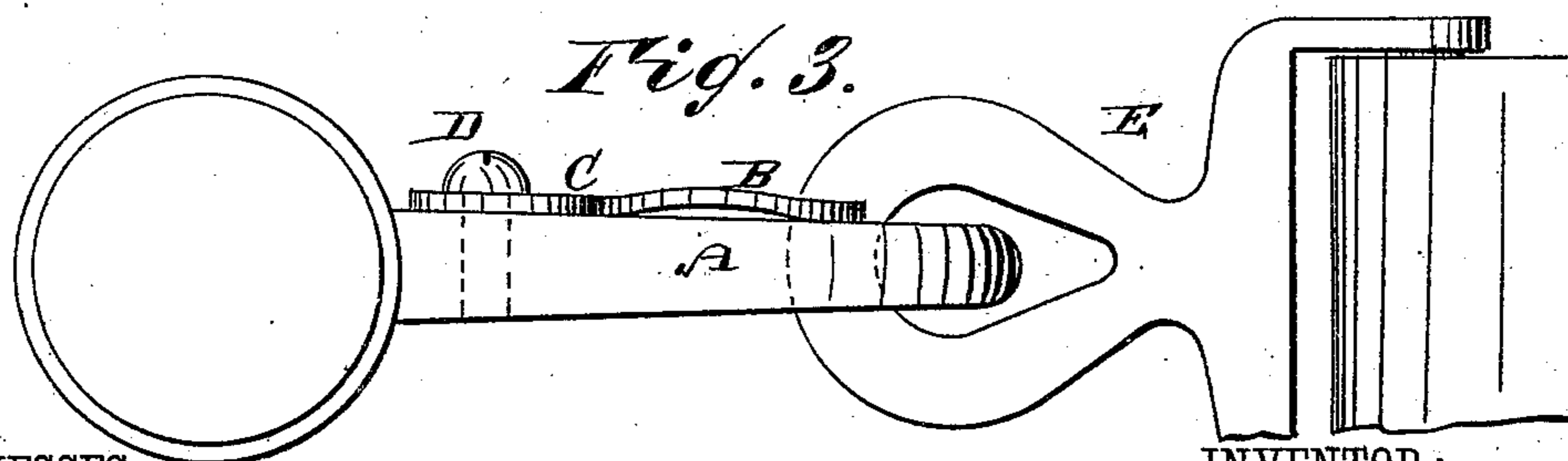
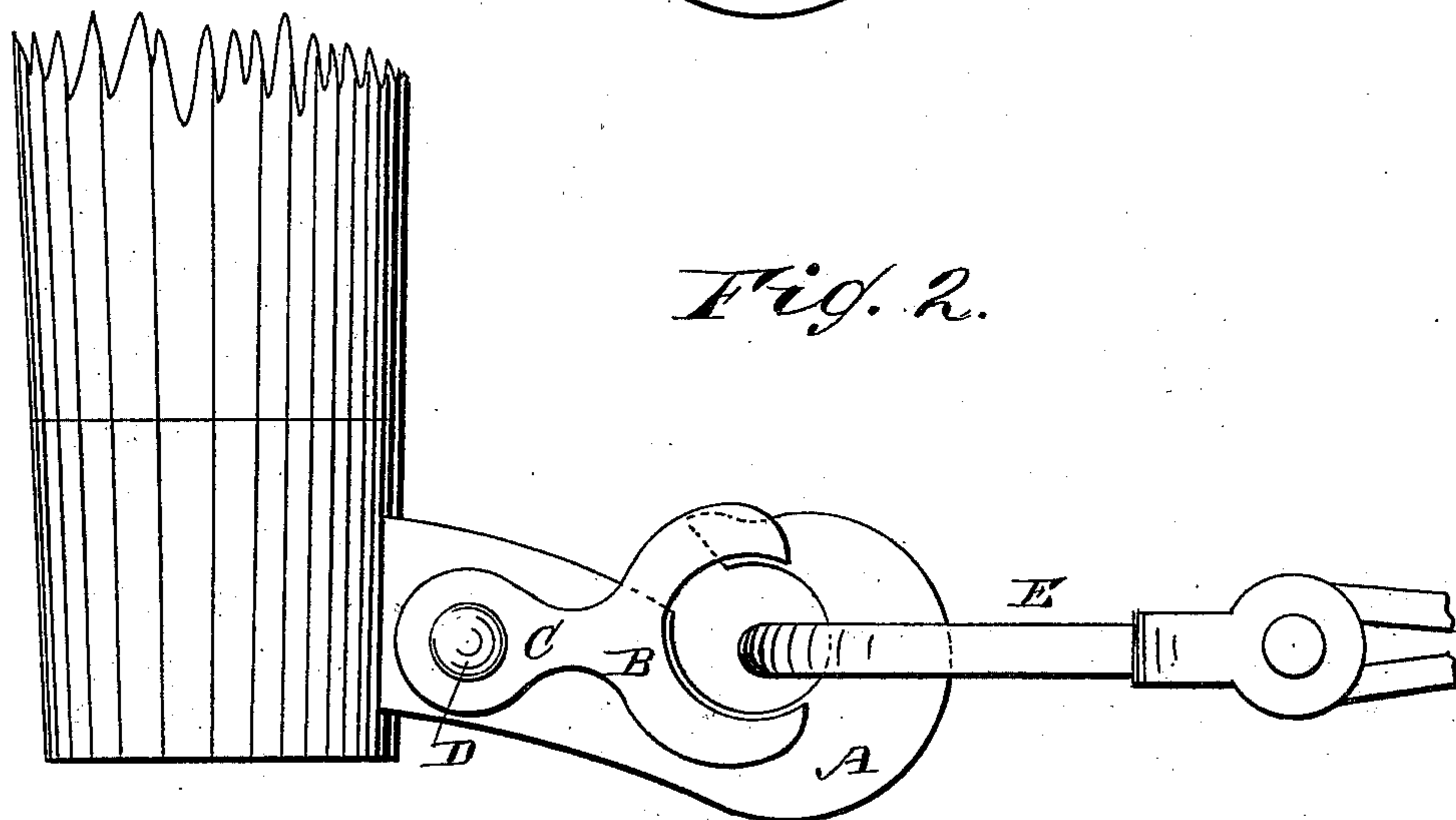
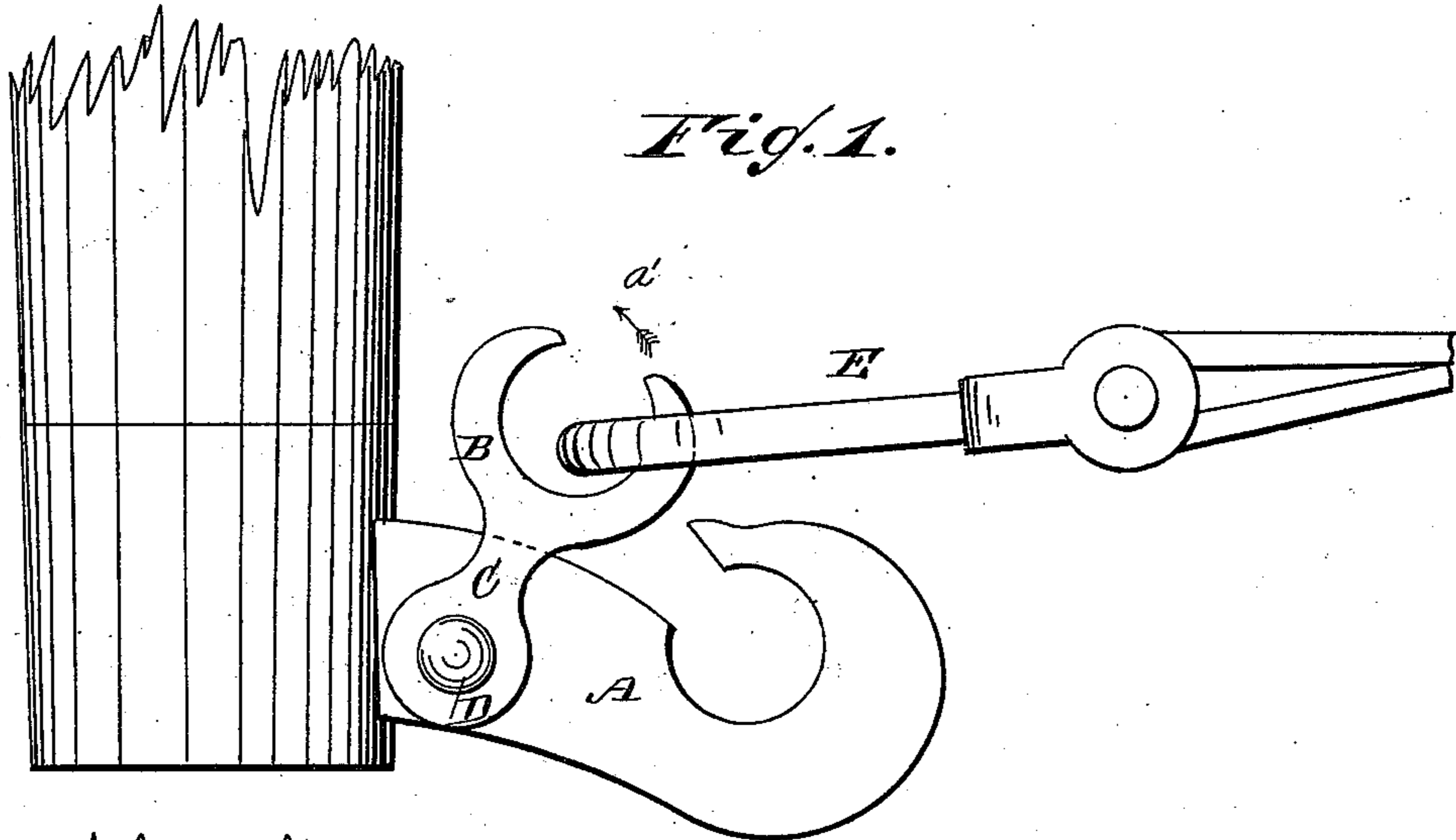


(No Model.)

W. H. BEST.
WHIFFLETREE HOOK.

No. 294,958.

Patented Mar. 11, 1884.



WITNESSES:

Theo. G. Hoctor.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM H. BEST, OF EASTPORT, MICHIGAN.

WHIFFLETREE-HOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 294,958, dated March 11, 1884.

Application filed March 13, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. BEST, of Eastport, in the county of Antrim and State of Michigan, have invented a new and Improved Combined Whiffletree Hook and Lock, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention is an improvement in the class of whiffletree-hooks which are provided with spring-guards for preventing accidental detachment of the trace-eye from the hook.

The novelty consists in the form and arrangement of the spring-guard with reference to the hook, as herein described, and shown in the drawings.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the end of a whiffletree provided with my improved hook and lock, showing the latch opened. Fig. 2 is a like view, showing the latch closed. Fig. 3 is an end view of the whiffletree and side view of the whiffletree-hook.

On the upper surface of the whiffletree-hook A a latch is pivoted, which is formed of a crescent-shaped spring-plate, B, provided with an arm, C, through the end of which the screw or pivot D passes into the hook. The recess in the crescent-shaped spring-plate B is to be of such size and shape that it will about coincide with the recess or aperture of the whiffletree-hook A. The lower face of the spring plate or guard B, provided with a crescent-shaped semicircular recess at its forward end, which coincides with the opening in the whiffletree-hook A when closed, is in contact with the upper face of the hook A at and near its pivot D, and also at and near the ends of its bifurcations or prongs, the middle portion of the spring-plate being arched upwardly, and not being in contact with the body of the hook A, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. By this construction the spring-plate B, when closed upon the trace-eye E, covers the lateral opening in the hook A of the whiffletree, and also its prongs posi-

tively bite the upper face of the hook to prevent the spring-plate B from being moved from its closed position by any movement of the trace-eye E. If the trace-eye E is to be passed on the hook A, the latch is swung inward and toward the whiffletree in the direction of the arrow a' , so that it will be in the position shown in Fig. 1. The trace-eye E is passed into the recess of the crescent-shaped spring-plate B, and the same is swung in the reverse direction of the arrow a' , so that the spring-plate B passes on the hook, and one shank or prong of the crescent-shaped plate closes the opening in the hook, and the prongs of the spring-plate B bite the upper face of the hook A and prevent the trace-eye from leaving the hook. The trace-eye cannot be unhooked without the aid of the hand, and forms a perfect latch to prevent accidental unfastening of the trace-eye. The latch is very simple, and no springs are required, save the upwardly-arched and pivoted spring plate or guard B, which serves the double purpose of closing the lateral opening in the hook A and as a spring for holding itself in place on the hook. By pulling the trace-eye into the hook-opening the latch is closed, so that both can be done in one operation.

I am aware that it is not new to use a hook hinged in and closing into the arms of a ferule, or to combine a movable flanged and notched cylinder with a notched whiffletree end; but

What I claim as new is—

The combination, with the whiffletree-hook A, curved in a horizontal plane, of the spring guard or plate B, pivoted to the upper face of the hook A, and upwardly-arched at its middle and crescent-shaped at its free end, so that when closed the inner edge of the crescent coincides with the opening in the hook and closes its lateral passage, and also bites the upper face of the hook to retain the guard closed, substantially as shown and described.

WILLIAM H. BEST.

Witnesses:

J. W. PEARL,
H. H. CHAMBERLIN.