

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. E. McDONALD.
HAND MEASURE FOR FITTING GLOVES.

No. 308,684.

Patented Dec. 2, 1884.

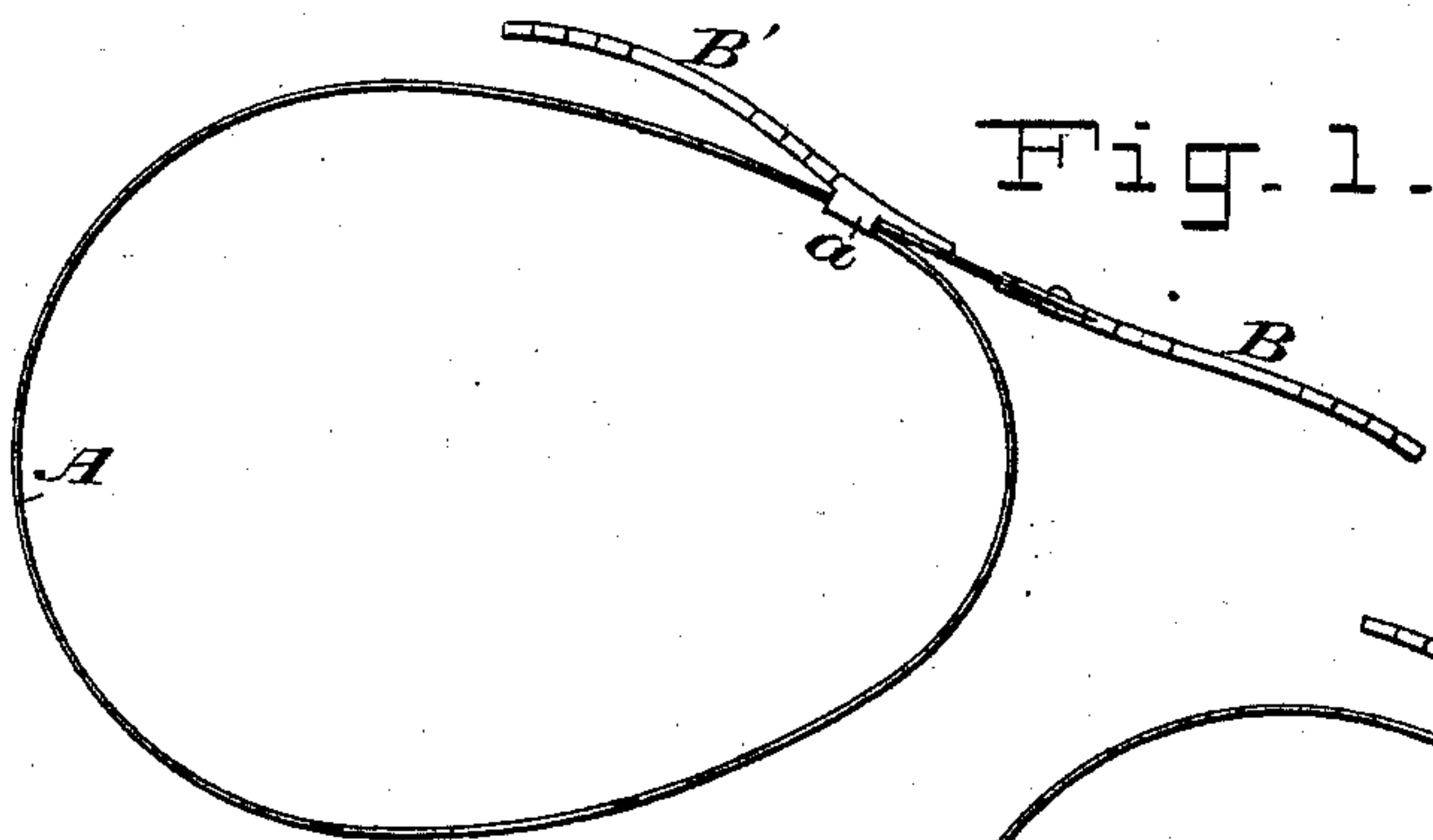


Fig. 1.

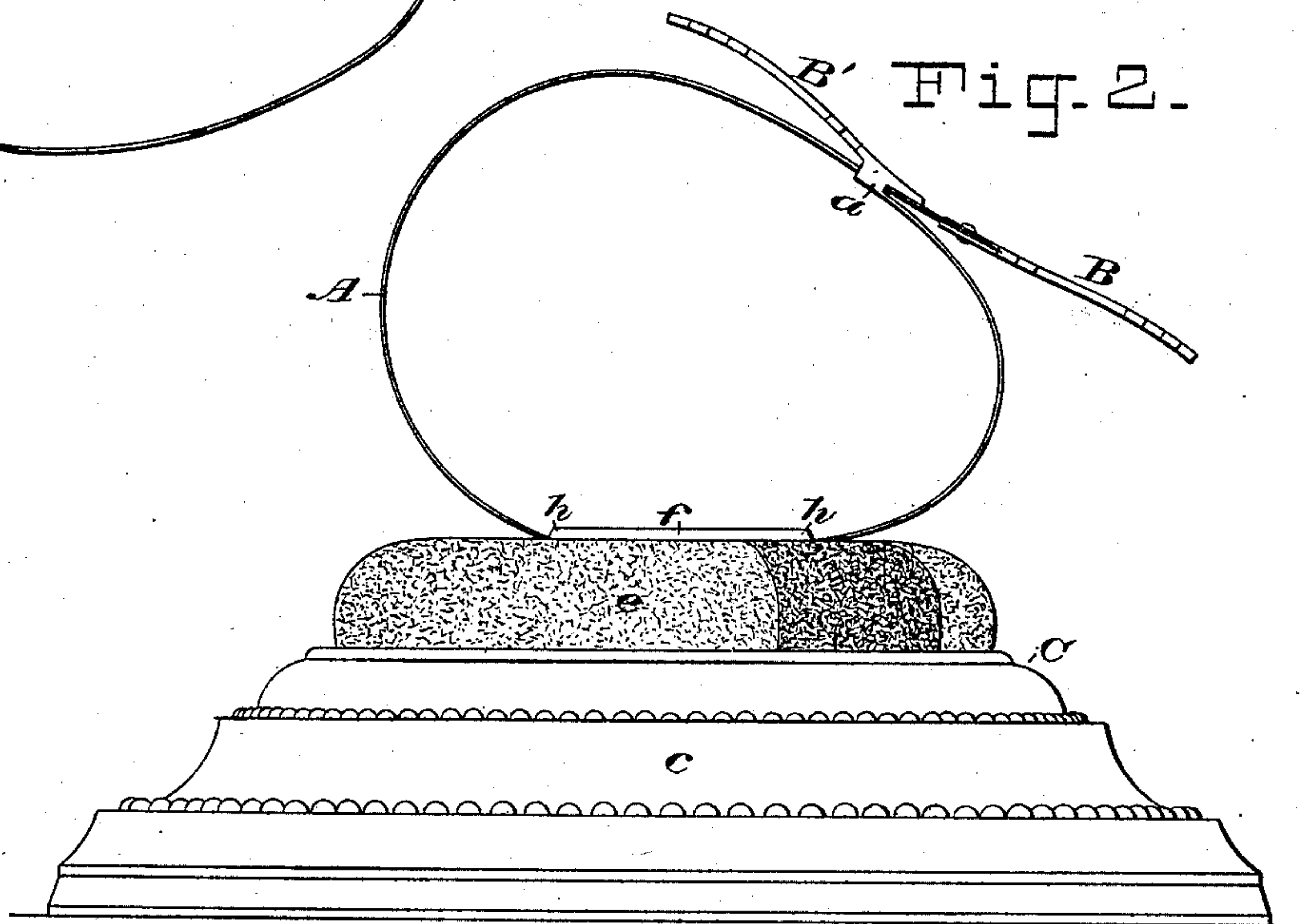


Fig. 2.

Fig. 5.

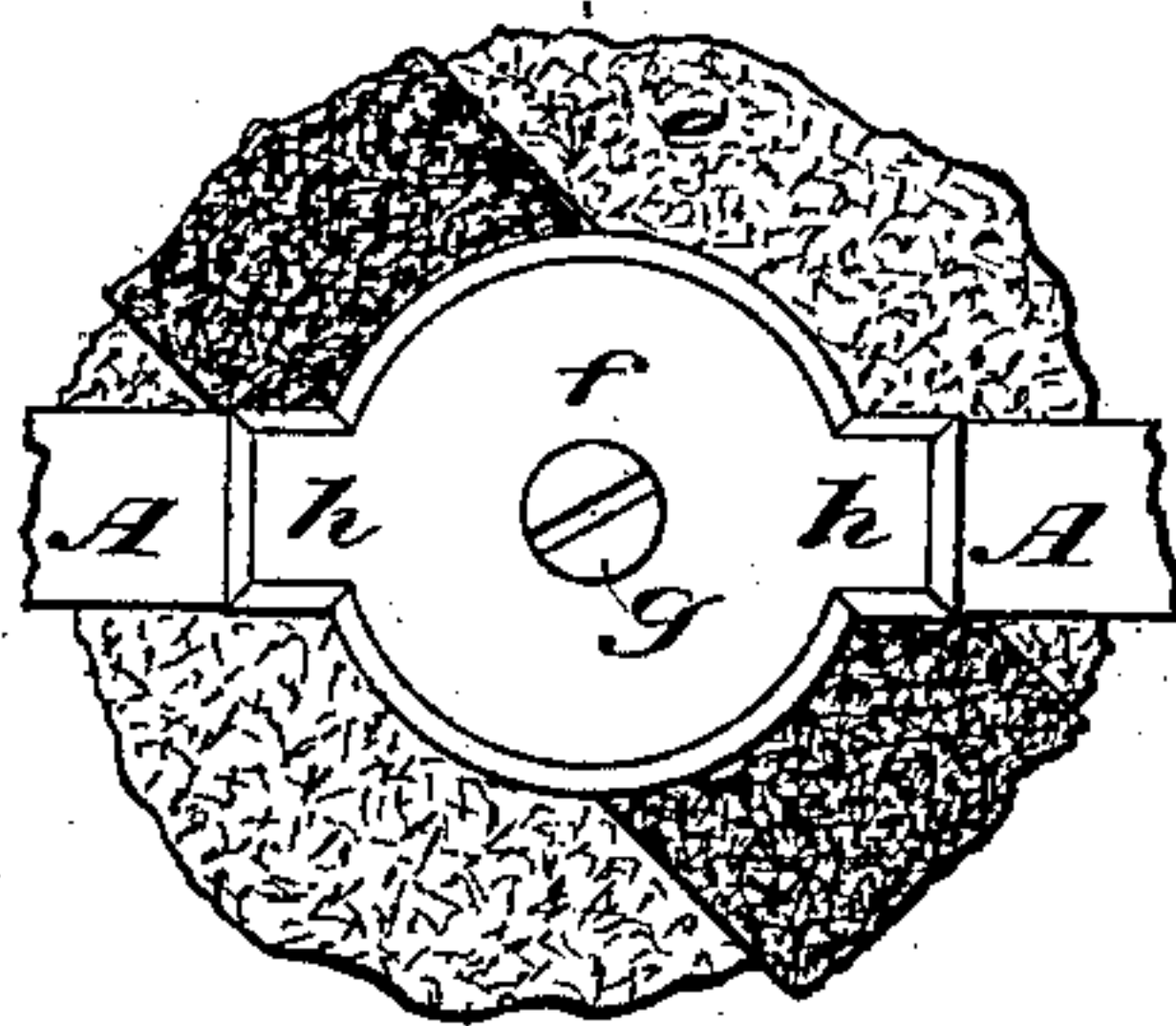
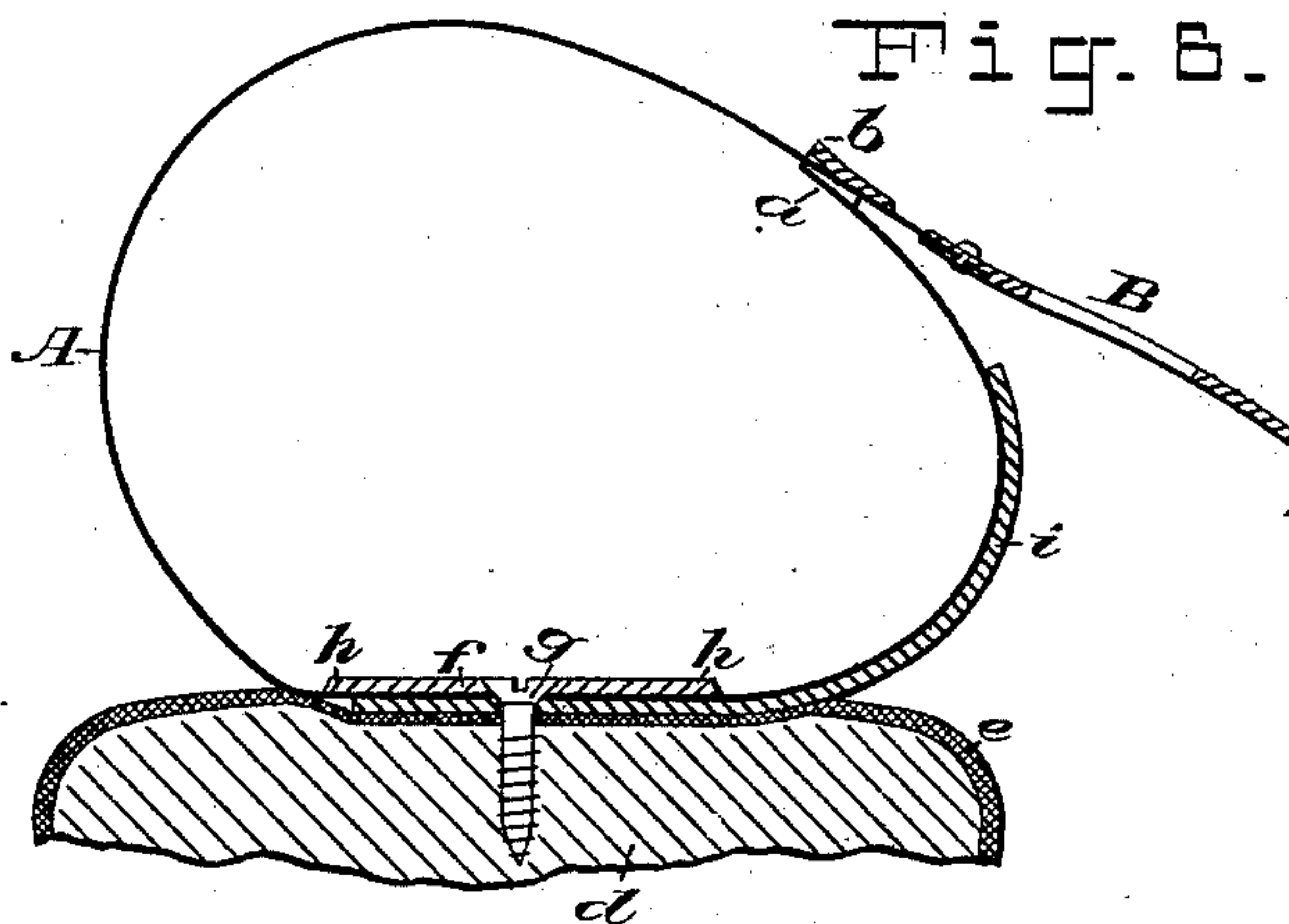


Fig. 6.



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Fig. 4.

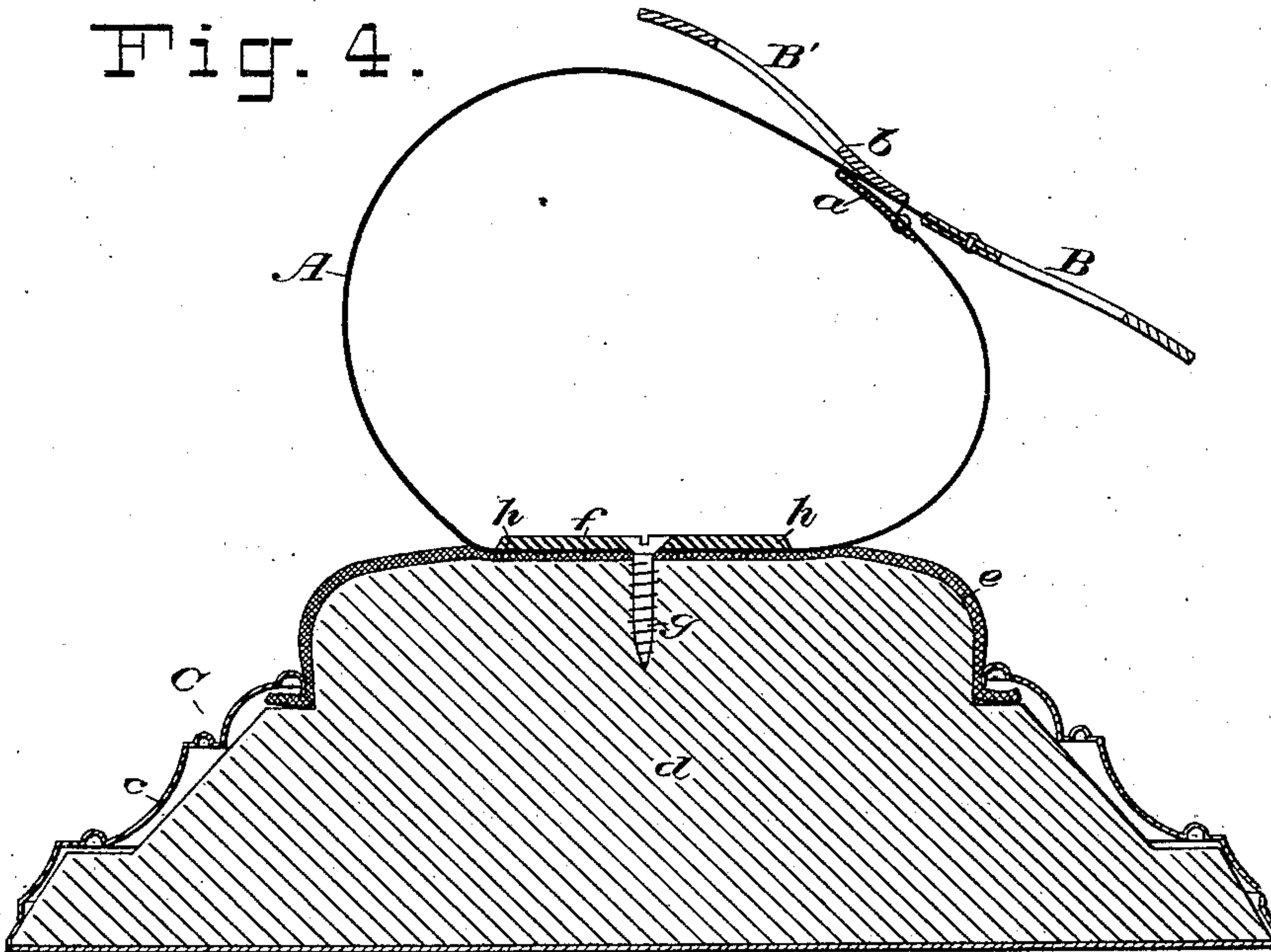
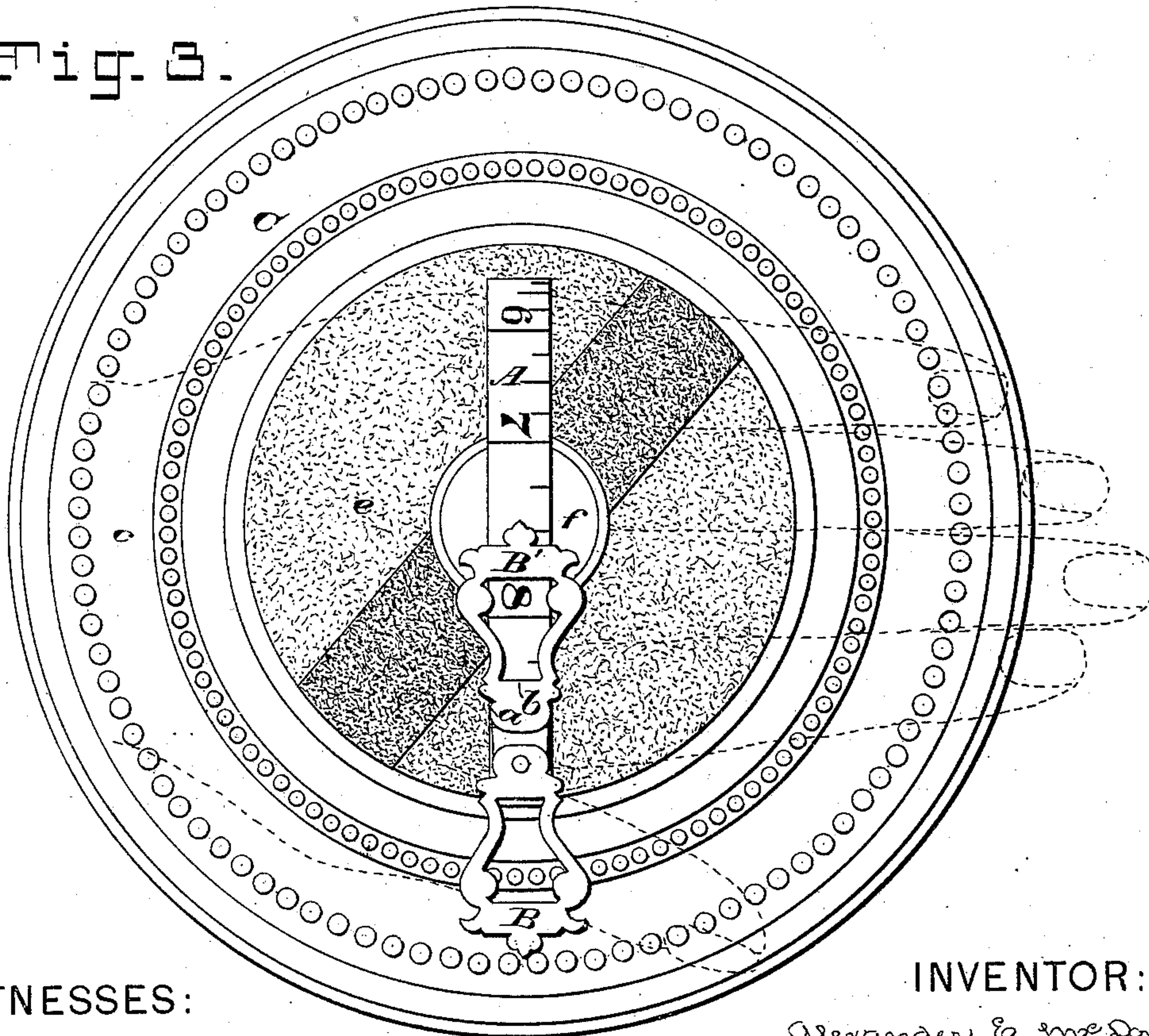


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 7.

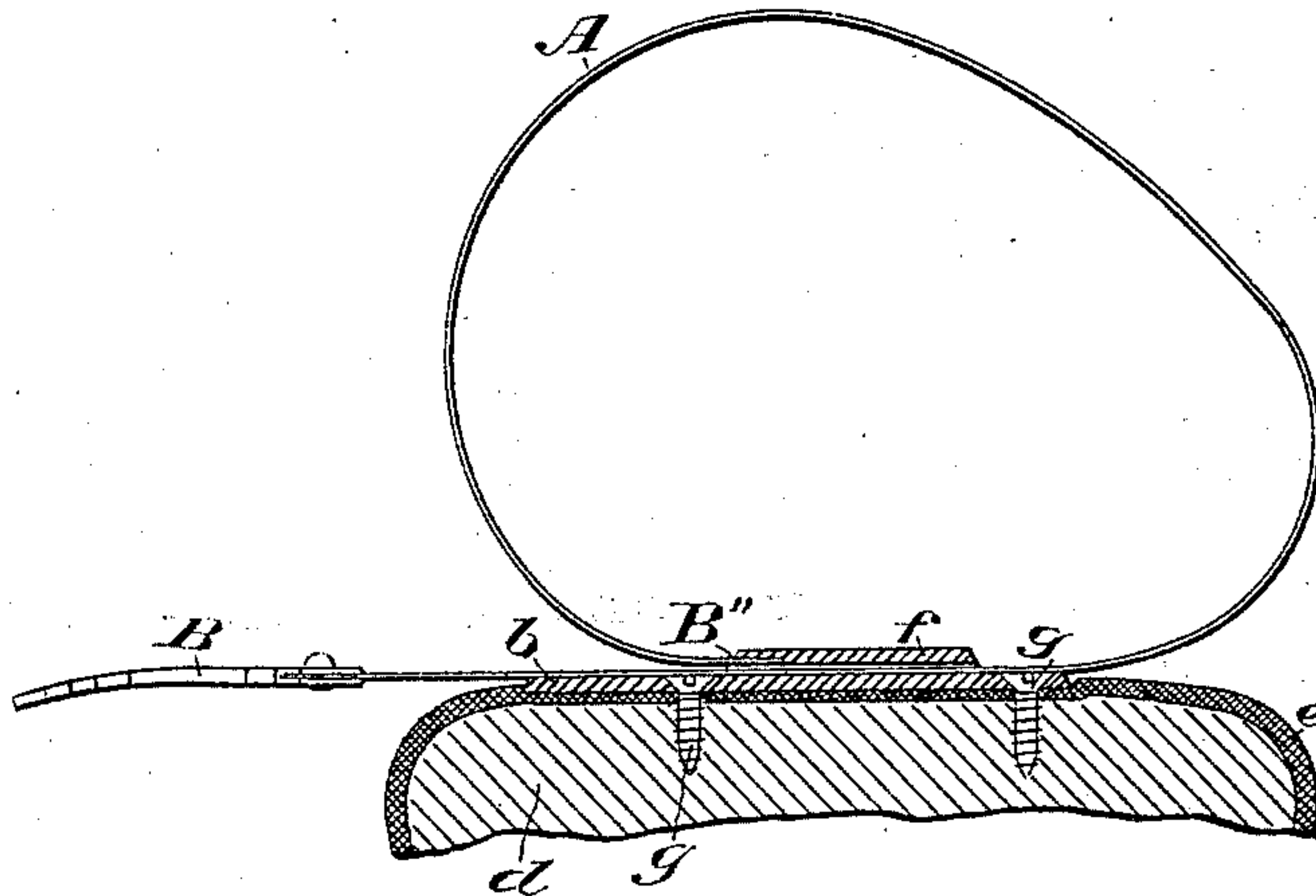
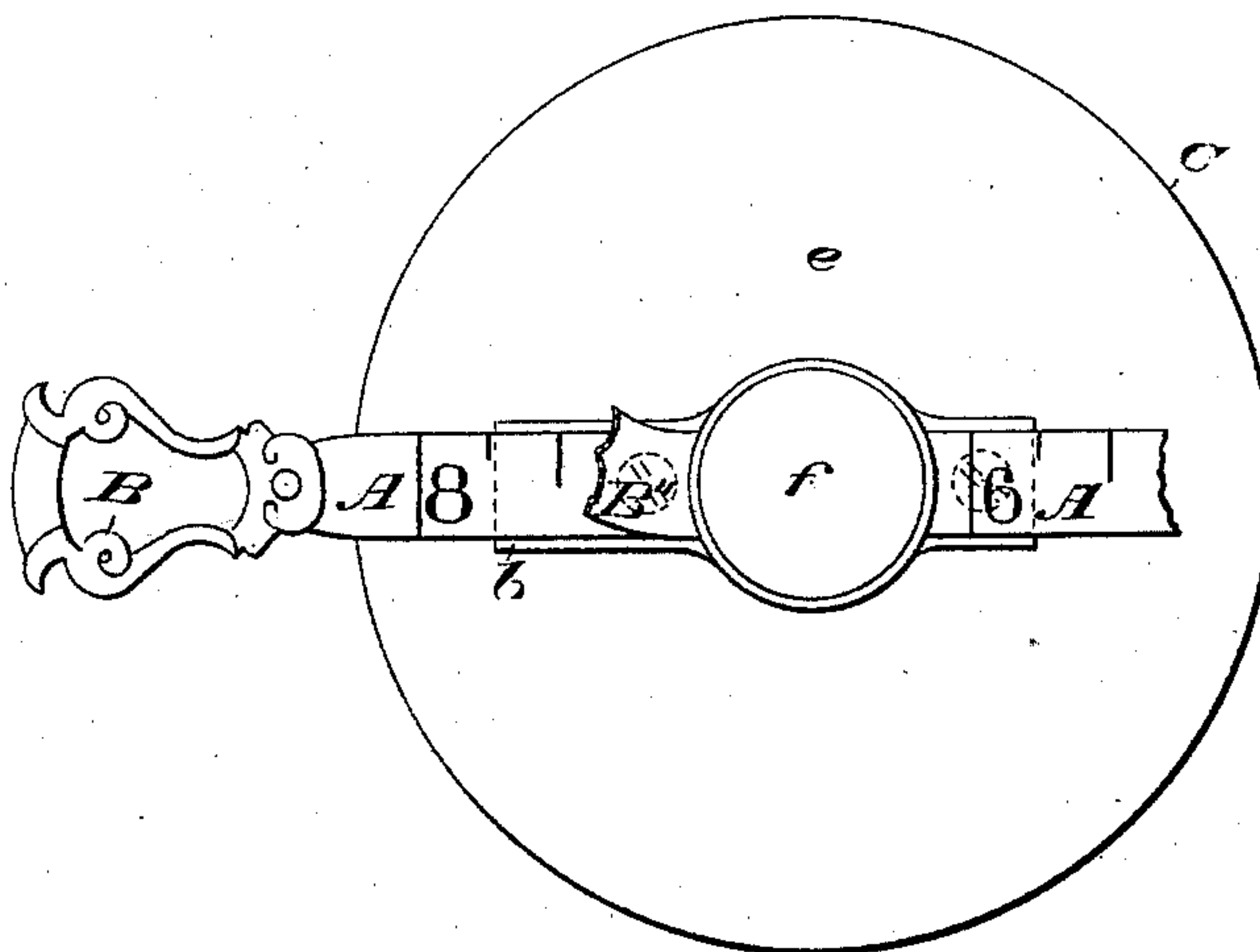


Fig. 8.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER ELMER McDONALD, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

HAND-MEASURE FOR FITTING GLOVES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 308,684, dated December 2, 1884.

Application filed June 11, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER ELMER McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, temporarily residing in Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented an Improved Hand-Measure for Fitting Gloves, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a device for measuring the hand in order to ascertain the size of glove that will fit.

The invention consists of a graduated tape made from some suitable elastic material—as thin steel, by preference—and provided with a handle or handles and a keeper, through which one end of the tape plays in the manipulation of the measure. This tape is mounted upon a base, the attachment being made at or near the middle of the tape, as will be hereinafter described.

The object in employing a somewhat stiff and elastic material for the tape and in confining one end in a keeper is to cause the tape to preserve, normally, an open hoop-like or loop-like form, which enables the hand to be passed into such loop without the inconvenience that would attend the use of a flabby or very flexible tape. The tape is by preference secured to the ornamental base in such a manner as to slightly flatten the loop, whereby, in drawing the tape down over the hand, it is made to conform to the shape of the hand the better. This flattening I effect, by preference, in the manner hereinafter described—that is to say, by clamping the tape down to the base with a broad or winged clip, which flattens down the side of the tape at the clamping-point and gives to the loop a somewhat elliptical form. It may be well to say here that the measure of the hand which controls the size of the glove worn is taken around the flattened hand at the knuckles, excluding the thumb. My device is designed for conveniently taking this measure, being intended for use, in the main, in stores where gloves are sold, and where an ordinary detached tape is usually employed for this purpose.

In the drawings, which serve to illustrate my invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation of one of my tapes as it appears when detached from the base. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of my hand-measuring device complete, the tape

being mounted on an ornamental base or stand. Fig. 3 is a plan of the same. Fig. 4 is a vertical mid-section, which shows the mode of constructing the base and attaching the tape thereto. Fig. 5 is a fragmentary view showing the preferred form of attaching-clip in plan. Fig. 6 is a sectional view illustrating a modification. Fig. 7 is a similar view illustrating a modification, and Fig. 8 is a plan of the same.

A is a tape, graduated as shown, and made preferably of thin elastic steel. It might, however, be made from some substance of a similar character, as hard rubber, celluloid, &c.

It is important that the material from which the tape is made should be sufficiently stiff to maintain the open loop-like or hoop-like form of the tape, as shown. The tape is provided with a handle, B, at one end, and a handle, B', at the other end, the latter being provided with a guide-slot or keeper, *a*, through which the other or free end of the tape plays, and an indicator-margin, *b*, at the point where the measure is taken from the graduations. The tape is mounted on an ornamental base or stand, C', of any suitable form. I have shown it circular in plan; but it might as well be square or polygonal. The base or stand I usually construct of a ring, *c*, which may be of wood, spun metal, or any suitable material, a block, *d*, preferably of wood, and a plush cover, *e*, secured by forcing the block into the ring *c*. The block *d* is by preference slightly recessed to receive the attaching-clip *f* and that portion of the tape it rests upon, which prevents the clip and tape from turning on the attaching-screw *g*. The clip has by preference lateral wings or projections *h h*, which rest upon the tape and serve to flatten the loop of the tape somewhat, and thus adapt it more nearly normally to the flat form of the hand. In setting the tape on its base I set the end bearing the keeper *a* to one side, or nearer the attaching-point than the other end, as represented, in order that when the tape is drawn down over the hand the indicating-point *b* may be on the top or back of the hand, where the graduations may be easily read.

In using my measure the hand is placed in the loop of the tape palm down, and the operator grasps the handles B B', one with each

hand, and draws the free end of the tape through keeper *a* until the tape snugly embraces the hand. The proper graduation-mark indicating the measure will then appear at the indicator-margin *b*. When the handles are released, the elasticity of the tape causes it to again assume its open hoop-like form, and as the tape, to do this, must be somewhat stiff, I find it best to somewhat flatten the loop by the clip attachment, in order that the tape may be drawn down more snugly over the hand. If the tape does not fit the hand, the measure will be inaccurate. The base *C* may be secured to a counter or to a case containing gloves, if desired; but in order to effect the measure properly and conveniently the base should be somewhat elevated, as shown, and free from obstructions to the insertion of the hand in the loop. The base for the hand to rest on and the fixing of the tape thereto are essential, and I prefer to cover the base, as shown, with plush or other soft material, to enhance its appearance and to afford a soft support for the hand.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a modification in which a re-enforcing spring, *i*, is placed behind that end of the tape bearing the keeper *a*, and the handle *B'* is removed. The spring *i* might be replaced by a non-elastic piece. The object of this is to so stiffen the tape at this point as to resist flexure outward when the measure is taken, and thus avoid the necessity of holding to this end of the tape. If no re-enforce is employed and the handle *B'* is not held, this end of the tape is apt to flex or bend outward when an attempt is made to draw the free end through the keeper.

In Figs. 6 and 7 I have shown another mode of mounting the tape, wherein one end, *B''*, is secured to the clip *f*, and the keeper is formed in said clip. The free end of the tape passes through said keeper and plays therein, as shown. The graduations are read from the point *b*. This construction also enables the measure to be taken with one hand, as there is no handle *B'*.

My measure is designed only as a hand-

measure for fitting gloves, and I make no claim to a measure for any other purpose.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a hand-measure for fitting gloves, comprising a graduated tape made from suitable elastic material and provided with a keeper and a suitable handle or handles, as shown, and a base to form a support for the hand while it is being measured, said tape being secured to said base, substantially as shown and described.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a hand-measure for fitting gloves, comprising a graduated tape of suitable elastic material, a base on which said tape is securely mounted, and means, substantially as described, for securing said tape to said base, and for flattening the loop of the tape through the medium of its attachment, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. As an improved article of manufacture, a hand-measure for fitting gloves, comprising a base to support the hand while it is being measured, a graduated loop-like tape of suitable elastic material provided with a handle or handles and a keeper, as set forth, and an attaching-clip and its screw, said clip being arranged to rest on and clamp the tape down upon the base and to flatten the loop of the tape, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. As an improved article of manufacture, the combination of the base *C*, the graduated tape *A*, the handles of the tape, one of which is provided with a keeper, *a*, and an indicator-margin, *b*, and the winged clip *f* and its screw, all arranged as shown, to form a hand-measure for fitting gloves.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALEXANDER ELMER McDONALD.

Witnesses:

HENRY CONNETT,
ARTHUR C. FRASER.