

(No Model.)

M. H. FELLOWS.
INDIVIDUAL FIRE ESCAPE.

No. 370,612.

Patented Sept. 27, 1887.

Fig. 1



Fig. 2

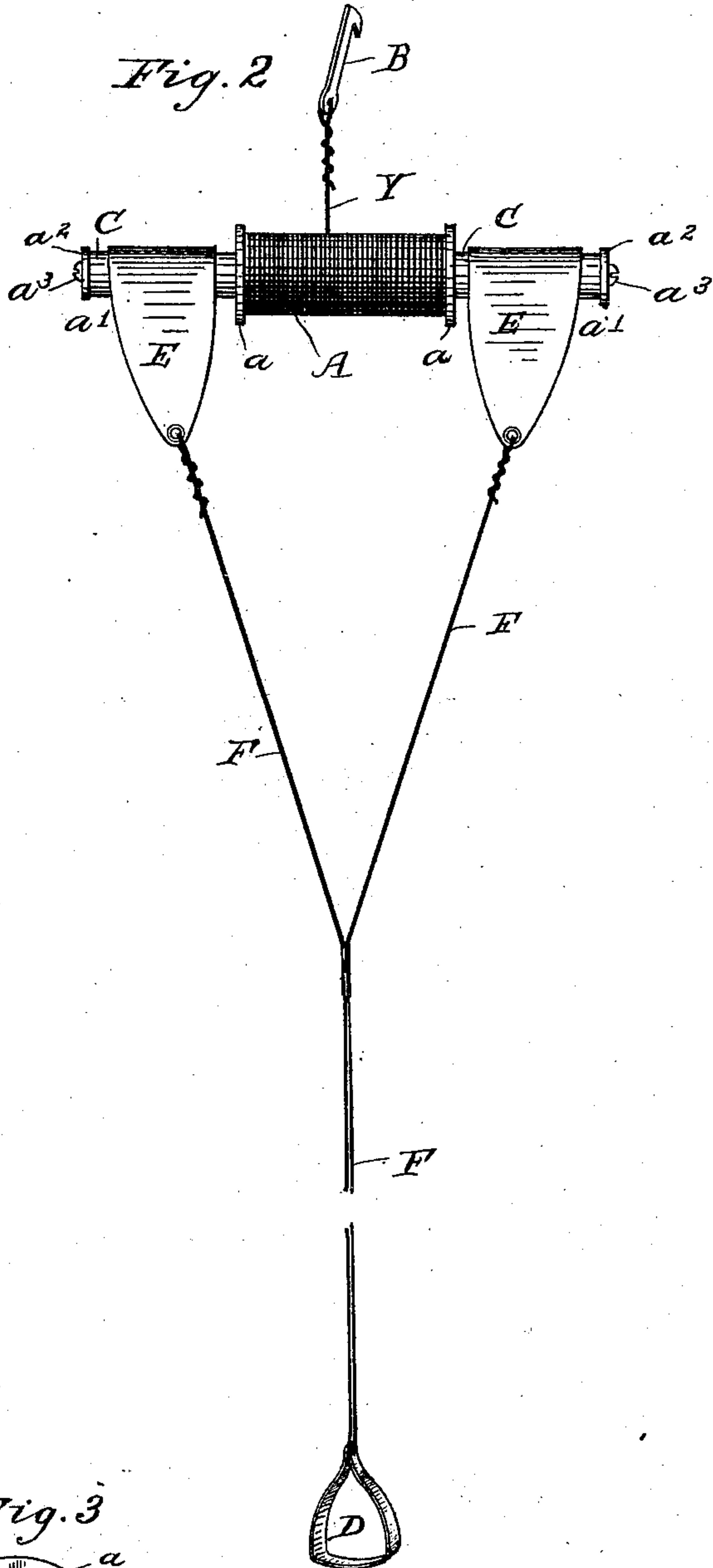
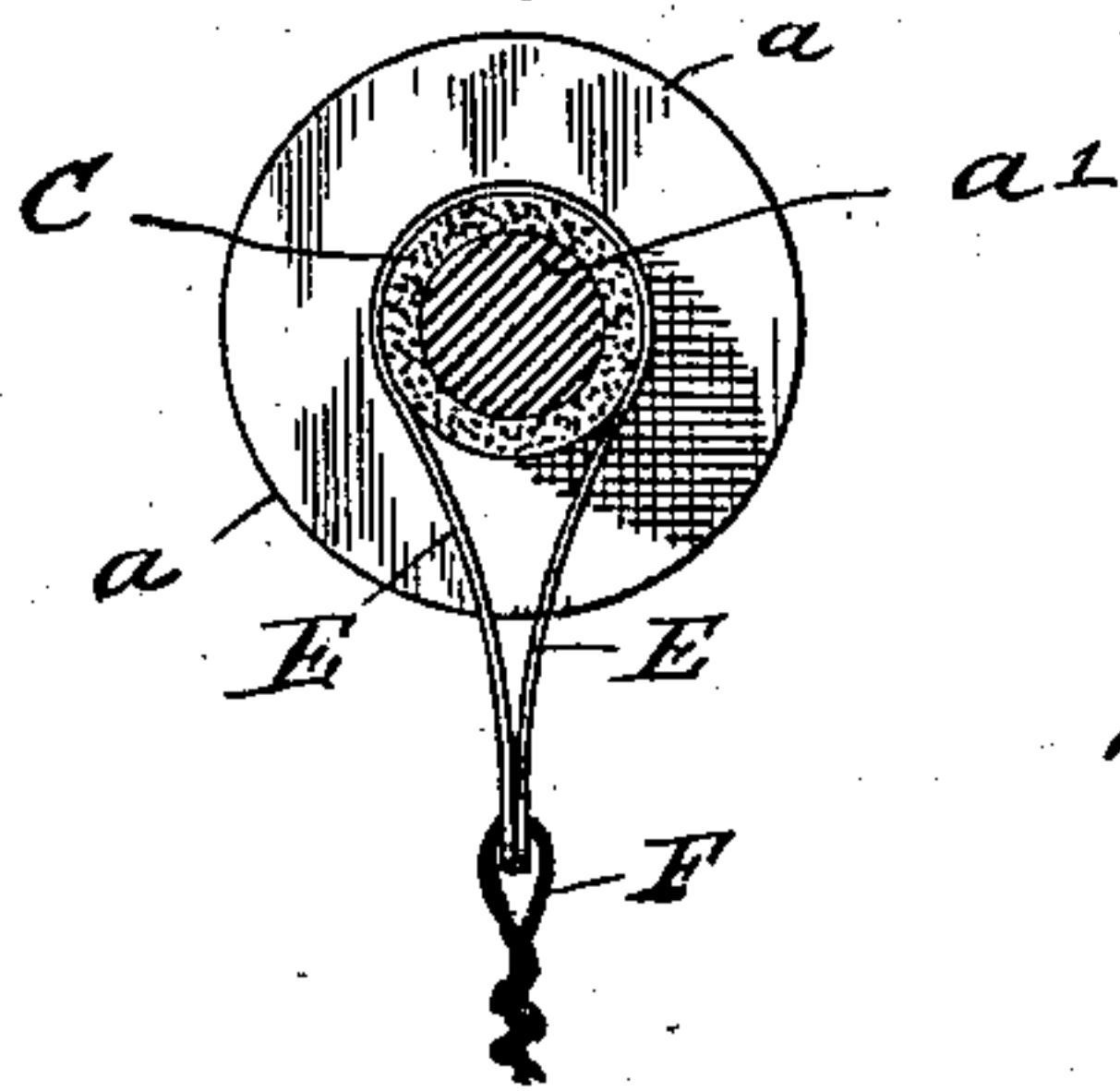


Fig. 3



Witnesses.

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INDIVIDUAL FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 370,612, dated September 27, 1887.

Application filed April 30, 1887. Serial No. 236,660. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MOSES H. FELLOWS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Salisbury, in the county of Merrimac and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Individual Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of fire-escapes adapted for use by a single individual for letting himself or herself down from a roof or window of a burning building; and the object of the invention is to provide a simple, convenient, and inexpensive apparatus or device which shall place the speed of a descent entirely in the control of the user.

The invention consists of the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, and is clearly set forth in the appended claims.

A spool, A, is provided, with flanges $a a$ and journals $a' a'$. Flexible iron or steel wire Y, of the proper strength, having an end strongly and conveniently attached to the said spool, is wound thereon, (said spool should be capable of holding one hundred feet of wire,) the other end of said wire being provided with a strong hook, B, for attaching to a bedstead—a window-sill, when it is desired to drop from a window.

The journals $a' a'$ are provided with some elastic friction-sleeves, C, which, when compressed, may be made to stop the rotation of the spool A, and when less pressure is applied to simply retard its movement.

A suitable stirrup, D, for the reception of either or both feet, may be provided and suspended from the yokes E, resting upon the elastic covers C, by means of wires or cords F.

Of the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 illustrates my invention while in use by a woman in descending from the upper window of a burning building, the hands of the woman being in their proper position upon the journals of the spool, her left foot in the stirrup and her right foot being used for keeping her body the proper distance from the building. Fig. 2 shows an enlarged view of the entire apparatus; and Fig. 3, a cross-section taken through one of the journals of the spool, its

elastic handle-piece, and the supporting yoke, with a section of wire or cord attached.

The spool A, with its flanges and journals, may be formed of either wood or metal and in one or more parts, as may be desired.

The handle-pieces or elastic friction-sleeves C may be composed of metal, if formed in two parts, so as to be adjustable and capable of compression upon the journals $a' a'$; but an elastic sleeve composed of rubber or its equivalent is probably preferable, as it is more sure to be in order and operative at all times. The spool A, provided with these elastic friction-sleeves C, and the wire Y may be used independent of the stirrup and its connections very satisfactorily.

By the use of this device a person may escape from a window or roof with perfect safety, and by grasping the handle-pieces or sleeves C with only the grip necessary to suspend and sustain the weight of one's body the descent is quite rapid; but by simply closing one's fingers around said sleeve one may go slowly or stop whenever desired during the descent.

The journals $a' a'$ may be provided with circular plates or washers $a^2 a^2$, having a small concentric hole, through which the screws $a^3 a^3$ may pass and be threaded into the end of said journals. These will keep the friction-sleeves from working off.

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

1. A fire-escape comprising a spool having annular flanges, between which wire is wound, and a journal at either end, an elastic sleeve fitted upon either of said journals, a foot-stirrup suspended by wires and a yoke from either of said journals, and means for attaching one end of the spool-wire to a building, substantially for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of the spool having a journal at either end, the wire attached to said spool and wound thereon, the elastic friction-sleeves, washers and screws by which said sleeves are held in position, and means whereby the spool-wire may be attached to a building or its furniture, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the spool having

journals, as specified, the wire attached to said
spool and wound thereon, suitable elastic
sleeves mounted upon said journals, their
washers and screws, a stirrup, its suspension
5 wires or cords and yokes, and means whereby
said spool-wire may be conveniently attached
to a building, substantially as and for the pur-
pose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in
presence of two witnesses.

MOSES H. FELLOWS.

Witnesses:

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