

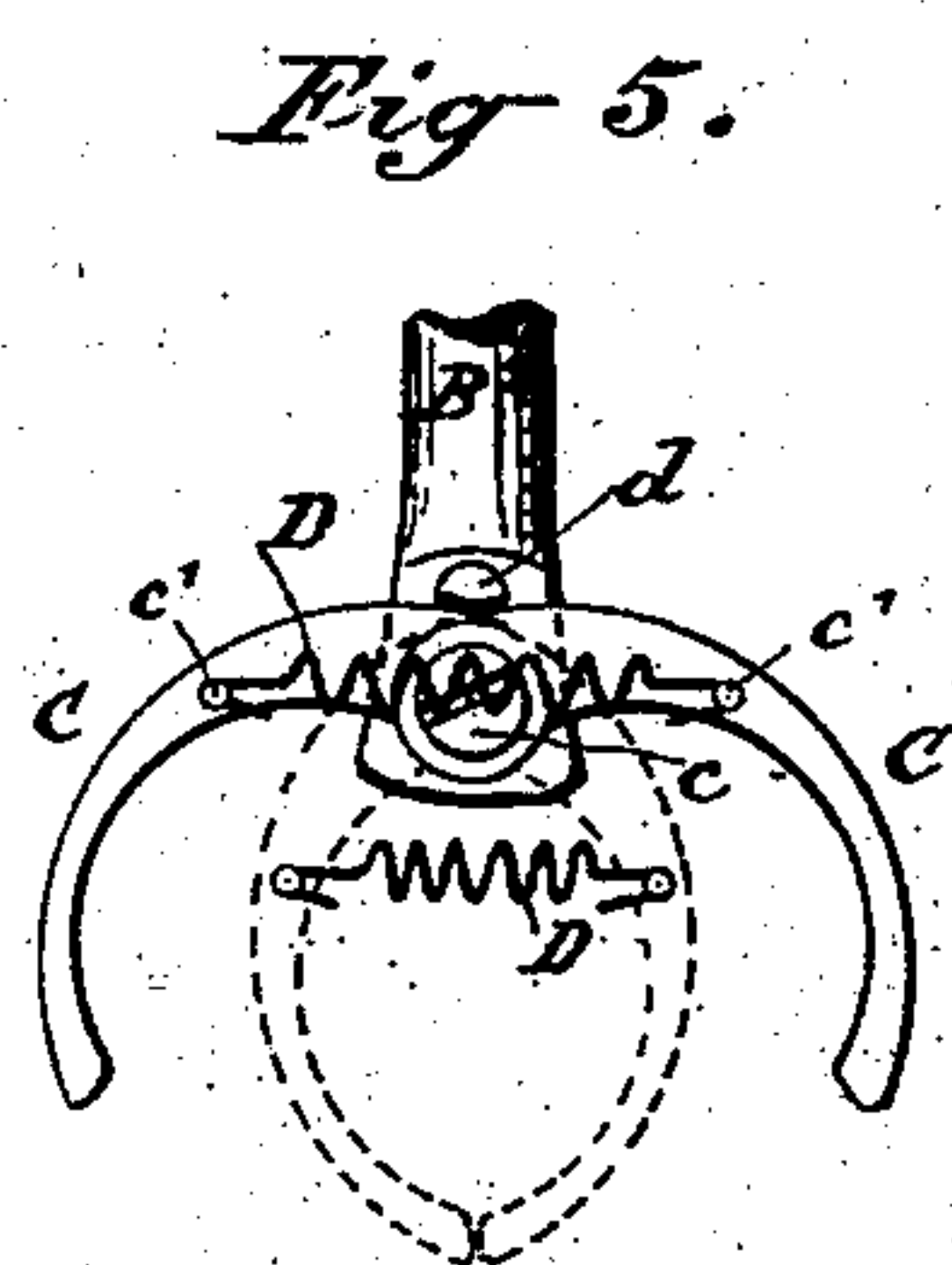
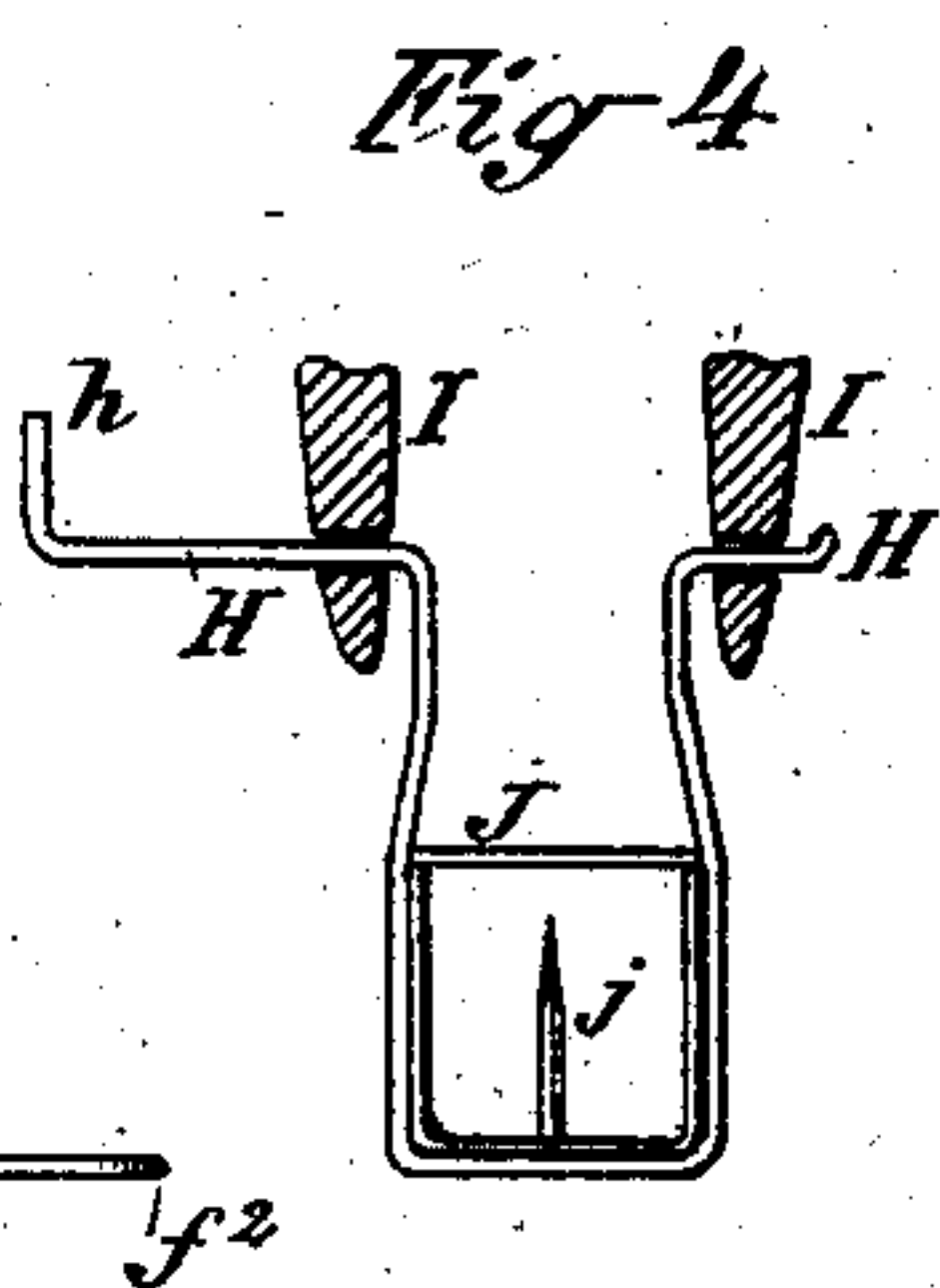
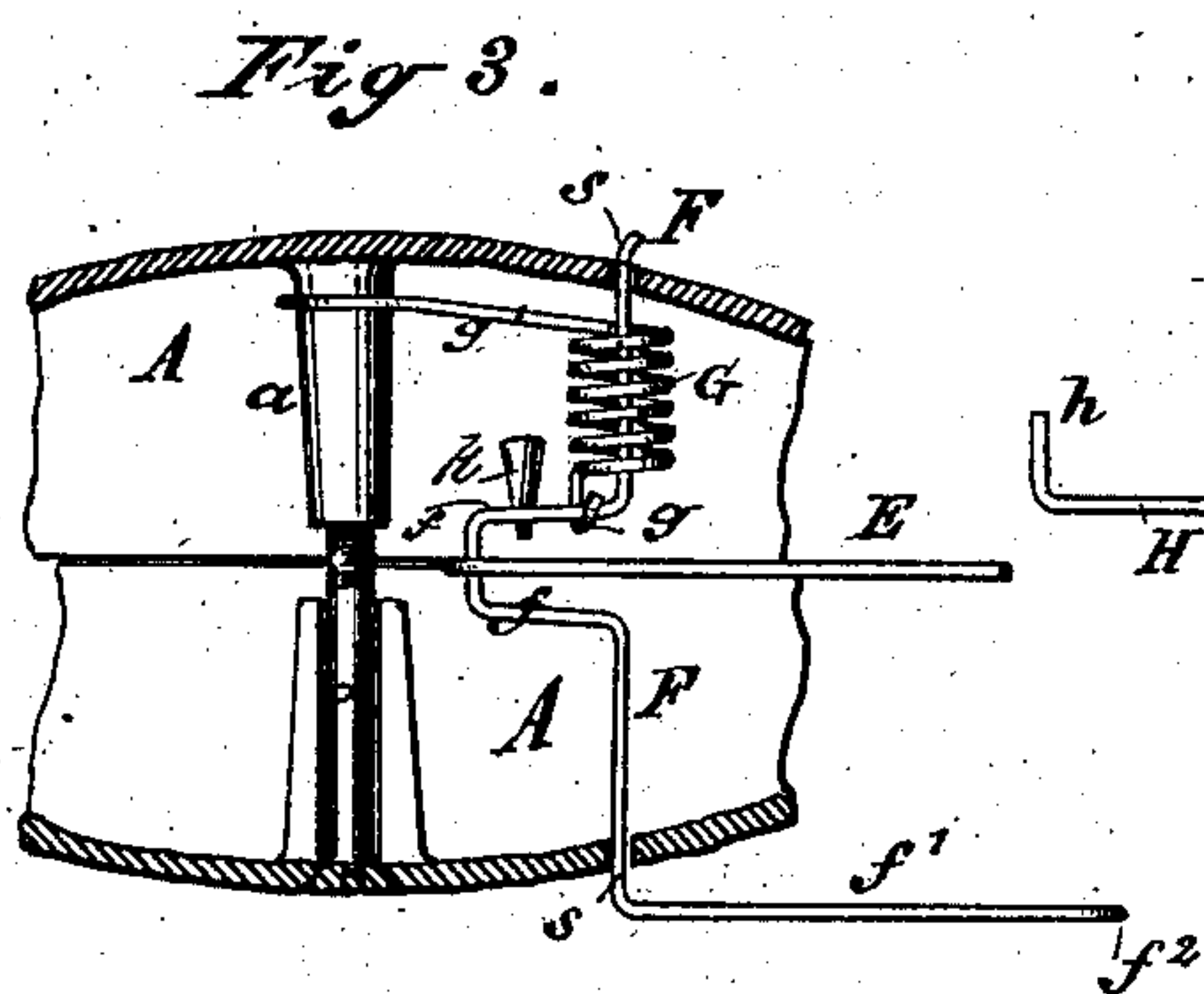
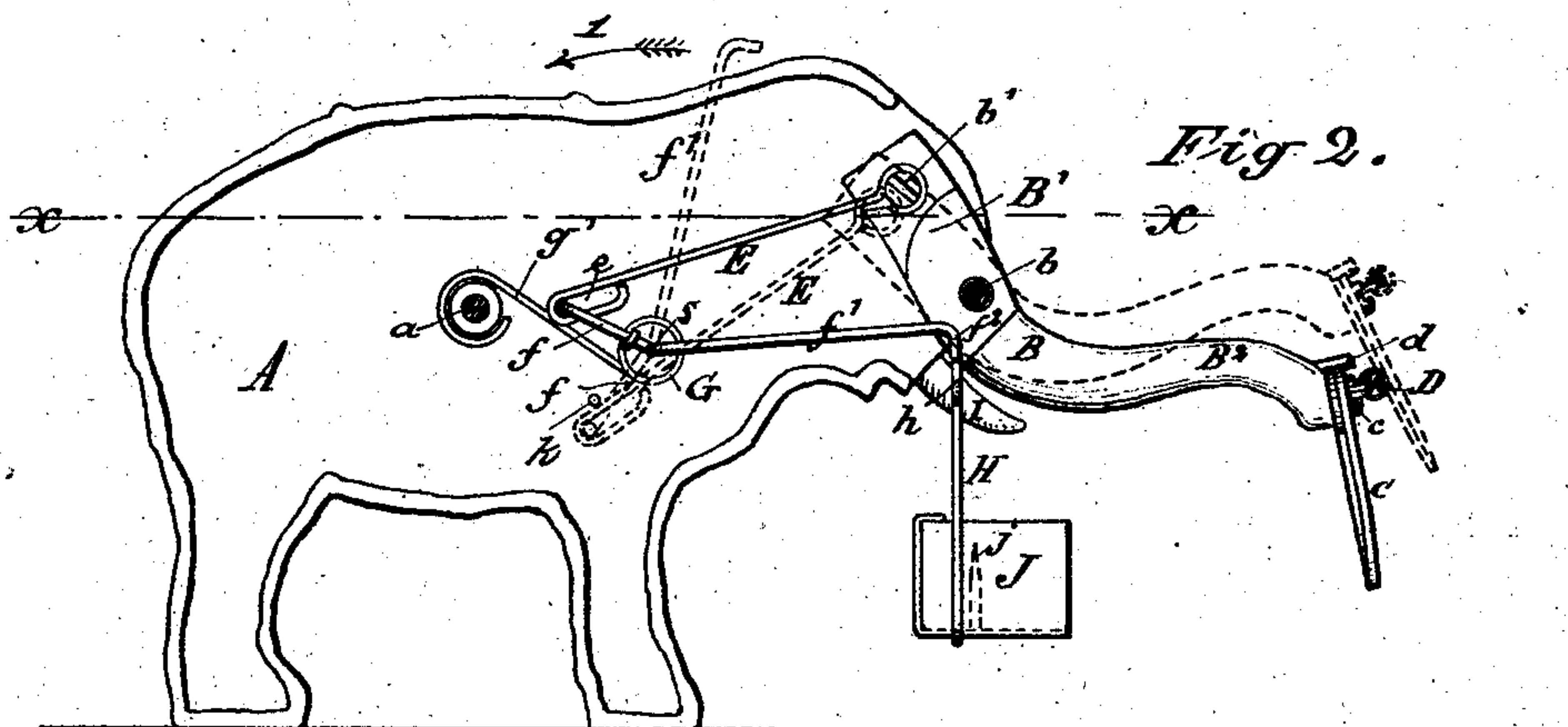
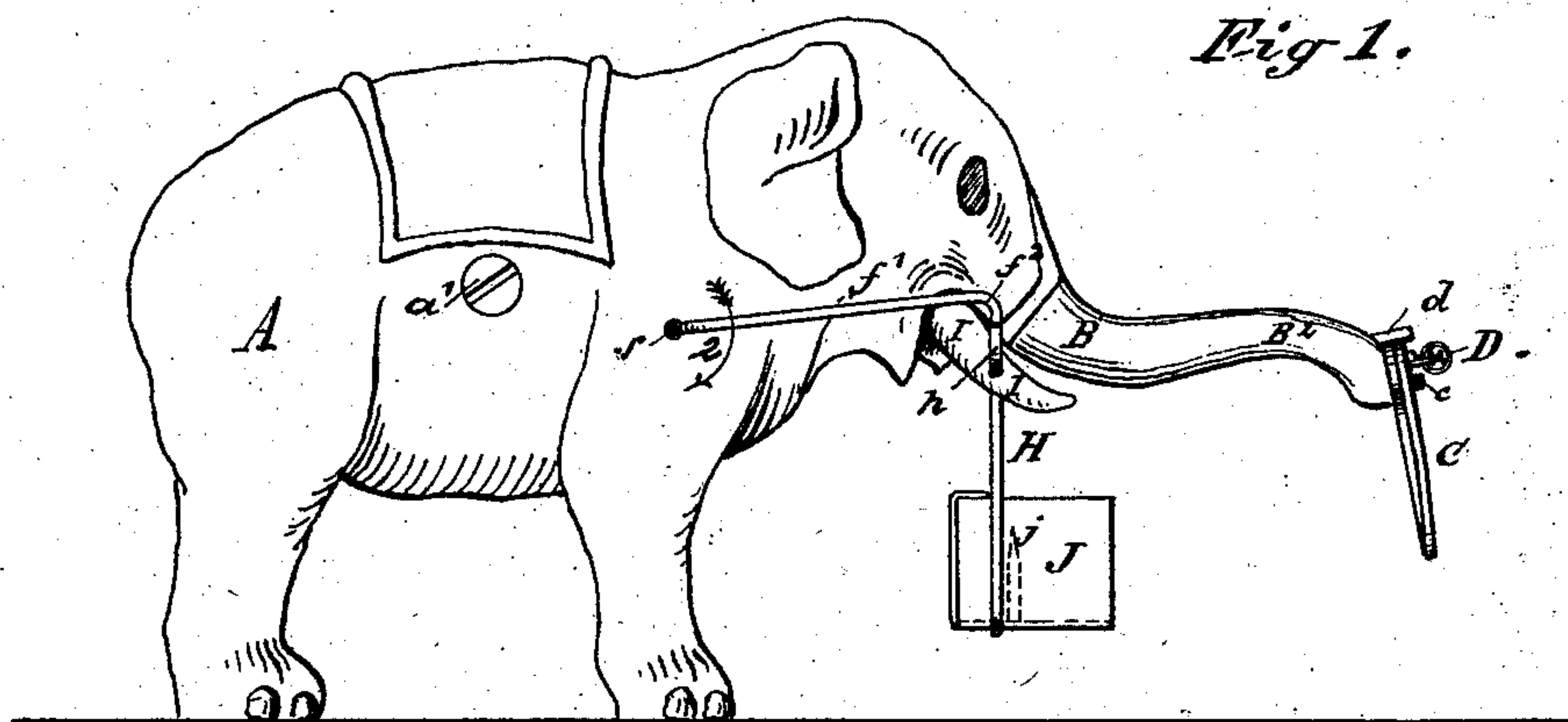
(Model.)

F. GLASSON.

ANIMAL TRAP.

No. 290,034.

Patented Dec. 11, 1883.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK GLASSON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,034, dated December 11, 1883.

Application filed April 9, 1883. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK GLASSON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Animal-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a novel curiosity in animal-traps, especially mouse-traps, whereby an impetus or sudden jerking movement is imparted to a lever to spring or unset a set catching device attached to said lever and clasp the mouse in the jaws of the said catch.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of the various parts, as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a trap constructed according to my present invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the same, taken along the central division line between the two halves of castings of which the body is composed. Fig. 3 is a detail horizontal section on the line *xx* of Fig. 2, looking down. Fig. 4 is a detail front view, partly sectional, of the bait-box and mode of hanging the same. Fig. 5 is a detail front view of the spring-jaws attached to the end of the lever, between which it is intended to catch the mouse.

The body A of the trap is made of two hollow castings, one of which has a socketed hub or post, *a*, cast upon its inner surface, and by means of which and a screw, *a'*, entered from the outside of the other half and screwed into a thread in the said socket, serves to hold the two halves together and to conceal and inclose the inner working parts.

B is a lever pivoted at *b* between cheeks of the body A, its shorter end, B', projecting upward and closing the opening between the said cheeks, and the longer end, B<sup>2</sup>, projecting forward and being provided at its extreme front end with two curved jaws, C, which are pivoted to the lever. Between two pins, *c'*, secured one to each of the said jaws C, I attach a spiral spring, D, in such a manner that when the jaws are spread apart, as in Fig. 5, until the pivot and the pins *c'* are in line with each other, or the line connecting the pins *c'* is very slightly above the center of the pivot *c*, the said spring will be set with sufficient

force to snap the two jaws C together and embrace the prey instantly upon the least downward movement or vibration of the pins *c'*, caused by the inertia of the jaws C during a sudden oscillatory movement of the forward end of the lever. To prevent the spring D from getting up any higher above the center of the pivot *c* than before stated, and indicated in Fig. 5, a pin, *d*, is secured to the end of the lever in position to stop any further upward turning of the jaws C around their pivot by contact with the upper or back edge of the said jaws. To the upper short end of the lever B is pivoted, at *b'*, one end of a wire pitman or connecting-rod, E, whose other end is bent up to form a slot, *e*, in which is embraced the crank-pin of the crank *f*, formed upon a crank-shaft, F, which latter is pivoted at S through the body A, one end of the said crank-shaft F being bent outside of the body A, so as to leave a forward projecting rod, *f'*, which reaches to the point I at which the bait-box is pivoted, and ends with a small downward bend, *f*<sup>2</sup>. The crank-shaft F, crank-pin *f*, and the rod *f'* are all made by bending one piece of wire.

G is a spiral spring arranged to surround the crank-shaft F at one side of the crank. The said spring is fastened with one end, *g*, to the crank *f*, and with its other end, *g'*, to the hub *a* in such a manner that by turning the crank by the arm *f'* in the direction of the arrow 1 the said spiral spring will be coiled closer, and thereby set ready to rapidly spring back or uncoil into its normal position when left free to do so. Through holes in the projections I or other stationary portions of the body A is pivoted a wire, H, which has one end projecting outside of its pivot farther than the other, and provided with an upward bend, *h*, in position to adapt it to be moved with its upper end directly underneath and in contact with the lower end of the forward bend, *f*<sup>2</sup>, of the arm *f'*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The portion of the wire H between the projections I is bent downward in a U shape, and to it is secured a small box, J, open only on top and in front, so that access to it can be gained only from the front, and in the said box is fastened a pointed pin, *j*, for holding the bait.

The operation is easily understood with reference to the drawings. The trap is set in



the position drawn in full lines in Figs. 1 and 2 by simply turning the arm  $f'$  from the dotted position around the pivot  $s$  in the direction of the arrow 1 until the end  $f^2$  is made to rest upon the end  $h$  of the wire  $H$ , and placing the jaws  $C$  in such position, as shown in full lines in Fig. 5, thus setting the spring  $G$ , as beforestated. Soon as the mouse, approaching from the front to get at the bait, disturbs the box  $J$  slightly, so as to cause the pin  $h$  to turn from contact with the end  $f^2$  of the rod  $f'$ , the latter and the crank  $f$ , impelled by the elasticity of spring  $G$ , swing back into the dotted position. In doing so the crank-pin, in striking the forward end of the slot  $e$  of the pitman  $E$ , first causes the front end of the lever to dip downward slightly with a sudden jerk, and then suddenly to rise again into the dotted position, when the crank  $f$ , in its movement in the direction of the arrow 2, has passed the dead-center with relation to the pivot  $b'$ . The sudden reciprocating movement thus caused of the forward end of the lever disturbs the equilibrium of the jaws  $C$  and the spring  $D$ , causing the said spring to close the jaws around the body of the mouse, and then lift the latter up from the ground as high as indicated by the dotted position, in a manner somewhat similar to that of an elephant grasping and raising something with its trunk.

The device may be made to work without the slot  $e$ ; but the latter is much preferable, as by a sudden forward and then return movement in the said slot of the crank-pin, during its revolution, is more surely obtained the sudden jerk of the forward end of the lever, by which and the inertia of the jaws  $C$  the latter are caused to close by the action of the spring  $D$ . If the spring  $G$  is a weak one, a whole or more turns of the crank  $f$  may be necessary to set

it with sufficient force to operate well. The lever  $B$  will then make several vibratory movements while the spring is unsetting; but if the spring is sufficiently strong it may be set (and the setting regulated to always give the same force) by giving the crank only a partial revolution, and limiting the same by a stop,  $k$ , secured to the body  $A$  at the desired point in the path of the crank's revolution, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. An animal-trap formed of the combination of a body,  $A$ , a lever,  $B$ , pivoted to the said body, and provided at one end with catching devices, and mechanism for suddenly lowering and raising the said lever, and thereby unsetting or springing the said catching devices, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

2. The combination, with the body  $A$ , of the pivoted lever  $B$ , the slotted pitman  $E$ , crank-shaft  $F$ , rod  $f'$ , spring  $G$ , and pivoted bait-receptacle  $H$   $J$ , the said lever  $B$  being provided with catching devices  $C$ , substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

3. In combination with the pivoted lever  $B$ , and suitable mechanism supported by the body  $A$  to oscillate the said lever, the jaws  $C$ , pivoted to the said lever, and provided with the pins  $c'$ , and the spring  $D$  and the stop-pin  $d$ , substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name, in presence of two witnesses, this 31st day of March, 1883.

FREDERICK GLASSON.

Witnesses:

A. W. ALMQVIST,  
ROBT. W. MATTHEWS.