

(No Model.)

J. H. VENNERS.

BOWLING HOOP.

No. 324,344.

Patented Aug. 11, 1885.

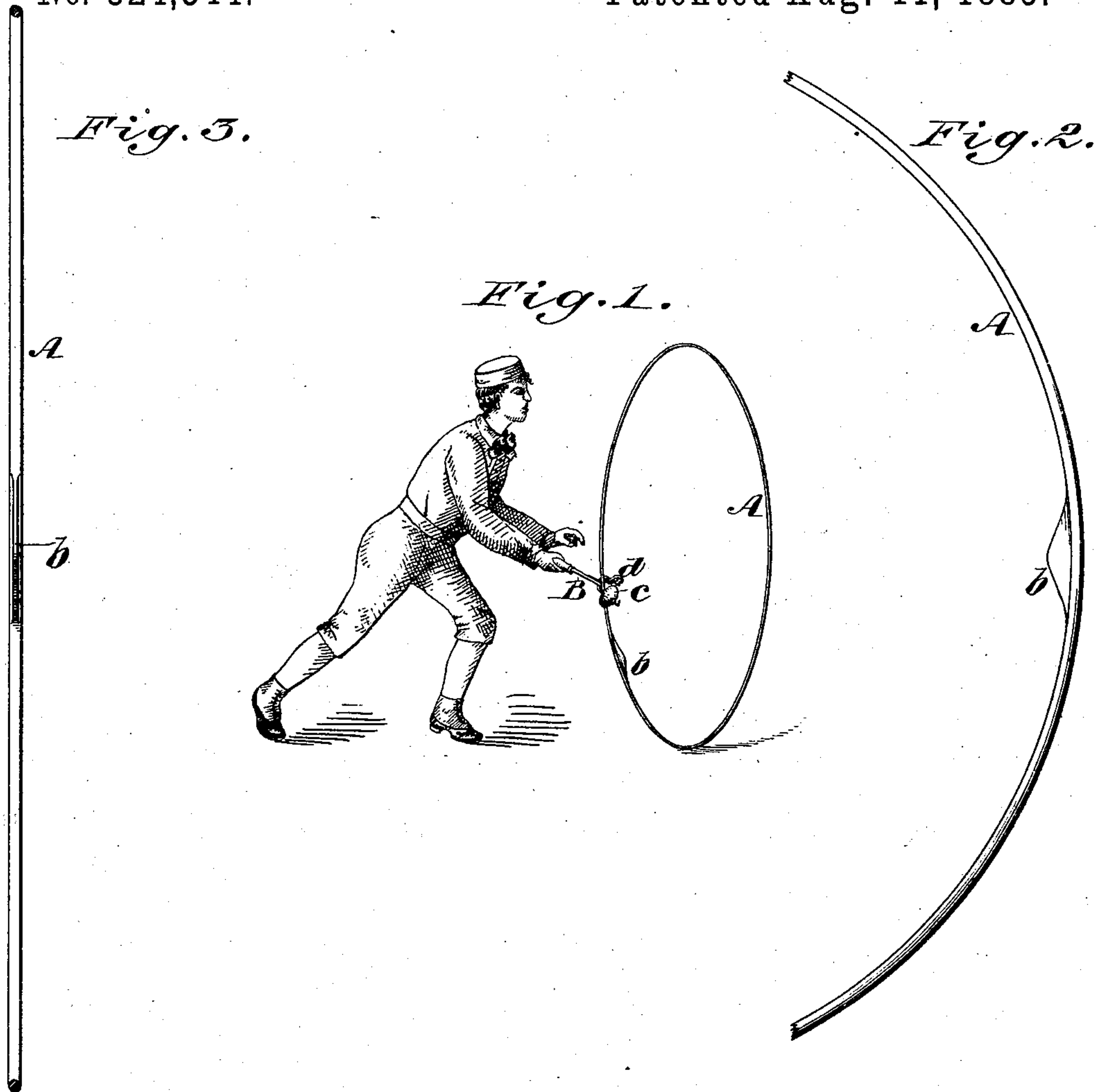
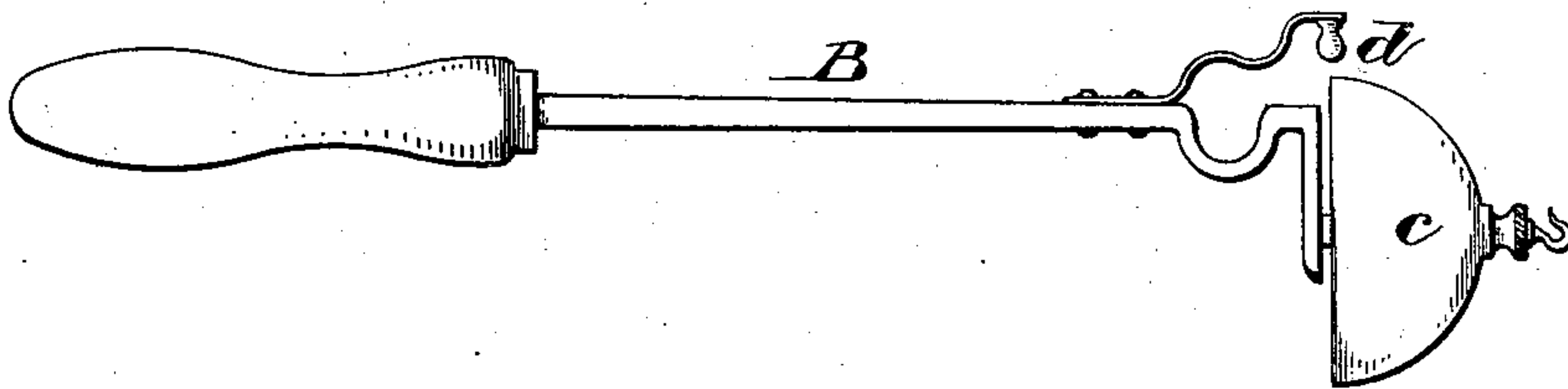


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES:

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JAMES H. VENNERS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOWLING-HOOP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 324,344, dated August 11, 1885.

Application filed December 15, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. VENNERS, of the city and county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bowling-Hoops, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to the toys known as "bowling-hoops," which are plain round structures without spokes or arms, and are usually propelled by a hoop stick or handle, held so as to loosely hook or engage with the hoop at a certain elevation relatively to its center, for the purpose of guiding as well as pushing or propelling it.

My invention consists in a plain or armless bowling-hoop provided with one or more projections inside of its outer surface or perimeter, each, if more than one of such projections, constituting a tripper for operating each time it comes round a bell or other indicating device connected with the handle for the purpose of indicating the speed at which the hoop is run.

The invention also consists in the combination, with such a tripper-hoop, of a handle of the character described, of any desired style or pattern, provided with a speed-indicating device. This indicating device, operated by the tripper or trippers on the hoop, may either be one distinguishable by sound—such as a bell or gong—or one discernible by sight—such as a recording device provided with a dial, or both may be used on the same handle.

The invention may either be applied to a bowling-hoop of small size—as, for instance, a mere toy-hoop—or to a hoop of larger size, suitable for racing or sporting purposes on a track or course for indicating the speed made in a foot-race; and when the handle is provided with a gong or bell in addition to a speed-recording dial the sound of the gong will enable the spectators to register the speed without inspecting the dial attached to the handle.

This invention essentially differs from bell trundle-hoops in which the hoop (so called) is a wheel provided with spokes or arms and axle to which the handle in the form of a non-rotating frame is permanently attached, and is provided with a bell and spring-hammer operated by the spokes of the wheel in succession for the purpose of producing a musical

effect. Such push-wheel device is not a bowling-hoop such as my invention is an improvement upon.

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

Figure 1 represents a view in perspective of a bowling-hoop embodying my invention and as in the act of being propelled by a speed-indicating handle. Fig. 2 is a side view of a portion of the hoop with tripper attached, and Fig. 3 a transverse section of the hoop. Fig. 4 is longitudinal top view of the hoop-handle as provided with a bell or gong indicator.

A indicates the hoop, which is a plain round one, constructed or provided with a projection or tripper, *b*; or there may be more than one, if desired, at different points in the length of the circle formed by the hoop. Such tripper is arranged on the inside of the outer surface of the perimeter of the hoop—that is, on its inner surface or on either side of the hoop, but preferably on its inside.

B is the detachable hooked or crooked handle for bowling and guiding the hoop as bowling-hoops are now operated. This handle, however, has a speed-indicator attached to it for operation by the tripper *b* each time it comes round. This indicating device is here shown as consisting of a gong or bell, *c*, and spring-hammer *d*, which latter as it is acted upon by the tripper *b* sounds the gong once in each revolution of the hoop, or oftener if the hoop be provided with two or more trippers at equal distances apart. In this way the speed of the hoop is readily ascertained.

The invention is simple, cheap, and very attractive, and the hoop may be run by either sex with the right or left hand.

Unlike bell trundle toys as heretofore constructed, with an axial support for the wheel and fixedly-attached propelling handle or frame carrying said wheel and arranged to project transversely to the axis for the purpose of pulling or pushing the toy as an ordinary draft-pole is used, my invention does not admit of an axially-supported wheel being used, but the trundling device must have an uninterrupted open space in its center, or, in other words, be strictly a hoop, in order that the detachable hooked and speed-indicating pro-

5 pelling-handle may engage with and propel it by force applied to the handle from the side of the hoop, as other bowling-hoops having no indicator-trippers have been driven by crooked handles not of a speed-indicating character, and in order that the hoop with its attached indicator-tripper arranged peripherally where the motion is greatest may pass through the speed-indicating propelling-handle.

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

1. A bowling-hoop provided with an indicator-tripper on its inner peripheral surface within the uninterrupted open space circum-

scribed by the hoop, for use in connection 15 with a speed-indicating propelling-handle, substantially as specified.

2. The combination, with the bowling-hoop A, having an indicator-tripper, *b*, on its inner peripheral surface within the uninterrupted 20 open space circumscribed by the hoop, of the detachable hooked or crooked propelling-handle B, provided with a bell, *c*, and spring-hammer *d*, essentially as shown and described.

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Witnesses:

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