(No Model.)

L. STIERINGER.

SUPPORT FOR ELECTRIC LIGHT CONDUCTORS.

No. 278,465. Patented May 29, 1883.

Fig. 1.

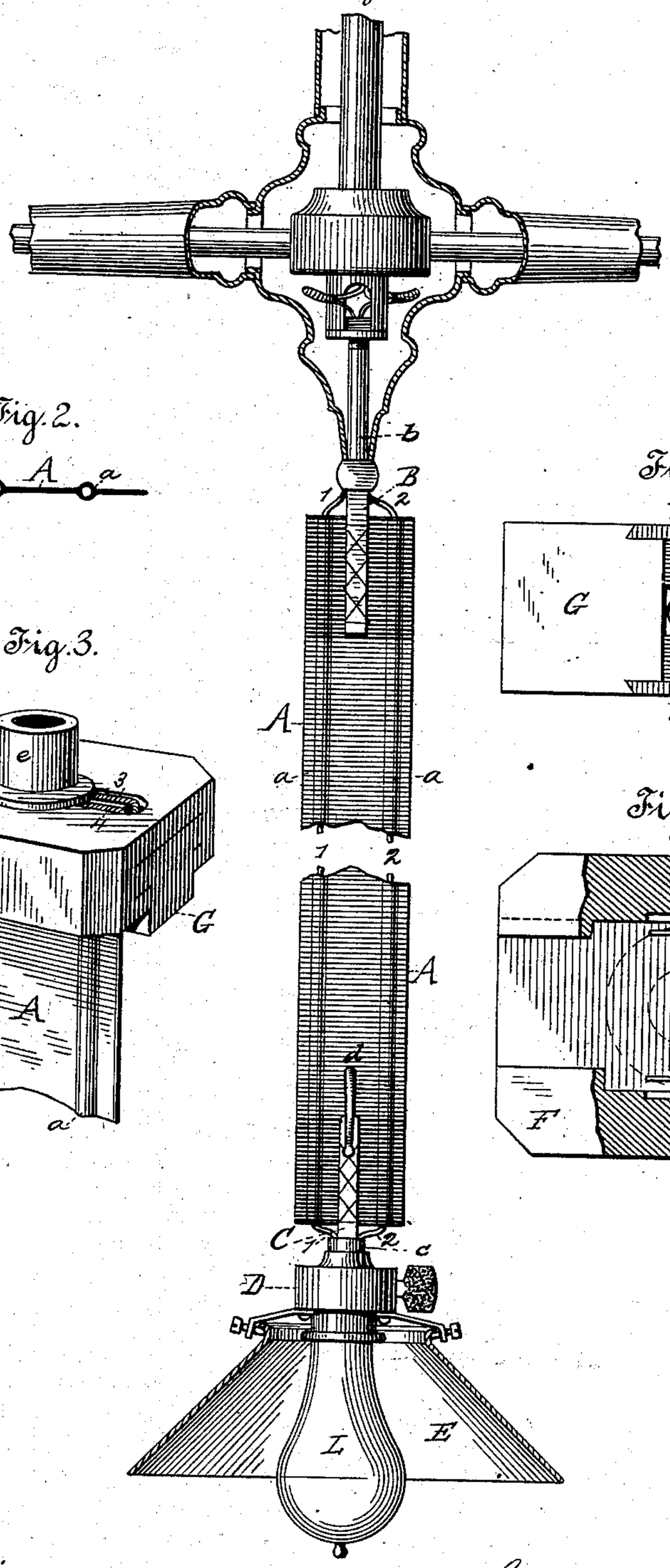


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.

Fig. 4.

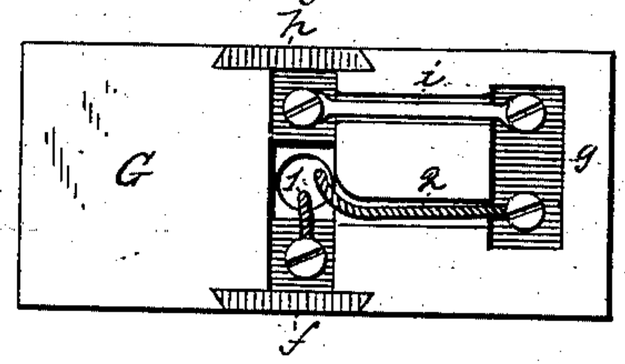
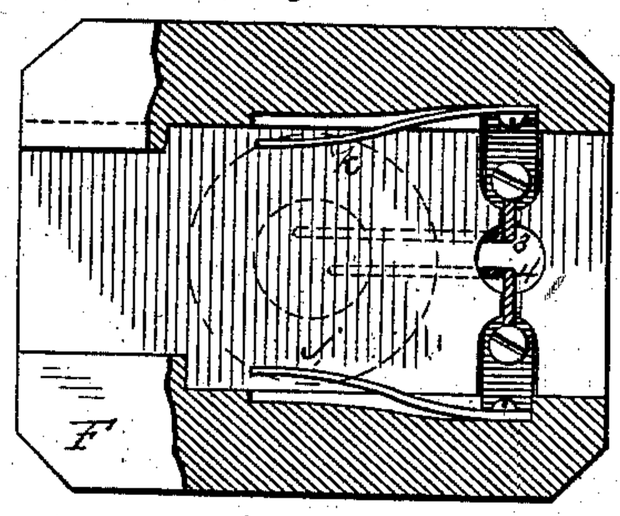


Fig. 5.



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LUTHER STIERINGER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

SUPPORT FOR ELECTRIC-LIGHT CONDUCTORS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,465, dated May 29, 1883.

Application filed March 15, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUTHER STIERINGER, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Electrical Fixtures, of which the following is a specification.

The object I have in view is to produce a flexible support or covering for electric conductors, more especially designed for use with wires for electric-light purposes, and particularly adapted to form pendent drops or fixtures for such lights, which support will serve as a securing or connecting material, taking all the strain from the wires, and will be strong and durable, and capable of being itself ornamented or of receiving ornamentation, and will prevent the kinking of the wires.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation and partial vertical section of the lower part of a chandelier having a drop-light connection embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a cross-section of the flexible wire-supporting material; Fig. 3, a perspective view of a separable ceiling-joint, with the flexible wire-support used as a pendent fixture; and Figs. 4 and 5, detail views of the two parts of the ceiling-joint.

Like letters denote corresponding parts in all the figures.

A is a supporting material, which is preferably flat, as shown, and is preferably a webbing made of woven, knit, or braided fabric. The conducting-wires 1 2, which are preferably insulated wires, pass through tubes *a a* in the webbing A, formed by sewing, or made in the process of manufacturing the webbing. For a drop-light the webbing has secured to its ends forked metal pieces B C, which are attached to tubes *b c*, into which the insulated wires 1 2 from the webbing pass. The lower tube, *c*, has a lamp-socket, D, screwed upon it, which carries the reversed incandescing electric lamp L and the shade E; or, instead of this lamp-socket, a chandelier-body may be secured to tube *c*, having two or more arms carrying sockets and electric lamps, and suitable wires connected with the main wires 1 2. The upper tube, *b*, is supported from the body of the fixture, as shown, and itself forms the support for the ornamental shell which covers the bottom of the fixture-body. The wires 1 2 pass through the tube *b*, and are secured, with the arm-wires of the chandelier, to the main chandelier-wires. Where this construction is not desired, the webbing may be attached to a wooden plug having lamp contact terminals, and adapted to turn into any lamp-socket of a chandelier, or into a socket located especially for the purpose at the center of the chandelier, the wires 1 2 of the webbing being connected with the terminals on the plug. The forked piece C is provided with a hook, *d*, by which the drop can be hung up, out of the way, to some part of the chandelier.

It will be understood that the weight of the lamp or lamps and accompanying parts is sustained by the webbing, the strain being transmitted from C to B through the webbing, and the conducting-wires being entirely relieved from strain. These wires, although shown, for clearness in the drawings, exposed to view at the ends of the webbing, will not be so exposed in practice, but will be brought together between the thicknesses of the webbing before being passed into the tubes *b c*.

The webbing, it will be seen, can be ornamented to any desired extent. For use as a separate pendent fixture it is desirable that means should be provided for readily connecting with and disconnecting from the ceiling-conductors. For this purpose I use the separable joint shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5. It is composed of a block, F, of wood, which may be secured to the ceiling by screws, or connected with the gas-piping by means of a thimble, *e*. This block has a dovetail groove or way cut in its face, in which slides the dovetail block G, also of wood. To this block G is secured the webbing A, the wires 1 2 from which pass through the block to its upper side, where one is secured to a contact-plate, *f*, on one side of G, while the other is secured to a flat plate, *g*. The plate *g* is connected with the other side contact-plate, *h*, by means of a "safety-catch" link, *i*. The stationary block F has plate-springs *j k*, which bear against *f h*, and are connected with the ceiling-wires 3 4. This form of joint permits the fixture to be readily connected and disconnected by a simple sliding movement, good electrical contact being at the same time assured. A screw or plug may be used to additionally secure

one block within the other; but this is not essential. This form of separable joint is also adapted for wall-brackets, for which use the dovetail way or groove in the face of F would be closed at one end; but this way or groove may be so closed when the joint is used as a ceiling joint for a pendent fixture. This separable joint forms a simple and effective device for use wherever a separable joint is required in an electric-light circuit. I do not, however, claim this separable joint herein, since the same will be made the subject of another application for patent.

The webbing may be made of any desired width, and may carry more than two wires. The wires carried by the webbing may for some purposes have no other insulation than that afforded by the covering material itself. The covering material A may be made of leather, or of other material having sufficient flexibility, and may be made in cylindrical or other form. It can also be made moisture-proof, if desired, by the use of a water-proof insulating substance to better protect the wires.

It is evident that wires supported and covered in this manner are capable of use for many purposes in addition to those already mentioned. The device can be used wherever it is desired to lead wires in an ornamental manner within a house, or for extension wall-brackets or chandeliers, the webbing connecting the extensible with the stationary part and limiting the extending movement; or for connecting a lamp-bracket on a dressing-case with the wall, so as to permit the moving out of the dressing-case a limited distance; or the webbing may be hung in festoons and have lamps connected at various points with it. For "border" and other stage lights for theaters the device is also well adapted.

What I claim is—

1. The combination of a flexible supporting material, and one or more translating devices supported by such material, with circuit-wires extending to the translating device or devices and carried by such supporting material, such circuit-wires being wholly independent of the means for attaching the translating device or devices to such supporting material, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In an electric-light drop or fixture, the combination, with a flexible sustaining part, A, the circuit-wires 1 2 carried and concealed by said flexible sustaining part, of a tube, *c*, secured to such part A and receiving the wires from the part A, and a lamp-socket or fixture-body secured to such tube, substantially as set forth.

3. The combination of a flat flexible supporting material, one or more translating devices supported thereby, and circuit-wires extending to such translating device or devices and carried by such material, substantially as set forth.

4. An electric-light drop composed of a flat flexible supporting material, one or more electric lamps supported thereby, and circuit-wires extending to the lamp or lamps and carried by the material, independent of the means for attaching the lamp or lamps thereto, substantially as set forth.

This specification signed and witnessed this 10th day of March, 1882.

LUTHER STIERINGER.

Witnesses:

WM. H. MEADOWCROFT,

H. W. SEELY.