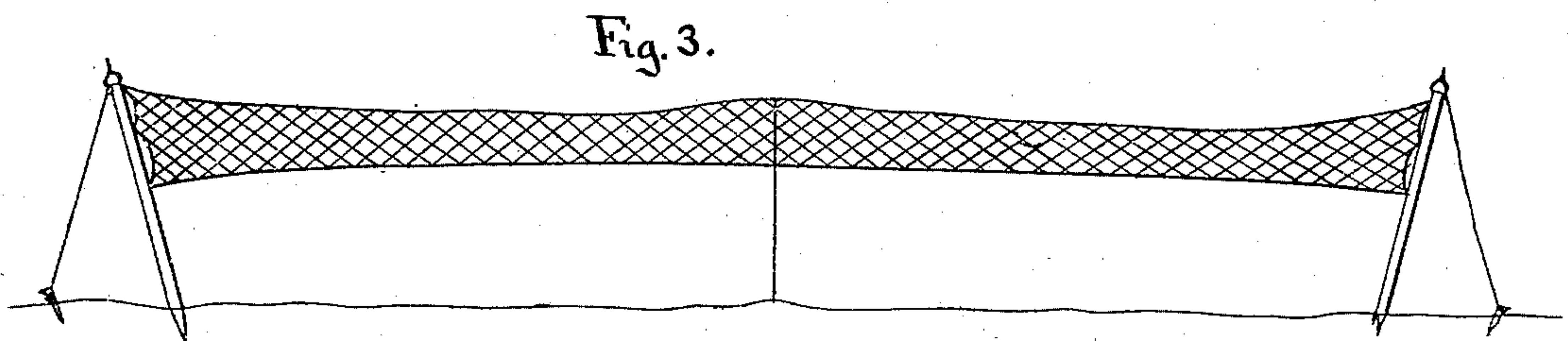
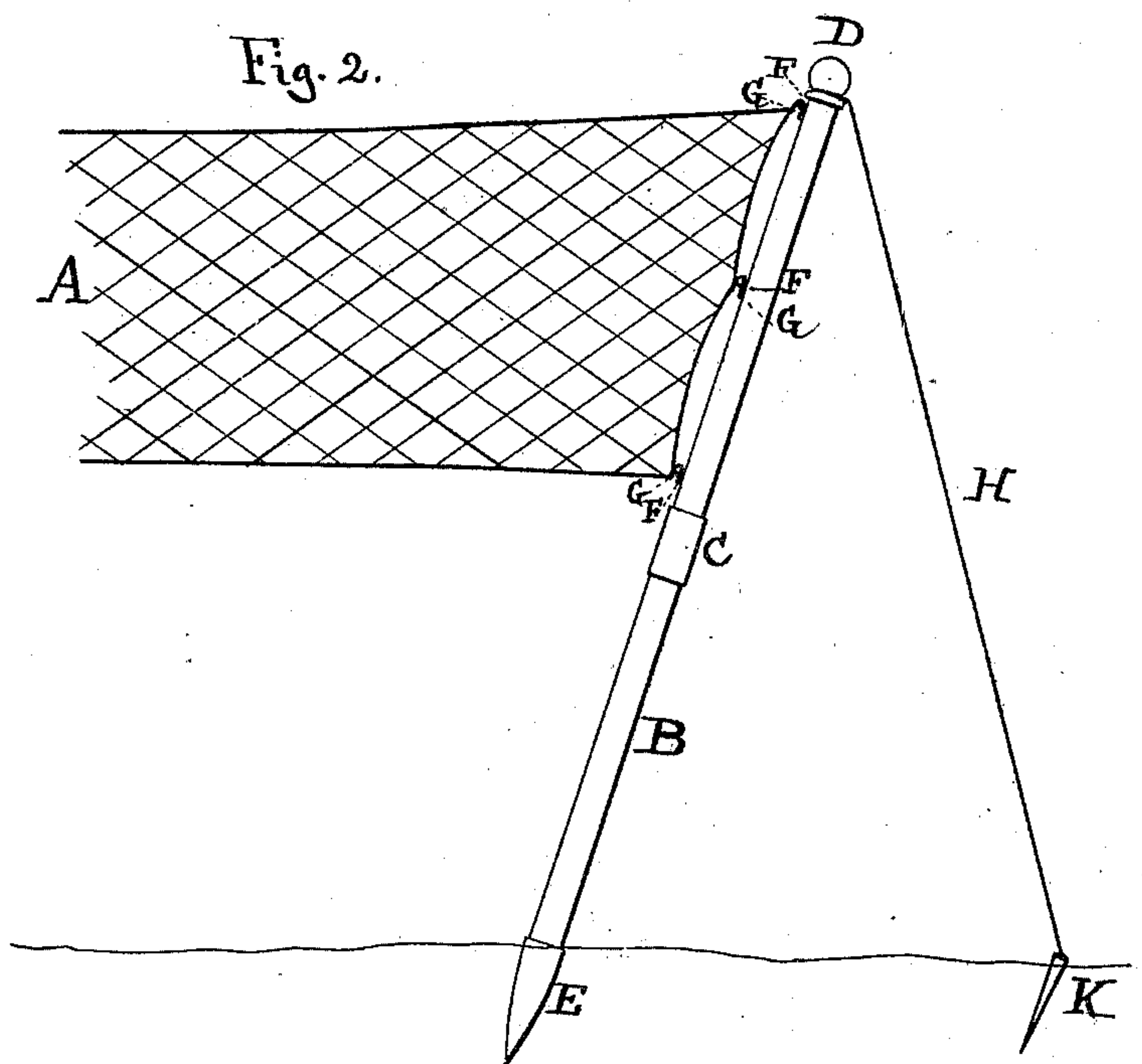
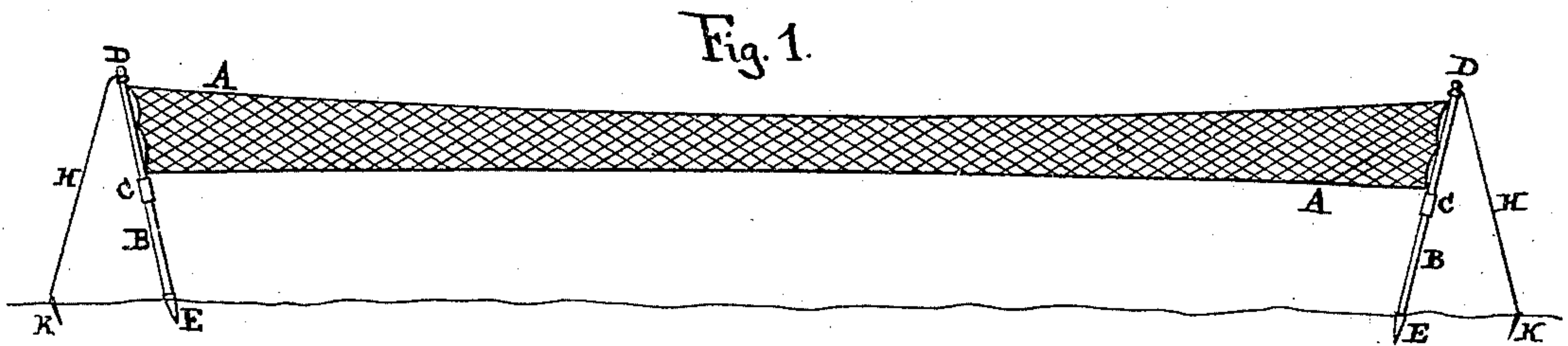


(No Model.)

S. CUNNINGHAM.
METAL LAWN TENNIS NET.

No. 277,551.

Patented May 15, 1883.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SEYMOUR CUNNINGHAM, OF TROY, NEW YORK.

METAL LAWN-TENNIS NET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,551, dated May 15, 1883.

Application filed February 23, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SEYMOUR CUNNINGHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Troy, in the county of Rensselaer and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Metal Lawn-Tennis Net, (and according to my knowledge and belief the same has not been in public use or on sale in the United States for more than two years prior to this application,) of which the following is a specification.

Previous to my invention, so far as I know, lawn-tennis nets have been made of wooden posts and hemp or other vegetable rope nets and guy-ropes, the whole being inseparable and unchangeable as to their parts. Such lawn-tennis nets are defective, because, first, the rope mesh and guy-ropes shrink and stretch, become stained, torn, and out of shape and position, and easily wear out; second, the net being injured in any part cannot be readjusted so as to place the injured part in a less essential position and a sound part in the most essential position; and, third, the posts are brittle and too long to be packed in a compass commensurate with the requirements of the other parts.

My invention covers each of these defects. It relates to improvements in lawn-tennis nets, in which the posts, nets, and guy-ropes are made of metal, and may be readily separated or put together; and the objects of my improvements are, first, to provide a lawn-tennis net of metal possessing the most strength and durability, with a due amount of pliability and lightness; second, to afford facilities for the placing and displacing of the net upon the posts in a reversible manner; and, third, to allow the easy separation of the whole into its component parts, and vice versa, to enable the net to be packed in a small compass. I attain these objects by the contrivance illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a face view of the entire net as it appears in position ready for use in the game of lawn-tennis; Fig. 2, a face view of either post and guy-rope and either end of the net, and showing the means of connection and disconnection between the same, both posts, both guy-ropes, and both ends of the net being similar; Fig. 3, a face view of the old net commonly

now in use, likewise in position ready for use.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

In Fig. 1 the net A A is to be of wire, of such mesh as will allow clear vision through the spaces, and at the same time give sufficient strength and pliability, and of length, breadth, and shape to conform to the rules of the game of lawn-tennis.

In Fig. 2 the post B is made of iron tube of suitable size, weight, and strength, galvanized or otherwise protected, and may be molded, painted, or otherwise decorated. The post is to be of two pieces, of nearly or quite equal length, joined by a screw-joint, C, surmounted by an ornamental top, D, which may be made of wood or metal, and either fitted by a thread or in the shape of a conic plug, and the post to be fitted at the lower end with a pointed iron shoe, E, which may be either screwed or plugged into the post, and which will enable the quick and firm adjustment of the post in the ground. Upon the post B there are eyes or rings F F, fastened in any manner to keep them securely in place, and upon the end of the net are corresponding hooks, G G, which, fitting into the rings in the post, quickly secure the net and the post together. The hooks are made with a swivel-joint, which, while it will facilitate the hooking and unhooking of the net, will make it easy to fit the net to the posts with either edge of the net uppermost. If the net should in any way become injured or broken on either edge, more regard being had in the play of the game to the maintenance of a true and straight line at the uppermost edge of the net, the defect could be remedied and the usefulness of the net continued by adjusting it to the posts with the best edge uppermost. The net being of wire, also, will prove to remain in the truest shape and condition throughout and for the longest time possible, which is a prime essential, not for the appearance only, but for the accurate and certain play of the game of lawn-tennis; also, in Fig. 2 there is represented either guy-rope H, to be of wire rope or brass chain for strength and appearance, and which is fastened to the top of the post B, and has a pin, K, attached to the lower end of the guy-rope, to be pressed

or driven into the ground to secure the guy-rope taut.

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

5 1. The metal lawn-tennis net, including the posts, net, and guy-ropes hereinbefore described.

2. The combination of swivel-joint hooks upon the ends of the net, fitting into rings

upon the posts which support the net proper in such manner that the net may be reversed by easy adjustment.

3. The divisible post, capable of being packed in small compass, all substantially as set forth.

SEYMOUR CUNNINGHAM.

Witnesses:

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