

(No Model.)

A. W. PAULL.

ANIMAL TRAP.

No. 278,730.

Patented June 5, 1883.

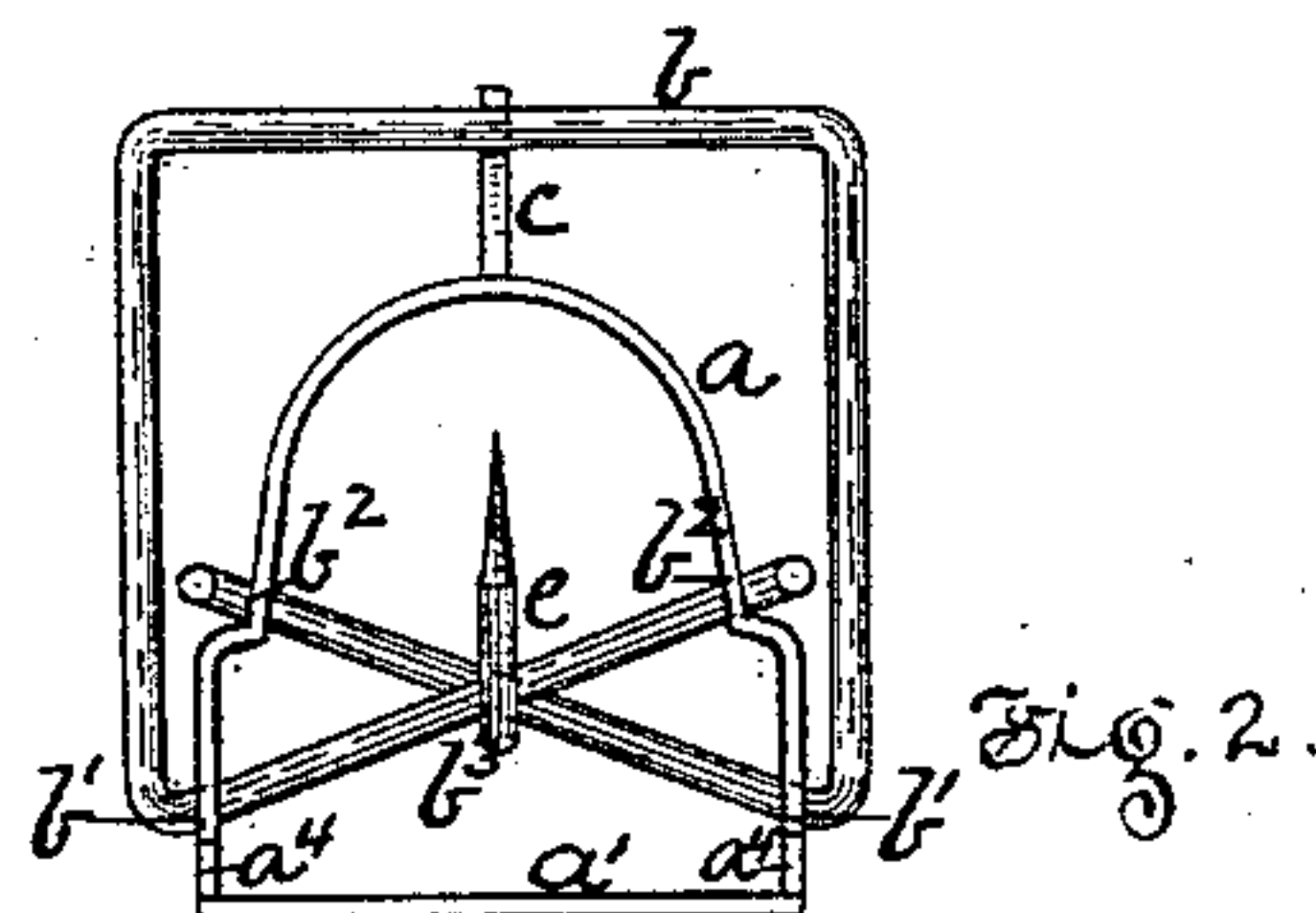
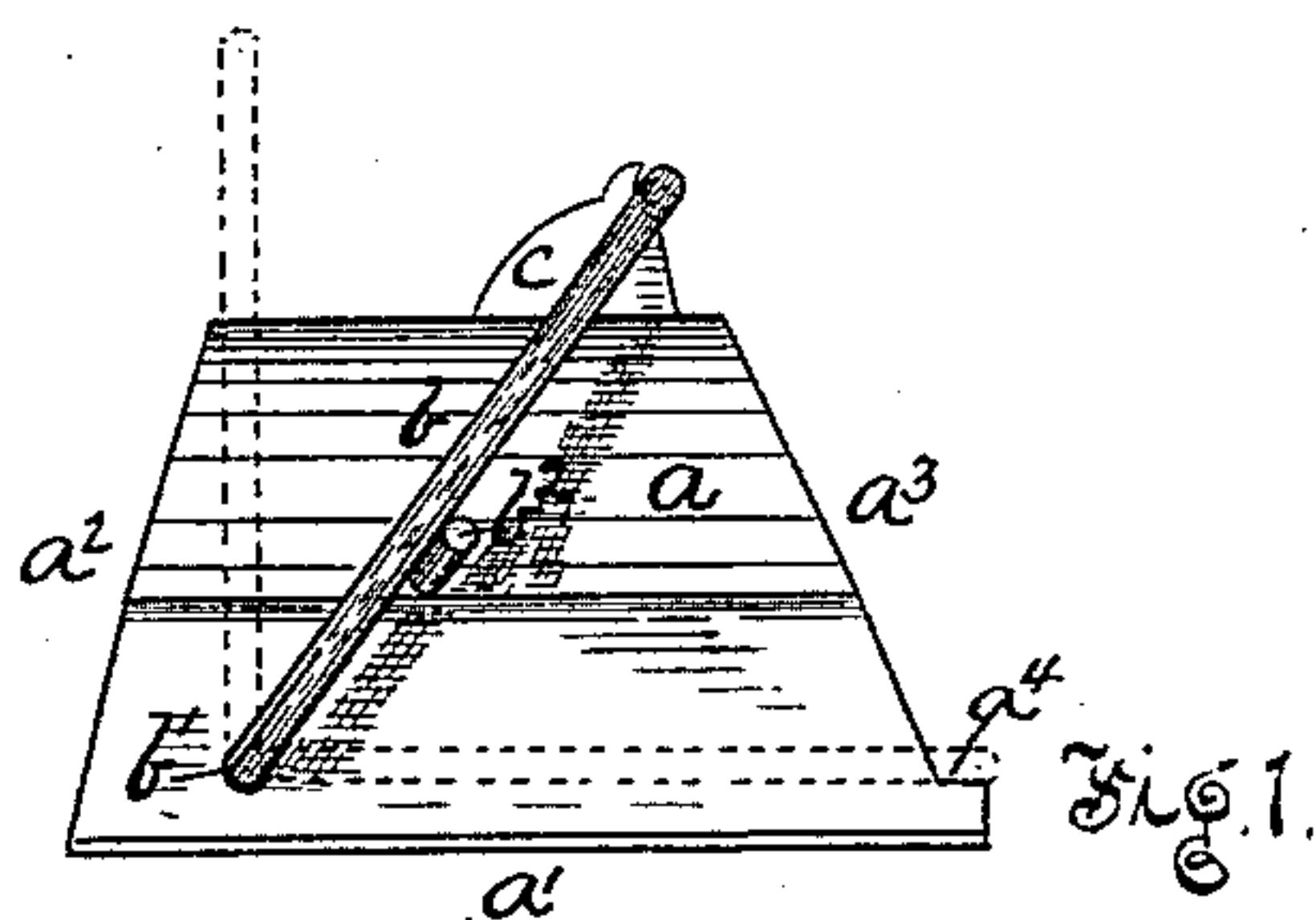
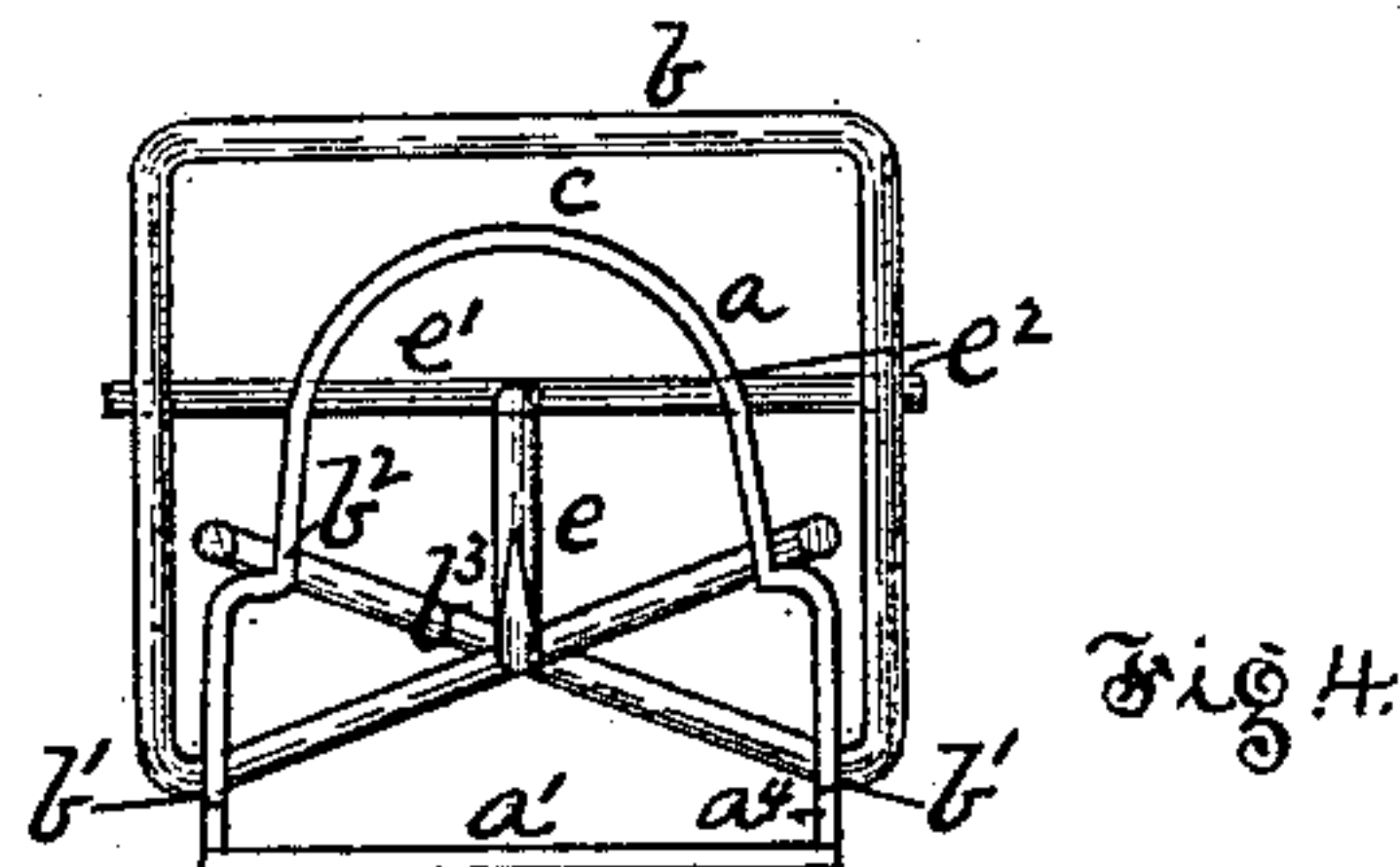
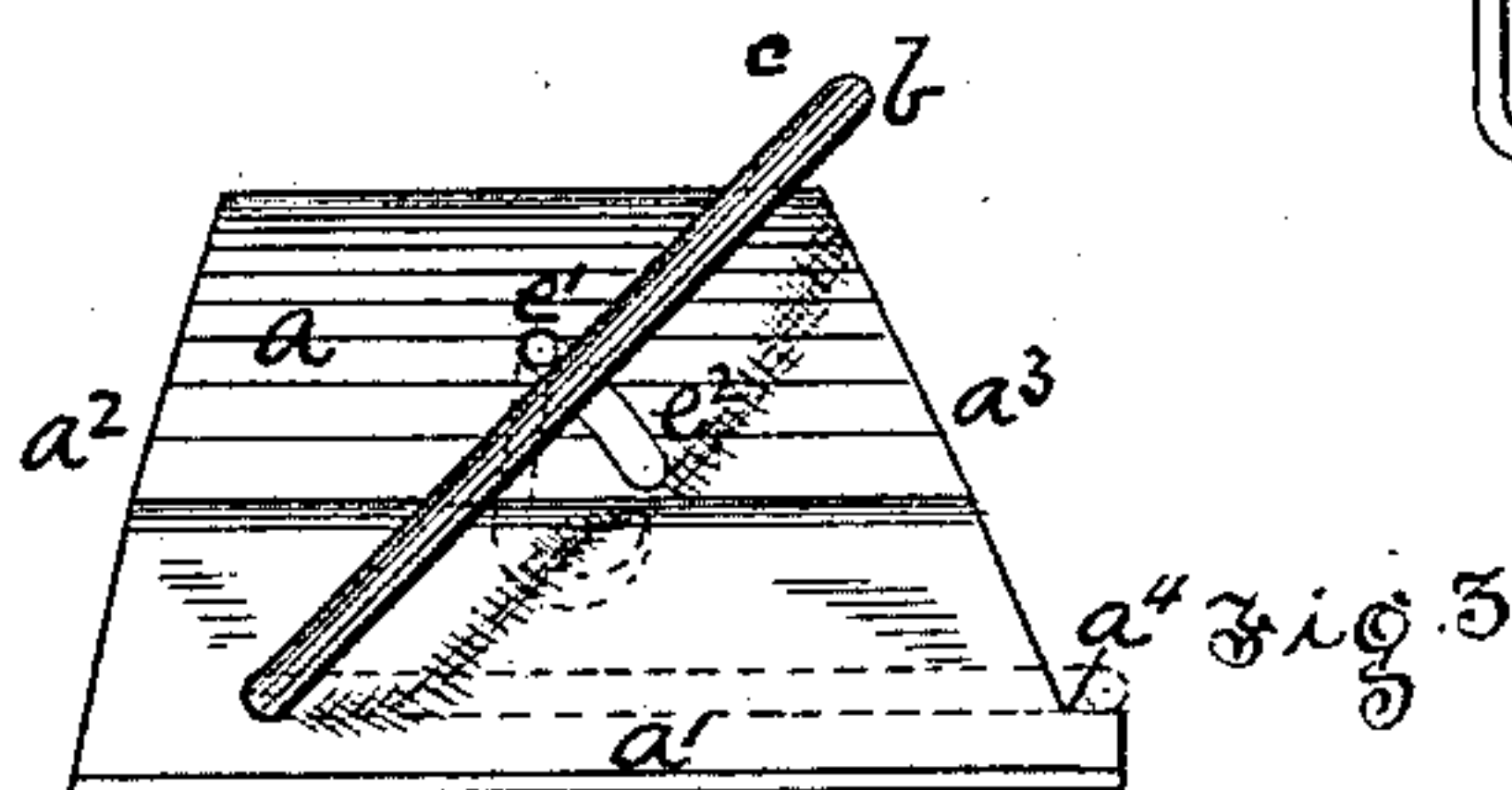
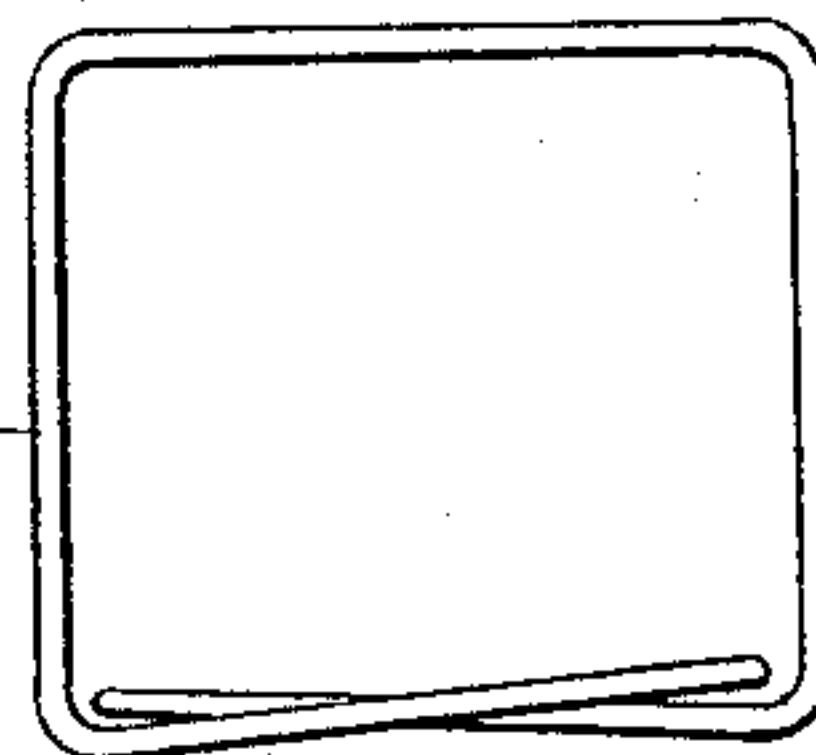


Fig. 5.



Witnesses.  
Geo K. Smith,  
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Inventor.  
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by his attys.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ARCHIBALD W. PAULL, OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA.

## ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 278,730, dated June 5, 1883.

Application filed December 1, 1882. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ARCHIBALD W. PAULL, of Wheeling, in the county of Ohio and State of West Virginia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Animal-Traps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved mouse-trap. Fig. 2 is a front view. Figs. 3 and 4 are similar views of a slightly-modified form. Fig. 5 is a view of the spring when removed from the box.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts in each.

The purpose of my invention is to secure a simple inexpensive mouse-trap of the spring dead-fall order, in which the use of any device for holding the spring when the trap is set is avoided, and thereby the cost of construction is reduced and the durability and efficiency of the trap is increased.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will now describe its construction and mode of operation.

In a suitable box or case,  $a$ , having a bottom,  $a'$ , a closed rear end,  $a^2$ , and open front,  $a^3$ , I pivot a suitable spring yoke or dead-fall,  $b$ , the power of the spring being exerted to throw the yoke down over the front opening,  $a^3$ , upon the stops or the projecting floor  $a^4$ . The ends of the spring-wire which throws the yoke  $b$  pass through suitable holes,  $b'$ , in the sides of the case  $a$ , and are crossed, as at  $b^3$ , and passed through holes in the opposite sides of the case, as at  $b^2$ , at a point diagonally above the point  $b'$ . The purpose of this arrangement is to give the yoke a double spring action, so that when it is forward of the point  $b^2$  it will be caused to act downward against the stops  $a^4$ , and when it is thrown backward past the point  $b^2$  it will be caused to act in the opposite direction, and if free to move would assume the vertical position shown in broken lines in Fig. 1. This double spring action of the yoke is caused by the tendency of its crossed ends to assume their normal position, as shown in Fig. 5, which tendency results in

a torsional force exerted on the yoke in either direction from the point  $b^2$ .

On the top of the case  $a$  is a stop,  $c$ , placed slightly back of a plane bisecting the points  $b'$  and  $b^2$ , so that when the yoke  $b$  is in contact therewith it shall be over the center of motion and tend to press backward against the stop. The stop is placed so near the center line that but a slight pressure is required to draw the yoke over it, so that the downward or forward spring action may be exerted upon it. The purpose of this construction is to enable me to set the trap by simply throwing the yoke up against the stop  $c$ , as shown in Fig. 1, which position it will retain until it is drawn forward past the center line, when it will immediately act downward and be thrown against the stops  $a^4$ . The bait-hook  $e$  is secured rigidly to and projects upward from the front side of one of the crossed wires. The slight leverage which is exerted by the animal in removing the bait is sufficient to draw the yoke  $b$  over the center line, when it will immediately act downward and catch the animal.

In the modification shown in Figs. 3 and 4 the bait-hook is secured to a cross-bar,  $e'$ , the ends of which extend through slots  $e^2$ , made in the sides of the case  $a$ , and rest against the rear side of the yoke  $b$ , so as to draw upon the same when the bait is being removed by the animal.

I have described my invention with relation to mouse-traps; but I do not limit myself thereto, as by increasing the size and strength of the parts it may be adapted to be used as an animal-trap generally. Nor do I limit myself to the use of a bait-hook, as the yoke may be thrown over the center by the use of a bait-table placed in the floor of the trap and connected by suitable levers or links, so as to operate to throw the yoke over the center.

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

1. An animal-trap provided with a double spring pivoted dead-fall, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. An animal-trap provided with a double spring pivoted dead-fall, and a stop placed



slightly back of the center of the spring action of the same, substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. An animal-trap provided with a double  
5 spring pivoted dead - fall, a set-stop placed back of the center of spring action, and a bait-holder connected to the dead-fall, substantially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of November, A. D. 1882.

ARCHIBALD W. PAULL.

Witnesses:

A. C. HOOD,

T. W. SHREVE.