(No Model.)

G. E. W. HERBERT.

Animal Pokes.

No. 234,871. Patented Nov. 30, 1880.

Fig. 1

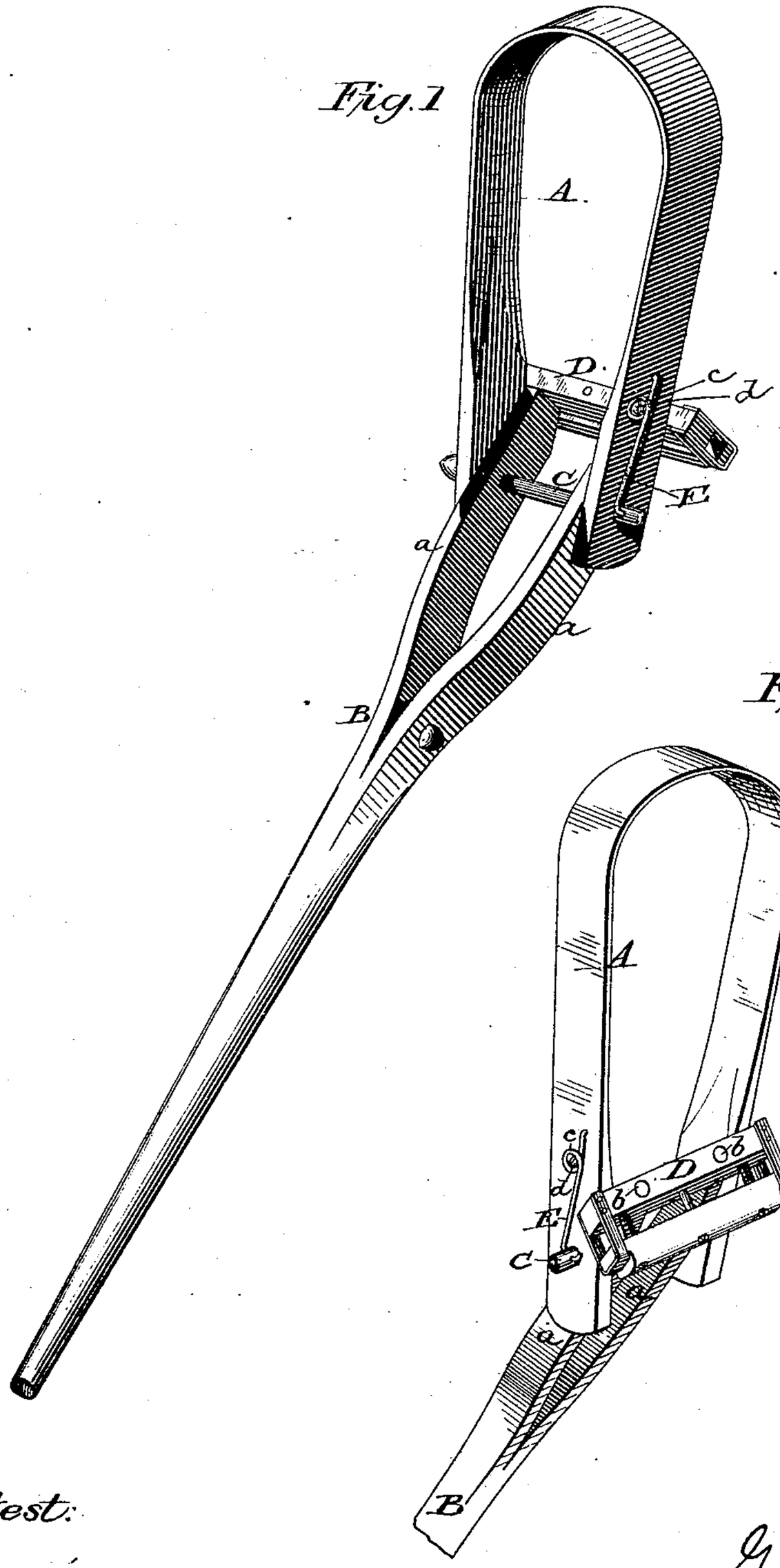

Fig. 2.

Attest:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE E. W. HERBERT, OF COHOCTON, NEW YORK.

ANIMAL-POKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 234,871, dated November 30, 1880.

Application filed March 6, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE E. W. HERBERT, of Cohocton, in the county of Steuben and State of New York, have invented certain Improvements in Animal-Pokes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to that class of animal-pokes in which a stale is pivoted in the lower end of the bow, and provided with a cross-head arranged to bear against the rear side of the bow; and the improvements consist in providing the poke with a stale having its upper end split and spread in the form of a fork, and furnished with a cross-head arranged to bear against the back of the bow, and from or through which head project pricking devices, whereby all wrenching or twisting of the stale or head is prevented, the bow spread apart at the lower side, and a proper action of the parts insured.

In the accompanying drawings, Figures 1 and 2 represent perspective views of my improved device, taken, respectively, from the front and rear sides of the same.

In pokes of this class, in which the stale is furnished with a cross-head arranged to bear directly against the back of the bow, a great strain is brought upon the cross-head and its tenon connecting it with the stale, for the reason that any resistance with which the stale may meet is applied or received at the lower end of a long lever having its fulcrum on the connecting-bolt close to the cross-head. This strain not unfrequently breaks off the tenon by which the cross-head is attached, and renders the device worthless. Moreover, when a single tenon is employed and a single point of bearing on the bolt secured, the stale is liable to a wrenching or twisting strain, and the lower part of the bow, which fits upon the largest part of the animal's neck, is brought so close together as to render its use objectionable. To overcome these defects without perceptibly increasing the weight of the device or adding to its expense constitutes the first object of my invention; and to this end I construct the device as shown in the drawings, in which A represents the bow, and B the stale pivoted to the bow by a transverse pin or bolt, C.

As more clearly indicated in Fig. 1, the stale is split for a short distance at its upper end, forming two arms, *a*, the upper extremities of which are formed or fashioned into tenons *b*, fitting closely in mortises in a cross-head, D. It will be observed that the cross-head D extends beyond the sides of the bow A, and bears directly against the back of the same, this arrangement being necessary in order to maintain the stale in proper position.

By the above arrangement the cross-head is connected with the stale at two points at a considerable distance apart and close to the sides of the bow, thus giving greater strength and preventing a wrenching or twisting strain on the stale. The spreading of the stale also causes a spreading apart of the lower ends of the bow, giving to the latter a more desirable shape than it would otherwise possess, and also brings the strain of the stale upon the bolt or pin C close to the sides of the bow, thereby avoiding all danger of bending or breaking said pin.

The cross-head D may be furnished with any suitable pricking device, either such as shown, or in any of the well-known forms in use or patented—as, for instance, one consisting simply of needles secured to the yoke and arranged to project through the cross-head, the latter in that case serving as a shield.

In the drawings I have represented a cheap and convenient means of securing the pivotal bolt or pin C against accidental removal. Such pins are commonly held by a wire pin or key passing transversely through the bolt outside of the bow; but such a device is objectionable in that the pin or key is liable to be lost in removing or replacing it, or by dropping out, thus rendering the poke for the time being useless. Instead, therefore, of employing a detachable or removable pin, I provide a permanent spring fastening-hook, E, constructed of wire or a narrow strip of metal, and secured to the side of the bow. The end of the spring-catch E may be bent and passed through the outer end of the pin or bolt C, as shown, or the latter may formed with a circumferential groove, and the catch adapted and arranged to engage therein.

The catch E is formed of a single piece of wire or spring metal having its upper end bent and seated in the side of the bow, and is

furnished near said end with a coil or turn, *c*, which serves both to give greater elasticity to the fastening and to receive a fastening-screw, *d*.

I am aware that a poke has been patented in which was shown a stale having its upper end split or divided and spread to receive a rolling head-block, and that a divided stale without a head-block of any kind has been proposed; but I am not aware that such a stale has ever been provided with a head-block bearing against the back of the bow, and it is in such a combination that the split stale possesses its greatest advantages over the ordinary form.

I am aware that pins provided with spring-catches have been patented, and that a spring-catch of the form shown is not new; hence I lay no claim thereto.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

As an improved article of manufacture, the poke consisting of the bow A, split or divided stale B, pivoted thereto, cross-head mounted upon the arms *a a*, and arranged to bear directly against the back of the bow, and pricking devices projecting from or through the cross-head, as described.

GEORGE E. W. HERBERT.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM W. DODGE,

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