

(No Model.)

C. W. FOSTER.
GARMENT CLASP.

No. 277,700.

Patented May 15, 1883.

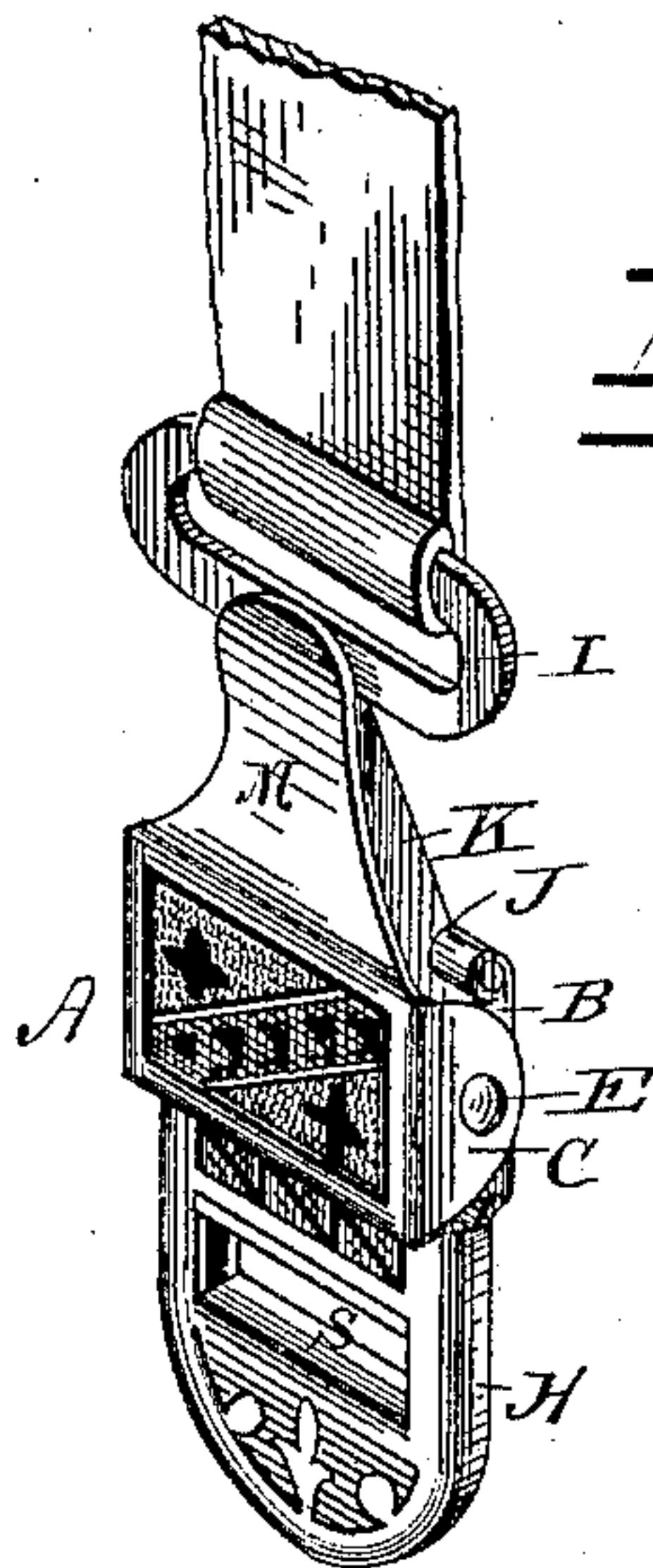


Fig. 1

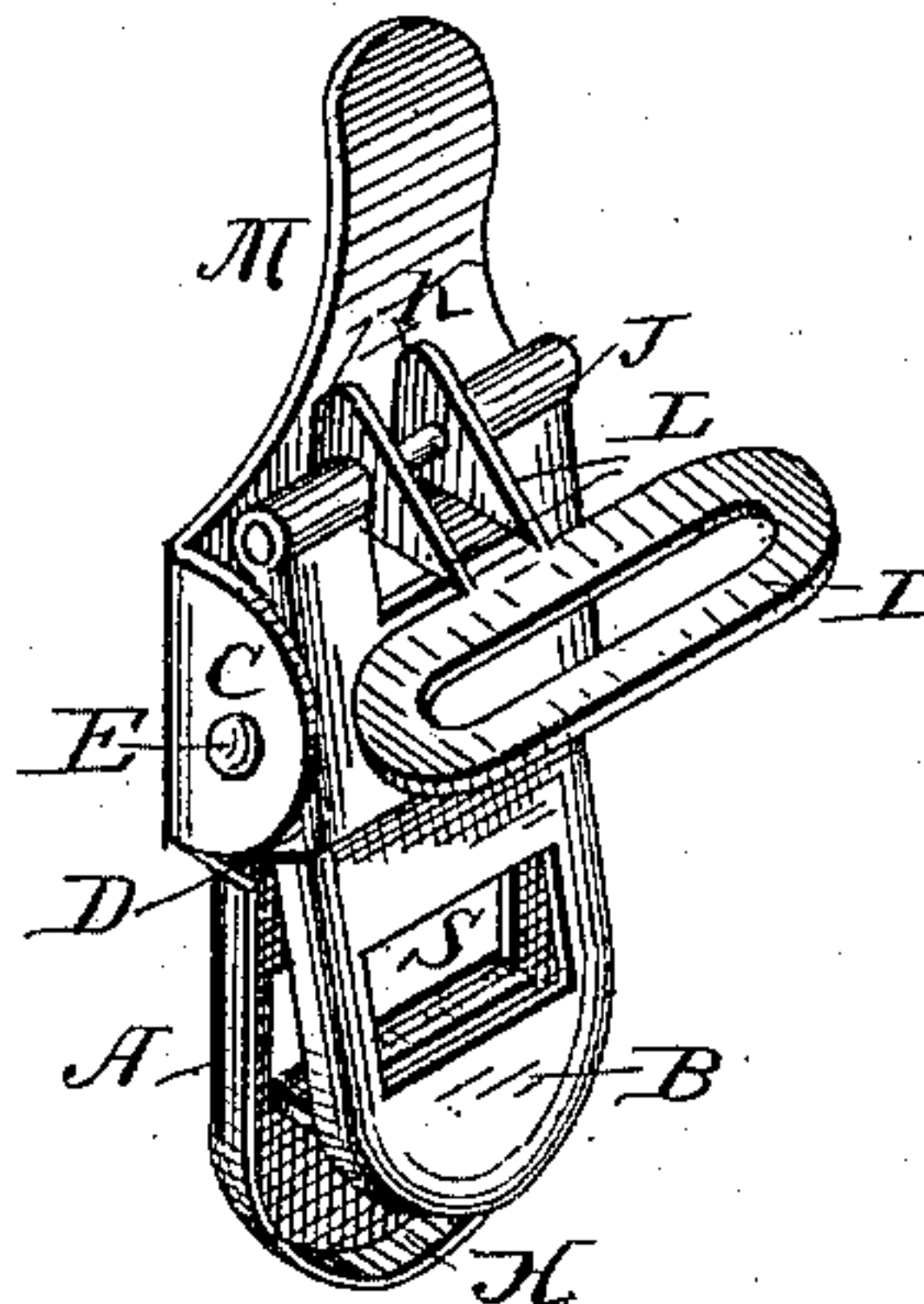
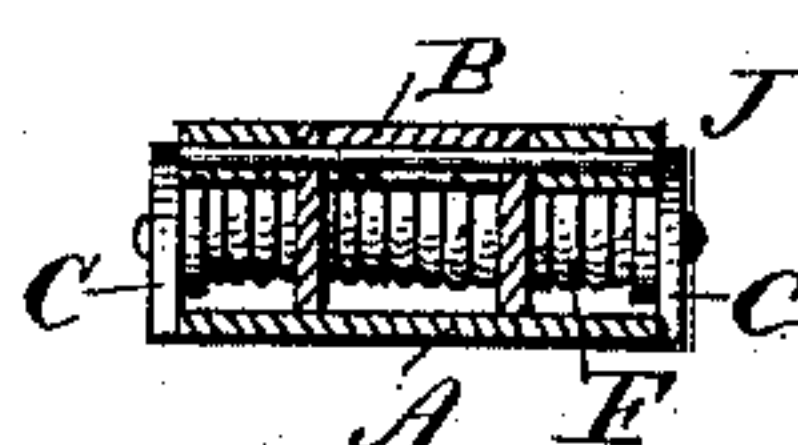
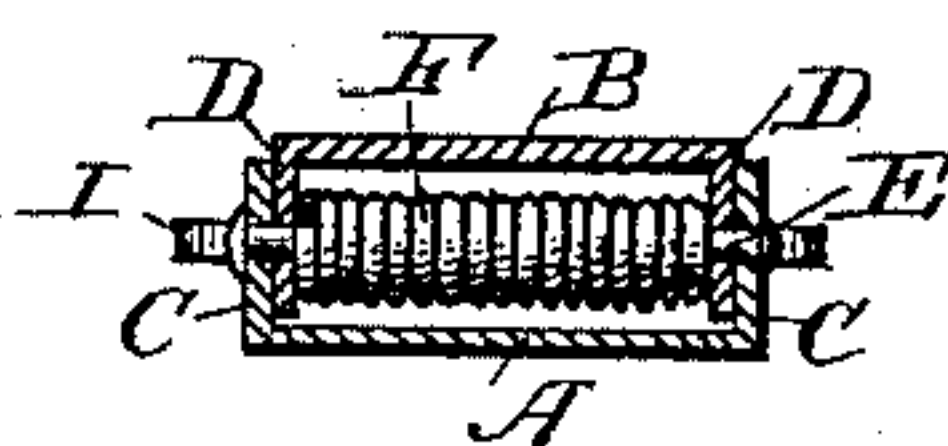
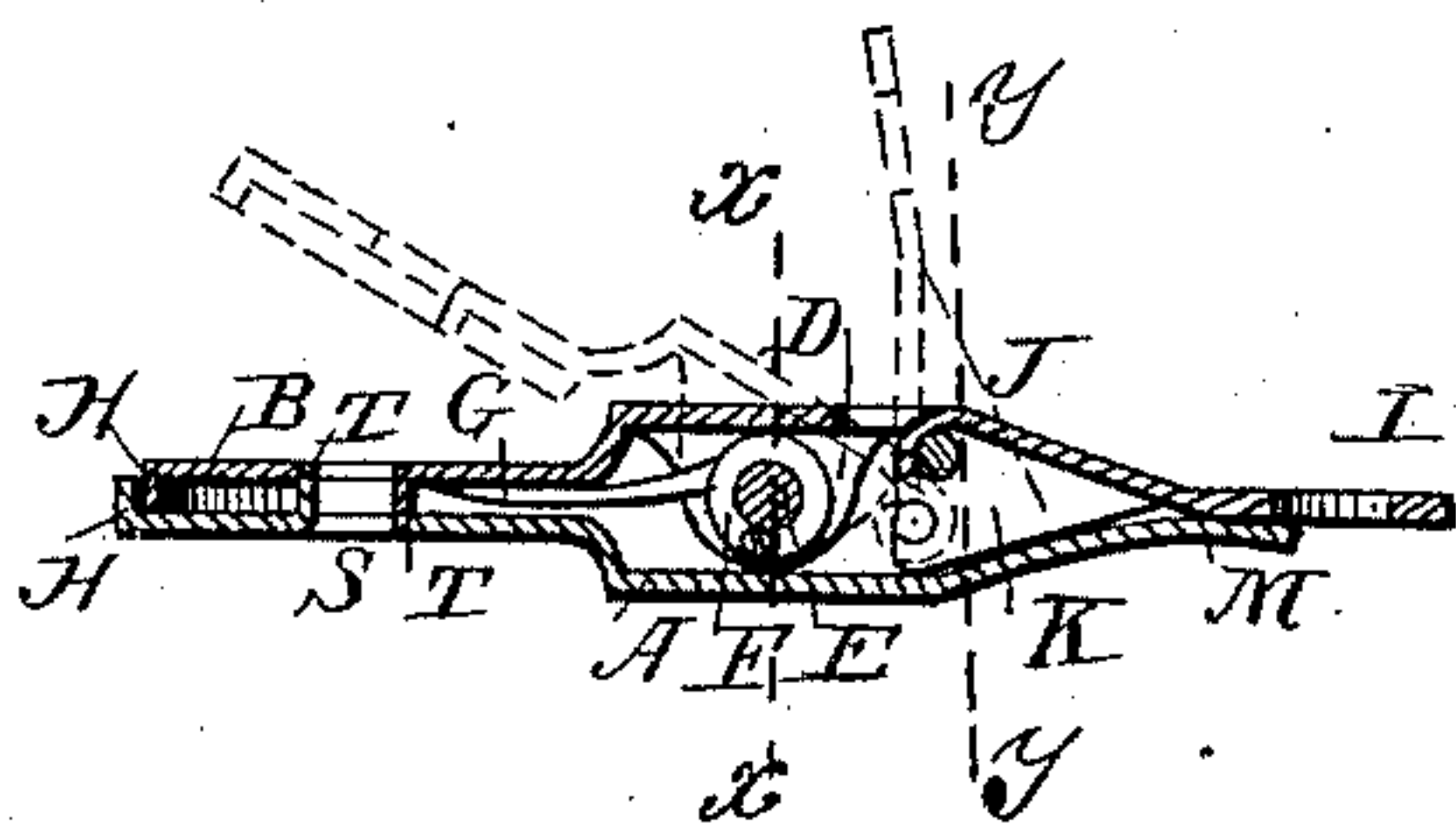


Fig. 2

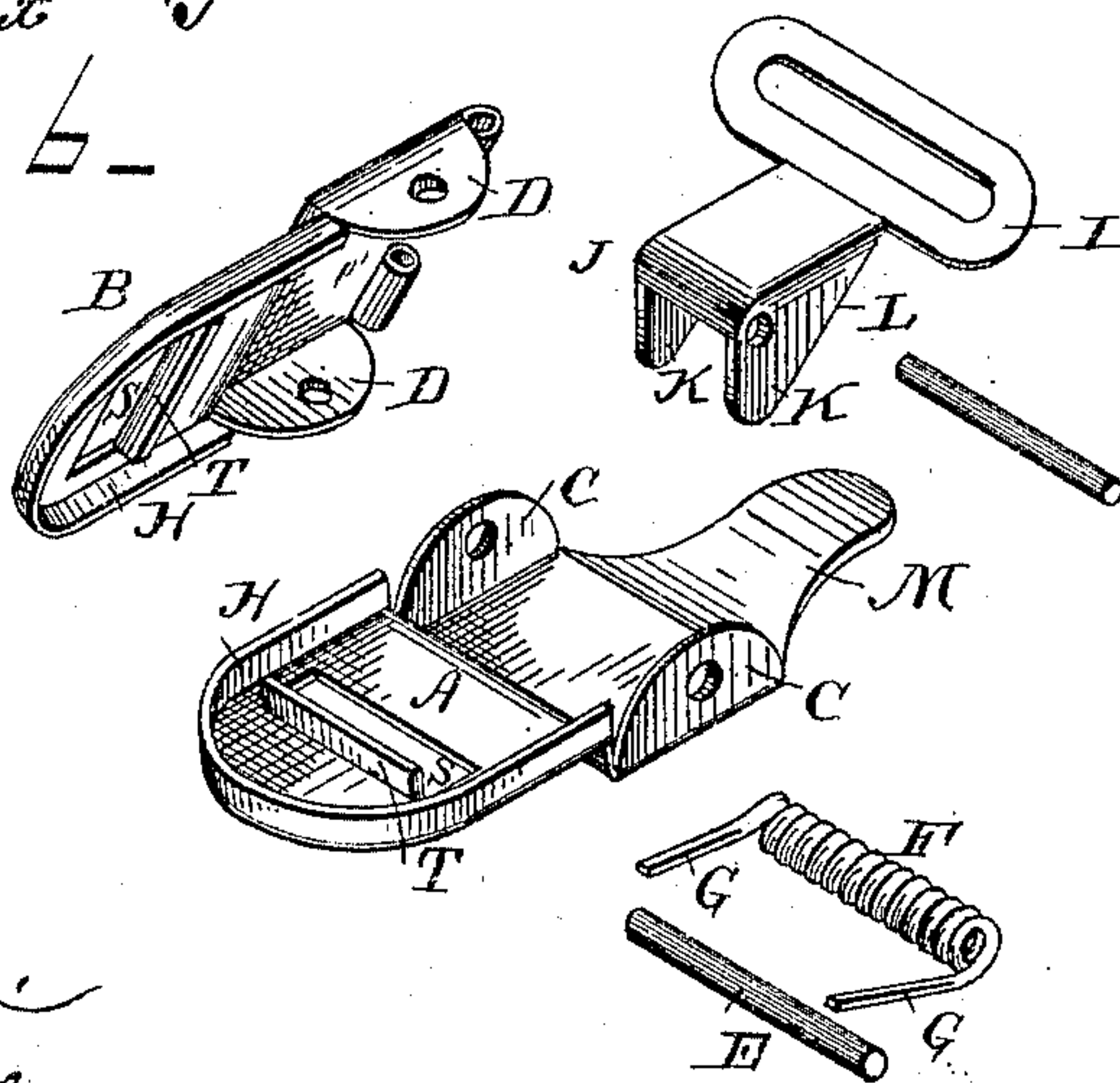
Fig. 3.

Fig. 4

Fig. 5



III-6-



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. FOSTER, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

GARMENT-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 277,700, dated May 15, 1883.

Application filed December 9, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES W. FOSTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Garment-Clasp, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to garment clasps, and has for its object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient clasp that can be more conveniently operated, and that will not tear or damage the garment in any way, and of such a construction that presents no points or edges liable to engagement with the apparel.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved clasp. Fig. 2 is a like view of the same with its jaws open. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 4 is a transverse sectional view on the line *x x*, Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a like view on the line *y y*, Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the parts comprising my improved clasp separated.

Referring to the drawings, A and B designate the jaws of my clasp, each of which is formed with a flange, C D, respectively, that is bent at right angles to the body of the jaw. These flanges or extensions at each side of the jaws constitute the sides of the clasp, and the flanges D D of jaw B are preferably inclosed by the flanges C C of jaw A, as shown.

E is the transverse pivot-pin that passes through the flanges C D and forms the fulcrum of the lever-jaw B.

Around the fulcrum-pin E is coiled a spring, F, having its two ends both extending in the same direction and bearing against the interior face of the clamping end or mouth of the jaws, whereby the spring serves to force the mouth of the jaws open. The two ends G G of the spring F are protected and prevented from tearing or damaging the fabric that is clamped by the jaws by reason of a flange or extension, H, that extends around the edges of the jaws at the mouth of the clasp. This flange H also binds into the fabric and secures the clasp; but, if desired, the portion of the flange running across the front edge of the mouth may be serrated to impart additional tenacity.

To operate the lever-jaw B conveniently, an

operating-lever, I, is hinged or pivoted to the rear edge of the said jaw, as at J, and has a moving fulcrum formed by two inwardly-extending flanges or extensions, K K, that have a beveled edge, L, which bears against and slides on the main jaw A between the side flanges of the latter. Thus when the lever I is thrown out from the jaw A, as shown in Fig. 2 of the drawings, the jaws A and B are held open by the spring F, ready to engage the fabric; but by throwing the lever I toward the jaw A the fulcrum of the lever operating its pivotal connection with the lever-jaw B causes the latter to bind against the jaw A to clamp the fabric. Besides operating the lever-jaw B, the lever I also serves to secure the clasp to its elastic or other retaining fabric, the latter being secured to the lever at its rear end, and also serves as a means, if desired, for operating the lever.

The rear end, M, of the main jaw A is curved inwardly, so as to be near the lever I when the latter is in position for binding the jaws together.

The operation and advantages of my invention are obvious.

The device is very simple and efficient, and it can be manipulated with superior convenience.

It will be observed that the jaws A B are provided with openings S in their clamping ends, each of which has an intumed flange, T, that extends through the opening of the other jaw, as shown. These flanges T fit snugly against the edge of the opening through which they pass, so as to securely clamp and bind the fabric, and these flanges T greatly increase the tenacity and efficiency of my improved clasp.

I claim as my invention—

1. A garment-clasp comprising a main jaw, a lever-jaw pivoted thereto, a spring arranged to exert its tension to force the jaws apart, and a lever for operating the lever-jaw, hinged or pivoted to the latter, and having two inwardly-extending flanges or extensions forming a fulcrum bearing against the main jaw, which latter also serves to secure the clasp to the retaining fabric, as set forth.

2. A garment-clasp comprising a main jaw, having its rear end curved inwardly, a lever-jaw pivoted to the main jaw, a spring having

both its ends extending in the same direction and bearing against the jaws at their mouth to force them apart, and a lever for operating the lever-jaw, hinged or pivoted to the latter, 5 and having side flanges or extensions that extend inwardly and are provided with beveled edges which bear against the main jaw and provide a moving fulcrum for the lever, which latter also serves to secure the clasp to its retaining fabric, as set forth. 10

3. In a garment-clasp, the combination, with the main jaw and lever-jaw pivoted thereto, of a lever for operating the lever-jaw, hinged to the latter, and having a fulcrum against the 15 main jaw, and also having the fabric to which the clasp is secured affixed to the rear end of this operating-lever, as set forth.

4. As an improvement in garment-clasps, the combination of a main jaw, a lever clamp-

ing-jaw fulcrumed thereto, a coiled spring 20 having both its ends exerting their tension against the interior faces of the jaws at their clamping ends to force the same apart, and an operating-lever hinged on the rear edge of the lever-jaw, and provided with two inwardly- 25 extending flanges that slide on the inner surface of the main jaw and form a fulcrum for the operating-lever, the latter being arranged to secure the clasp to its retaining fabric, as set forth. 30

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHAS. W. FOSTER.

Witnesses

A. F. FOSTER,
A. W. DUDLEY.