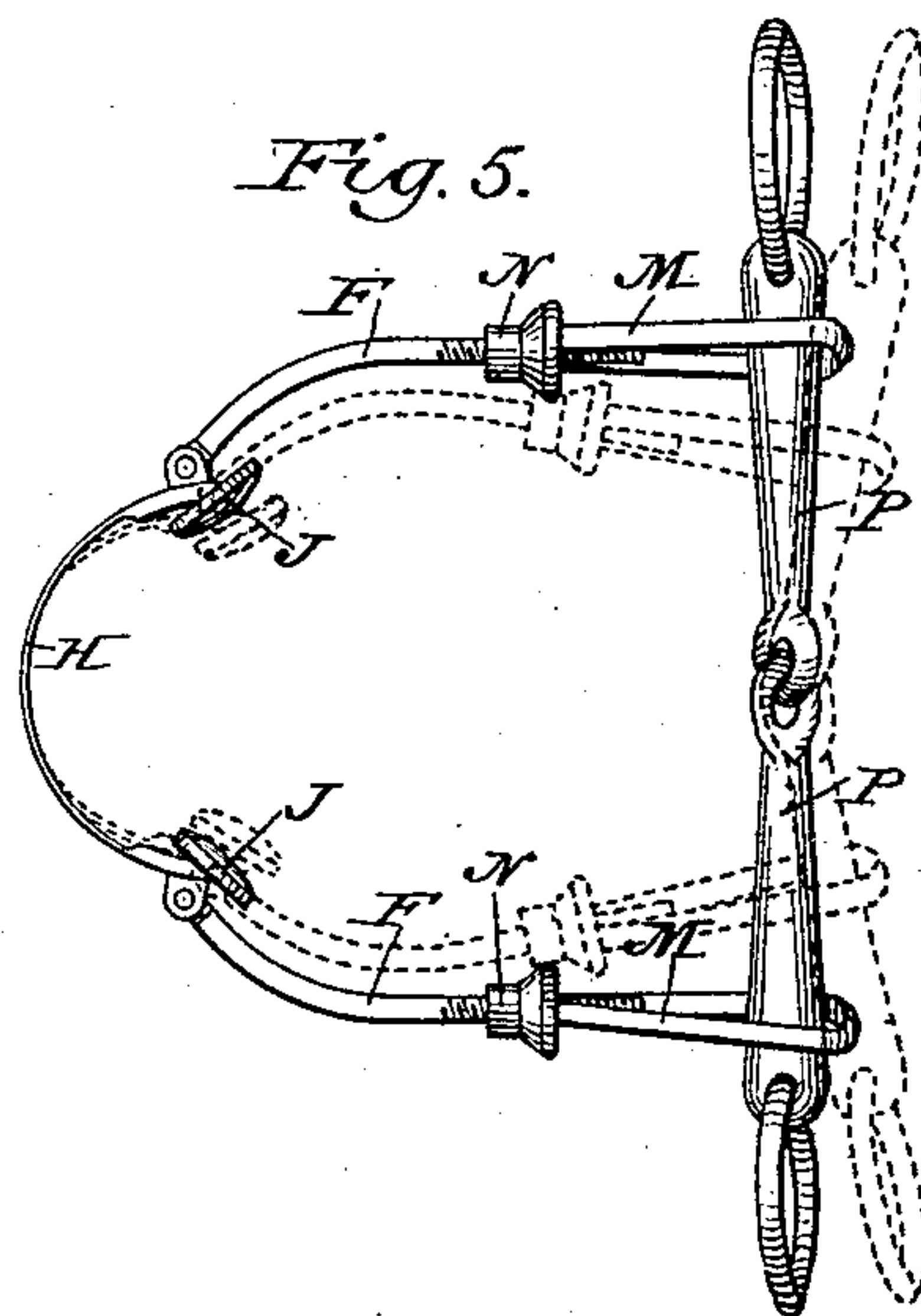
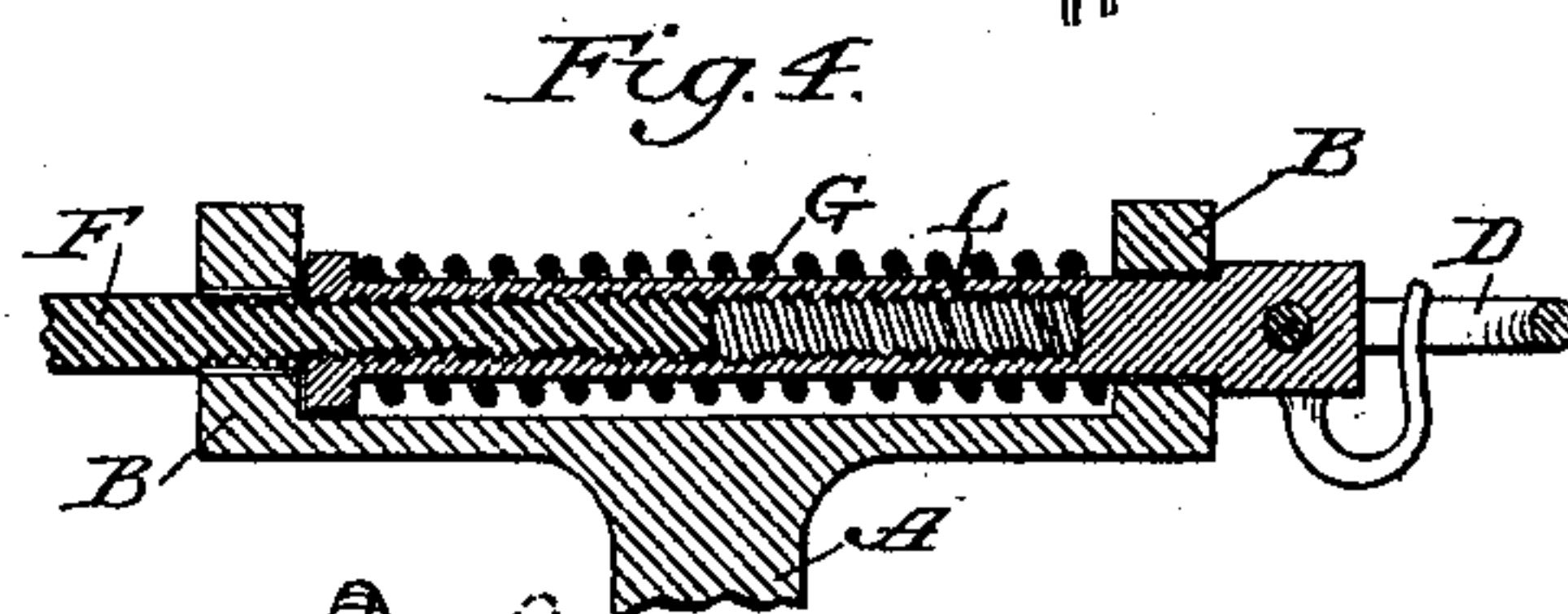
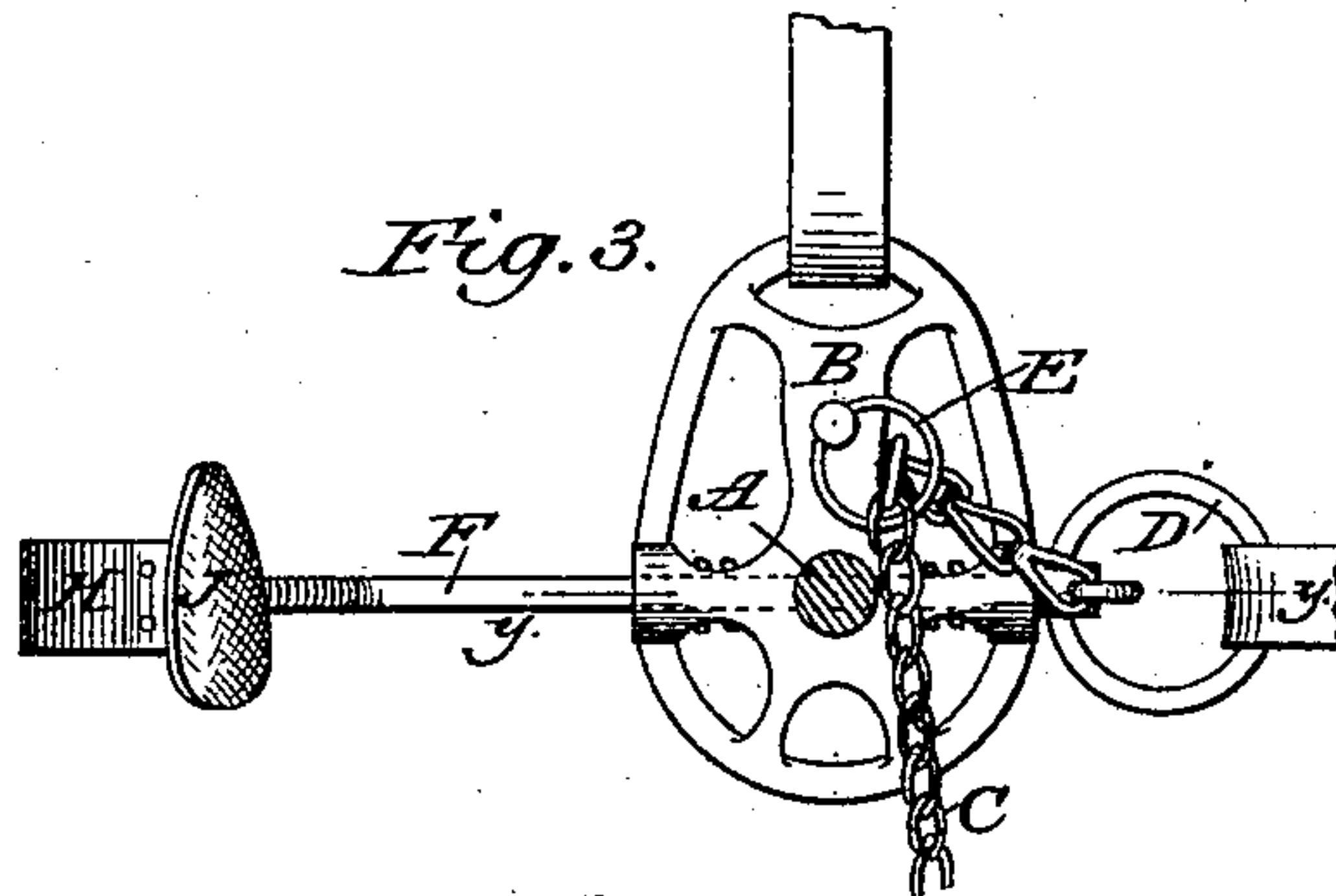
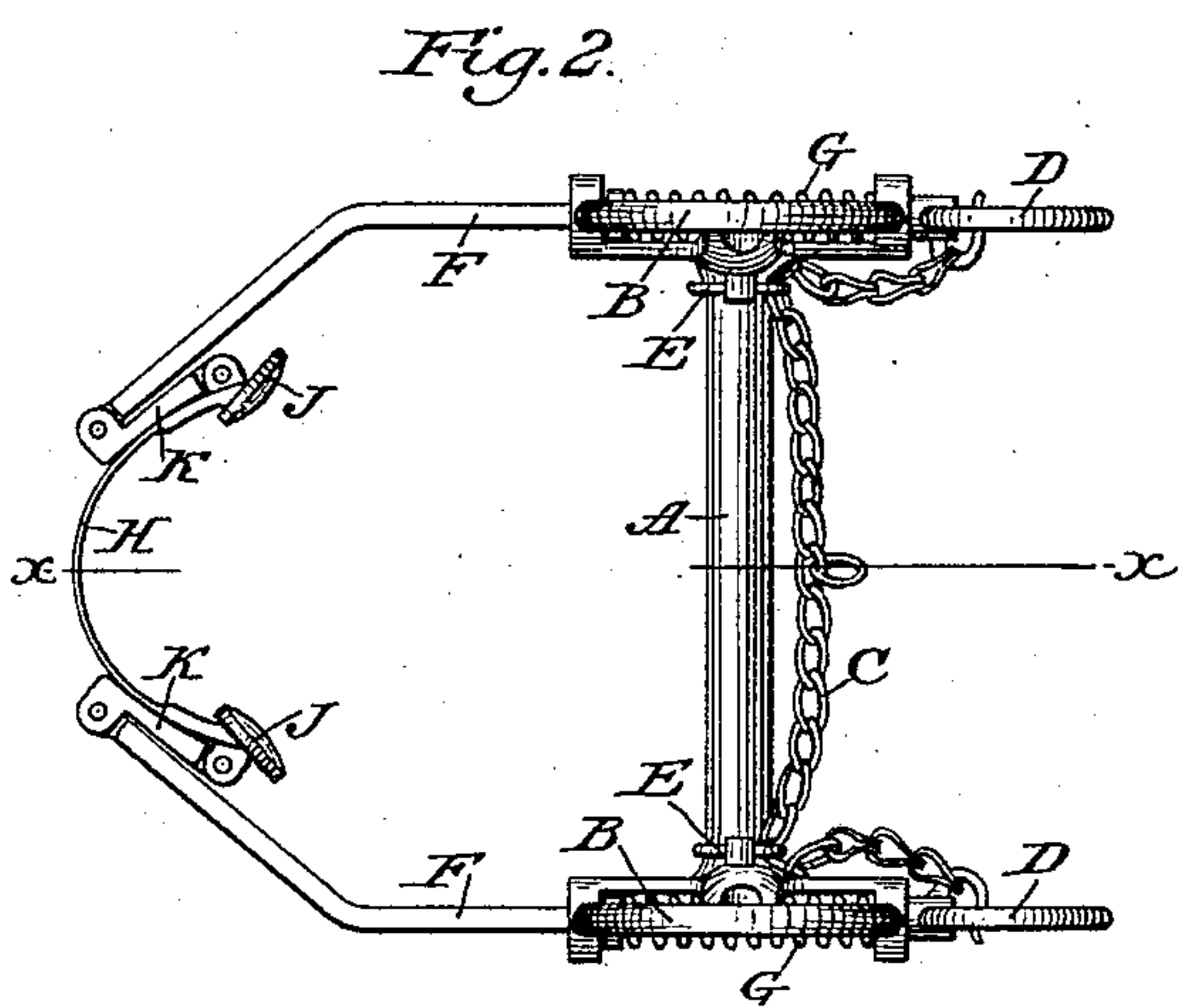
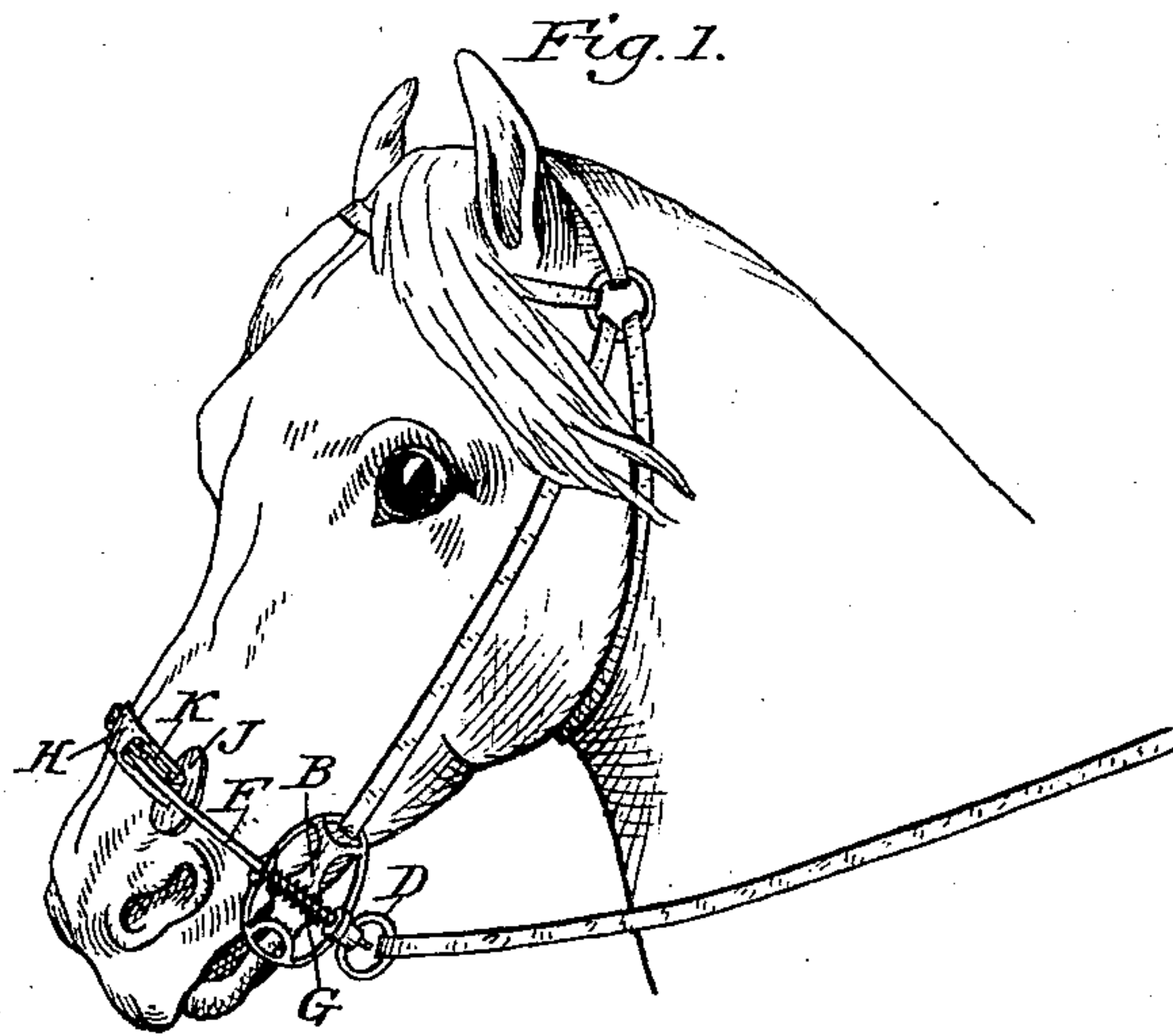


(No Model.)

L. P. BRITT.  
SAFETY BRIDLE BIT.

No. 397,273.

Patented Feb. 5, 1889.



Attest:  
*A. H. Jespersen*  
*E. M. Watson.*

Inventor:  
Lucas P. Britt  
By *David A. Burr*  
*Atty.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LUCAS P. BRITT, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## SAFETY BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 397,273, dated February 5, 1889.

Application filed April 10, 1888. Renewed November 10, 1888. Serial No. 290,453. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LUCAS P. BRITT, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety - Bits for Controlling Fractional Horses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a horse's head fitted with my improved safety clamp and bit; Fig. 2, a plan view of a bar-bit having my improvements attached thereto; Fig. 3, a transverse section in line *xx* of Fig. 2; Fig. 4, an enlarged sectional detail in line *yy* of Fig. 3, illustrating the device for adjusting the clamping device; and Fig. 5, a plan view of a snaffle-bit having my invention applied thereto.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple effective device to be used in combination with the bridle-bit, whereby a fractious horse may be instantly subdued and controlled by closing his nostrils.

It consists in the combination, with the bit to be placed in the horse's mouth, of lateral rods extending forward from each end of the bit, and which are hinged to the ends of a flexible metallic band fitting upon the horse's nose, the ends of the band being provided with pads adapted, when the rods are drawn back, so as to bend the band, to be thereby pressed upon and close the air-passages of the nose, which extend upward from each nostril.

It consists, furthermore, in the combination and arrangement of this clamping device with the spring-actuated bridle-rings and the curb-chain of the bit, in manner as hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the bar of a bar-bit, and B B its cheek-pieces, of any approved style and form.

C is a curb-chain, whose ends are attached to the bridle-rings D D, and which is led through lateral rings E E on the inner side of each cheek-piece, so that by pulling upon and drawing out the bridle-rings D D the curb-chain will be drawn up against the under

side of the horse's jaw and will operate to close it.

The bridle-rings D D are secured to lateral rods F F, fitted to slide longitudinally through bearings formed therefor in the cheek-pieces B B at each end of the bar A, and at right angles thereto. The rods are drawn inward to hold the bridle-rings firmly against the cheek-pieces by means of stiff springs G G interposed between the two bearings of each rod in the cheek-pieces, each spring being confined between the cheek-piece at one end and a pin or shoulder on the rod at the other, so as to resist the drawing outward of the bridle-ring attached to the rod. The outer forward ends of the rods F F are bent toward each other and hinged severally to the two ends of a flexible and, preferably, elastic metallic band, H, adapted to fit transversely upon the horse's nose, these ends having attached thereto pad-plates J J, adapted to fit neatly upon the nose over the longitudinal ducts or air-passages which extend from each nostril to the wind-pipe, so that a pressure upon the pads will operate to close said ducts or air-passages.

Preferably the hinged connection of the ends of each rod F with its appropriate pad J is effected by means of an interposed link, K, pivoted to the one, and the other in position to extend parallel with the end of the rod and the proximate end of the clamping-band H, the end of the band being overlapped by the end of the rod so that the link shall lie between them, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings. This link serves to afford leverage to the rod in producing a direct pressure of the face of the pad upon the nose.

The springs G G may be of any suitable description and of such resilient power as to afford adequate resistance to a strain upon the bridle-rein, so as to permit of the effective pull upon the bit required in the ordinary management of the horse, and to prevent a movement of the rods to close the pads upon the nose except under a very powerful pull upon the reins. When this pull is exerted, the curb-chain C will be drawn up under the horse's jaw, so as to operate to close his mouth, and the clamping-rods F F will be simultaneously drawn back, so as to close the pads in upon the horse's nose, the band H serving as



a fulcrum, whereby the movement of the rods will be made to operate effectually in closing the pads J J inward, so that they shall press upon the air-passages, and thereby prevent the animal from breathing through the nostrils, a result which will quickly quiet him and subject him to the driver's will without the possibility of injury.

To provide for an adjustment in the length of the clamping-rods F F, so as to obtain a perfect adaptation of the device to the horse's head upon which it is to be used, each rod is adapted to screw longitudinally into the end of a tubular rod, L, fitted to slide longitudinally in suitable bearings in each cheek-piece B at each end of the bit-bar A, said tubular rod L being governed by a spring, G, in manner as described, to resist a tension upon the bridling D, secured to said rod. This tubular rod is free not only to slide longitudinally in its bearings, but also to rotate upon its longitudinal axis, and it is internally-threaded at its open end to serve as a nut, into which the end of the clamp-rod F will screw; hence by turning the rod L the rod F may be drawn in or carried out therefrom, so as to be thereby adjusted in length with reference to the bridling.

For use with a snaffle-bit, P, the rods F F are simply attached to the bit by means of loops M M, fitted to slide loosely upon the bit, as shown in Fig. 5. These loops may terminate each in an internally-threaded head or nut, N, into which the ends of the rods may be screwed for adjustment. When the bit is drawn upon, so as to cause it to bend in the horse's mouth, the loops M M, sliding inward toward the middle of the bit, (see dotted lines, Fig. 5,) will, in connection with the pull thereon, cause the pads to close upon the nose, as hereinbefore described.

Although I deem the links K, interposed between the ends of the rods F and the clamping-pads D, as shown in Fig. 2, to be useful, they may be dispensed with and the rods be hinged directly to the pads, as shown in Fig. 5.

The band H and pads J J may be lined with soft material to prevent chafing the horse's skin.

In the use of this improved device the pull upon the bridle-reins required in the management and control of the animal when quiet and tractable will have no effect upon the rods F F; but if the horse becomes fractious

and unruly a hard pull upon the reins will, by overcoming the resistance of the springs G G, draw in the rods F F sufficiently to bring the pads J J into effective operation to stifle the horse.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, substantially as and for the purpose set forth, of a bridle-bit, lateral movable rods supported by the bit to extend forward upon the horse's nose, a flexible band connecting their ends, and pads hinged to said ends to bear inward upon the nose when the rods are drawn back.

2. The combination of a bridle-bit, lateral movable rods supported by the bit to play in bearings formed in its cheek-pieces, springs actuating said rods to force them forward, bridle rings or loops attached to the rods by which to draw them back, a flexible band connecting the forward ends of said rods, and pads hinged to said ends to bear upon the horse's nose when the rods are drawn back against the resistance of the springs, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

3. The combination of a bridle-bit, lateral movable rods supported by the bit to play in bearings formed in its cheek-pieces, springs actuating said rods to force them forward, bridle rings or loops at the rear ends of the rods by which to draw them back, a curb-chain attached to said ends and passing through rings on the cheek-pieces, a flexible band connecting the forward ends of said rods, and pads hinged to said ends to bear upon the horse's nose when the rods are drawn back against the resistance of the springs, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

4. The combination, with the bridle-bit, its cheek-pieces, the lateral rods supported by and moving in said cheek-pieces, the flexible band connecting their forward ends, and the pads pivoted thereto, of the springs fitted in the cheek-pieces to actuate said rods and hold open the pads, substantially in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LUCAS P. BRITT.

Witnesses:

A. N. JESBERA,  
E. M. WATSON.