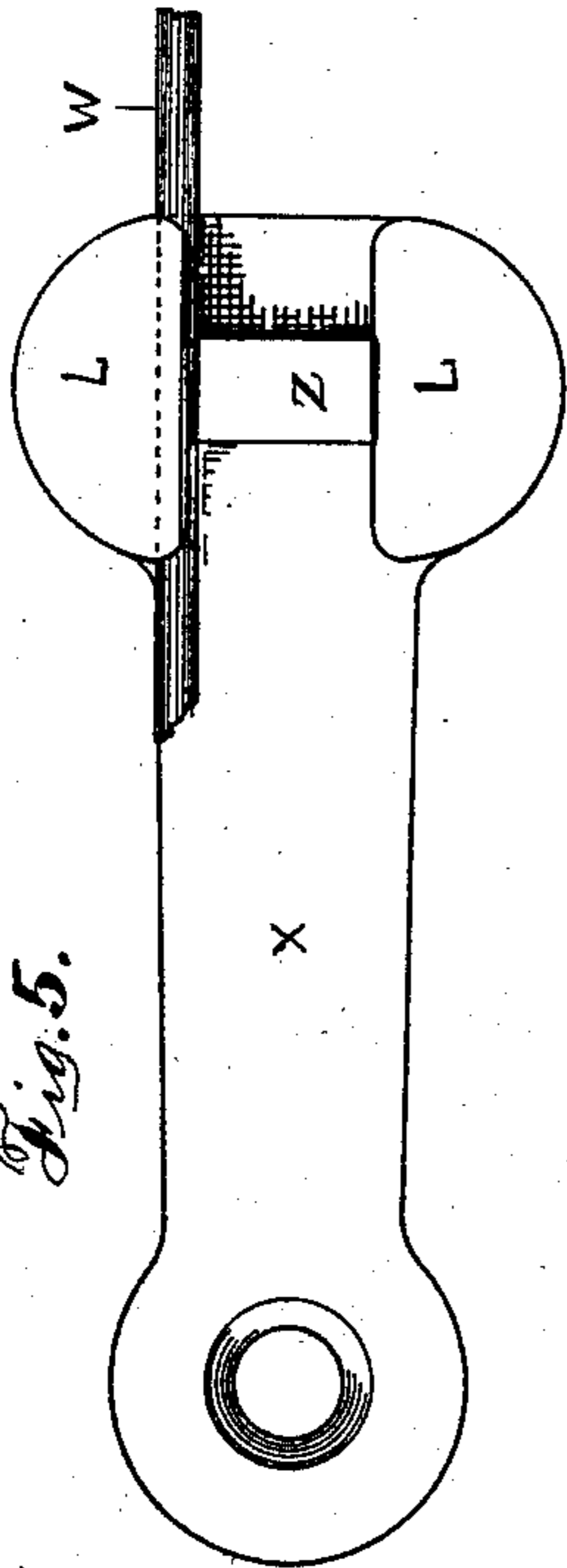
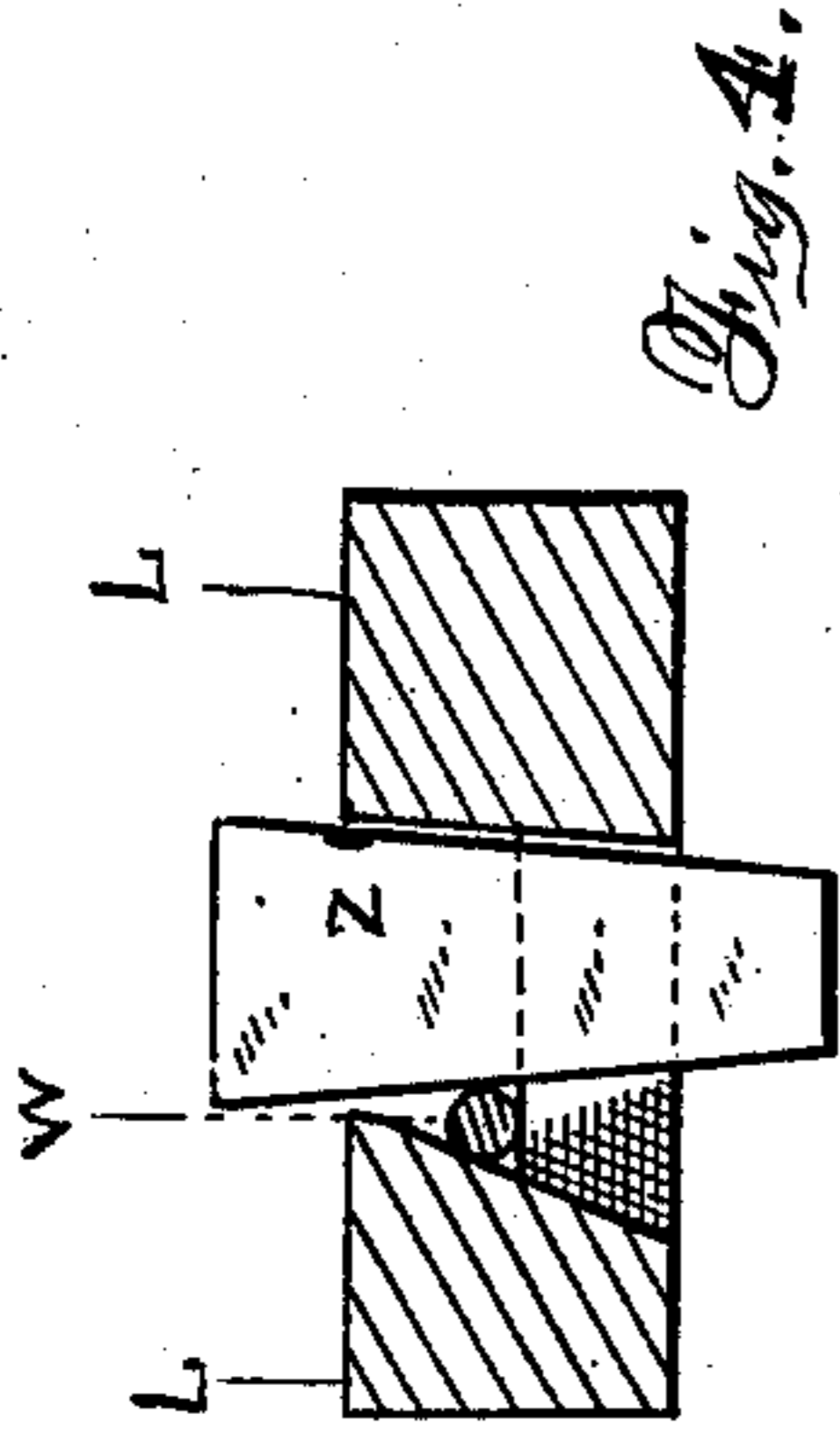


(No Model.)

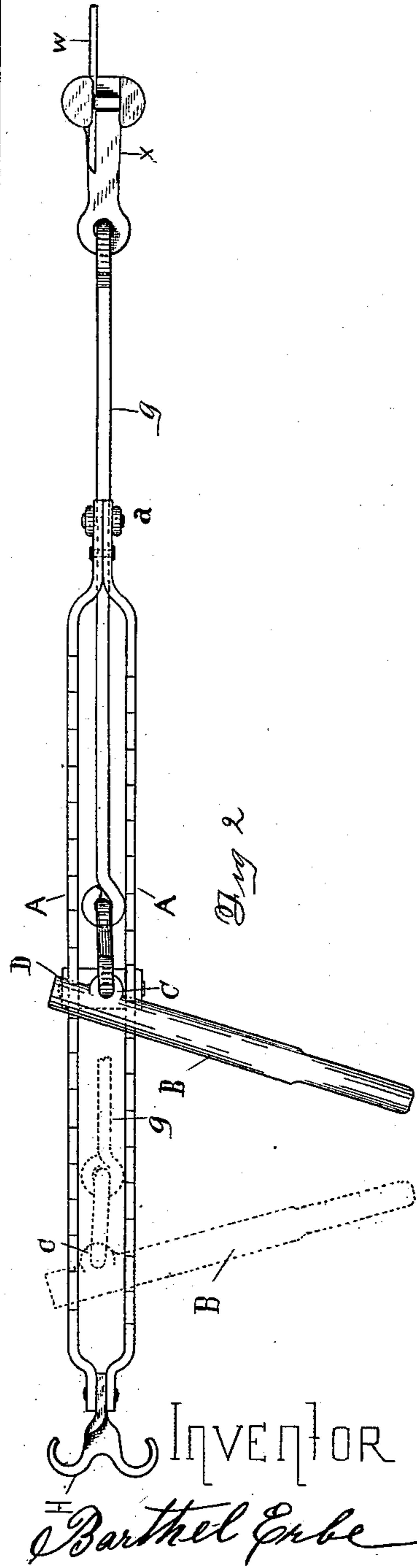
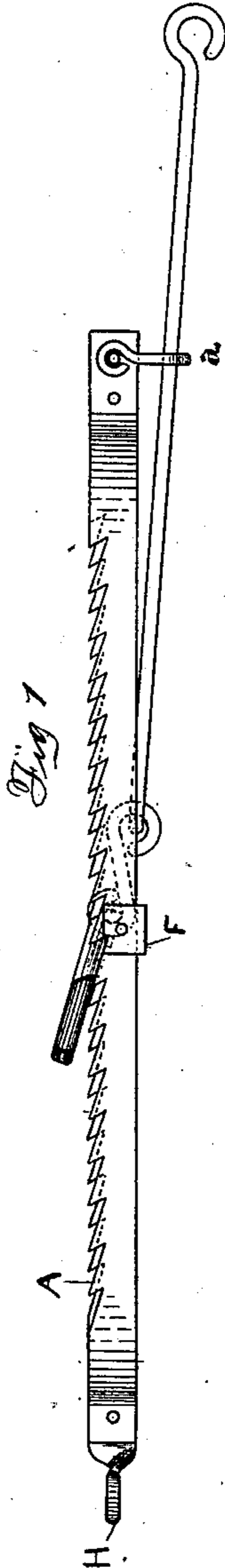
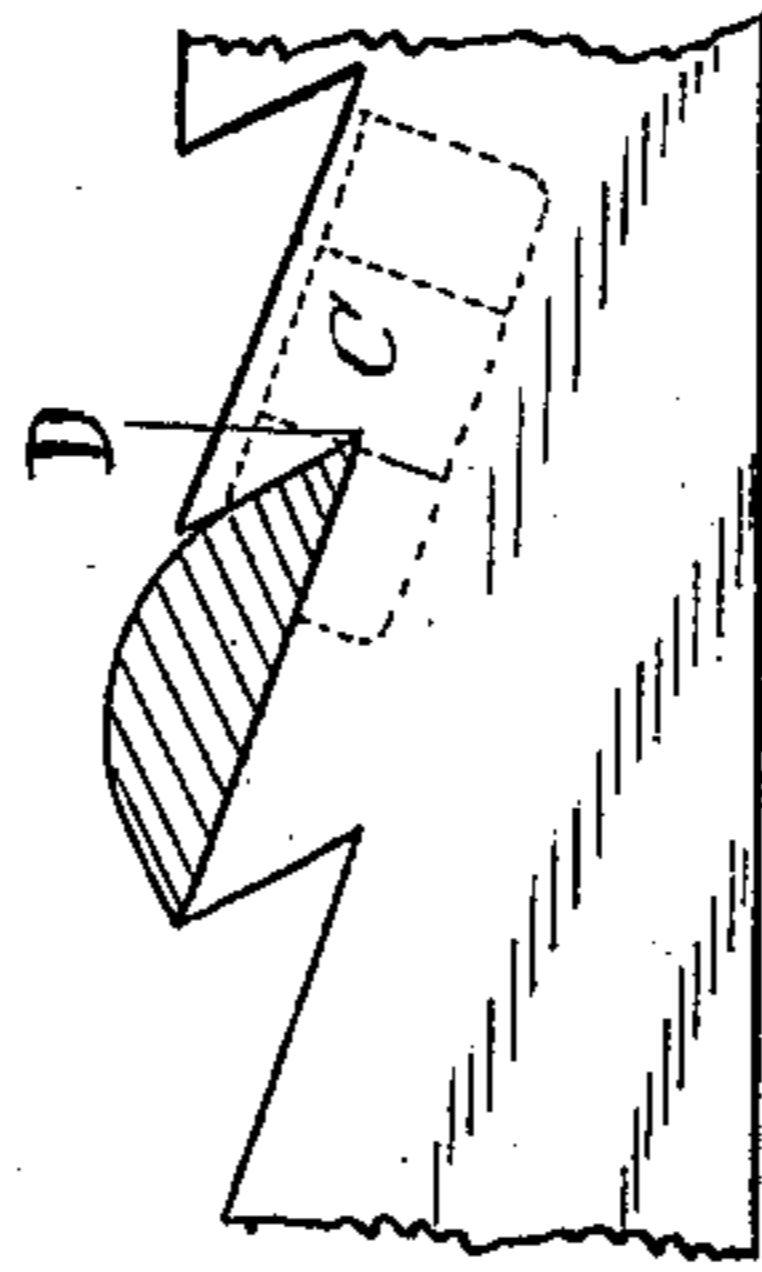
B. ERBE.
WIRE STRETCHER.

No. 359,600.

Patented Mar. 22, 1887.



WITNESSES
A. Patterson
Edw. T. Evans.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BARTHEL ERBE, OF PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 359,600, dated March 22, 1887.

Application filed January 20, 1887. Serial No. 224,947. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BARTHEL ERBE, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Pittsburg, Allegheny county, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction of Wire-Stretchers for Stretching Fence-Wire; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it relates to make and use the same.

The object of my invention is to produce a simple, cheap, and efficient implement for stretching wires in building wire fences.

My invention consists in the combination of two parallel ratchet-bars joined at their ends, so as to form a rigid frame or link, with a hook at the end opposite the base of the ratchets and a movable lever with a beveled edge, which works into the ratchets step by step, the teeth on either bar serving alternately as a fulcrum for the lever, which carries an iron or steel rod, to the end of which is attached a suitable gripper for holding the wire.

The construction and operation of my invention will be more fully understood from the following more exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked on said drawings, like letters referring to the same parts in all the figures of the drawings.

Figure 1 is a side view of the entire implement, except the wire-gripper. Fig. 2 is a top view of the entire implement, including the wire-gripper. Fig. 3 is a detail showing a side view of part of a ratchet-bar and a section of the lever B, with its beveled edge D seated in a ratchet-tooth. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the gripper, and Fig. 5 is a plan of the same.

A A are the two ratchet-bars, bent and riveted together at the ends, as shown in Fig. 2, to form the frame.

B is the movable lever, having an eye, C, preferably placed in advance of the beveled edge D, which catches into the ratchet-teeth.

F is a clip or brace connecting the two bars near their middle part to secure rigidity, and has no other function.

g is a steel or iron rod connected at one end by a short link with eye C, and having at the other end any suitable wire-gripping device.

d is a guide-loop at the end of the ratchet-frame, to hold the rod g in proper relation thereto.

H is a hook at the rear end of the frame, for connecting it by a chain to a post or other stationary object when in use.

Thus constructed, my stretcher is operated as follows: Connecting the frame by a chain or rope, as stated, to any stationary object on the line in which the wire is to be stretched, and placing the lever in position near the front end of the frame, the wire to be stretched is drawn as "taut" as may be by hand and fastened in the gripper by the key z, as shown in Fig. 5, or held in any other suitable gripping device. The operator then takes hold of the handle of the lever B and alternately works it back and forth, so that step by step it shall traverse the ratchets in a backward direction, and in doing so the lever carries with it the rod g and the attached gripper and stretches the wire w in the proper manner, and will hold the wire taut at its extreme tension until it is properly secured to the line of posts. The grip being then released, the machine may be moved to a new position.

Having thus fully described my invention and its operation, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination of the ratchet frame A A, consisting of two parallel ratchet-bars having teeth pointing in the same direction, the beveled lever B, catching directly in the ratchet-teeth, the rod g, connected to the lever B between the ratchet-bars, and a wire-gripper, operating as and for the purpose specified.

BARTHEL ERBE.

Witnesses:

A. PATTERSON,
EDW. T. EVANS.