(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. OPPENHEIMER.

LATHING APPARATUS.

No. 308,850. Patented Dec. 2, 1884.

Fig. 1.

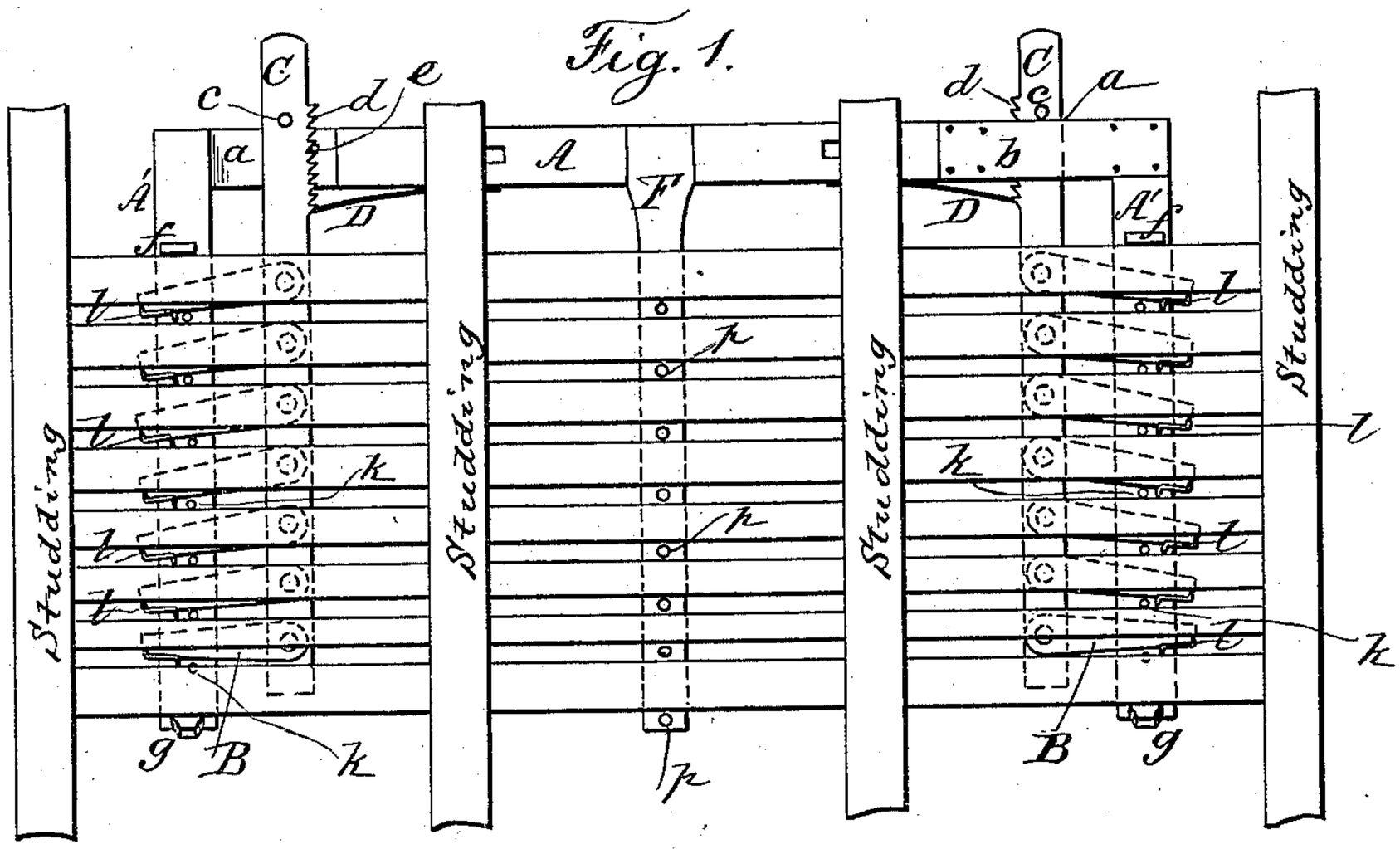
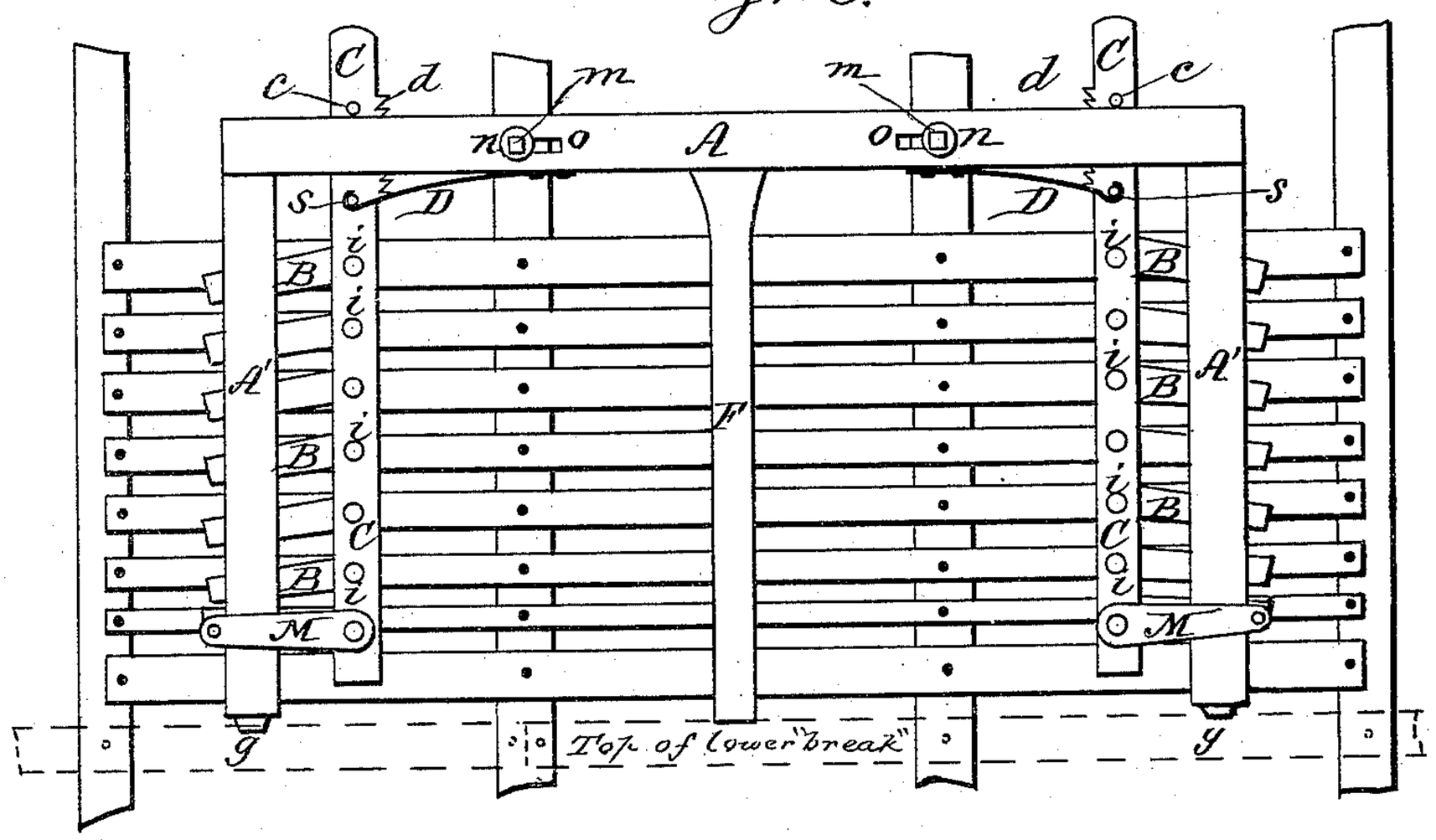


Fig. 2.



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W. F. Stearns

Inventor:
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Attys

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

J. OPPENHEIMER.

LATHING APPARATUS.

No. 308,850. Patented Dec. 2, 1884.

Fig. 3.

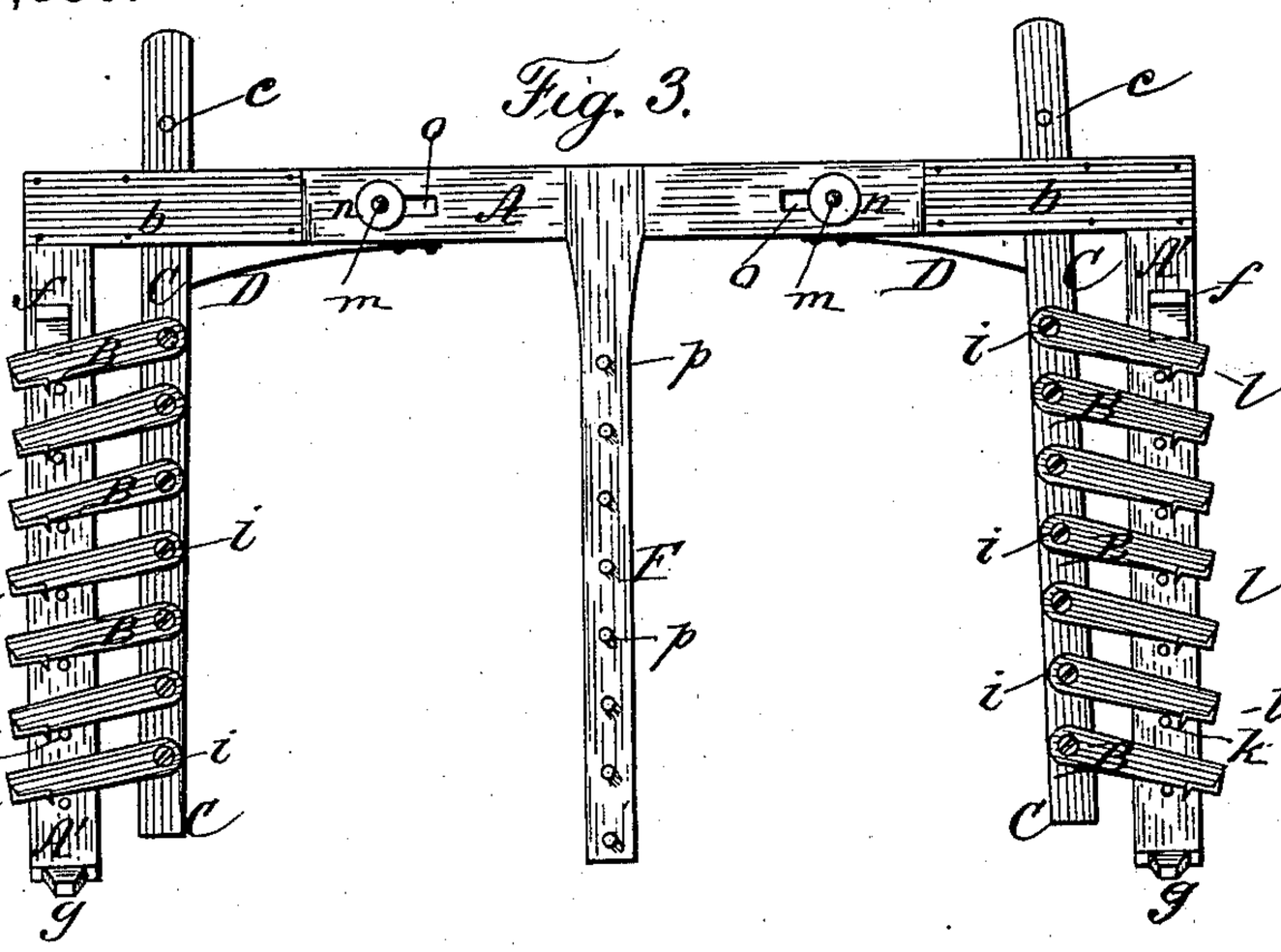


Fig. 4.

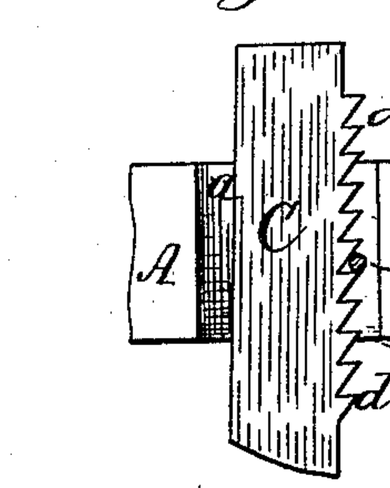


Fig. 5.

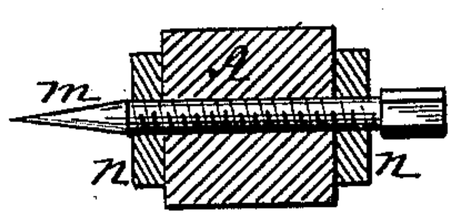


Fig. 6.

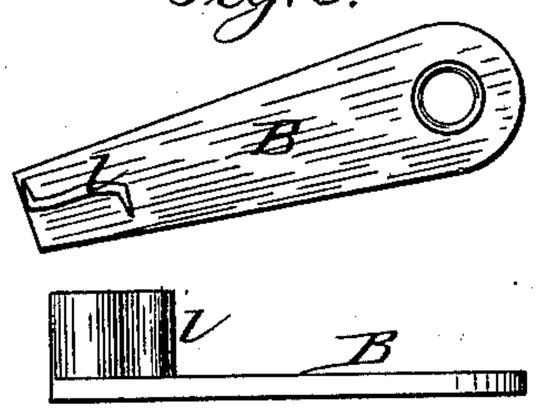


Fig. 7.

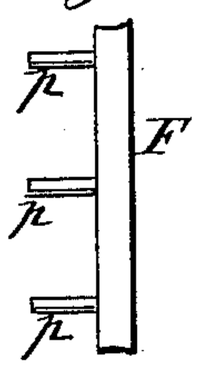
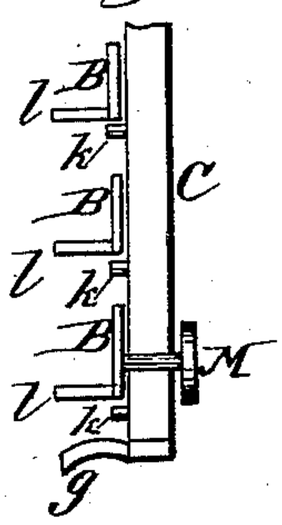


Fig. 8.



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Inventor:
James Oppenheimer,
by Johnson and Johnson
Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES OPPENHEIMER, OF SHENANDOAH, IOWA.

LATHING APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 308,850, dated December 2, 1884.

Application filed May 1, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES OPPENHEIMER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Shenandoah, in the county of Page and State of Iowa, have invented new and useful Improvements in Lathing Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to devices for attaching a "break" of laths at one time to scantling or to joists; and the objects of my improvements are, first, to provide a construction whereby laths of different widths may be racked for the break in such manner as that the openings or spaces between them shall be the same or so nearly the same as to satisfy the conditions of plastering; second, to provide a means for correcting bowed laths or laths warped in the direction of their length; and, third, to simplify and generally improve the construction of apparatus having my objects in view. These objects I accomplish by means of the apparatus shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a rear elevation showing attachment to wall-studs. Fig. 2 is the converse of Fig. 1 looking from the front; Fig. 3, a view showing the apparatus at rest in position to receive the break of laths; and Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, details of construction whose character is indicated by letters of reference.

There is a frame, A A′ A′, the horizontal top bar being designated by the letter A, and the vertical bars thereof by the letters A′ A′, which latter serve as seats for the equalizing-holders B for the laths; and within the top bar, A, at each end there are slots *a a* for the play and movement of actuating-levers C, connected to said equalizing-holders B, as will be presently described. These slots may be mortised in the frame or may be open recesses covered by metallic straps *b b;* but in any case the vertical play and movement of the levers C is limited by a stop or other detent, *c*, thereon above the strap or above the slot.

To control and ascertain the position of levers C, they are provided on their upper ends at a point within the slot of bar A with a rack of teeth, *d*, or equivalent device, engaging when required with a catch-pin, *e*, Fig. 4, or its equivalent in the interior side wall of said slot *a*, the levers C being held to their position of engagement by springs D, fastened thereto by pin *s*, and to the cross-bar A, as shown in Fig. 2. Upon the bars A′ A′ are bearing clamp-stops *f f*, near the bar A, which are for the reception and grip of the top one of the eight laths of the break between the first of the series of equalizing holding-clamps, it being necessary to have a fixed bearing-surface for the laths between the movable equalizers both at top and bottom. At the bottom I provide for such service-bearing clamp-stop *g g*, which are in the instance shown curved arms, for a purpose to be hereinafter stated.

It should be stated that the levers provided with the racks for engagement with the stops in the slots of the main bar A may be readily disengaged from their positions of holding by a hand or thumb movement, pushing them therein toward the vertical bars.

Upon the levers C are pivoted seven movable equalizing arms or holders, B, by pivots *i*, as shown. These arms B are loosely pivoted and rest upon pins *k*, inserted in the vertical bars A′ A′ of the frame. The purpose of these pins *k* is to prevent the bunching of the loosely-pivoted arms and to preserve them in such relative separation as to readily receive the laths. For such reception the said arms are formed with grips *l l*, which in the instance shown are S-shaped projections at right angles to said arms, so formed as that their edges may slightly bite the lath to hold it firmly between them. These grips *l* serve of course as rests for the laths, and project, as shown in Fig. 6, at right angles to the arms with which they are cast or formed.

For the purpose of attaching the rack to the scantling of a house wall or ceiling, I provide driving set-spikes *m m* in the top bar, A, of the frame at suitable distances apart to engage with the scantling as in position, and secure them by leather or rubber clamp-washers *n* through a slot, *o*, in the said bar A, so that they may be moved to accommodate the frame to the distance of the scantling or studding, as is well understood in carpentry.

Depending from the bar A is a guide-bar, F, provided with a series of pins, *p*, at such distance apart as to receive the laths and permit them to bear down and up. The function of this is to correct what are called "bowed laths"—that is to say, laths which are bowed in the direction of their length. This depend-

ing arm F is midway between the bars A′ A′ of the frame. I consider it a desirable though not absolutely necessary feature. The lower bearing-stops, *g*, are curved outwardly and downwardly from the vertical bars A′ of the frame for the purpose of resting upon the top lath of the last break, and particularly so curved for a better hold when the rack is applied to the ceiling.

It will be seen that by my improved construction the laths, no matter what may be their width, (and it is well understood that laths are frequently of different widths,) will have been properly spaced and have the same distance between each lath. This is a matter almost necessary for the plasterer, as those skilled in the art understand. It is accomplished by simply pressing the levers to operate the equalizing-arms and assuring them by the spring, rack, or ratchet and pin of the frame and levers, as above set forth. Of course, in order to make the lever C operate its equalizing-arms it must be provided at its lower end with a bearing connecting-link, M, joined with the lower equalizing-arm, B, as shown in Figs. 2 and 8.

I claim—

1. The combination, in a lathing apparatus, of the frame A A′ A′, with levers C C, and the carrying, holding, and equalizing arms B for the laths, pivoted only to said levers, top and bottom bearing clamping-stops, *f* and *g*, on said frame, means for controlling the movement of said levers and for arresting them at an ascertained point, and with means for wall attachment, substantially as described.

2. The combination, in a lathing apparatus, of the frame consisting of the horizontal bar A and the depending vertical bars A′ A′, the former having the slots *a a* and catch-pins *e e* therein, and the latter having holding-pins *k k* thereon, with the levers C C, each provided with a catch-rack, *d*, and the carrying, holding, and equalizing arms B for the laths, pivoted at one end only to said levers, the top and bottom bearing-stops, *f* and *g*, on the vertical bars A′, springs D, and detents *c*, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purpose described.

3. The combination, in a lathing apparatus, of the frame A A′ A′, with levers C C, the carrying, holding, and equalizing arms B for the laths, and a middle depending bar, F, provided with correcting-pins *p* for bowed laths, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with the frame, of the levers C C, and the equalizing-arms B, pivoted to said levers at one end only, having supporting-grips *l* at their free ends, bearing-stops *f* and *g*, and means, substantially such as described, whereby the levers are held when the laths are properly set and gripped.

5. In a lathing apparatus, the equalizing holding device for the break of laths, consisting of the levers C C, the pivoted arm B, having right-angled supporting-grips *l*, adapted to bite upon and hold the laths above and below said grips, fixed stops *f g*, between which the grips are arranged to operate, and the holding-rack *d*, and pin *e*, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES OPPENHEIMER.

Witnesses:

A. E. H. JOHNSON,

J. W. HAMILTON JOHNSON.