

(No Model.)

J. C. HENDRICKS.

FIRE ESCAPE.

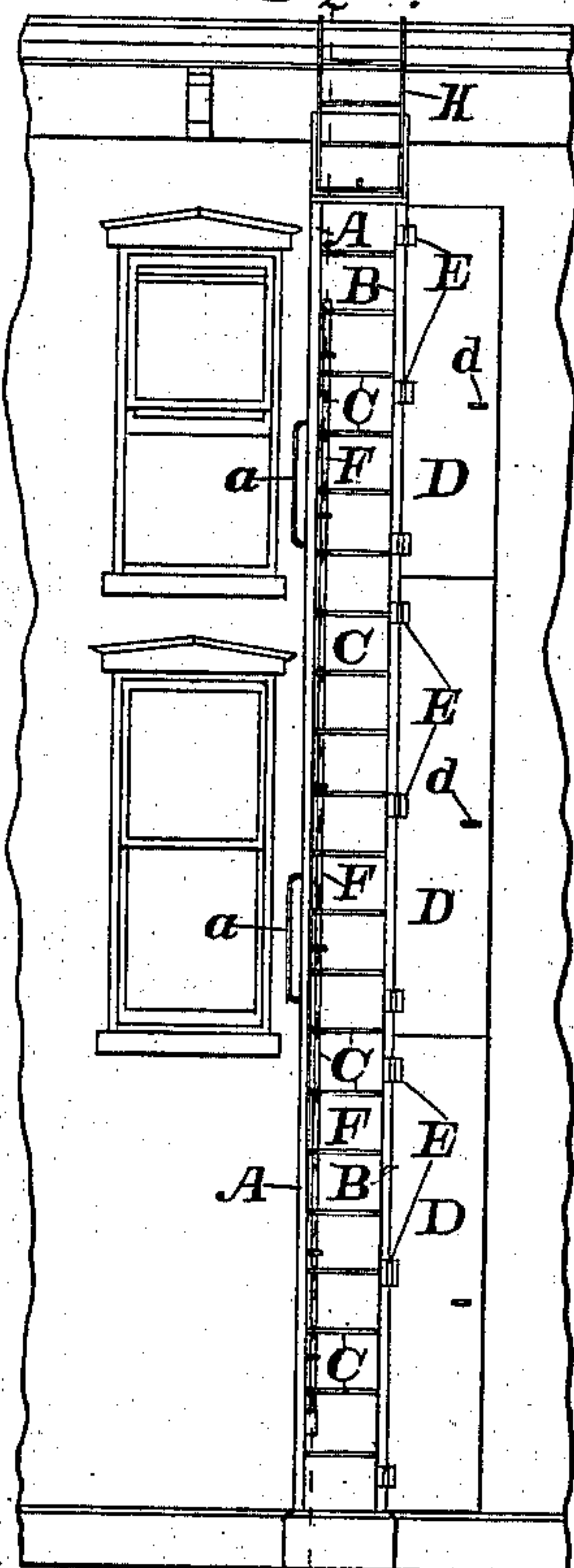
No. 257,867.

Patented May 16, 1882.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



WITNESSES.

Chas. N. Leonard.

Chas. L. Thurber.

Fig. 3.

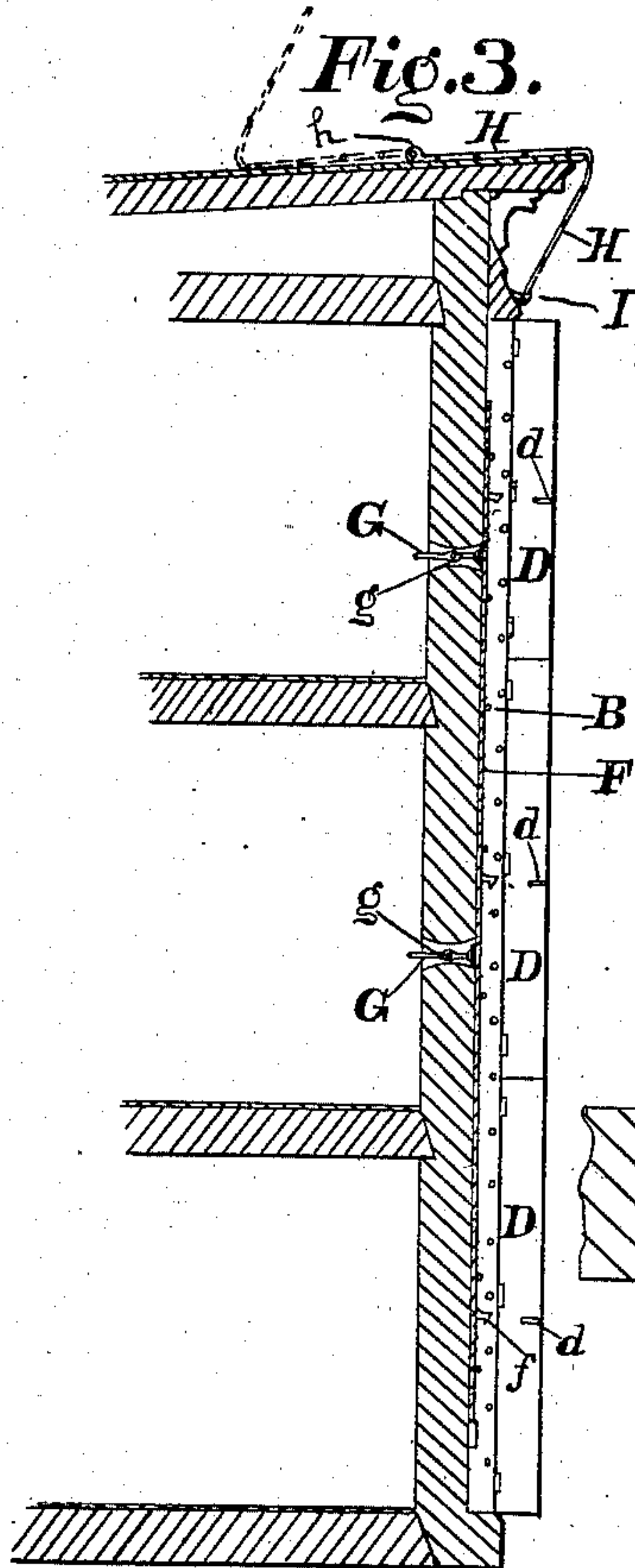


Fig. 4.

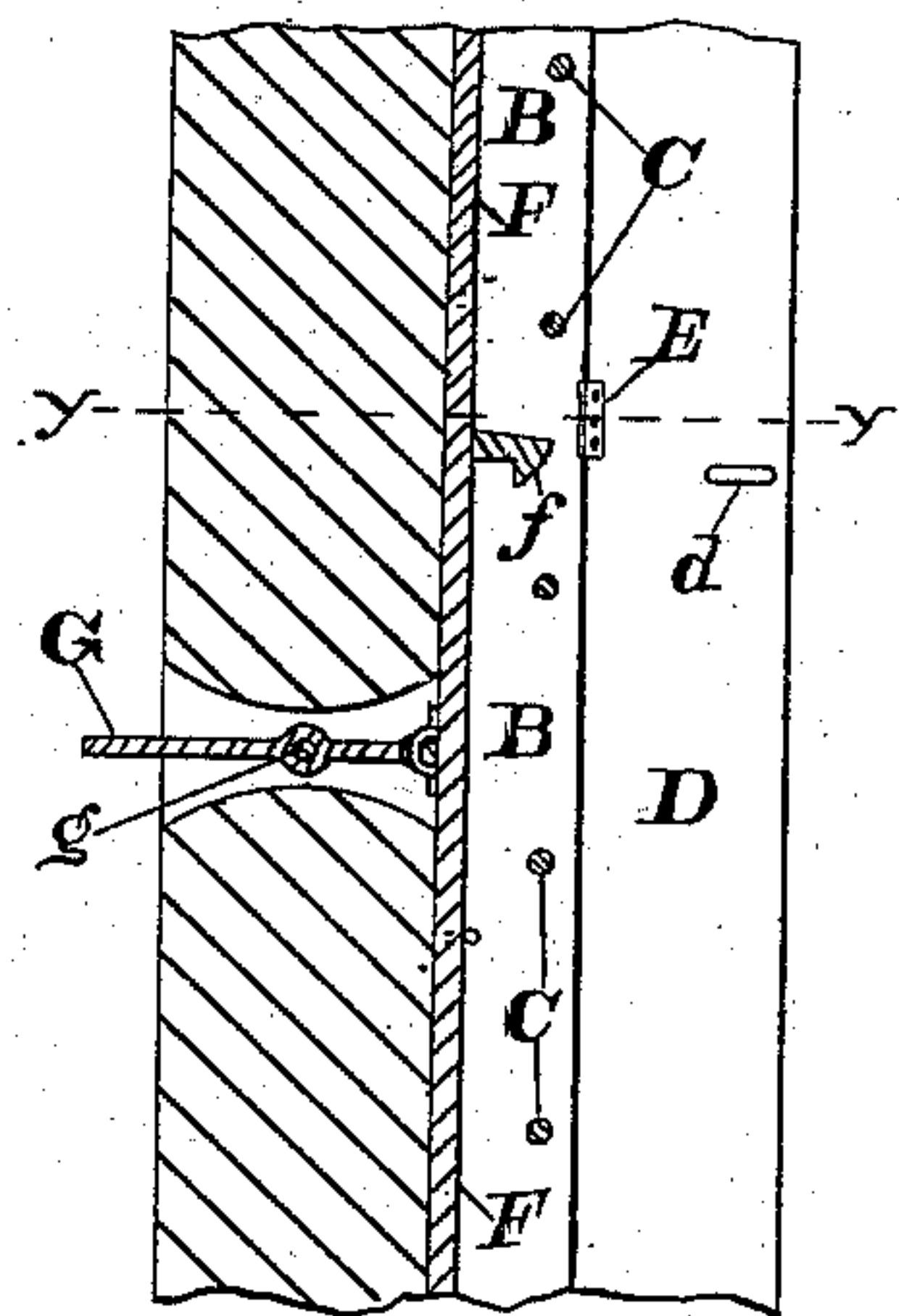
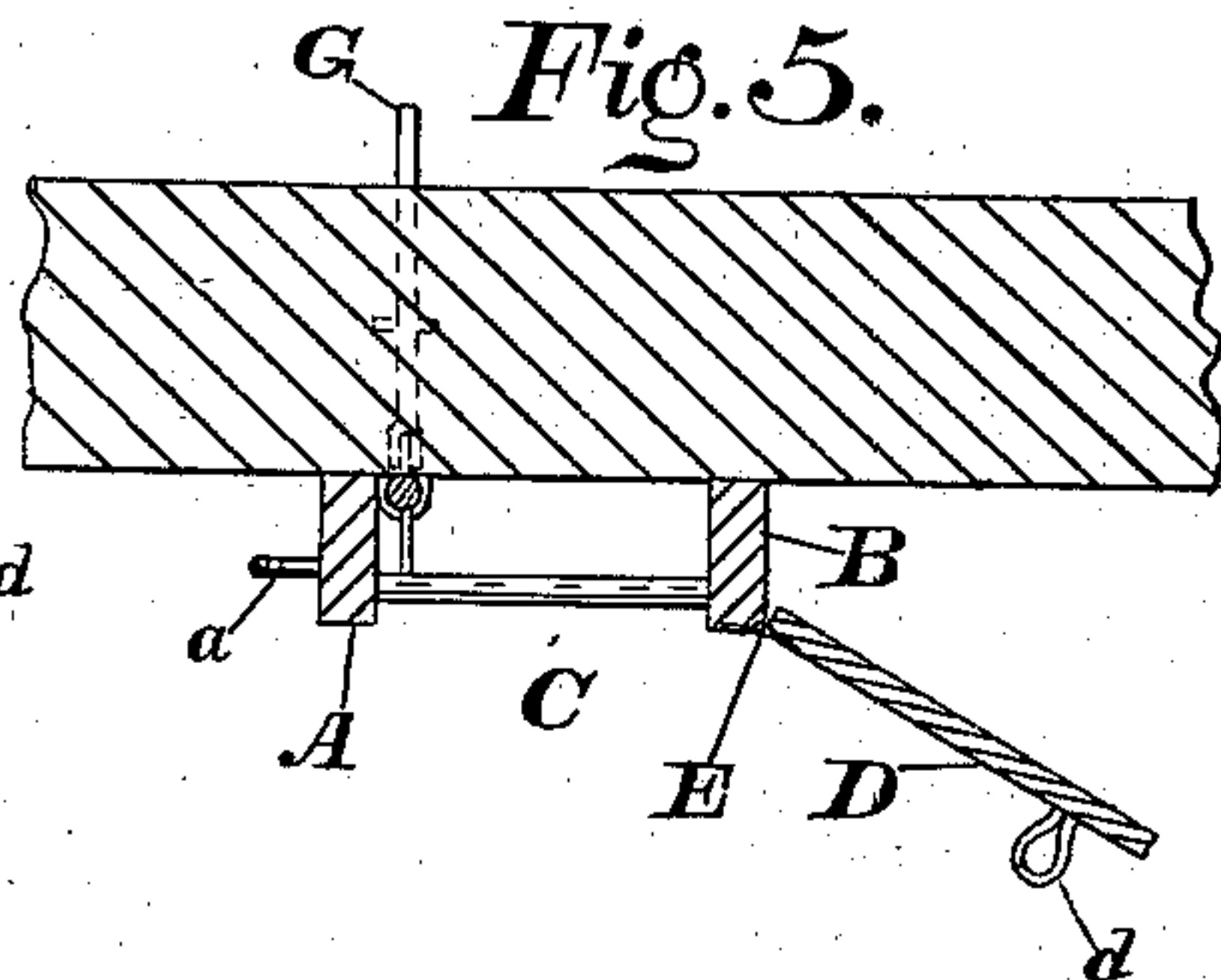


Fig. 5.



INVENTOR.

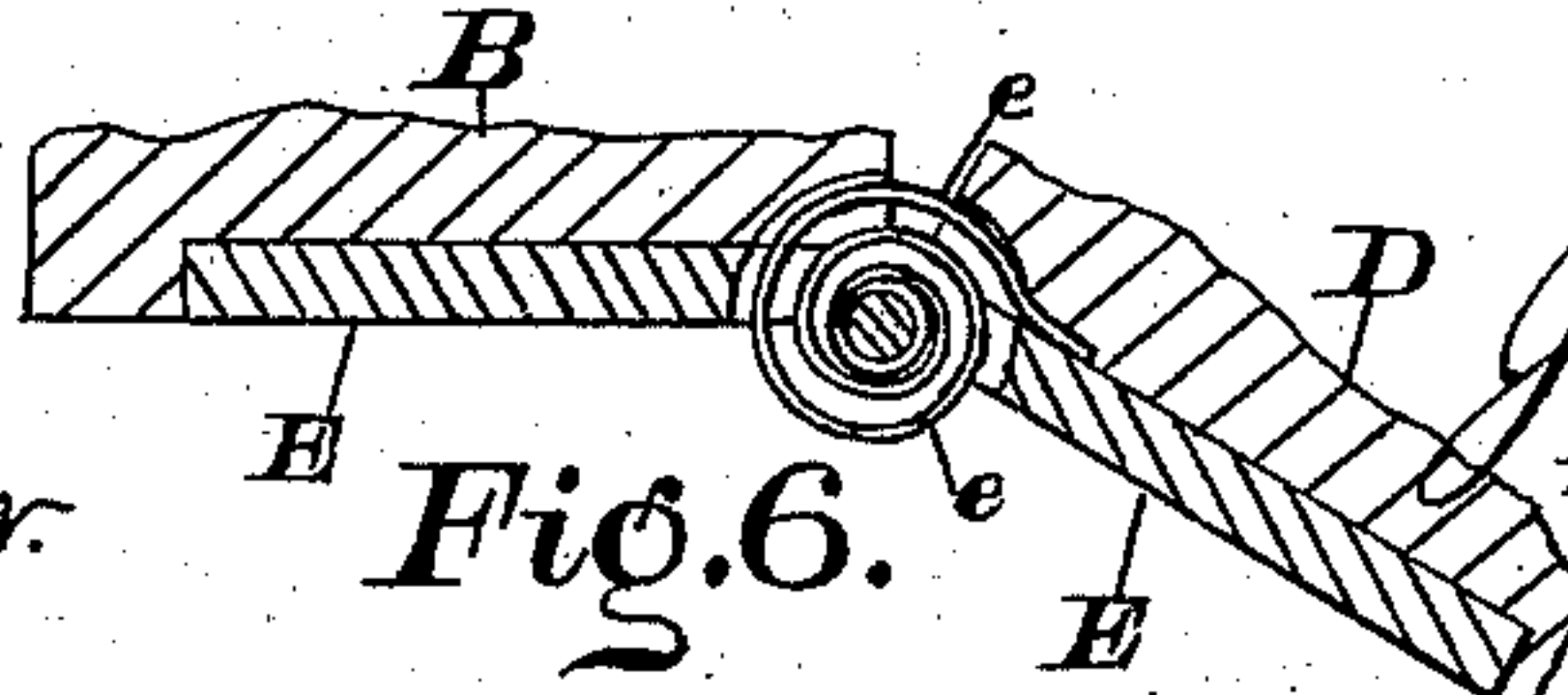
James C. Hendricks,

PER

C. Bradford,

ATTORNEY.

Fig. 6.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES C. HENDRICKS, OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 257,867, dated May 16, 1882.

Application filed March 21, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES C. HENDRICKS, of the city of Indianapolis, county of Marion, and State of Indiana, have invented certain
5 new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my said invention is to provide a safe and effectual means of escape from buildings in case of fire, which shall be capable of
10 being readily put in condition for use from the inside of the building by the occupants, but which shall not afford a means of ingress from the outside, except when purposely put in that condition. This object is accomplished by pro-
15 viding a ladder, attaching the same permanently to the wall of the building, and inclosing the same by a door or doors which shall be capable of being at once opened from the inside of the building by a person upon any
20 of the floors thereof where it is desirable that there should be such accommodations.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, which are made a part hereof, and on which similar letters of reference indicate similar
25 parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a building provided with two of my improved fire-escapes, one being shown in its ordinary or closed condition and the other open and ready for use; Fig. 2, a front elevation of the same;
30 Fig. 3, a vertical section thereof on the dotted line *z z*; Fig. 4, an enlarged section on the same dotted line; Fig. 5, a horizontal section on the dotted line *y y*, and Fig. 6 a cross-section of a spring-hinge which is applicable
35 to use in this invention.

In said drawings, the portions marked A B represent the sides of the ladder; C, the rungs; D, the inclosing door or doors; E, the hinges thereto; F, a vertical rod for operating the
40 fastenings to said door or doors; G, a handle or lever by which said rod may be operated from the inside of the building, and H a supplemental ladder by which the roof can be reached.

45 The sides A B and rungs C of the ladder are similar to those of ordinary ladders. The sides are intended to be bolted securely to the wall of the building, so that the ladder will be able to sustain any load placed thereon.

50 The door D is formed, as shown, to inclose the ladder from bottom to top. It should be

constructed so as to appear from the outside like a pilaster or other similar part if attached to the front of the building, so as not to mar its appearance. When attached to a rear wall
55 it has the appearance of a wide flat tube, as it is usually constructed of galvanized iron or similar sheet metal. Each door is provided with one or more catches, *d*, by which it is held shut. As will be seen, these catches are not
60 accessible from the outside, and therefore cannot be unfastened from that position.

The hinges E serve the ordinary purpose of hinges in connecting the door D to the ladder-side B. They are preferably spring-hinges, so
65 that when the door is released it will fly open and thus remain, thus avoiding the possibility of its interfering with the use of the ladder. These hinges are shown in the drawings as being of that variety which has a coiled spring,
70 *e*, around the pintle; but any form of spring or weight attachment which will throw the door open when unfastened and thus hold it would be an equivalent for the form shown, so far as this invention is concerned.

75 The rod F is a vertical rod inside the ladder-rungs, next the wall of the building, and is provided with a suitable catch or catches to engage with that or those on the door or doors D. It is adapted to maintain its engagement
80 with said catches by its own weight, and to be disengaged by the operation of one of the handles or levers G.

The handles or levers G may be simply rods rigidly secured to the rod F and projecting
85 through the building to the inside, but are preferably in the form of a lever and pivoted, as at *g*.

In order to get onto or off from the roof, I provide a short ladder, H, and attach it to the
90 roof, preferably by hinge-like attachments *h*, which permit it to be thrown back in the position shown by the dotted line in Fig. 3 when not in use. This, being thrown down, engages with the (preferably spring) catch I, and thus
95 forms a safe and reliable continuation of the lower ladder.

If desired, there may be a fireman's lock upon this device, whereby firemen, being provided
100 with a special instrument or key for that purpose, may be able to operate the rod F, and so unfasten the doors from the outside. This will

not usually be found necessary, however, in my opinion.

The operation of my said invention is as follows: The ladder is secured to the side of the building and closed, as shown in Fig. 1. There being no means of opening the same from the outside, burglars or others cannot make use of the same to enter the building. When a fire occurs, however, by simply operating one of the handles or levers G (one of which should be on every floor) the catches on the door are disengaged, the door flies open, and persons on any of the floors can escape onto the ladder through the windows in the same manner that they could onto any other ladder, and down the ladder to the ground. It is desirable to attach a handle, *a*, to the side of the ladder, or to the window-frame alongside of each window, in order that persons unaccustomed to descending ladders may have a sure hold while climbing from the window to the ladder.

There should be posted upon the wall, near each lever or handle for operating this device, a printed notice setting forth the existence of the device, describing its construction, and giving instructions for its operation and use.

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

30 1. A fire-escape for buildings, consisting of a common ladder attached permanently to the

wall, a door for inclosing the same, and means, substantially as described, for operating said door, whereby said operation can be effected from the inside of the building, substantially as set forth. 35

2. The combination, with a building, of a ladder, A B C, a door, D, therefor, a catch thereon, and a rod, F, provided with handles or levers extending to the inside of the building, whereby said catch mechanism can be operated from any one of several floors to release said door, substantially as set forth. 40

3. The combination, with a building, of a fire-escape consisting of a ladder, a door or doors therefor, mounted on spring-hinges, and mechanism, substantially as described, for fastening and releasing said door or doors, all substantially as set forth. 45

4. The combination, with an inclosed fire-escape ladder, as specified, of a supplemental roof-ladder, H, which is adapted to be thrown back or let down, substantially as described, and for the purposes specified. 50

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 16th day of March, A. D. 1882. 55

JAMES C. HENDRICKS. [L. S.]

In presence of—

C. BRADFORD,

CHAS. L. THURBER.