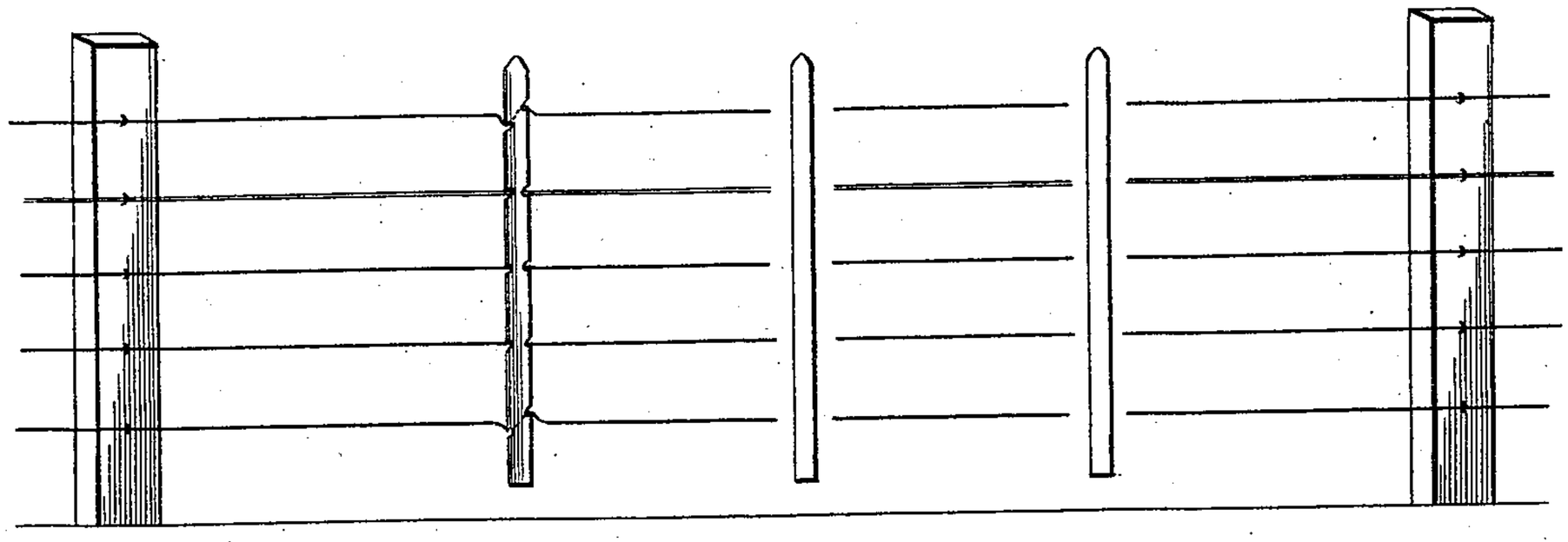
(No Model.)

O. WHITEHEAD.

FENCE STAY.

No. 554,560. Patented Feb. 11, 1896.

Fig. 1.



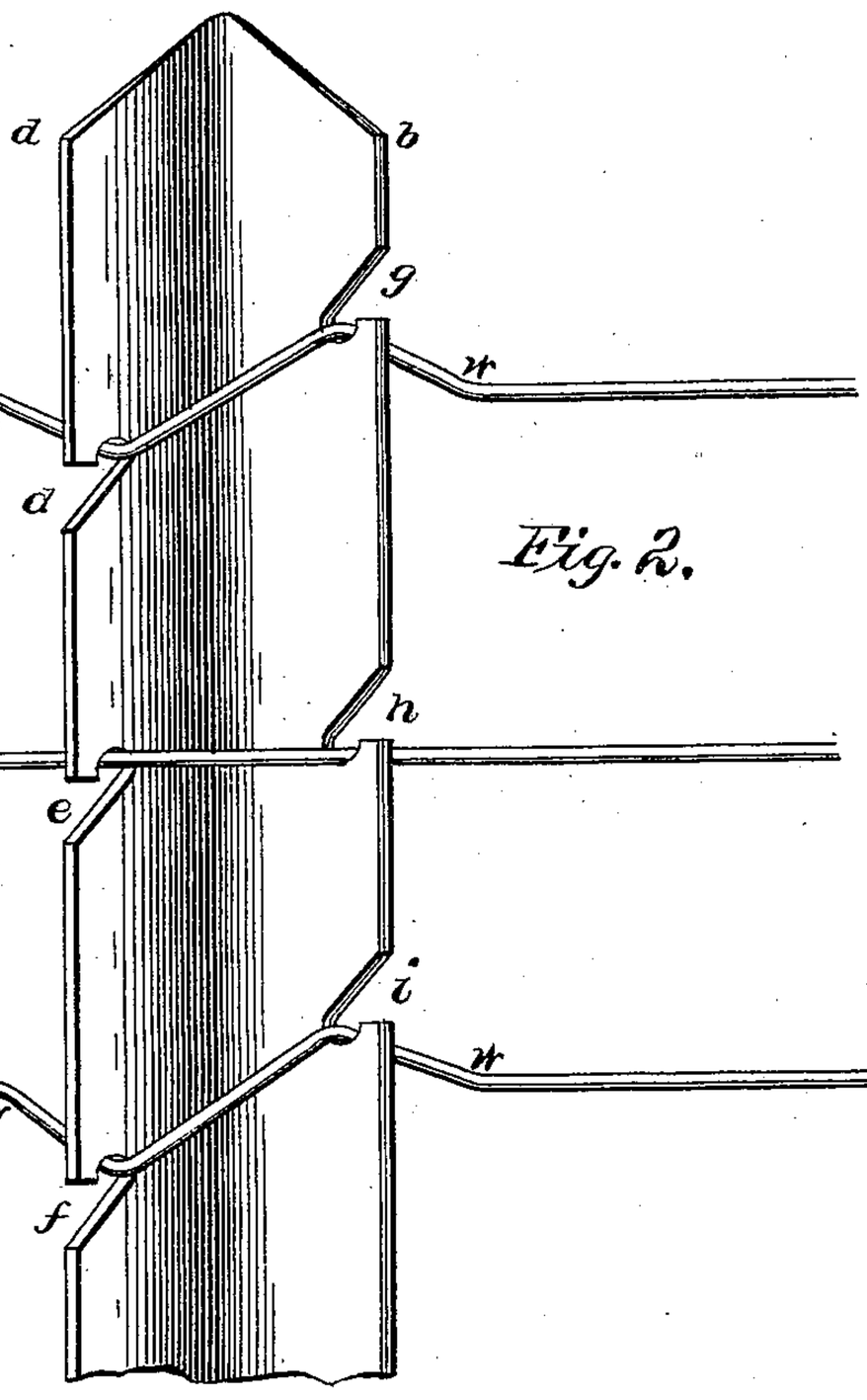
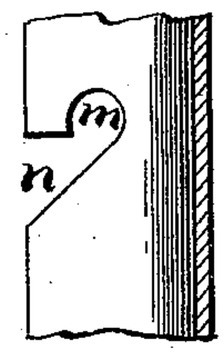


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
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Inventor:
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By Edwin Luce,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER WHITEHEAD, OF DAYTON, OHIO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO WARREN E. BEEGHLY, OF SAME PLACE.

FENCE-STAY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 554,560, dated February 11, 1896.

Application filed June 20, 1895. Serial No. 553,485. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER WHITEHEAD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Dayton, in the county of Montgomery and State of Ohio, have invented new and useful Improvements in Wire Fences and a Stay Therefor; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention.

The object of the stay is, first, to firmly lock the wires in wire fences; second, to prevent the wires from being either pulled apart or drawn together; third, to keep the wires in exact position, and, fourth, to furnish a stay which cannot be slid or moved along the wires at will.

Figure 1 of the drawings shows part of a fence with three stays attached. Fig. 2 gives a front view of the stay, showing the inside or hollow part of it. Fig. 3 shows the exact shape of the slots in the stay, through which the wires are drawn.

The stay is made of sheet-steel of about one-sixteenth inch in thickness, bent in U shape, so that the distance from edge to edge (*a* to *b* in Fig. 2) is about one-half inch. In each side of the stay as many slots are punched as wires are strung on the fence. Through these slots (the shape of which is shown by Fig. 3) the wires are to be drawn. The hole part (*m*, Fig. 3) of the slot is to be about three-sixteenths inch in diameter; the entrance part (*n*, Fig. 3) about one-fourth inch wide.

On one side of the stay the slots slant upward, (see *d e f* of Fig. 2,) and on the other they are reversed and slant down, (see *g h i* of Fig. 2,) so that the fence-wires have to be twisted in order to be put in the slot.

The slots are to be made so that the hole parts of the slots of one side of the stay are directly opposite those of the other, with the exception of the slots for the top and bottom wires.

The slots for the top and bottom wires differ from the rest in so far that the center of the hole part of the slots of one side of the stay is about one-fourth inch (more or less) higher than the center of the hole part of the opposite slot, so that the wires run diagonally through the stay. After the top and bottom wires are drawn through the slots, they are kinked with a separate tool, especially made for this purpose, the kink on one side being upward and downward on the other, (see *w*, Fig. 2,) so that the wire continues in exactly the same height and direction after running through the stay as it did before entering it. The kink, as well as the difference in the height of the hole parts of the top and bottom slots on the two sides of the stay, has the effect of firmly locking the wires and preventing them from either being spread apart or being drawn together, thus keeping the wires in exact position.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a wire fence the combination with the strands of wire, of a stay of substantially U shape in cross-section, said stay having slots formed in its opposite sides to receive the wires, the slots on one side slanting upwardly and on the other side downwardly, the inner ends of the opposing slots for the top and bottom wires being in different horizontal planes, and those of the opposing slots for the intermediate wires being in substantially the same horizontal planes, the top and bottom wires being kinked upwardly on one side of the post and downwardly on the opposite side and the intermediate wires being straight, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

OLIVER WHITEHEAD.

Witnesses:
PHILIPP WALDEMAR LÉONHARDT,
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