(No Model.)

A. S. TRAFTON.

FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 277,175. Patented May 8, 1883.

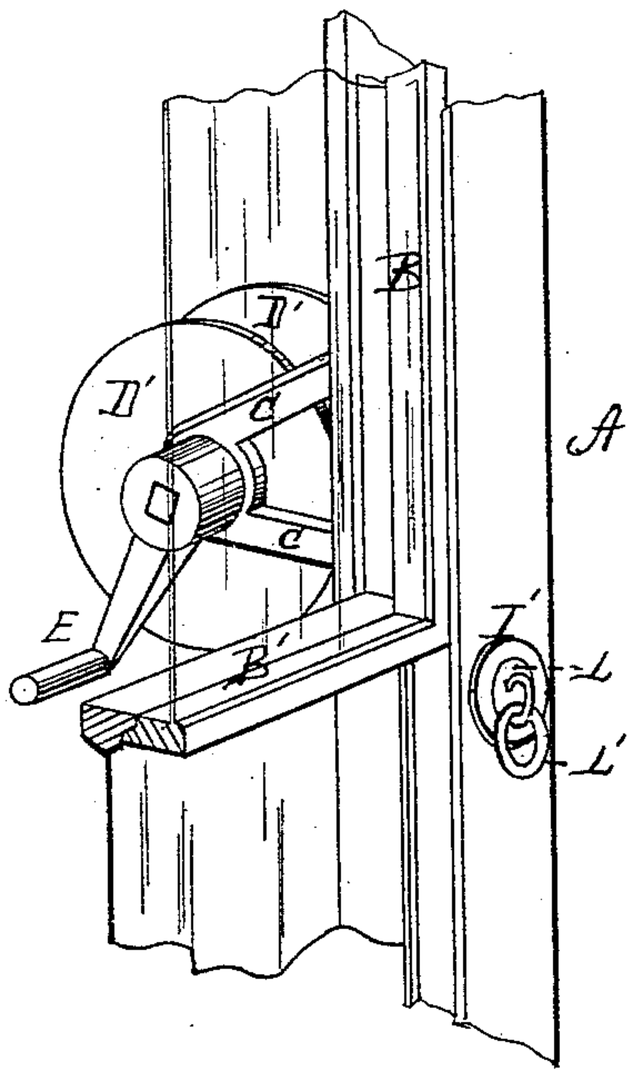

Fig. 1.

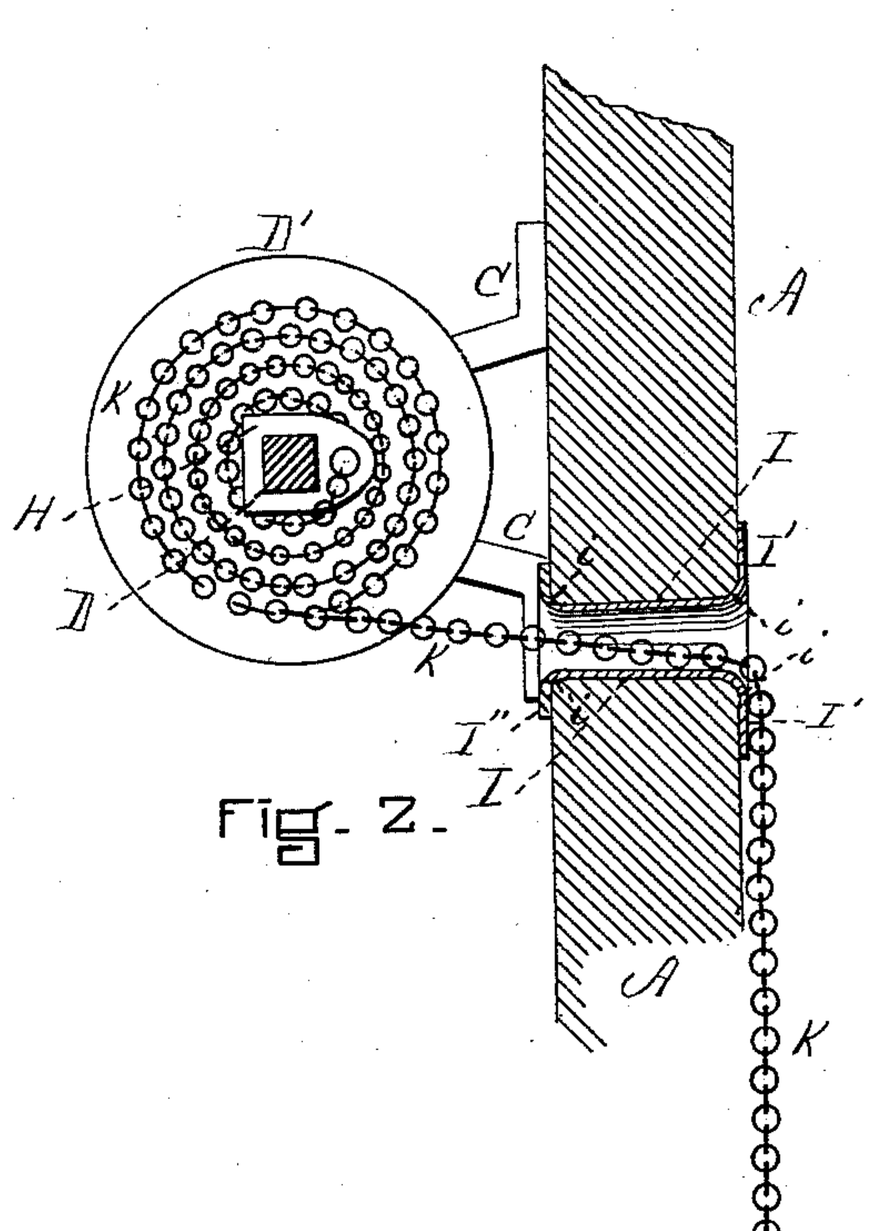

Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES

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FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,175, dated May 8, 1883.

Application filed February 24, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED S. TRAFTON, of Portsmouth, in the county of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, have invented new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

In the accompanying drawings, in which similar letters of reference indicate like parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention in position ready for use. Fig. 2 is a vertical section with the device in use. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section with the device unwound.

A represents a portion of the wall of a building, and B a portion of a window-frame set therein, B′ being the meeting-rails. In Fig. 1 the lower sash is represented as raised. Inside the building, near a window, and secured to the wall, preferably, are the brackets C, supporting a winch, of which D is the roller, D′ the flanges, and E the crank. The roller D is squared between the flanges D′, and placed upon it is the square link H, which necessarily rotates with it, but is sufficiently loose to slip sidewise upon it between the flanges D′. Set into a hole in the wall A, near the window, is a thimble, I, whose outer and inner plates, I′ I″, have enlarged openings, so that the thimble flares at its ends, producing rounded edges at *i*. A chain, K, is secured to the link H, passes into the thimble I, and is attached to a flexible plug or stopple, L, to which is secured a ring, L′.

Under ordinary circumstances the device is in the position shown in Fig. 1, with the chain wound upon the roller D, and the flexible plug L secured in position in the thimble I. Should a fire break out, the occupant of the room reaches out of the window and withdraws the plug L by means of the ring L′ and throws it off, when the chain K by its own weight rapidly unwinds until it reaches the ground. In Fig. 2 the chain is in the act of unwinding. The rounded edges *i* facilitate the easy progress of the chain, which, when it is unwound, is ready to be used as a fire-escape. Having served its purpose, it is ready for use again by simply drawing up the chain by turning the crank E and inserting the plug L in the thimble I. The flexibility of the plug, it being made preferably of rubber, prevents its accidental dropping from its place. The link H being free to play laterally, the chain is not liable to get caught while rapidly unwinding.

The thimble and plates I I′ I″ may be made in either two or three pieces.

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

1. The herein-described improved fire-escape consisting, essentially, of the following parts, viz: the winch D D′ E, secured within the building, a building-wall provided with a suitably-lined perforation near said winch, and a chain adapted to extend from said winch through the perforation, and terminating in a flexible plug, L, of shape to fit into said perforation, constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a fire-escape, the combination of the squared roller D, link H, thimble I, and chain K, provided with the flexible plug L, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. In a fire-escape, the combination, with the chain K, of the thimble and plates I I′ I″, rounded at *i*, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

ALFRED S. TRAFTON.

Witnesses:
HENRY W. WILLIAMS,
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