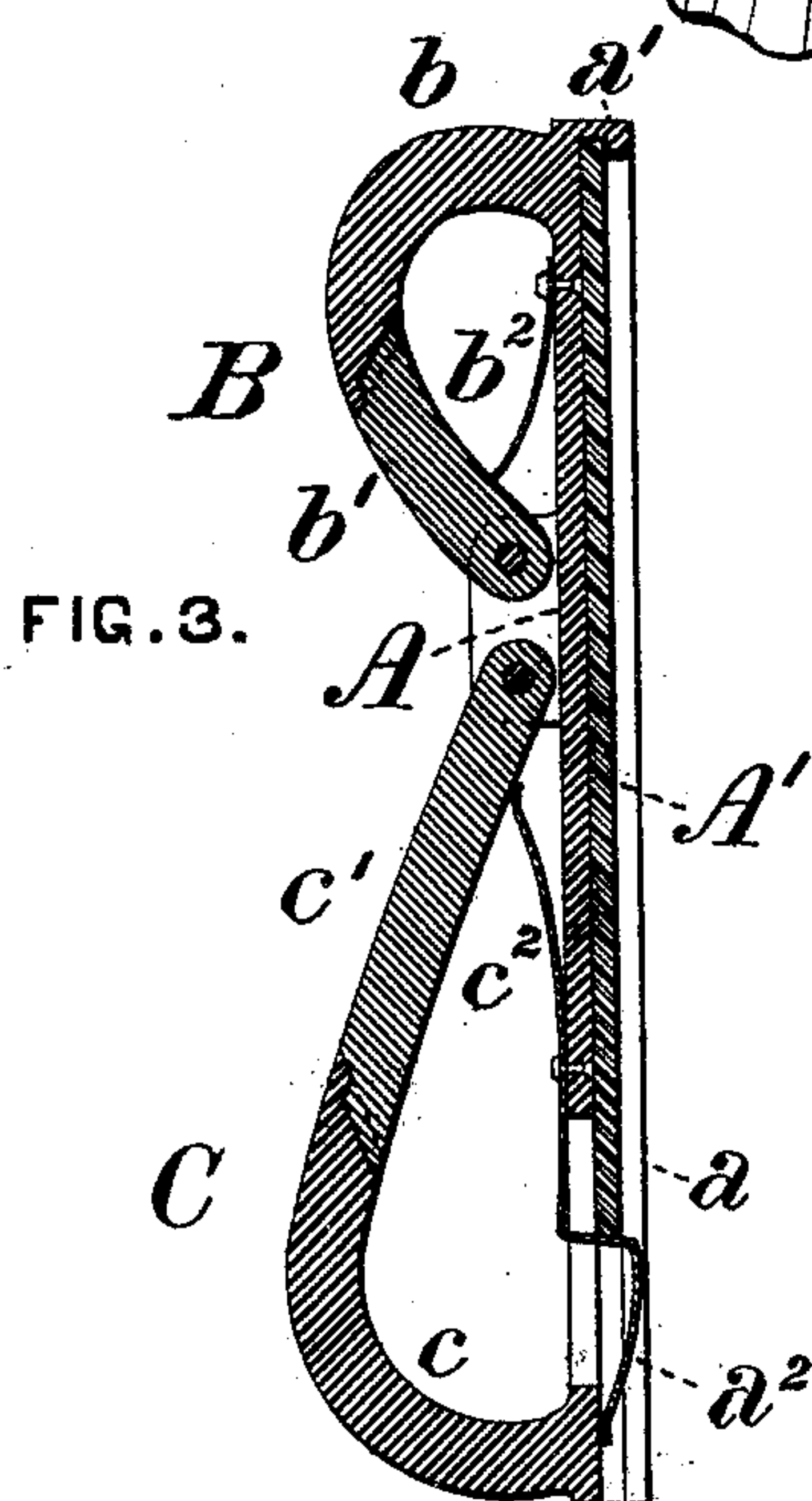


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

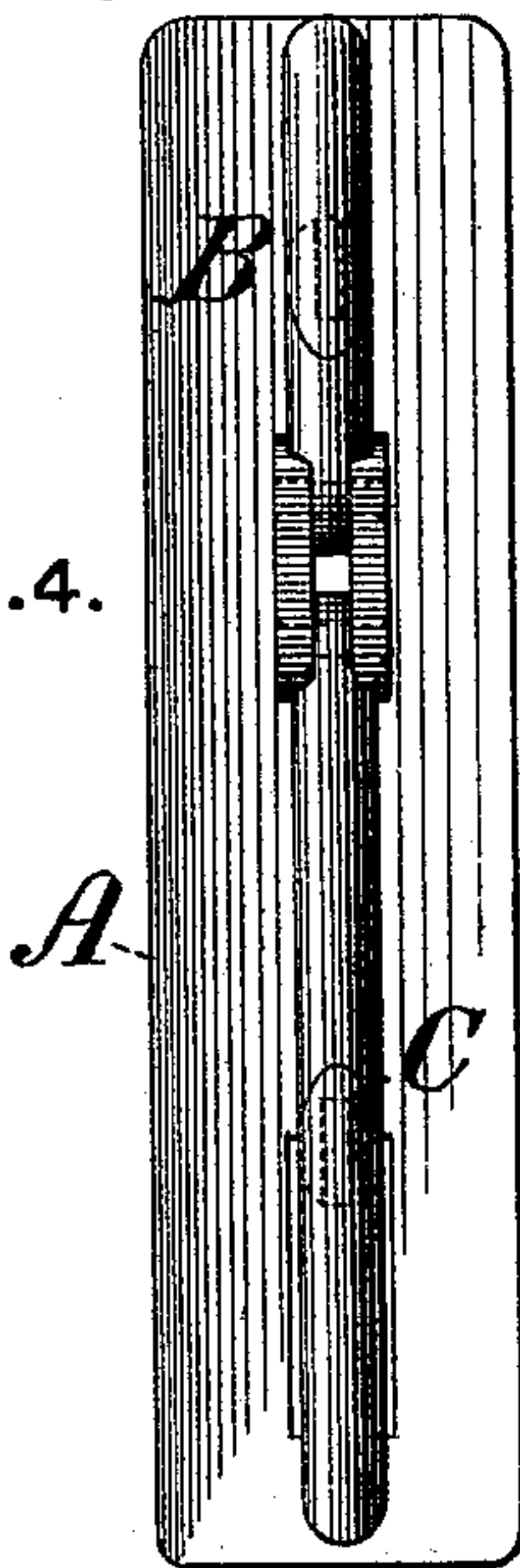
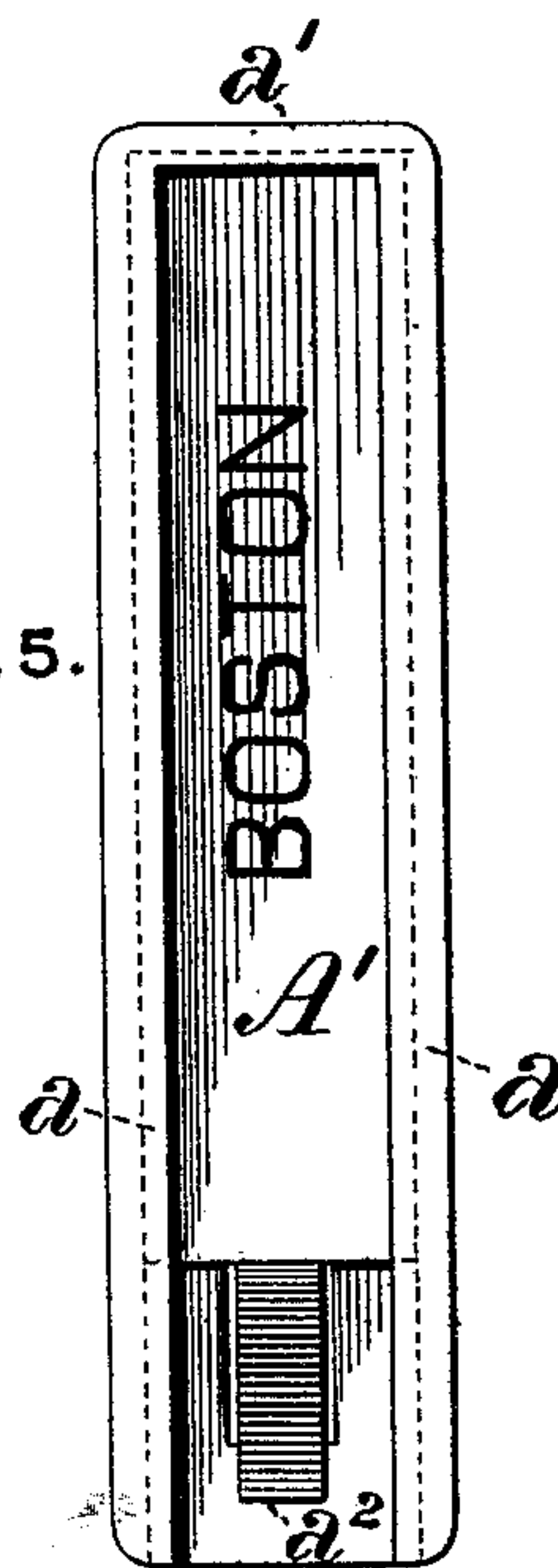


FIG. 5.



WITNESSES.

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INVENTORS.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. McKELVEY AND ROBERT J. McKELVEY, OF ROCHESTER, ASSIGNORS
OF ONE-THIRD OF THEIR RIGHT TO GEORGE H. FOX, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

LABEL-HOLDER FOR MAIL-BAGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 229,628, dated July 6, 1880.

Application filed May 17, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN W. McKELVEY and ROBERT J. McKELVEY, both of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Label-Holders for Mail-Bags, of which improvements the following is a specification.

The object of our invention is to provide a simple and convenient device for connecting direction labels or tags to mail-bags, by the use of which the label may be quickly attached to and removed from the bag and securely retained thereon as long as desired, with the further advantage of dispensing with twine or analogous fastenings; to which end our improvements consist in the combination of a plate having longitudinal flanges or side guides to receive a paper or pasteboard label, a spring-catch to retain the label in position in the plate, and a snap-hook, constructed as described, for connecting the plate to the fastening-cord of a mail-bag.

Our improvements further consist in the combination, with a flanged plate suited to receive and retain a label, of two snap-hooks, constructed as described, one of which serves for attachment to a mail-bag cord, and the other to receive a wooden direction-tag. The improvements claimed are hereinafter fully set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view, in perspective, of a label-holder embodying our improvements connected to the mouth of a mail-bag; Fig. 2, a transverse section, and Fig. 3 a longitudinal central section, through the same; and Figs. 4 and 5, plan views of the same, taken from opposite sides, respectively.

To carry out our invention we provide a light plate, A, preferably of good cast or malleable iron, having a longitudinal flange or guide, *a*, upon each edge of one of its sides. The flanges *a* are, by preference, formed as shown in the section Fig. 2, each constituting a narrow lip extending above the plate sufficiently to admit of the insertion of a paper or pasteboard label, A', beneath it, and projecting transversely across the same for a sufficient distance to prevent the vertical displacement of the label with-

out covering so much of the surface of the latter as to conceal the direction which is written or printed thereon.

The label A' is retained in position longitudinally between a stop, *a'*, formed upon one end of the plate A, and a spring-catch, *a*², connected to the same near its opposite end, the spring-catch projecting above the plate for a distance about equal to the thickness of the label. When depressed by the operator in the act of sliding the label under the flanges *a* the catch *a*² yields and permits the label A' to slide over and past it, and as soon as relieved from pressure it springs back into position above the surface of the plate and retains the label securely between it and the end stop, *a'*, until again depressed simultaneously with the sliding outward of the label by the operator, who removes the same.

We have shown the catch *a*² as secured to the side of the plate A opposite to that on which the label is placed, and projecting through a slot in the plate to clamp the label, which arrangement we find a desirable one, as it admits of a smooth and unbroken surface for the reception of the label, and also permits the catch to be pressed down entirely clear of the same in insertion and removal.

The label-holder and its attached label are connected to the mail-bag by a snap-hook, B, consisting of a fixed arm, *b*, formed upon the back of the plate A, and projecting above the same far enough to allow of the easy passage of the fastening-cord B' of the mail-bag beneath it, and a pivoted arm, *b'*, the free end of which abuts against the end of the arm *b*, and is pressed up thereto with sufficient force to prevent accidental displacement by a spring, *b*². The meeting ends of the arms *b* and *b'* are preferably to be provided with an interlocking tongue and groove, to the end of retaining the parts more firmly in connection. The mobility of the arm *b'* admits of the ready attachment and detachment of the label-holder, and by dispensing with the temporary fastenings of twine now employed a material reduction, both in time and expense, is effected.

For the purpose of adapting our label-holders to use either with the present wooden tags

or with labels, as may be required, a supplemental snap-hook, C, may be provided, of proper dimensions to admit the perforated end of a tag, D. The snap-hook is of similar construction to that before described, consisting of a fixed arm, c, pivoted arm c', and spring c², and is located upon the end of the plate A opposite to that which carries the snap-hook B. When provided, as described, with the two snap-hooks B and C, the label-holder is adapted to receive either a tag or a label, or both, as may be required.

Our improvements, which are cheap and simple in construction and reliable in operation, enable the temporary expedients of tags and twine, which at present involve considerable expense, to be dispensed with, and, by the facility with which the label-holder, label, and mail-bag can be connected and disconnected, facilitate and economize the operations of the receipt and delivery of mail matter.

We claim as our invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, in a label-holder, of a flanged or lipped plate, a spring-catch, and a snap-hook having its fixed arm cast on or rigidly attached and the movable arm pivoted to said plate, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, in a label-holder, of a plate, a device for removably attaching a label, and two independent snap-hooks, each having its fixed arm cast on or rigidly attached and its movable arm pivoted to said plate, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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ROBERT J. McKELVEY.

Witnesses:

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WM. H. MILLS.