

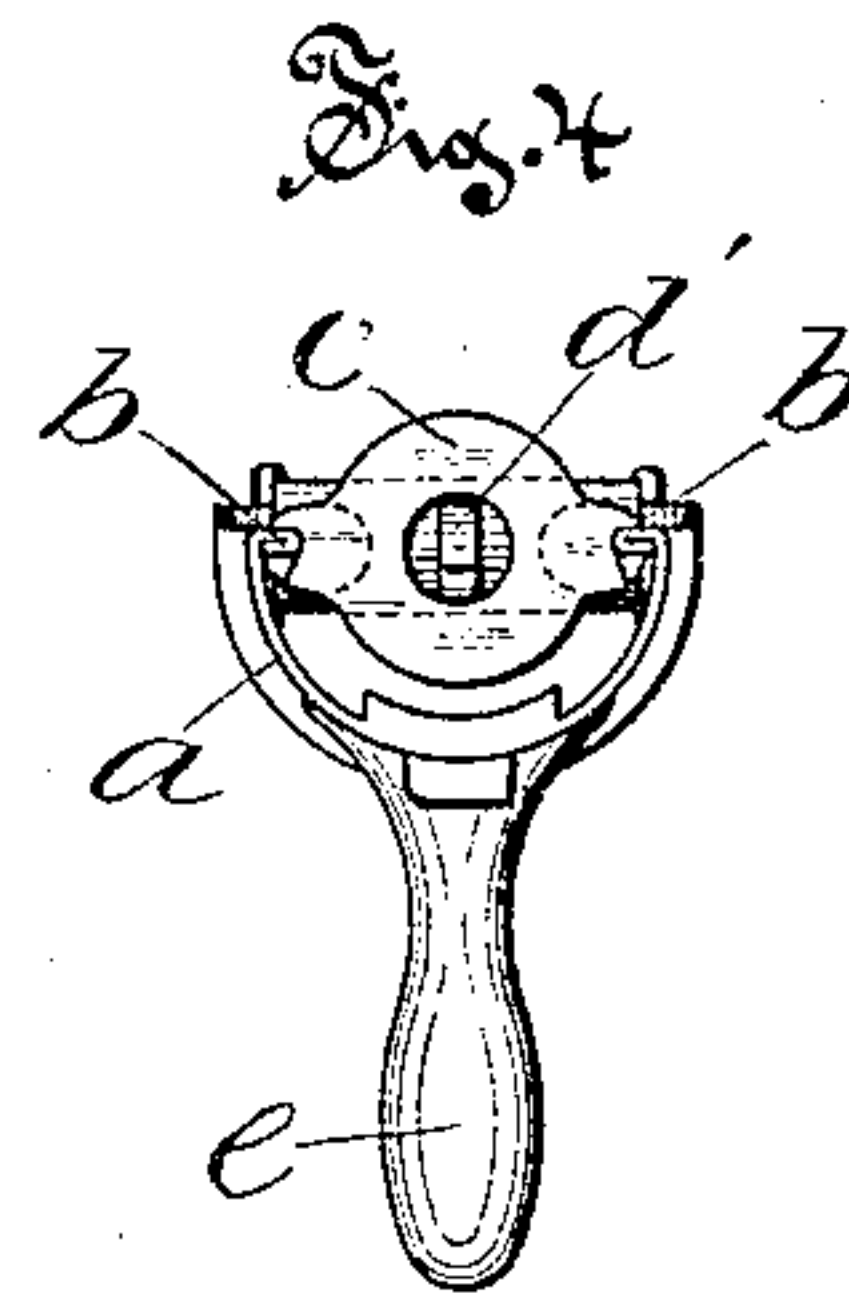
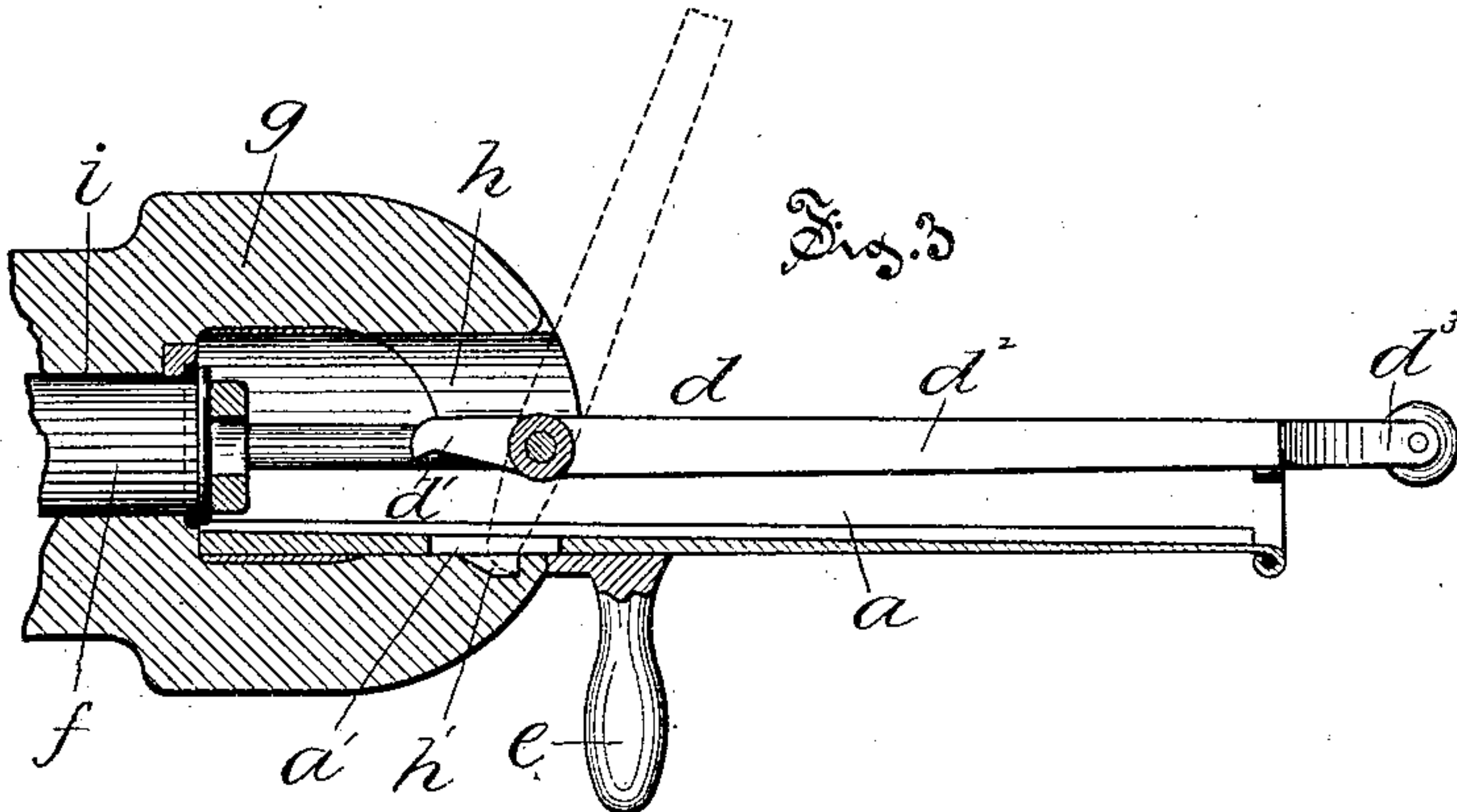
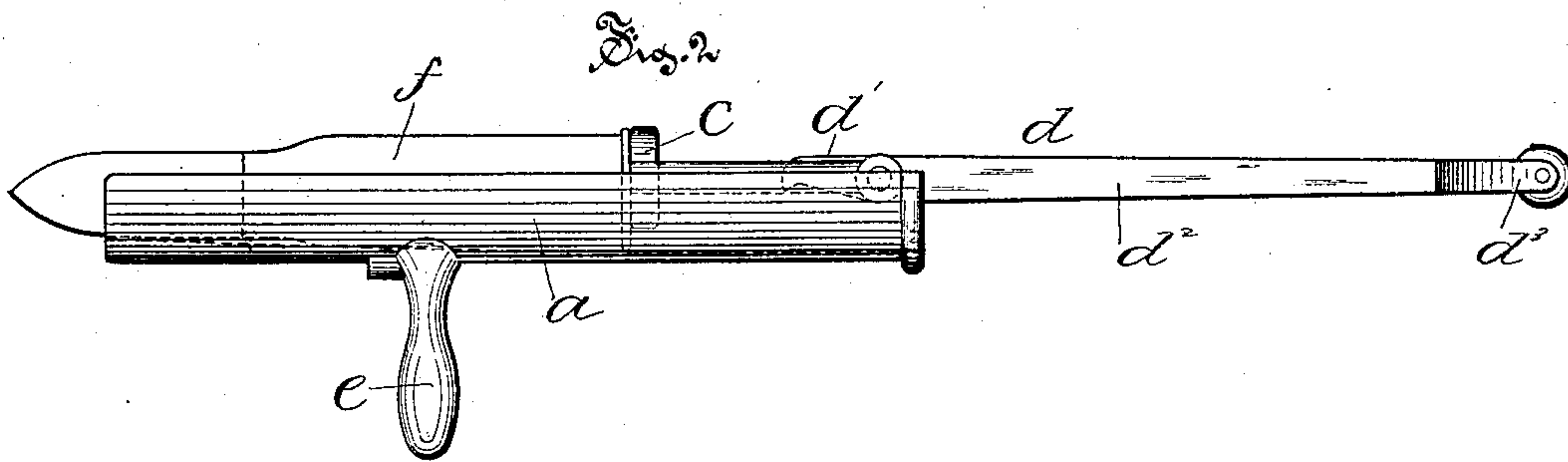
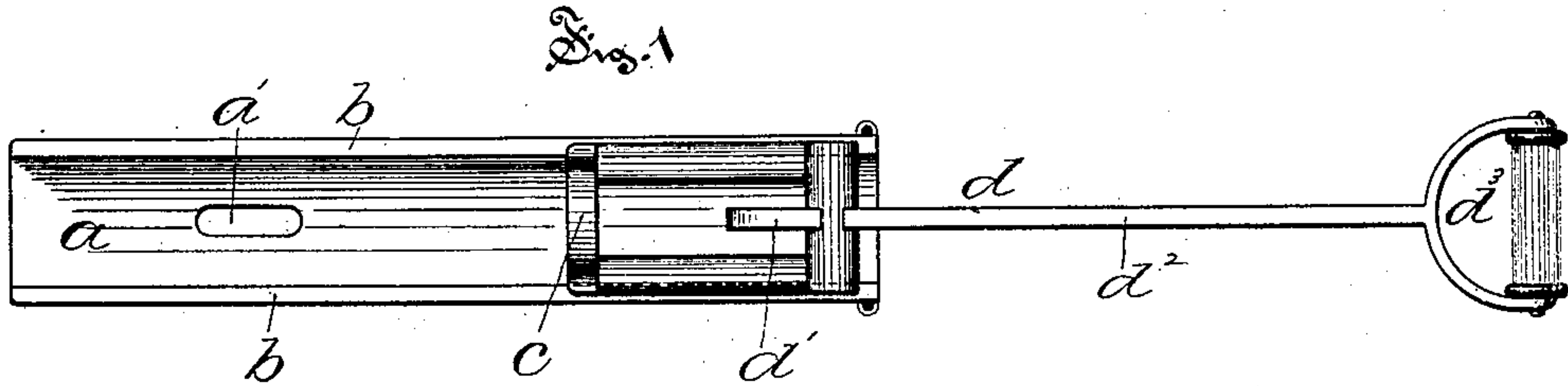
(No Model.)

R. J. GATLING.

LOADING DEVICE FOR BREECH LOADING GUNS.

No. 311,974.

Patented Feb. 10, 1885.



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD J. GATLING, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

## LOADING DEVICE FOR BREECH-LOADING GUNS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 311,974, dated February 10, 1885.

Application filed June 16, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RICHARD J. GATLING, of Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Loading Devices for Breech-Loading Guns; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, whereby a person skilled in the art can make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, where—

Figure 1 is a top view of my improved loading device. Fig. 2 is a side view of the same, shown as holding a cartridge. Fig. 3 is a view in central section of the breech of a gun, and part of the device showing the method of using the latter. Fig. 4 is a view of the front end of the device.

My invention relates particularly to the type of breech-loading guns shown and described in my application therefor, filed June 20, 1882; but it is equally adapted for use with any breech-loading gun.

It consists of a trough-shaped body bearing a sliding follower with a lever-handle, all combined and arranged as more particularly hereinafter described.

The object of my invention is to provide a device that will not only aid in putting the cartridge into the chamber of the gun, but by the position of its parts will indicate correctly when the cartridge is in its proper position—that is, fully home.

In the accompanying drawings, the letter *a* denotes a trough-shaped or semi-cylindrical body, made preferably of sheet-brass, the edges of which are doubled and bent inward to form longitudinal guides *b* for a sliding follower, *c*, which has lateral grooves into which the flanges fit, and by these means the follower is guided as it is slid back and forth in the trough. Hung by a horizontal pin to the rear part of the follower is a lever, *d*, having a short arm, *d'*, and a longer arm, *d''*, bearing a handle, *d'''*, by means of which the follower is pushed forward and withdrawn.

To the under side of the body *a* is fastened a handle, *e*, which serves as a means for sup-

porting the feed-guide and a contained cartridge, *f*. The letter *g* denotes the breech of a gun, having the rearward opening, *h*, leading to the cartridge-chamber *i*.

In the lower part of the opening *h* is formed a notch or socket, *h'*, into which the point of the shorter end of the lever is introduced in the operation of loading, and which serves as a fulcrum for the lever.

The method of using my improved device is as follows: The cartridge being placed in the guide in front of the follower, the handle *e* is grasped by the operator in one hand and the handle of the lever with the other, and the point of the cartridge and front end of the loader are thrust into the opening in the breech of the gun. The follower is then pushed directly forward by means of the lever-handle until the cartridge is well within the chamber, as illustrated in Fig. 3 in full lines. The lever-handle is then raised to the position indicated in dotted outline in Fig. 3. The descending front arm of the lever extends through the slot *a'* in the bottom of the body of the loader, and takes a firm hold against the socket or seat *h'* in the breech end of the gun, which serves as a fulcrum for the lever. By bringing the lever-handle forcibly forward it will now place the cartridge in its correct position in the gun, and this fact is indicated by the front edge of the lever striking the top of the breech of the gun, the length of the lever being so adjusted as to reach exactly the rear end of the chamber when the lever is in this position. The front end of the follower, where it comes in contact with the base of the cartridge, has a recess or perforation to prevent it from touching the percussion-primer of the cartridge.

In addition to the facility with which a cartridge is introduced into a gun by means of my improved loader, it has the advantage of enabling the operator to place successive cartridges in exactly the same position in the chamber of the gun, and so insure accuracy in striking the given target.

My improved device is also intended for use in loading balls separate from the charge of powder, and it determines mechanically the



position of successive balls, so that the charges of powder afterward introduced will be in the same relative position to the balls.

I claim as my invention—

5 1. As a feed device for breech-loading guns, the open trough-shaped body, having an opening through the bottom and a handle fast to the lower side of the body, a follower sliding in guides on the body, and a lever pivoted to  
10 the follower, all substantially as described.

2. In a loading device for breech-loading guns, a feed-case having a handle fixed to its lower side, an opening through the bottom of the case, a sliding follower bearing a lever,  
15 and a breech-opening in a gun having a shoulder or lug forming a fulcrum for the short arm of the lever, all substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a feed device for breech-loading guns, the case *a*, having the flanges or guides *b*, fixed 20 handle *c*, and opening *a'*, the sliding follower *e*, borne on the guides, and having pivoted thereto the lever *d*, with handle *d'*, and short arm *d'*, all substantially as described.

4. In a feed device for breech-loading guns, 25 a case bearing a sliding follower and pivoted lever, in combination with a gun the chamber of which bears a fulcrum-socket for the lever, all substantially as described.

RICHARD J. GATLING.

Witnesses:

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