

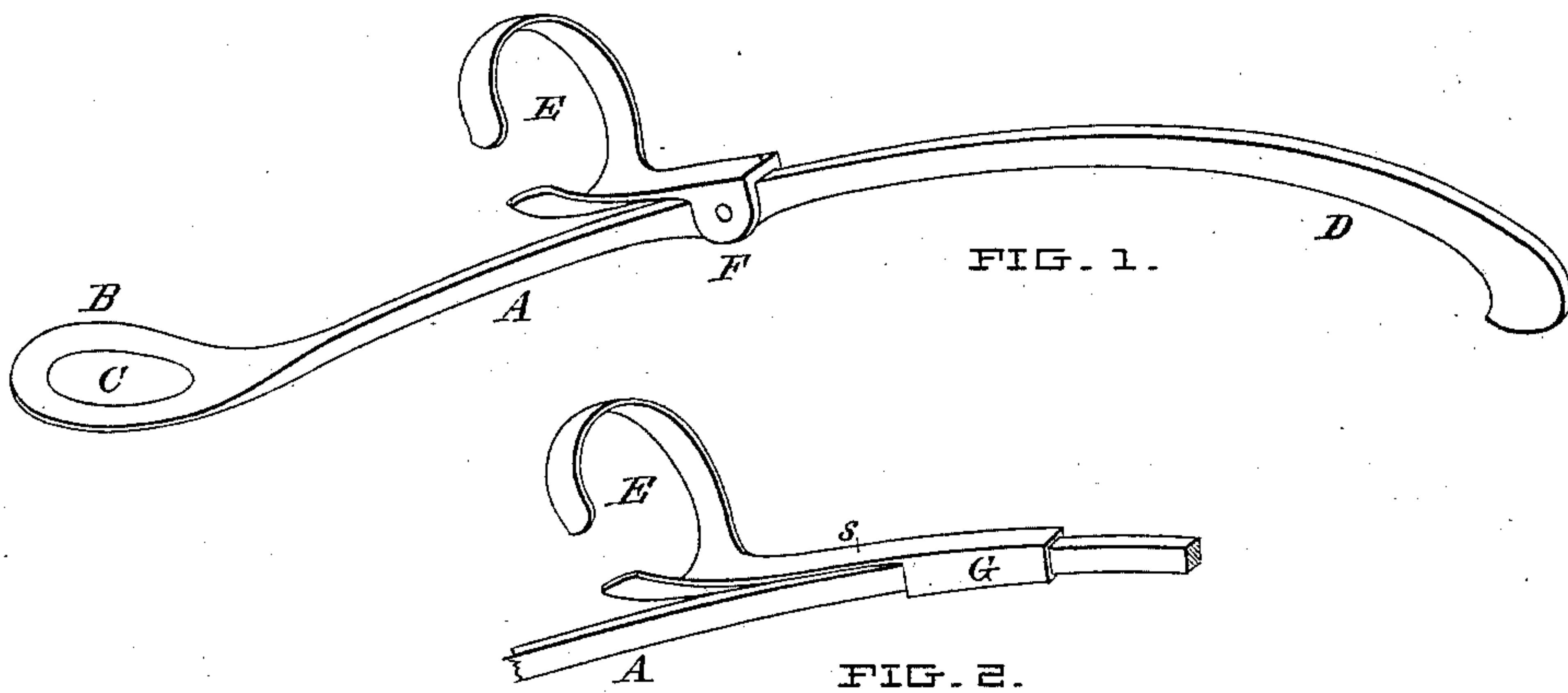
(No Model.)

S. R. WILCOX.

DIGITAL FORCEPS.

No. 338,324.

Patented Mar. 23, 1886.



WITNESSES:

M. C. Kouling.
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INVENTOR:

S. ROLLIN WILCOX
by Franklin Scott, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

S. ROLLIN WILCOX, OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

DIGITAL FORCEPS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 338,324, dated March 23, 1886.

Application filed July 22, 1885. Serial No. 172,267. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, S. ROLLIN WILCOX, of the town of Bennington, in the county of Bennington and State of Vermont, have invented certain Improvements in Obstetrical Instruments, which I have denominated "Digital Forceps," of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying single sheet of drawings, constitutes a specification.

This invention is designed to aid in the removal from the uterus, after the removal or expulsion of the placenta in childbirth, of any adherent tissue or other substance, the detachment of which is essential to a good recovery. The accoucheur often finds difficulty in detaching and removing such adherent matter, on account of the contraction of the os, is often unable to discover it except by digital examination, the contracted parts frequently admitting but a single finger, and often resorts to the insertion of some slender instrument to aid the tip of the finger in seizing and holding any fragmentary tissue or matter when discovered in the act of withdrawal of the same. By such awkward and inefficient appliances the labor of the attendant and the endurance of the patient are often tediously prolonged, and the results are often unsatisfactory, septicæmia and pyæmia sometimes resulting from inefficiency and neglect in attending to the thorough removal of all such substances, the decomposition and absorption of which sometimes induce fatal results.

My invention greatly assists in effecting a thorough detachment and removal of all adherent tissue and morbid matter, and thereby materially enhances the chances of a good recovery. It is fully illustrated in the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 exhibits a perspective view of the same, and Fig. 2 shows an adjustable finger-socket attached to the stem of the forceps-blade.

My device consists, essentially, of two parts—viz., a forceps-blade and a finger-socket attached thereto for the reception of the operator's finger. The blade (shown at A) is slightly curved, the anterior end of which is shaped somewhat like the bowl of a teaspoon,

(seen at B,) and is fenestrated, as at C. The interior edge of the opening C is smooth and thin, not sharp enough to cut, but thin enough to engage or catch any shred of tissue which falls in its way as it is passed over the surface of the inner membrane of the uterus. About a finger's length in rear of opening C the finger-socket is hinged or otherwise attached to the stem of the forceps-blade. One form of attachment by means of a hinge is shown at F, and another, which is adjustable, is shown at G. The latter consists of a simple socket, to which the stem of the blade is fitted, so as to make a tight sliding fit, and by such means maintain its adjustment wherever set.

To provide an equivalent for the action secured by the hinge F, the socket E is made with a slender spring, S, which will yield and bend in obedience to the manipulation of the operator.

The instrument is used by inserting the forefinger through the ring-socket E, so as to bring the tip of the finger into apposition with opening C. When so inserted, the finger becomes a member of the apparatus, forming the companion member or limb of blade A. The finger with the attached device is then inserted in the uterus, and the convex or outer surface of the blade is then gently guided by the finger over the internal surface of the uterus, the internal edge of opening C engaging with and catching onto any shreds of tissue lying in its path, which are also instantly detected by the tip of the finger and immediately grasped between the finger and the internal edge of opening C. Thus they are secured and withdrawn. By this means the nerves of sensation or sense of touch are utilized, in connection with the forceps-blade, to discover abnormal matter, and the muscles of the finger, in conjunction with the same blade, are utilized to remove the same.

This instrument serves a very useful purpose in cases of abortion or of premature birth, or in any case where obstructive adhesions exist; hence

I claim—

A surgical instrument for obstetrical purposes, consisting of a fenestrated forceps-blade

provided with a hinged finger-socket for the reception of the finger of the operator, arranged as described, so that the tip of the inserted finger may co operate with the forceps-
5 blade as a companion member to form a digital forceps, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereto sub-

scribed my name at Bennington, Vermont, this 3d day of July, A. D. 1885.

S. ROLLIN WILCOX.

In presence of—

FRANKLIN SCOTT,
L. C. PARTRIDGE.