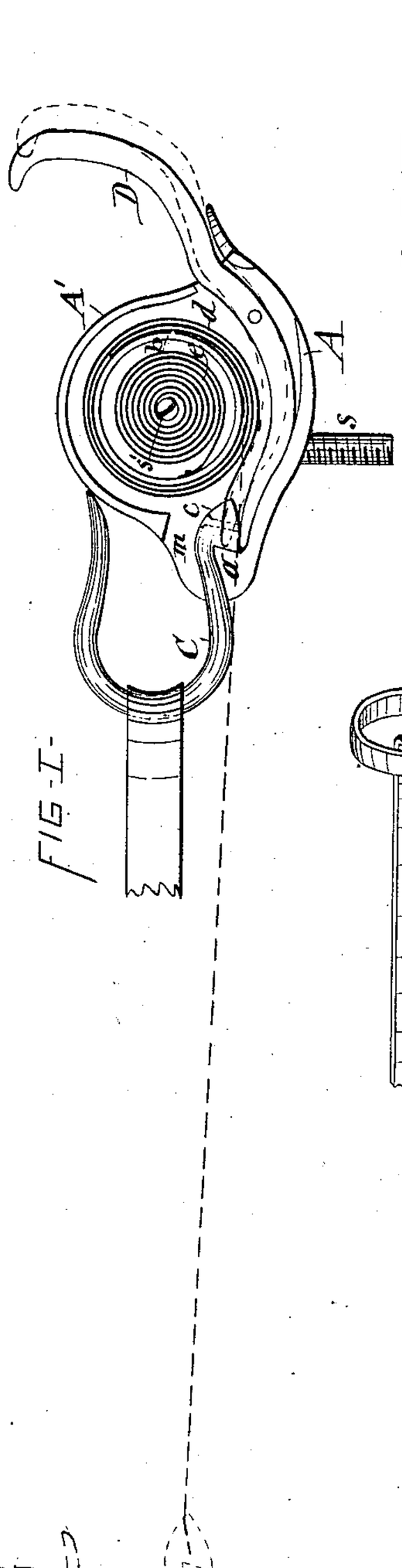
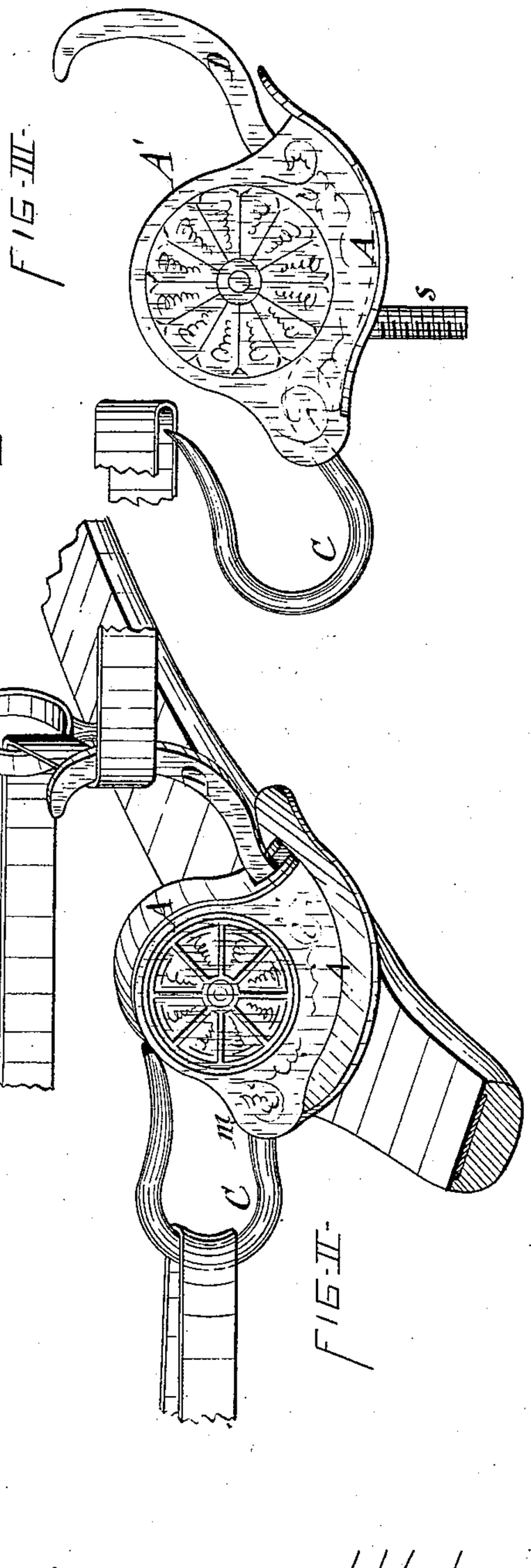
(No Model.)

O. C. WIGHTMAN.

CHECK HOOK FOR HARNESS.

No. 345,013. Patented July 6, 1886.





WITNESSES

C. Bendixon

A. F. Walz

INVENTOR

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per Dodd, Laass & Hay

his Attys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIN C. WIGHTMAN, OF MOHAWK, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ALFRED DENNISON, OF SAME PLACE.

CHECK-HOOK FOR HARNESS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 345,013, dated July 6, 1886.

Application filed February 6, 1886. Serial No. 191,015. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIN C. WIGHTMAN, of Mohawk, in the county of Herkimer, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Check-Hooks, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to the class of check-hooks which are detachable from the harness-saddle to slacken the check-rein connected with said hook, and are adapted to be replaced on the saddle to tighten the check-rein; and the invention consists in an improved construction and combination of parts, all as hereinafter more fully described, and specifically set forth in the claim.

In the annexed drawings, Figure I is a vertical longitudinal section of my automatic resetting check-hook. Fig. II is a perspective view illustrating the operation of releasing the check-hook from its supporting plate or bracket, and Fig. III is a side view showing the operation of the check-hook for connecting and disconnecting the check-rein to and from the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents the supporting plate or bracket of the check-hook, which plate or bracket is provided with a screw-threaded stud, *s*, or other suitable and well-known means for attaching it to the saddle-tree.

From the plate A rises a case, A′, which stands with its plane at right angles to the saddle of the harness, and is formed with a forwardly-facing mouth, *m*, the bottom of the interior of which is formed with a catch or shoulder, *a*, as illustrated in Fig. I of the drawings.

On a stud-pin, *s*′, rigidly attached to the center of the interior of the case A′, is pivoted a drum, *b*, to which is attached one end of a suitable strap, *d*, the opposite end of which is attached to the heel or base of the check-hook C. A spring, *e*, attached at one end to the stud-pin *s*′, and at the opposite end to the drum *b*, is coiled in such a direction as to cause the resilience thereof to rotate the drum in a direction to wind the strap *d* thereon, and thus draw the check-hook C toward the supporting plate or bracket A. The heel or base of the hook is of a shape to allow it to enter the mouth *m* of the case A′, and is formed with a catch or shoulder, *c*, adapted to interlock with the catch or shoulder *a*. The mouth *m* is slightly above the base of the drum *b*, and thus the strap *d* is caused to draw the heel of the check-hook C downward, so as to yieldingly retain it interlocked with the shoulder *a*, and at the same time hold the free end of the check-hook against the exterior of the case, so as to close the passage to and from the check-hook and prevent accidental disconnection of the check-rein from the said hook. The yielding support of the check-hook allows a person to crowd the free end of said hook down and away from the case A′ sufficiently to pass the check-rein into or out of the hook, as represented in Fig. III of the drawings.

D denotes a tripper for releasing the check-hook from the hook or catch *a*, said tripper consisting of a lever pivoted to the rear of the plate or bracket A, and having one end extending forward to the shoulder *a*, so as to lie under the heel or base of the check-hook when interlocked with the said shoulder. The rear end of the lever D projects upward and terminates with a forward curvature, so as to allow a person seated in the carriage and holding the driving-reins to throw one of the reins across the front of the lever, as illustrated in Fig. II of the drawings, and when the rein is thus brought to bear on the lever D a slight pull on the rein draws the lever rearward, and thereby causes the forward end of the lever to raise the heel of the check-hook off from the shoulder or catch *a*. The check-hook is thus released to allow the horse's head free play to drink. In this operation the band *d* is unwound from the drum *b*, and the spring *e* is wound up.

When it is desired to recheck the horse's head, the driving-rein is to be thrown off from the lever D, and then by pulling on the reins, so as to draw up the horse's head, the strap *d* is allowed to be wound on the spring-actuated drum *b*, and automatically draws the check-

hook back into engagement with the shoulder *a*, which affords a firm hold for the check-hook.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new is--

The combination, with the bracket A, provided with the shoulder *a*, of the drum *b*, pivoted on the bracket, the check-hook C, provided with the shoulder *c*, adapted to interlock with the shoulder *a*, the strap *d*, connecting the check-hook with the drum, the spring *e*, for actuating the drum to wind the strap thereon, and the tripper D, for releasing the check-hook from the shoulder *a* by means of the driving-rein, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal, in the presence of two attesting witnesses, at Herkimer, in the county of Herkimer, in the State of New York, this 2d day of February, 1886.

OLIN C. WIGHTMAN. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
S. E. COE,
J. B. RAFTER.