

(No Model.)

C. E. McDONALD.

CLOTHES LINE STAY.

No. 359,025.

Patented Mar. 8, 1887.

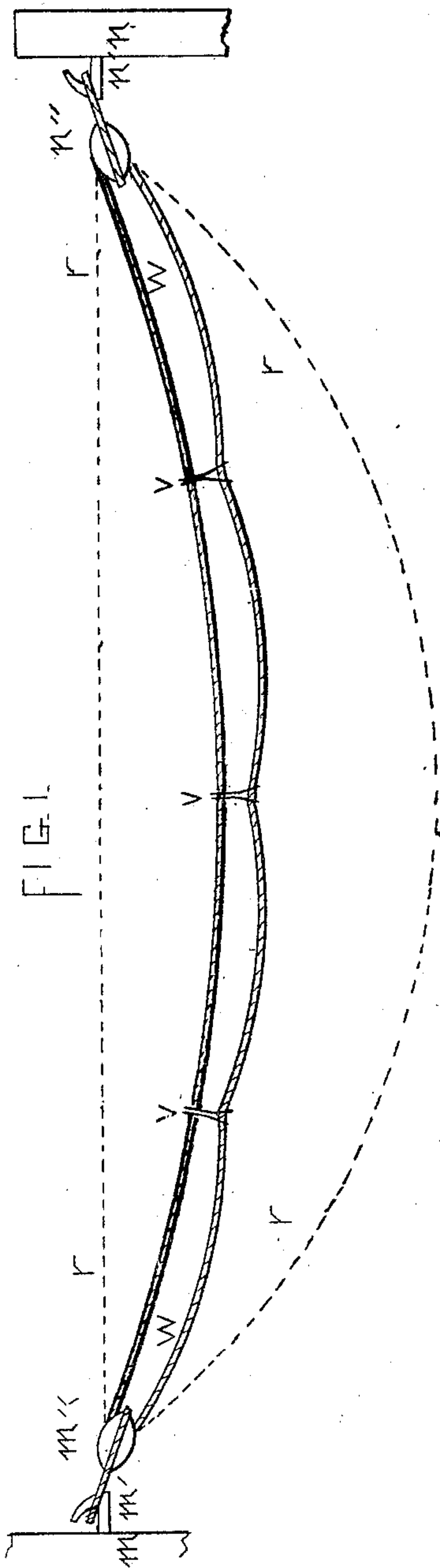


FIG. IV.

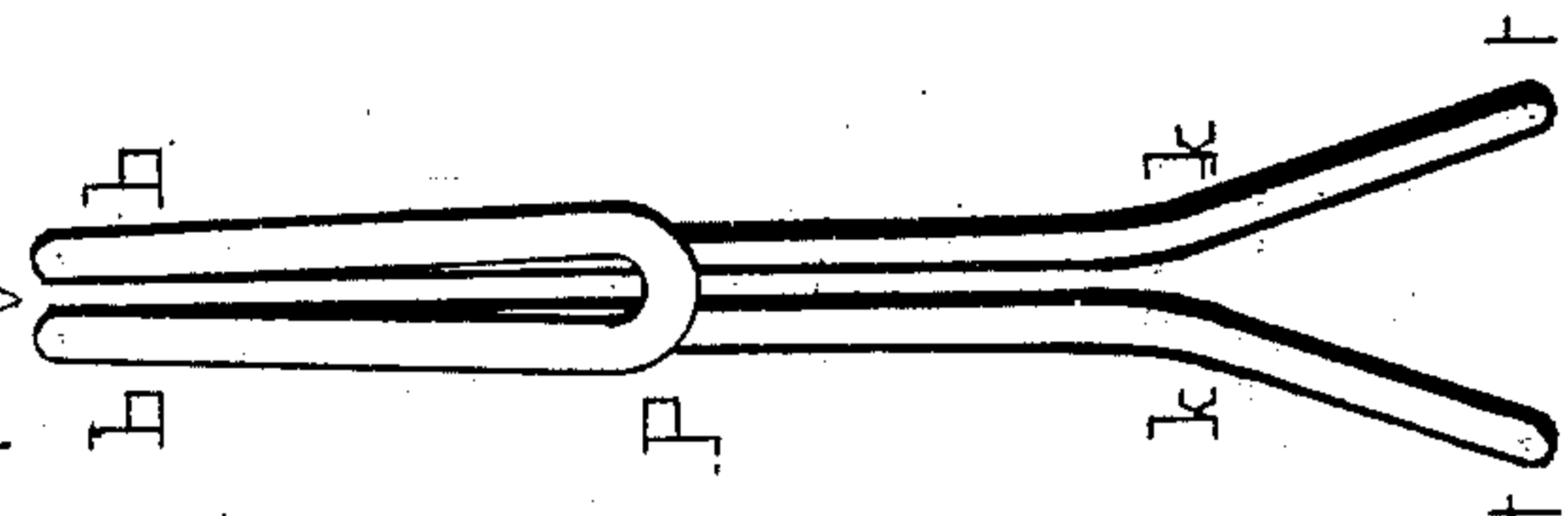


FIG. III.

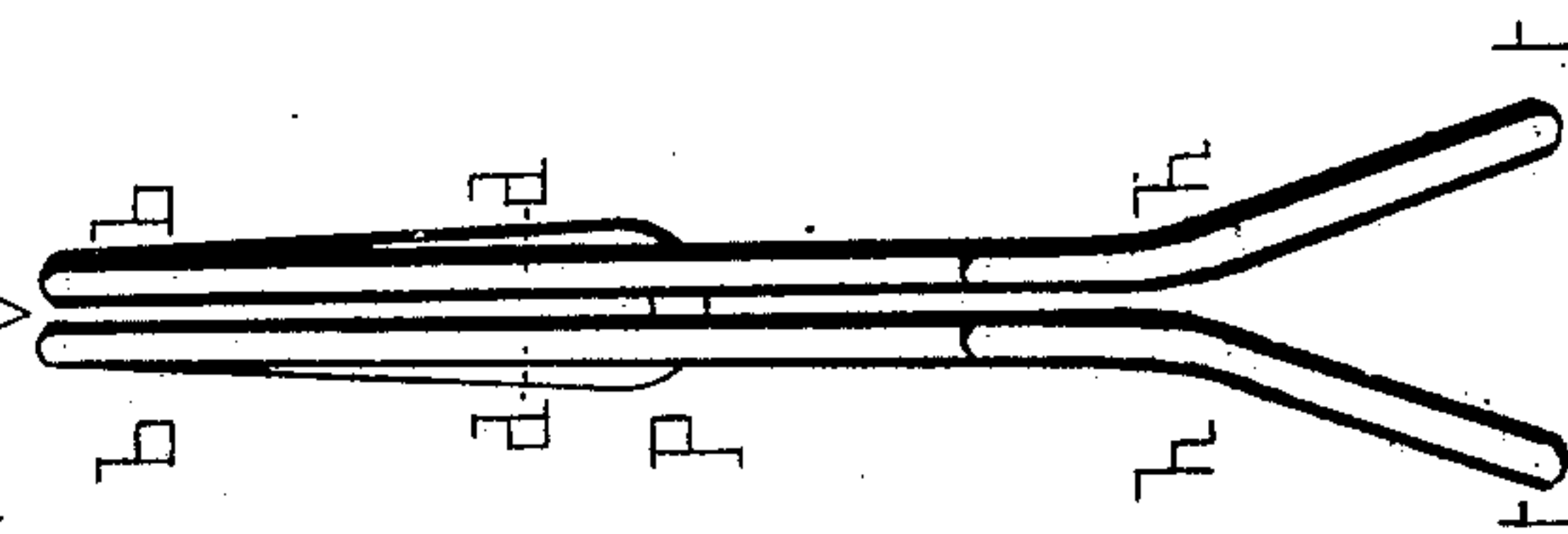
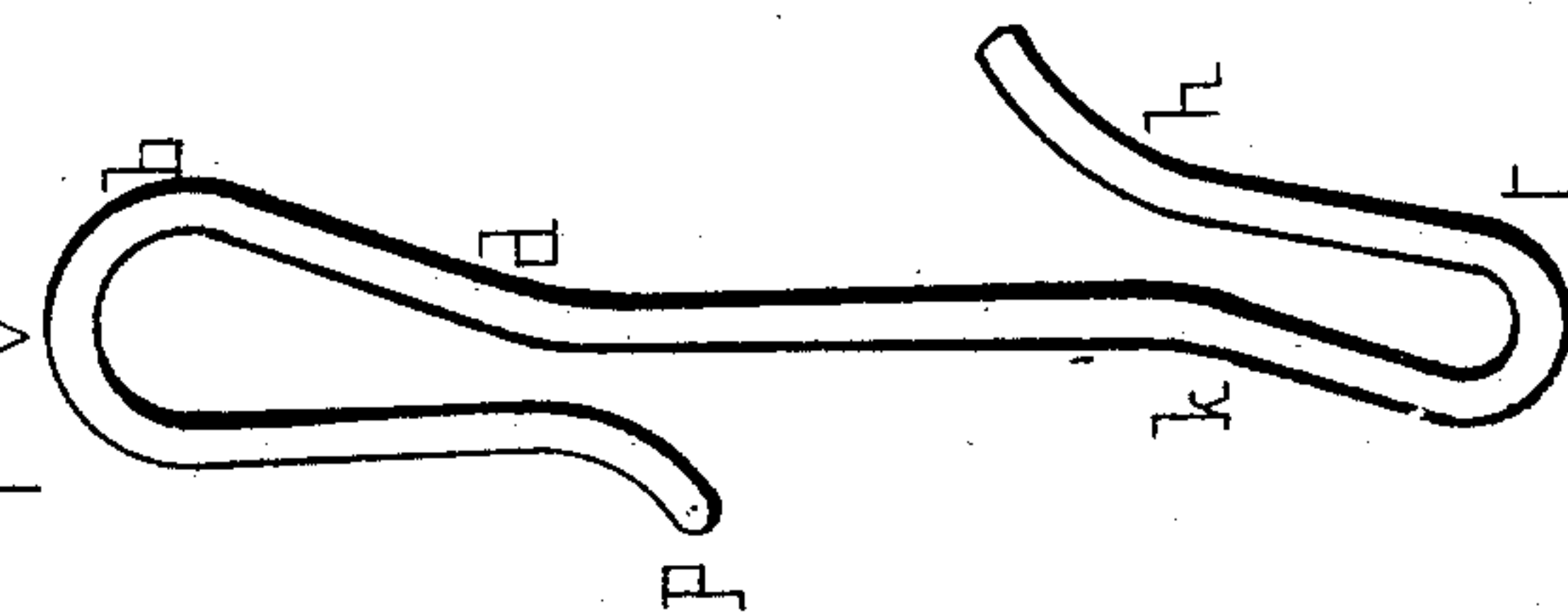


FIG. II.



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## CLOTHES-LINE STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 359,025, dated March 8, 1887.

Application filed August 13, 1885. Serial No. 174,277. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CURRAN E. McDONALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of New York, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Clothes-Line Stay, of which the following is a specification.

The nature and object of the invention will be fully understood from the following description and the annexed drawings.

Figure I illustrates a clothes line with my stay on it, and also in dotted outline illustrates the position of a loaded pulley clothes-line without my stay on it. Figs. II, III, and IV are various views of my clothes-line stay.

In cities and many other places where the inhabitants live in tenement-houses several stories high it is usual for a clothes-line to be stretched from one of the windows of the story in which the family resides to a post in the yard, as is illustrated by Fig. I of the accompanying drawings, in which *m* represents a part of the window-frame; *n*, the post; *m'* and *n'*, the hooks which attach the pulleys *m''* and *n''*. Between these two pulleys is extended the clothes-line *w w*. The ends of this line are tied together, so that it may be moved on the pulleys like an endless belt. The clothes to be dried are hung on the lower member of the line. As the number of the clothes on the line is increased their weight causes the lower member to sag and the upper member of the line to grow taut until the line assumes the position illustrated by the dotted line *r r*. When the line is so loaded and sagged it is found extremely difficult to draw it up toward the window to bring the clothes near enough to the window to take them off, no matter how loose the line may be. It has been also found that if there be any weak place in the lower member of the line it is apt to break there when so loaded and sagged, and that lines in this condition often get tangled with adjacent lines, and thereby cause a great deal of trouble and loss of time.

My invention relates to that class of improvements which have been devised to obviate these difficulties.

My stay may be made of wood, hard rubber, metal, or any other suitable material.

In the example of my invention here given, and which is illustrated by Figs. II, III, and

IV of the accompanying drawings, the material used is an elastic iron wire coated with tin. Any other elastic wire or strip of properly sized metal not easily oxidized would serve the same purpose. The wire, having been cut of suitable length, is first bent at *p* to form two nearly-parallel arms. These parallel arms are again bent at *b* to form the double or two-part hook *p b d*. The end *p* is bent outward, and the stem *d k* is bent at *d* to flare the entrance of this hook and so as to leave a narrower part of the throat or entry at *d*. The parallel arms are again bent at *t* to form the double or two-part hook *k t h*, and again bent at *k* and *h* to flare the entrance of this hook, the parts *t* and *t* are lastly bent apart at *h* and *k*, the whole device to be as illustrated in Figs. II, III, and IV.

To use my invention, as many pieces of clothing or other articles as may be desired are put on the lower member of the line, moving the line each time a piece is put on to make room for the next. As soon as the line begins to sag badly, a stay is put on between the clothes and the window. The smaller hook of the stay is first slipped on, so as to embrace the lower member of the line, with one side of each part of this hook fitting into a depression between two of the adjacent strands of the line, and each part of this hook compressing this member of the line so that it will not slip thereon. When this smaller hook is so adjusted on the lower member of the line the larger hook is slipped upon the upper member of the line. The line is then moved to carry the stay away from the window and make room for another piece of clothing. Thus the clothes are put on, moving the line for each piece until the line is unduly sagged again, when another stay may be put on. This may be continued until the line is full. As the stay does not slip on the lower member of the line, but does on the upper member thereof, that part of the lower member of the line to which the stay is attached carries the stay with it at every motion, so that by properly moving the line any desired number of stays, if rightly adjusted, can be carried to any desired place between the two pulleys. When the line is loaded with clothes and my stays are on it, it occupies the position shown in solid lines in Fig. I, and my stays upon the



line will be as designated by *v v v* of the same figure.

It will now be found, if the wind be blowing enough to cause the line to spring up and  
5 down, that the upper part of the line will not pass down through the narrow throat or entry at *d*, nor will the lower part of the line pass through the narrow throat or entry at *k*, and that while the two parts of the line are held  
10 close together, they are also held so far apart that the upper part of the line will not strike on or get foul of the clothes pins on the lower part of the line to make them loose and leave the clothes insufficiently fastened on the line.  
15 When the clothes are to be removed from the line, the lower member is drawn up toward the window near enough for the operator to reach the first piece of clothing. This piece is then taken off and the line moved so as to  
20 bring the next piece within reach, and so on, until one of the stays comes within reach. Then the stay, on account of its shape and its elasticity, will be easily slipped off without in  
25 any way deranging the line, and may then be put into the same receptacle with the clothespins. This process may be continued until

all the clothes and all the stays are off the line.

I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

An elastic clothes-line stay composed of one  
30 piece of wire bent so as to form two double hooks of different size connected by a double shank or stem, the smaller hook being adapted to fit closely to one member of a pulley clothes-  
35 line, having its point bent outwardly to flare its entry, having a narrow part or throat in said entry between said flare and the interior of said hook, and having its two parts bent  
40 apart and adapted so that when put on said line they will fit into the depressions between the strands of said line, the other hook being  
45 large enough to slip freely on the other member of said line and having its point bent outwardly to flare the entrance and having a narrow part or throat in said entry between said flare and the interior of said hook, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:

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