

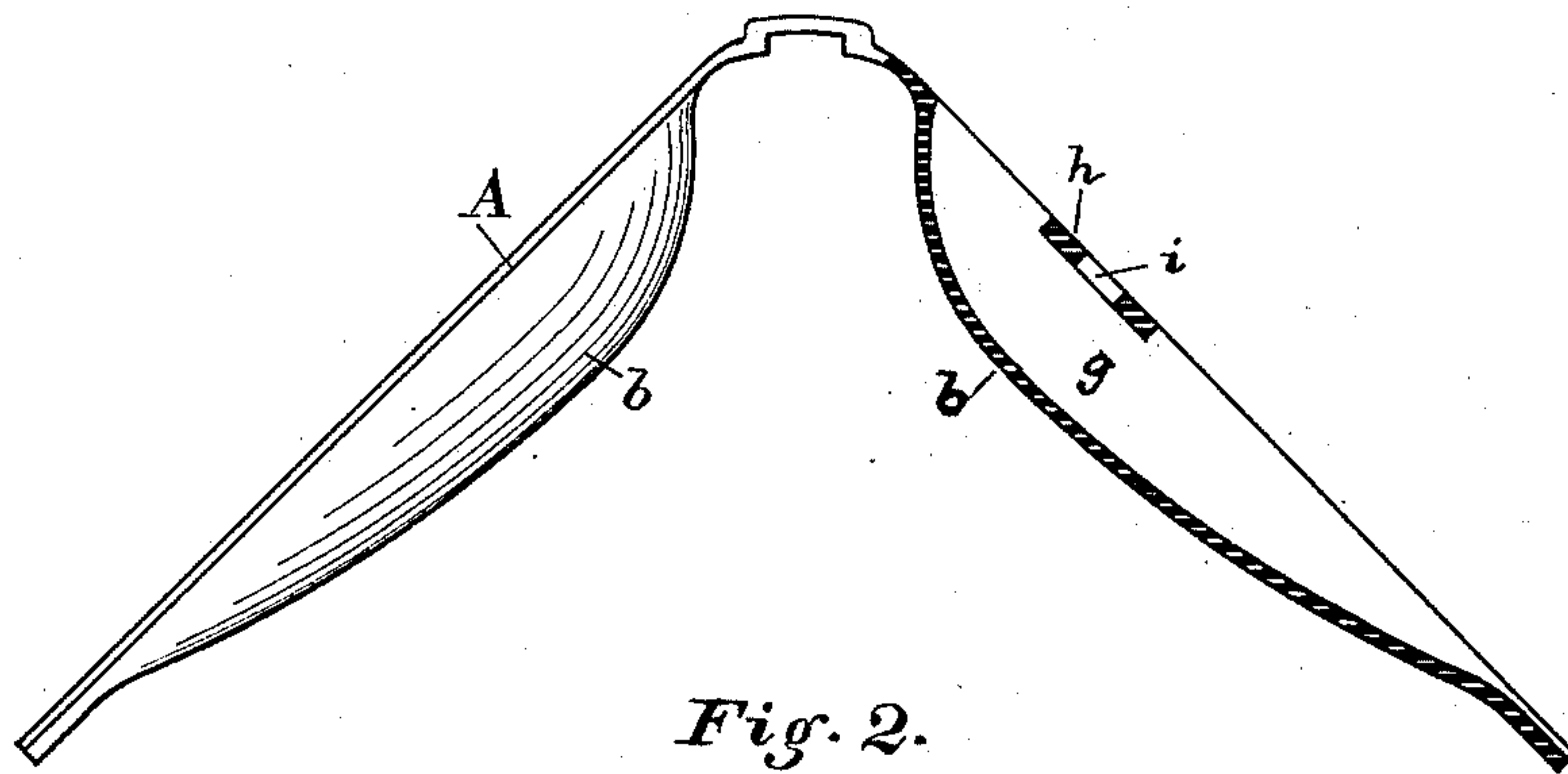
(No Model.)

W. M. LERCH.  
HARNESS SADDLE TREE.

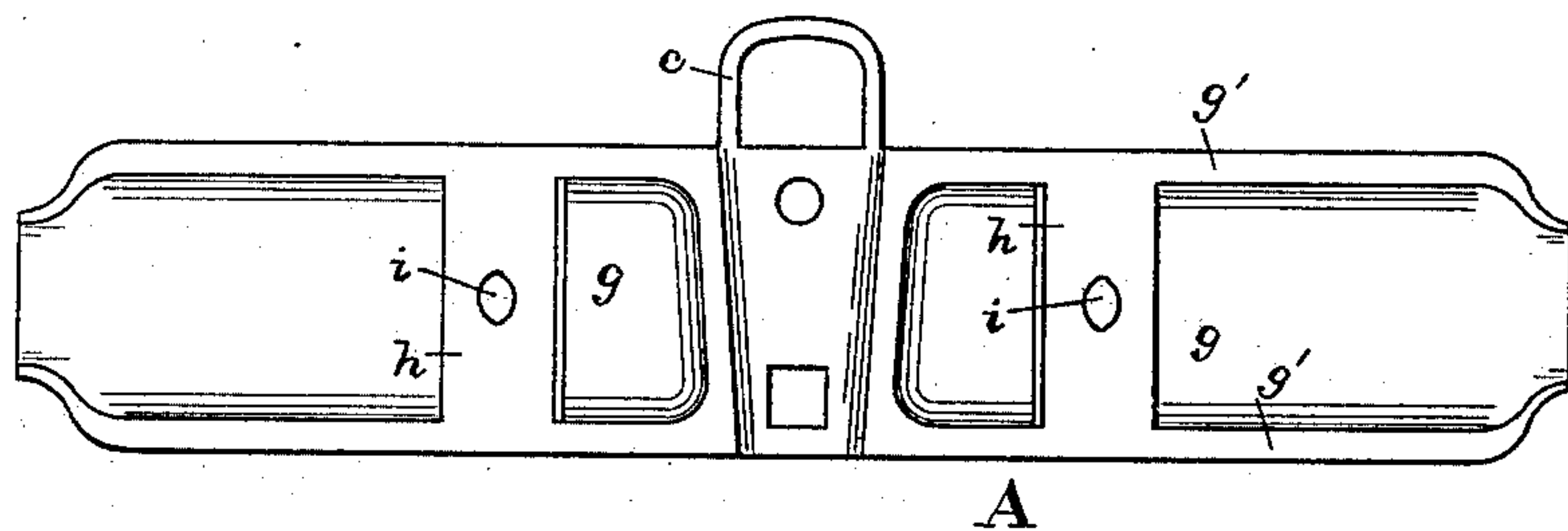
No. 375,943.

Patented Jan. 3, 1888.

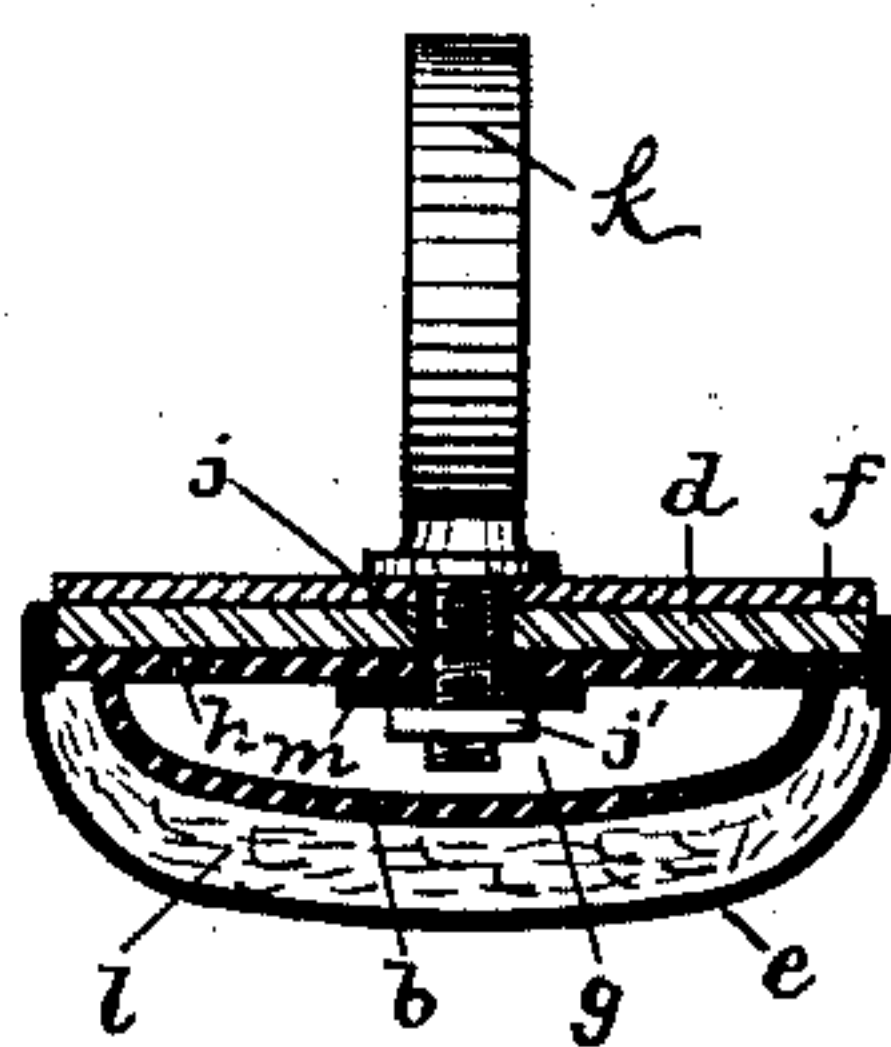
*Fig. 1.*



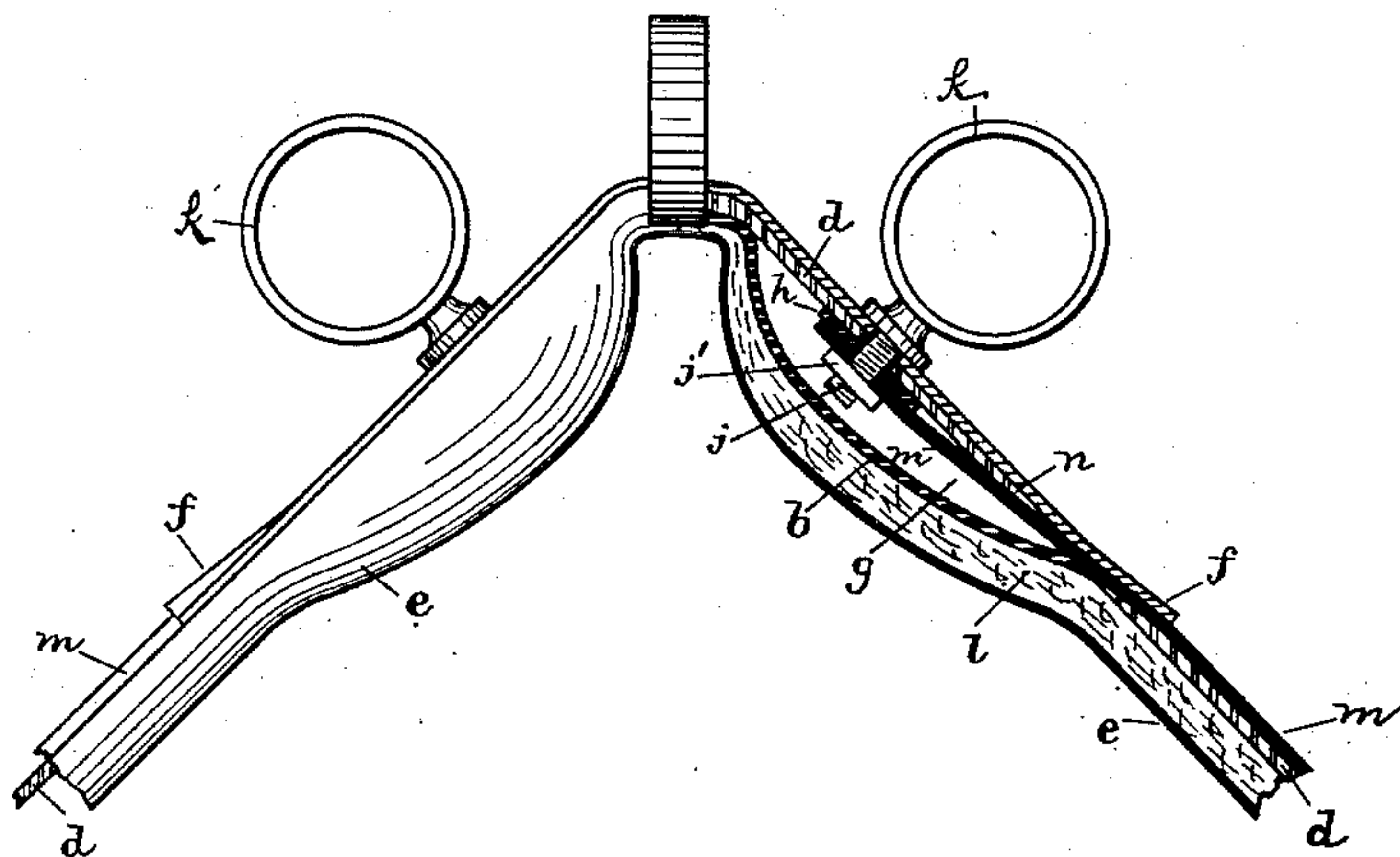
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 3.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM M. LERCH, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

## HARNESS-SADDLE TREE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 375,943, dated January 3, 1888.

Application filed September 10, 1887. Serial No. 249,311. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM M. LERCH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Saddle Trees, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in trees for harness-saddles, the nature of which will be understood from the following description, and by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side and partly sectional view of the saddle-tree. Fig. 2 is a top view of the metal tree. Fig. 3 is a view of the saddle with a leather jockey of the style known as "hand-laced" saddles. One-half of the saddle is shown in section. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the finished saddle.

The object of my invention is to provide a metal saddle-tree having at each side or arm and integral therewith a convex face on its under surface, thereby to give form to the thick part of the pad of the saddle. Each arm of the tree A has a bold convex face, *b*, on its under side. This convexity extends far enough to give form and shape to the thick part of the pad without using any more felt or other padding at the thick part than is employed at the thin part. The bold convex face *b* on the under side of the tree forms a concavity, *g*, on the upper side, and a cross-bar, *h*, attached only at opposite edges, *g'*, bridges over the said concavity. The cross-bar has a hole, *i*, for the screw *j* of the terret *k*. A crupper-loop, *c*, is cast with the tree, as usual. A saddle having a tree of this kind is shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The leather flap *d* is of ordinary construction, and the pad-cover *e* is either laced or stitched thereto, as the different styles of saddles may require.

A leather jockey, *f*, is employed in this style of saddle. The terret-screw *j* passes through

the jockey *f*, flap *d*, and cross-bar *h*, and a nut, *j'*, on the end of the said screw occupies the concavity below the cross-bar.

In consequence of the convex face *b* of the saddle-tree the felting *l*, used for stuffing harness-saddles, as here shown, is of uniform thickness along the entire length of the pad. No extra felt is used, nor is any required to build up the thick part of the pad. The pad-cover *e* incloses the felt, and, as already stated, the said cover is laced or stitched to the flap *d*. The back-band *m* (which is the strap to sustain the shafts of a vehicle) is attached to the screw *j* of the terret. In Fig. 3 this band *m* is shown passed through a slot, *n*, in the flap *d*, and secured on the screw between the cross-bar *h* and nut *j'*.

A saddle tree made as here shown insures that the thick part of the pad will keep its shape and will not flatten down.

Having described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. The herein-described saddle-tree, having at each side or arm and integral therewith a bold convex face, *b*, on its under surface, and the perforated cross-bar *h*, and the crupper-loop *c*, also formed integral with the tree, as shown and described, and for the purpose set forth.

2. The herein-described harness-saddle, having each of its two arms provided with integral bold convex faces *b* on their under surfaces, the perforated cross-bar *h*, and the felt *l*, connected the entire length of the tree, as shown and described.

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

WILLIAM M. LERCH.

Witnesses:

JNO. T. MADDUX,  
JOHN E. MORRIS.