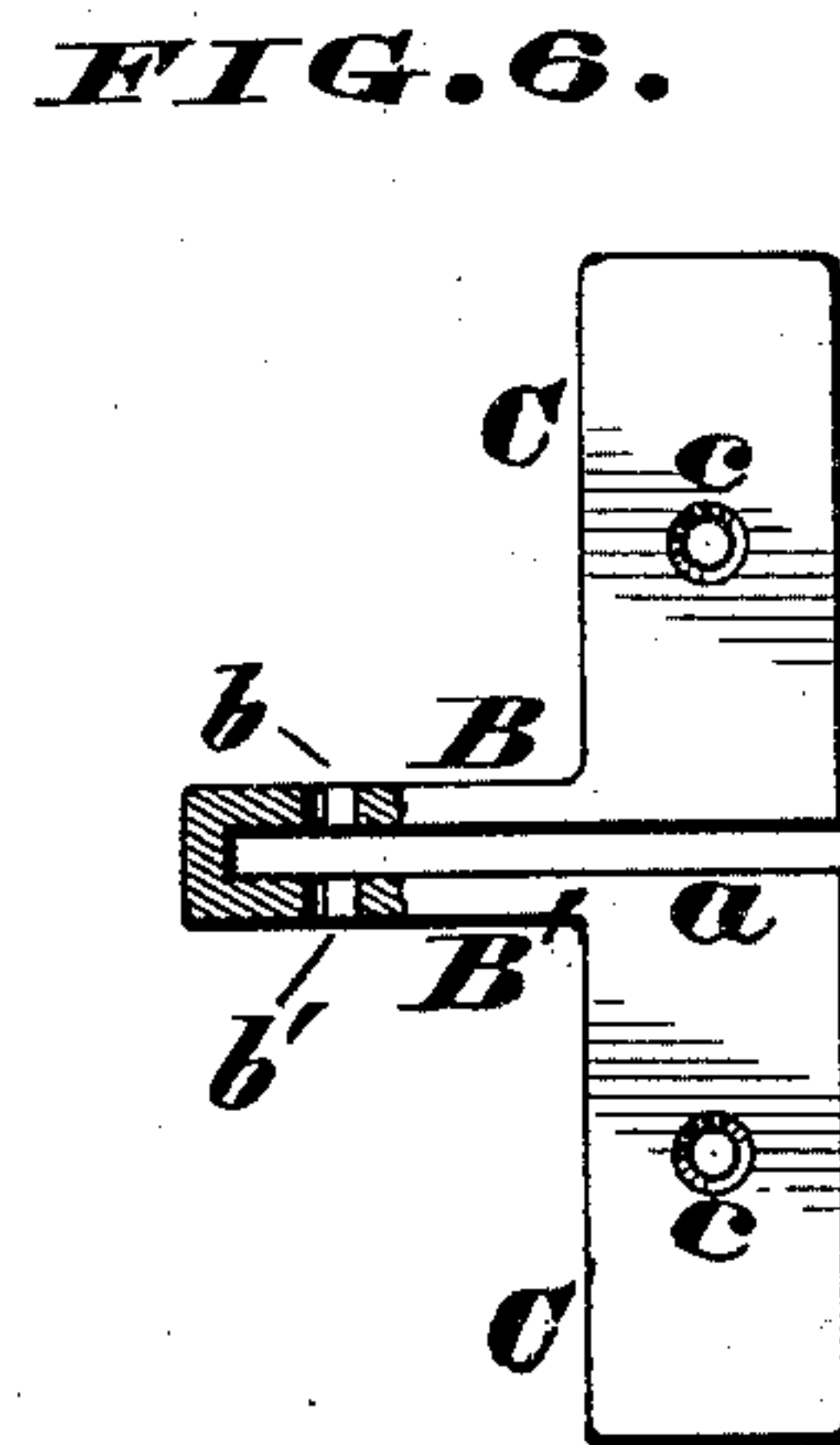
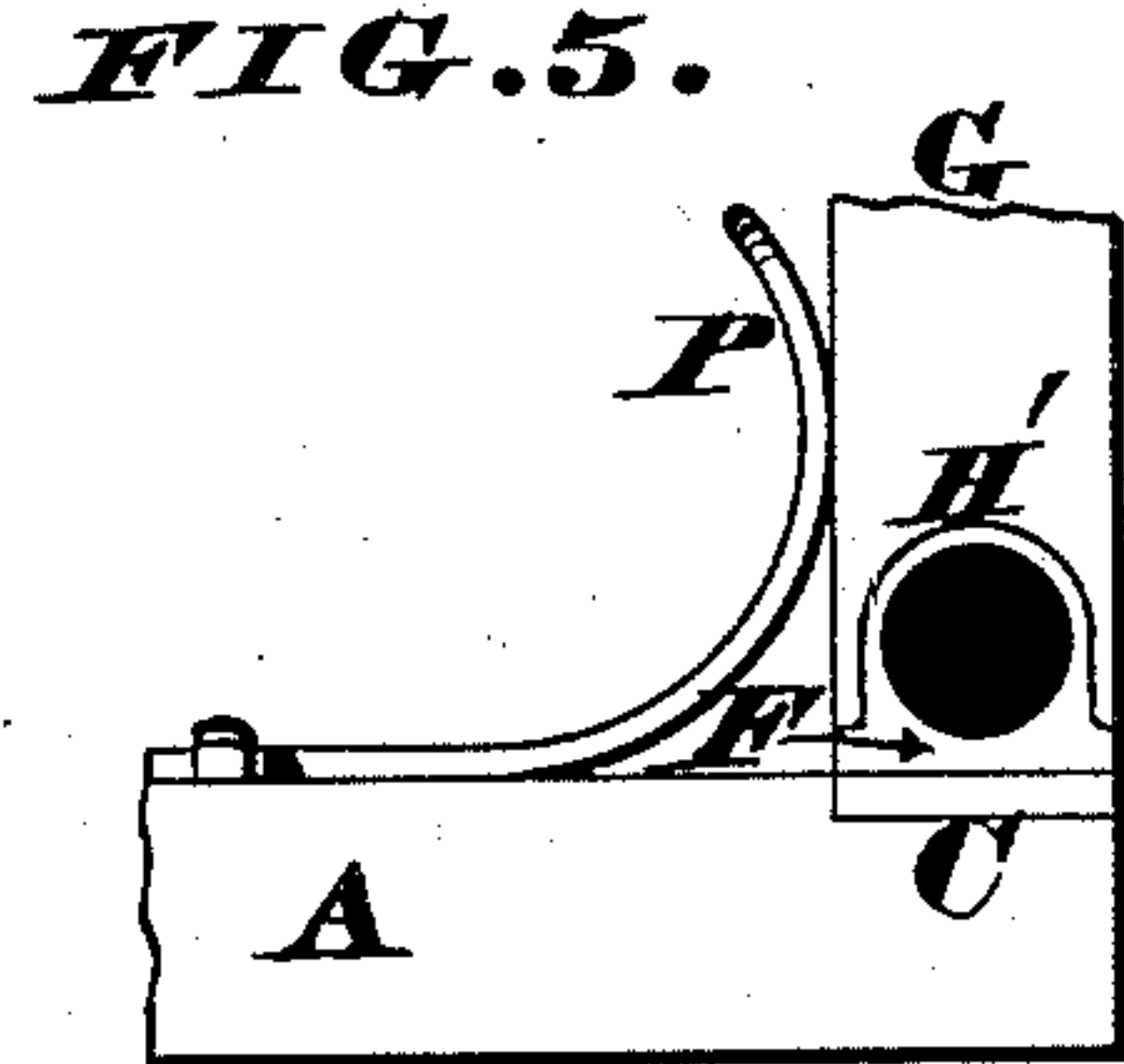
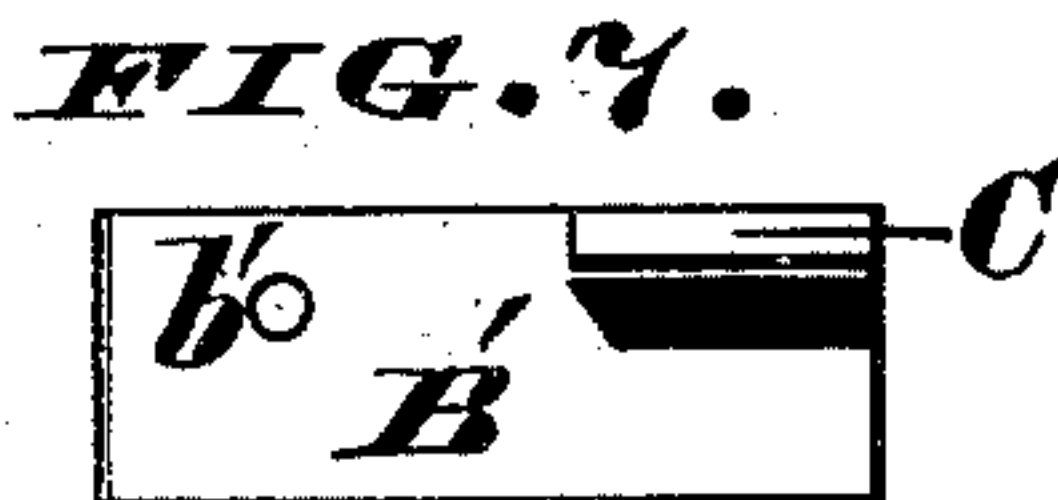
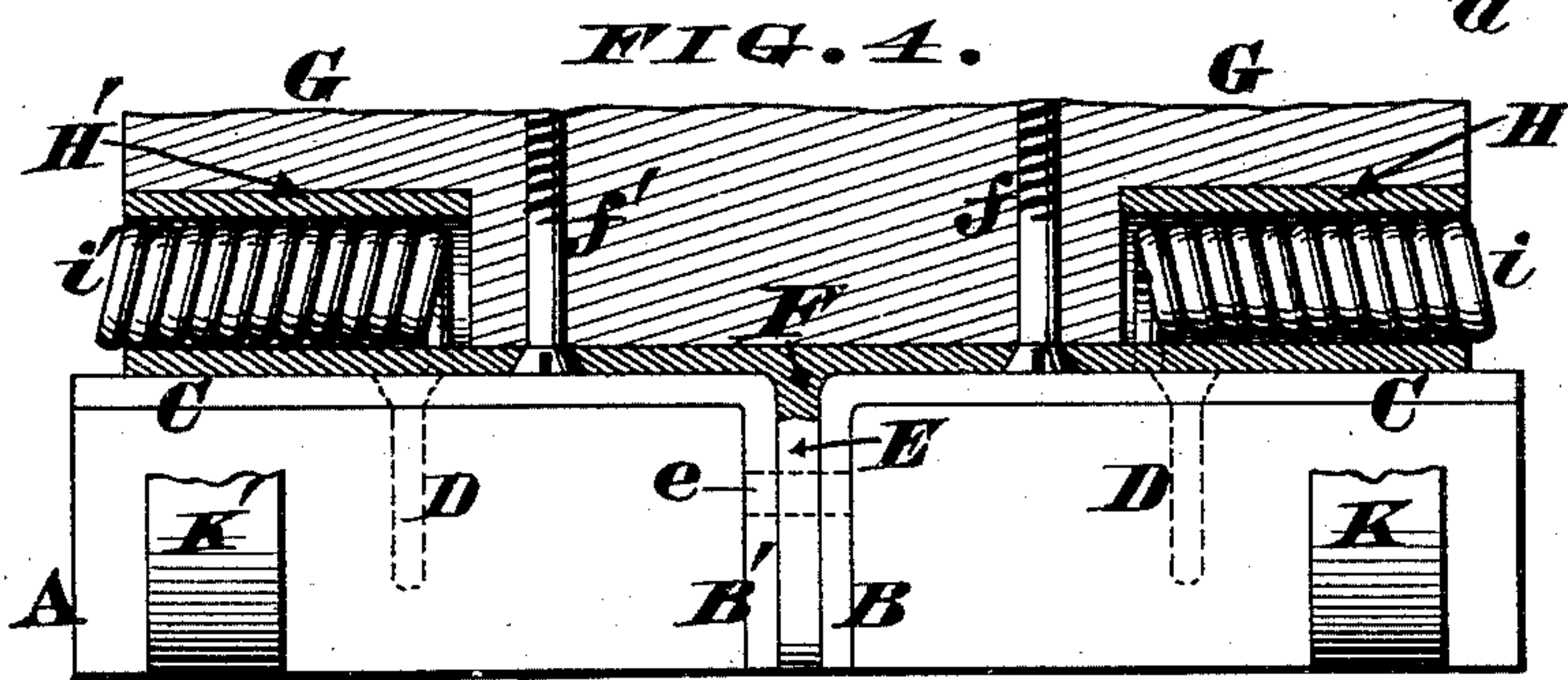
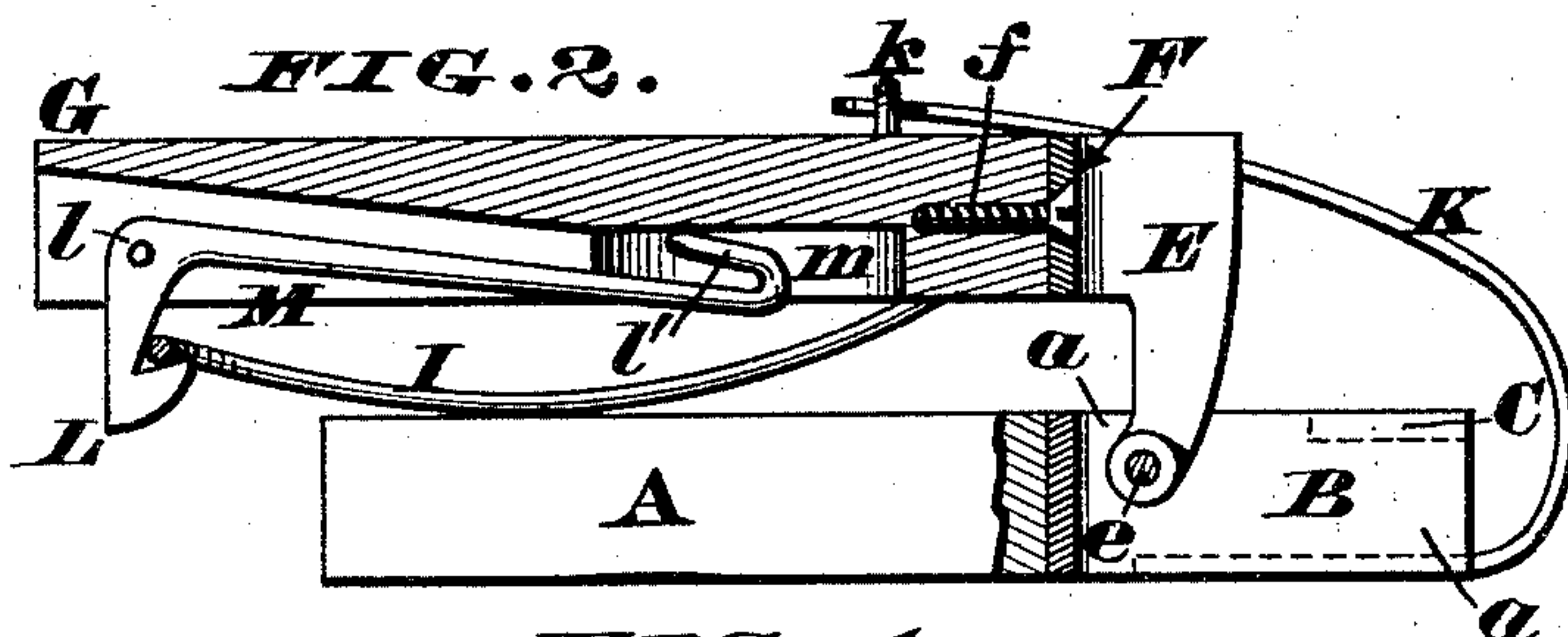
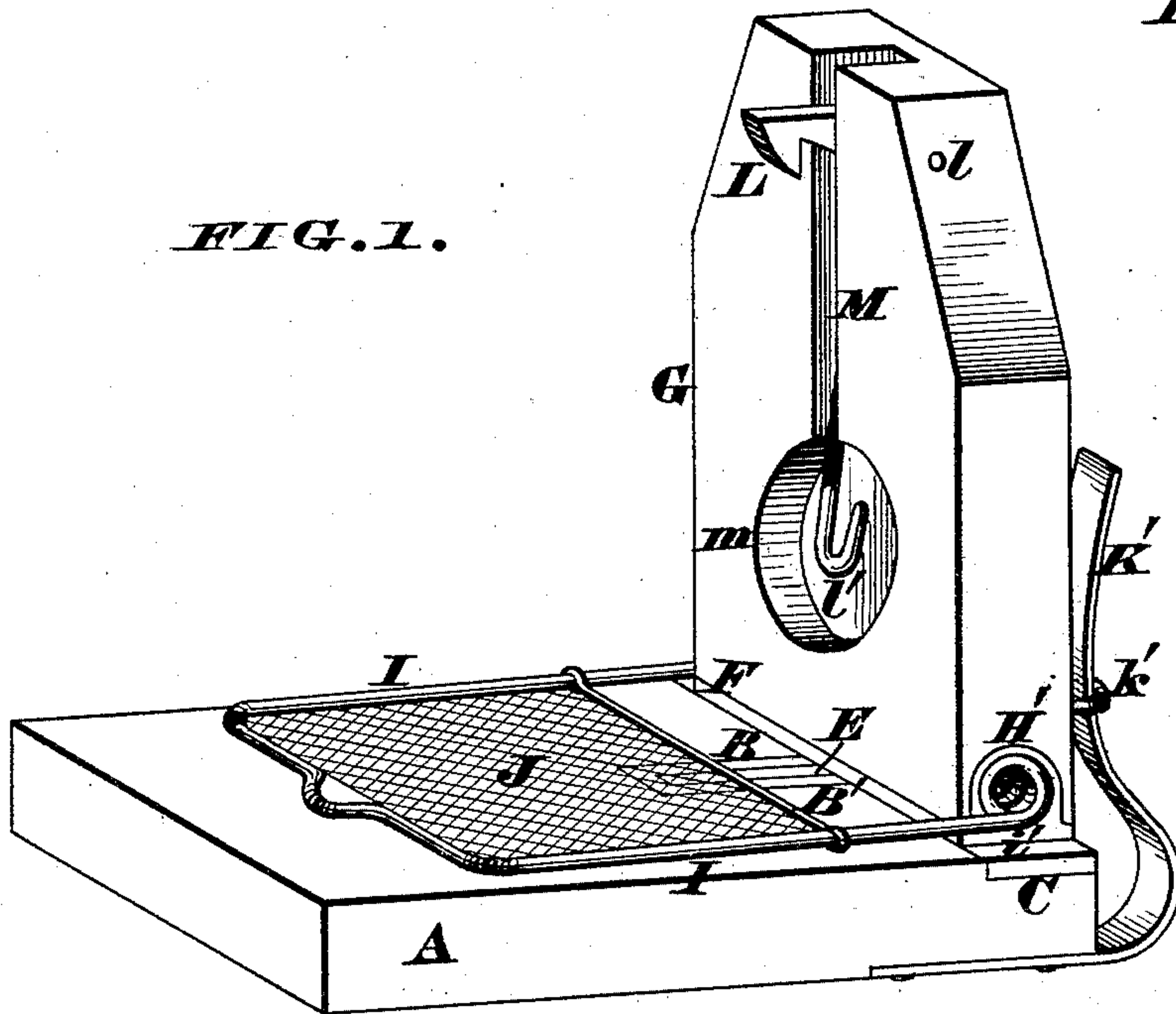


(No Model.)

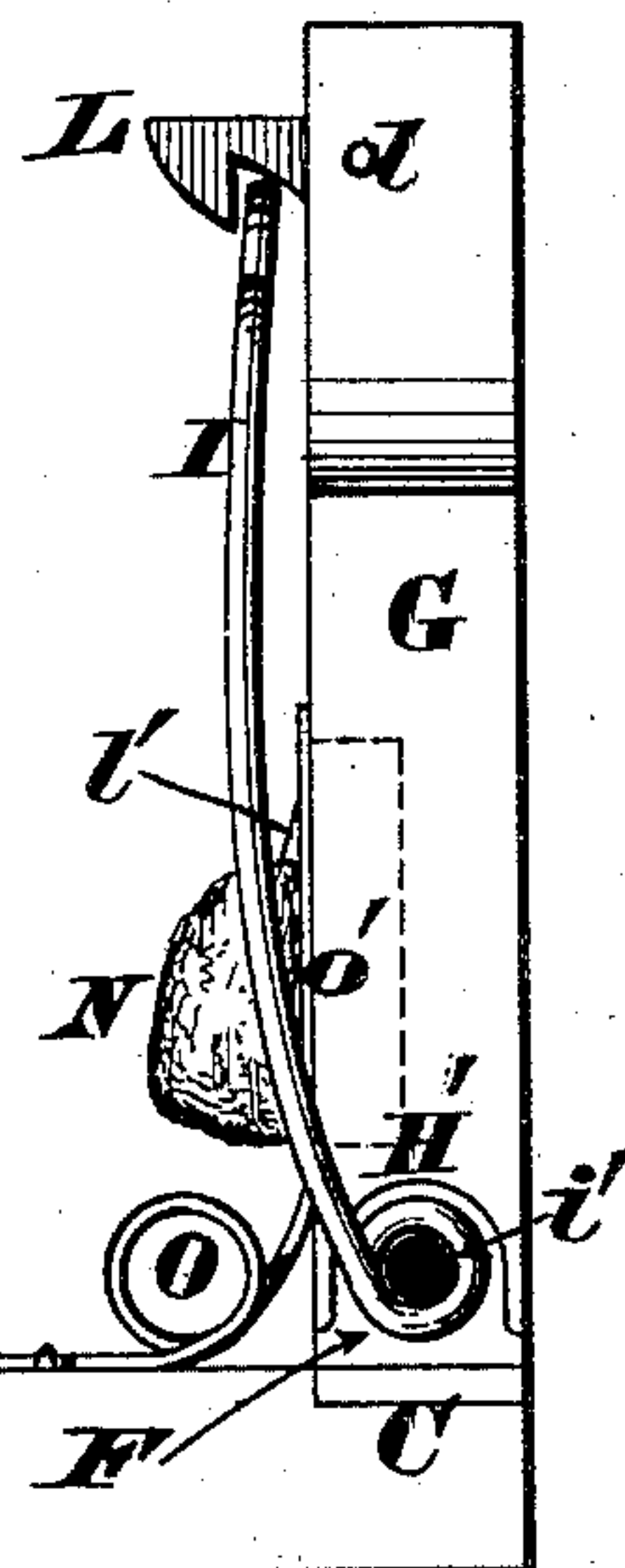
E. L. McCLAIN.  
ANIMAL TRAP.

No. 431,122.

Patented July 1, 1890.



**FIG. 3.**



Attest.  
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J. O. Layman

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by James H. Layman  
att'y.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD L. McCLAIN, OF GREENFIELD, OHIO.

## ANIMAL-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 431,122, dated July 1, 1890.

Application filed March 13, 1890. Serial No. 343,709. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, EDWARD L. McCLAIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Greenfield, in the county of Highland and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Animal-Traps; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, reference being had to the annexed drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention comprises certain improvements in the construction of animal-traps, the details of said improvements being hereinafter more fully described, and then pointed out in the claims.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my animal-trap in its normal position. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section showing the trap in the act of being set. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the trap after being set and baited. Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional elevation of the hinge-plate and its accessories. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a portion of a modified form of the trap. Fig. 6 is a sectionized plan of the slotted guard-plate. Fig. 7 is a side elevation of said plate.

A represents the base or stationary member of the trap, which base has a central and longitudinal slot *a*, that is preferably formed by the cheeks *B B'* of a guard-plate *C*, the latter being perforated at *c* to admit screws *D*, wherewith said plate is secured to the upper surface of base *A* and at one end thereof. Cheeks *B B'* are pierced transversely, as seen at *b b'* in Fig. 6, to admit a pivot *e*, wherewith the angular lug *E* of hinge-plate *F* is jointed to said cheeks. *ff'*, in Fig. 4, are screws that fasten this plate to the lower end of a vertical standard *G*, the opposite extremities of said plate being provided with integral cylindrical sockets *H H'*, that admit the spring-coils *i i'* of a wire bow or frame *I*, which latter may be furnished with a wire net-work *J*, so as to form a flap that will the more effectually imprison the animal or other intruder. The extreme inner ends of coils *i i'* are so fastened to the plate *F* as to cause the bow or frame *I* to bear upon the base *A* with considerable pressure.

*K K'* are plate-springs, the fixed ends of which are attached to the base *A*, while their

free ends traverse staples *k k'* of standard *G*, and thereby maintain said standard in its normal or erect position. Furthermore, this standard has pivoted to it at *l* a trigger *L*, the lower end of which takes the shape of a bait-hook *l'*, the principal portion of said trigger being preferably housed within a groove *M*, whose lower end communicates with a pit *m* to accommodate the bait *N*. When the trap is in its normal position, as seen in Fig. 1, the stress of springs *K K'* causes the hinged standard *G* to be vertical, while at the same time the coils *i i'* hold the bow *I* down tightly against the base *A*; but the trap can be set in a few minutes by proceeding as follows: The upper or free end of standard *G* is swung forward either by hand or foot, thereby gradually overcoming the tension of springs *K K'* and causing said standard to assume the practically horizontal position seen in Fig. 2, in which position the trigger *L* readily engages with the bow or frame *I*. Pressure being then removed from the standard, it is automatically restored to its erect position by the springs *K K'*, the guard-plate *C* preventing the hinge-plate *F* cutting into the upper surface of base *A*. This elevation of the standard imparts considerable extra tension to the coils *i i'* and sets the trap in such a condition as to enable it to perform prompt and effective service the instant any animal meddles with the bait *N* suspended from the hook *l'*. The least tug at the bait disengages the trigger *L* from the bow *I*, which latter immediately swings down as far as possible and imprisons the intruder between said bow and the base *A*, which imprisonment is rendered more effective with mice and other small animals by providing said bow with the wire net-work *J*; but when the trap is made exclusively for large animals this net is omitted.

The spring or springs for automatically restoring the standard to its erect position may be modified to suit circumstances, a coiled spring being seen in Fig. 3, which spring has extensions *o o'* secured, respectively, to base *A* and standard *G*. With this construction the lug *E* and pivot *e* could be dispensed with, as a pair of springs similar to the device *O o o'* would afford the only hinge nec-



essary for a small trap; but in the other modification (shown in Fig. 5) a single plate-spring P is employed, with one end secured to the base A and its free end bearing against the standard G.

Finally, I do not claim the broad idea of a standard hinged to a base and having a trigger that engages with a spring bow or flap when said standard is turned down to a horizontal position, but I do claim, broadly, a spring or springs for automatically restoring the standard to its normal position, provided said spring is separate and independent from the spring-bow or choker.

I claim as my invention--

1. The combination, in an animal-trap, of a base and swinging standard coupled thereto, a spring-bow applied to the base of said standard, a trigger pivoted near the top of the latter and adapted to engage with said bow, and an independent spring that automatically restores said standard to its normal position, substantially as herein described.

2. The combination, in an animal-trap, of a base and a standard coupled together, the latter being provided with a trigger and spring bow or frame, which engages with said

trigger when the trap is set, and a pair of independent springs K K', having their fixed ends secured to said base and their free ends inserted within staples k k' of said standard, as herein described.

3. In combination with an animal-trap of the class specified, the hinge-plate F, having an angular lug E for the reception of the pivot e, and a pair of integral sockets H H', that admit the coils i i' of the spring bow or frame I, as herein described.

4. In combination with an animal-trap consisting of the base A and swinging standard G, coupled thereto by the hinge-plate E F, the guard-plate C, secured to the upper surface of said base and having parallel cheeks B B', which are perforated horizontally at b b' and separated by a central vertical slot a, that admits the angular lug E of said hinge-plate, said lug and perforations being traversed by the pivot e, all as herein described.

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

EDWARD L. McCLAIN.

Witnesses:

P. K. DAVIS,

A. E. McCLAIN.