

(No Model.)

T. COYLE.
FORK.

No. 316,334.

Patented Apr. 21, 1885.

Fig. 1.

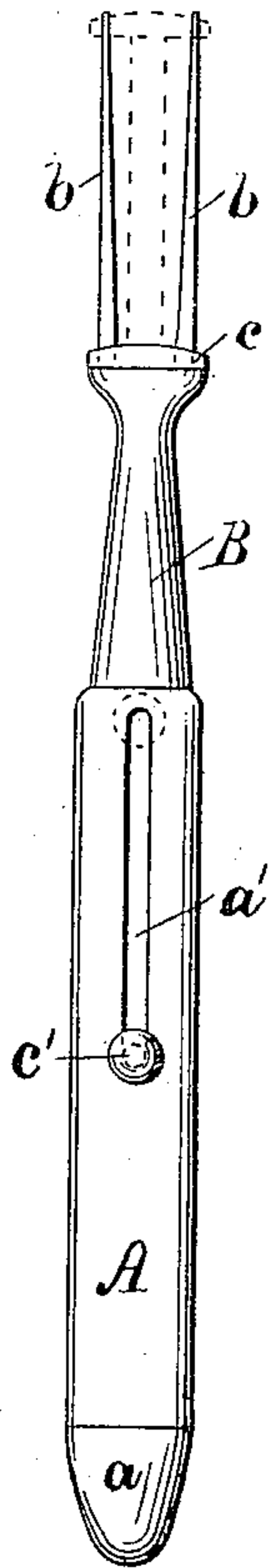


Fig. 2.

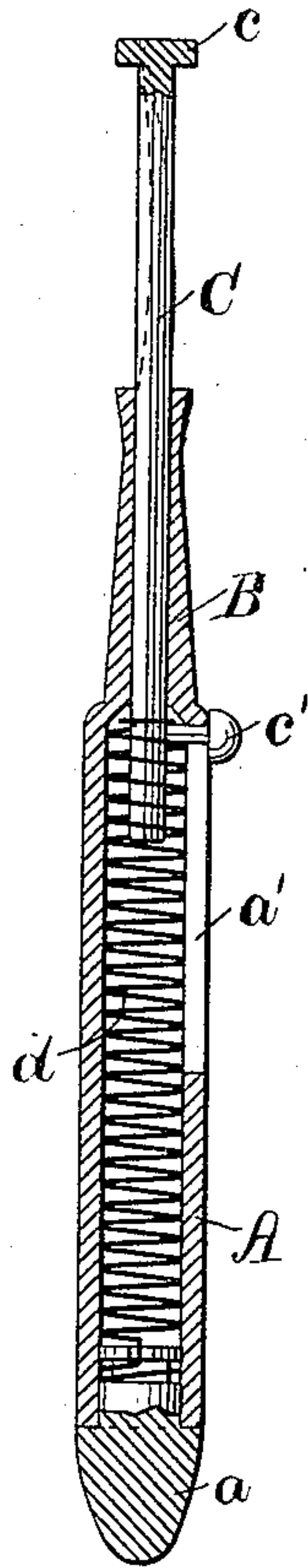
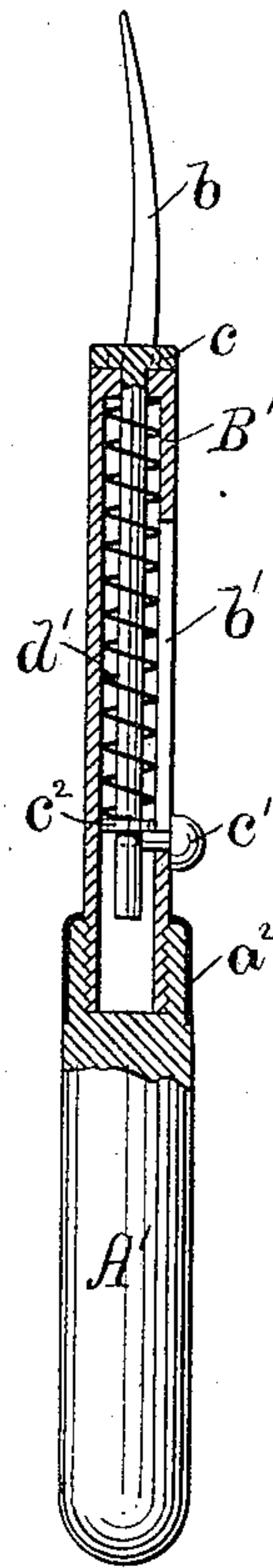


Fig. 3.



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FORK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 316,334, dated April 21, 1885.

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

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS COYLE, of Apponaug, in the county of Kent and State of Rhode Island, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Forks, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of forks for culinary or table use which are provided with an attachment for removing any substance from the prongs without grasping such substance with the hands or with any other separate implement; and the object of my invention is to produce a fork of this class in which the sliding attachment shall be so disposed as to render the implement as compact and neat in appearance and as convenient to use and clean as an ordinary fork.

To the above purposes my invention consists in the provision of a fork provided with a spring-slide having its rod working within the handle or shank and extending outward between the prongs of the fork, as hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that my invention may be fully understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved fork. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 3 is a similar view, partly in elevation, of a modified form of the fork.

In the said drawings, Figs. 1 and 2, A designates a hollow handle, the lower end of which is closed by a cap, *a*, and one side of which is formed with an elongated slot, *a'*.

B designates the shank of the fork, which is also hollow, and is formed upon or secured to the upper end of the handle A, and which terminates at its outer end in two or more prongs, *b*.

C designates a rod, which extends loosely through the shank B, and carries at its outer end a slide or head, *c*, which surrounds the prongs of the fork. At its lower end the rod C carries a knob, *c'*, which extends through the slot *a'* of the handle A.

d designates a coiled spring, which is placed within the handle A, one end being secured

to the plug *a* and the other end to the inner end of the rod C, and said spring acts contractively to hold the rod C downward within the handle, as is shown in Fig. 1.

In Fig. 3 I have illustrated a modified form of my invention. In this arrangement the handle A' is solid, and has a shallow recess formed longitudinally in its outer end. The shank B' is hollow, and is attached to the handle by a screw-connection into the recess of said handle. The shank terminates in two or more prongs, as before, but is formed on its upper side with the elongated slot *b'*. A coiled spring, *d'*, is located within the hollow shank, and is confined between the outer end of the shank and a collar, *c''*, which is formed upon the inner end of the rod C. This rod C works within the shank, and has the slide *c* surrounding the prongs, as before, and also the knob *c'*, which extends through the slot *b'*. The spring *d'* acts expansively to hold the rod down into the shank.

It is optional as to what material shall be used in the construction of my improved fork, horn, wood, bone, or metal being suitable for the purpose.

When a substance is being impaled upon the prongs, the slide is not moved, but is held out of the way by its spring; but when the substance is to be removed from the prongs, instead of grasping the substance and pulling it off by the fingers—an unpleasant feeling and appearing operation—the slide is pushed along upon the prongs by pressure applied to the knob and knocks the substance off of the prongs. Upon releasing the knob the spring will automatically retract the slide. The slot limits the movements of the rod and slide, and is of such length as to permit of the effective action of the slide upon the prongs.

It will thus be seen that the working parts of the attachment are almost wholly concealed within the handle or shank, so that the implement is neat and compact in appearance, convenient to use, and easy to clean, instead of being clumsy in appearance and difficult to clean, owing to the exposed position of parts, as is the case with previous forms of forks of this class.

I do not wish to be understood as confining

myself to precise details of construction, as my invention contemplates numerous variations in such particulars.

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

1. As an improved article of manufacture,
a fork having a spring-slide working between
its prongs, and the stem of said slide project-
ing from within the handle or shank of the
10 fork and working between its prongs, as de-
scribed.

2. The combination, with the hollow han-
dle having the recessed end, of the slotted
shank having the prongs, the rod and spring
located within the shank, and the slide mount- 15
ed upon the rod and working between the
prongs, as set forth.

THOMAS COYLE.

Witnesses:

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