

(No Model.)

W. A. LADD.
WHIFFLETREE HOOK.

No. 391,054.

Patented Oct. 16, 1888.

Fig. 1.

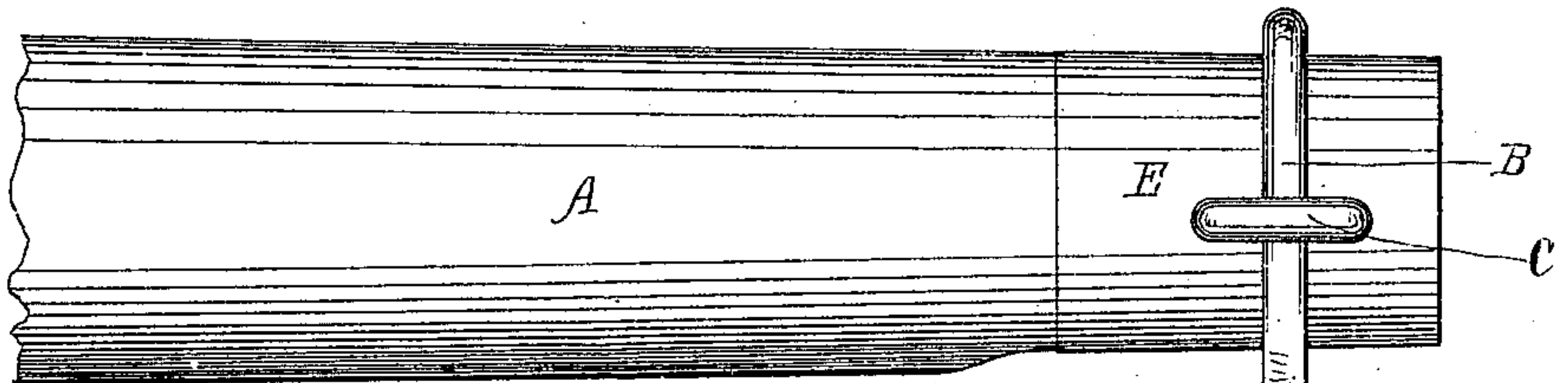


Fig. 2.

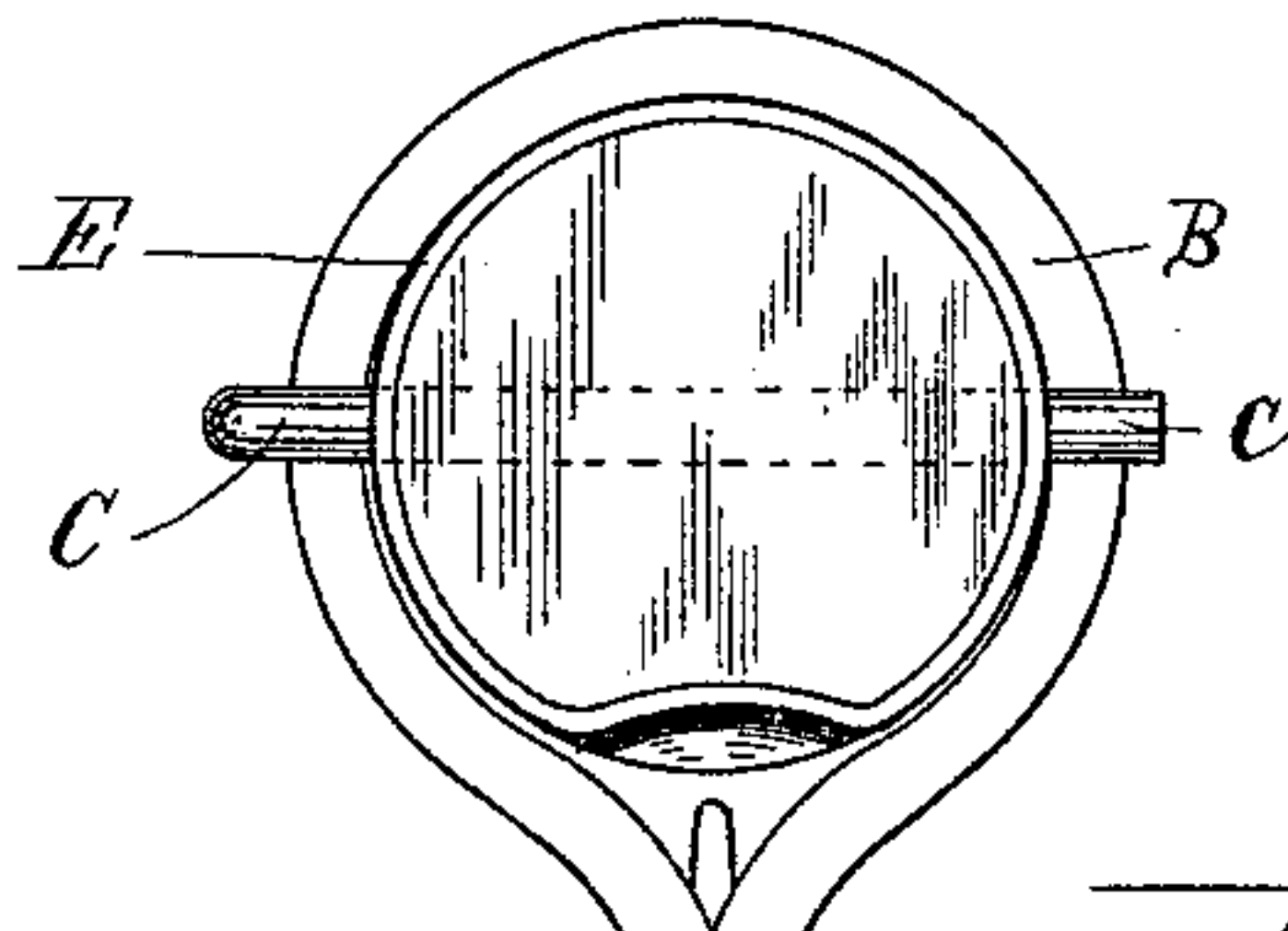
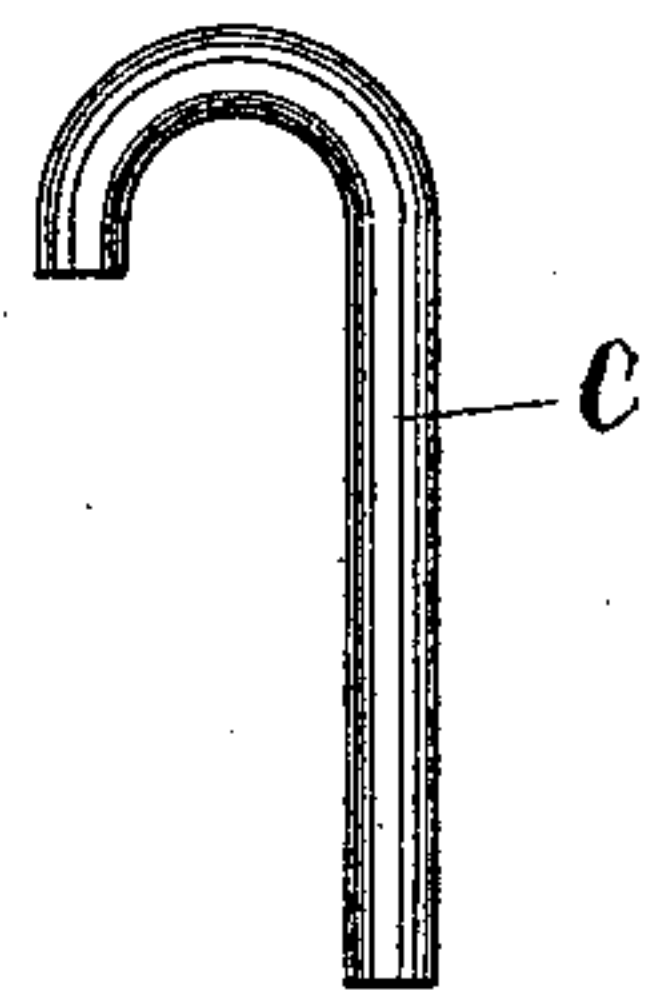


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WHIFFLETREE-HOOK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 391,054, dated October 16, 1888

Application filed May 24, 1888. Serial No. 274,968. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ALEXANDER LADD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Colfax, in the county of Whitman, Territory of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Whiffletree-Hooks; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to a self-locking whiffletree-hook, which will be held by gravity in position to prevent its being unlocked or disengaged from the loop upon the end of the tug, and which requires to be turned by hand into the only position which will admit of the removal of the tug from its attachment to the end of the whiffletree.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple, secure, and effective device, which will be durable and is inexpensive, which may be easily operated by hand, but cannot be operated to disengage the tug from the end of the whiffletree by any action or exertion of the animal.

The improvement consists in certain constructions and combinations of parts for effecting the above-named objects, as will hereinafter appear.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate my invention, Figure 1 is a perspective representation of my improved device when the tug is attached to the end of the whiffletree in working position; Fig. 2, a sectional view of the same through the end of the whiffletree when the hook and tug-loop are in position for the removal of the latter; and Fig. 3, an elevation of the staple in detail, which secures the hook to the end of the whiffletree.

One end only of the whiffletree A is shown in the drawings, to the end of which is fitted a clip, B, having a longitudinal gutter or depression, *b*, formed therein, preferably upon the rear side of the said clip and whiffletree.

A hook, C, of iron or steel, is formed with a ring, C', which encircles and snugly fits the

clip B upon the end of the whiffletree, so that it may be turned freely thereon, the point C² of said hook being held while thus moved in close proximity to the rounded surface of the clip. The hook C is held upon the clip, and the clip is also held upon the end of the whiffletree in a simple and secure manner to admit of the partial rotation of the hook, as hereinbefore described, by means of a staple, D, having prongs *d d'*, of unequal length, which are passed through transverse holes in the whiffletree and in the clip between the depression *b* and the opposite diameter of the whiffletree, after which the end of the short prong *d'* is clinched or headed at *d''* to prevent its removal from the whiffletree. The ring C' of the hook is placed around the clip before the staple is driven and secured in place, in such position that the loop *d''* of the staple will pass around the ring C' upon one side of the whiffletree, and the projecting end of the long prong *d* of said staple will be upon the outside of said ring and upon the opposite side of the whiffletree, thus holding the hook securely in place while allowing it to be revolved almost completely around the whiffletree, the only obstruction to its complete revolution being the loop *d''* of the staple, which is located in such relative position to the gutter *b* upon the top or back of the clip that the hook will be arrested in its rotation when it shall have been turned in position to bring the point C² of the hook directly over the said gutter.

By the above-described means the tug E and tug-loop F may be secured to the whiffletree by first turning the hook C until the point C² is opposite the gutter *b*, and then passing the end of the loop F through the gutter under the whiffletree-hook, after which the weight of the tug and hook will bring the hook back to its working position with the point of the hook in such close relation to the clip that the loop cannot be removed or passed between them.

The hook may be readily operated by hand, but cannot be disengaged from the tug-loop by any action or exertion of the animal.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, with a whiffletree hav-

ing a depression in its surface, of a lug to maintain the ring in position, and a hook having a ring to encircle the end of the whiffletree and held in place and adapted to be revolved
5 thereon, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a whiffletree having a depression therein, of a lug to maintain the ring in position, and a hook having a ring to encircle the end of the whiffletree, and a

staple to hold the ring in place and admit of its 10 revolution thereon, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM ALEXANDER LADD.

Witnesses:

FRED CHAPMAN,
W. H. SMITH.