

(No Model.)

G. BARNARD.
BASE BALL MASK.

No. 376,278.

Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 2.

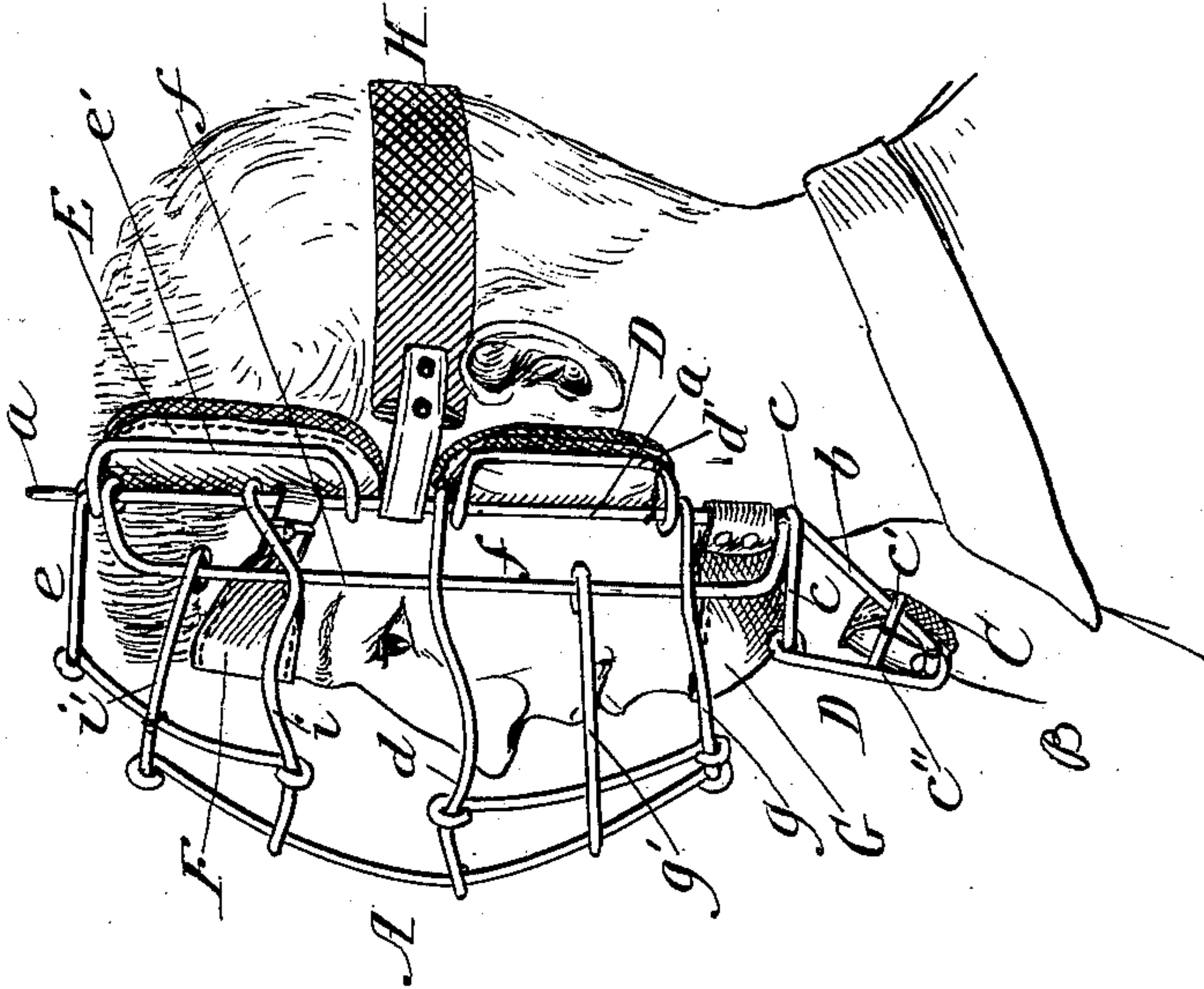
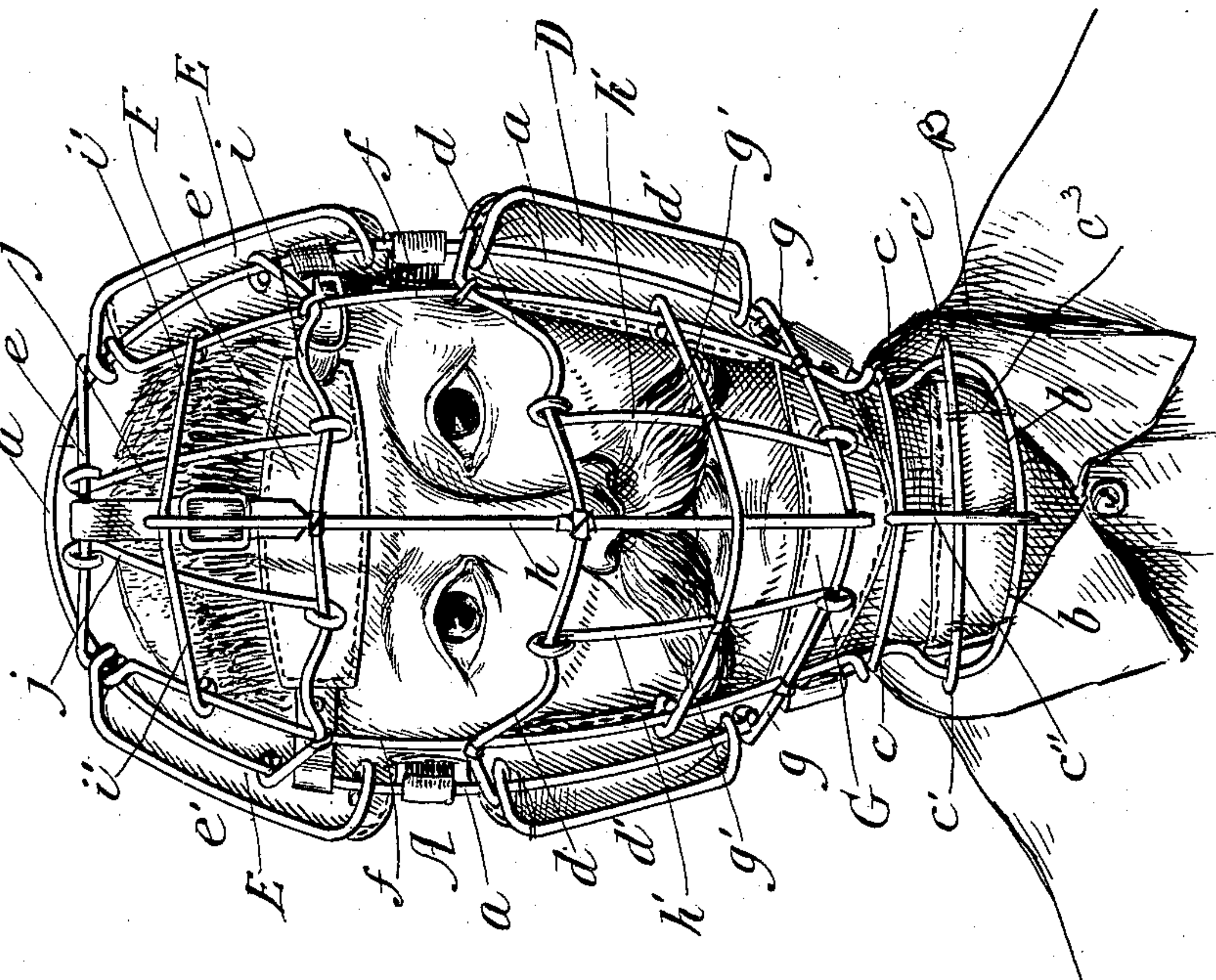


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
O. W. Bond
Harry T. Jones.

Inventor
George Barnard
By West & Bond
His Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE BARNARD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO A. G. SPAULDING & BROTHERS, OF SAME PLACE.

BASE-BALL MASK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,278, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed August 29, 1887. Serial No. 243,214. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE BARNARD, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, and a citizen of the United States, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Base-Ball Masks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation. Fig. 2 is a side elevation.

The style of mask used by base-ball catchers is defective in that no protection is provided against the catcher being hit in the neck by the ball; and the object of this invention is to construct an effectual guard and protection at that point; and its nature consists in providing an extension of the mask proper to come below the chin of the wearer, as hereinafter more specifically described and claimed.

In the drawings, A represents the mask proper, made of wire, as shown, or in any other form; B, the rigid portion of the neck protector or guard, formed, as shown, by bringing the main wire *a* of the mask proper down to form a loop, *b*; and running from side to side of such loop *b* is a wire, *c*, at the top, and a wire, *c'*, at the center, with a cross-wire, *c''*, at the center, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

C is a pad, of soft leather or other suitable material, inclosing a soft stuffing and secured to the rigid guard B by small wires connected to the wire of the loop and the wire *c'*, or in any other suitable manner.

The mask proper is provided with pads D and E for the sides of the head, and with a forehead-strap, F, and chin-strap G, and a securing-strap, H, as usual. The strap F is secured in place by straps with buckles, so that it can be adjusted to suit the wearer, and so likewise is the strap H. The mask proper is formed, in an oval shape, of a main wire, *a*, which wire is extended down to form the loop *b*, and parallel with the main wire *a*, on each side, is a secondary wire, *f*, and running from the main wire *a*, across the secondary wire *f*, from side to side, is another wire, which is bent to form a cross-wire, *d*, with loops *d'* on each side for securing the pad D; and at the top of

the mask proper is a wire bent to form a cross-wire, *e*, with a loop, *e'*, on each side for securing the pads E.

At the lower end of the mask proper is a cross-wire, *g*, running from side to side of the main wire *a*, and between this wire *g* and the wire *d* is a cross-wire, *g'*, and these wires *d g g'* protect the lower part of the face in connection with a central main wire, *h*, and short wires *h'* on each side running from the wire *d* to the wire *g*. At the upper end of the mask proper is a cross-wire, *i*, between which and the wire *e* is a cross-wire, *i'*, and these wires *i i'*, in connection with the wire *e* and wires *j* on each side of the center wire, *h*, protect the upper part of the face. The wires *d* and *i* are a sufficient distance apart to leave space for the sight, and, as shown, these wires are curved down and up, respectively, to increase the size of the opening. The wires *d* and *e*, with their loops *d'* and *e'*, are brazed or otherwise secured to the main wire *a*. The wires *f*, *g*, and *i* are also secured to the wires *a*, and the center wire, *h*, is secured to the wires *d g g' e i i'*, the wires *h'* are secured to the wires *d g g'*, and the wires *j* to the wires *e i i'*, so that the mask proper, as a whole, is very firm and capable of resisting a hard blow, and injury from the force of the blow is prevented by the pads D E upon the face covered by the mask proper and the guard B prevents the wearer from being struck by the ball around the neck, and any injurious effect from any blow at that point is prevented by the pad C.

The mask is to be worn in the usual manner of this class of masks, and when in position the guard B comes below the chin and in front of the neck of the wearer, and is carried so far forward by the loop *b* as not to interfere with the movement of the head. This guard forms an effectual protection to the wearer at the point where it is located.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A base-ball mask provided with an extension to serve as a neck-guard, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the mask A, of

the guard or protector B for preventing injury to the neck, substantially as specified.

3. A base-ball mask, A, in combination with a neck guard or protector, B, composed of the
5 loop *b* and wires *c c' c''*, substantially as specified.

4. A base-ball mask, A, having a wire, *a*, bent to form a loop, *b*, which loop is provided

with guard-wires for forming a protector for the neck, substantially as described.

his
GEORGE X BARNARD.
mark

Witnesses:

ALBERT H. ADAMS,
H. T. JONES.

Correction in Letters Patent No. 376,278.

It is hereby certified that the name of the assignees in Letters Patent No. 376,278 granted January 10, 1888, upon the application of George Barnard, of Chicago, Illinois, for an improvement in "Base-Ball Masks," was erroneously written and printed "A. G. Spaulding & Brothers," whereas said name should have been written and printed *A. G. Spalding & Brothers*; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed, countersigned, and sealed this 24th day of January, A. D. 1888.

[SEAL.]

Countersigned:

BENTON J. HALL,
Commissioner of Patents.

D. L. HAWKINS.
Acting Secretary of the Interior.