

(No Model.)

A. W. HOFFMANN.  
CHRISTMAS TREE CANDLE HOLDER.

No. 581,725.

Patented May 4, 1897.

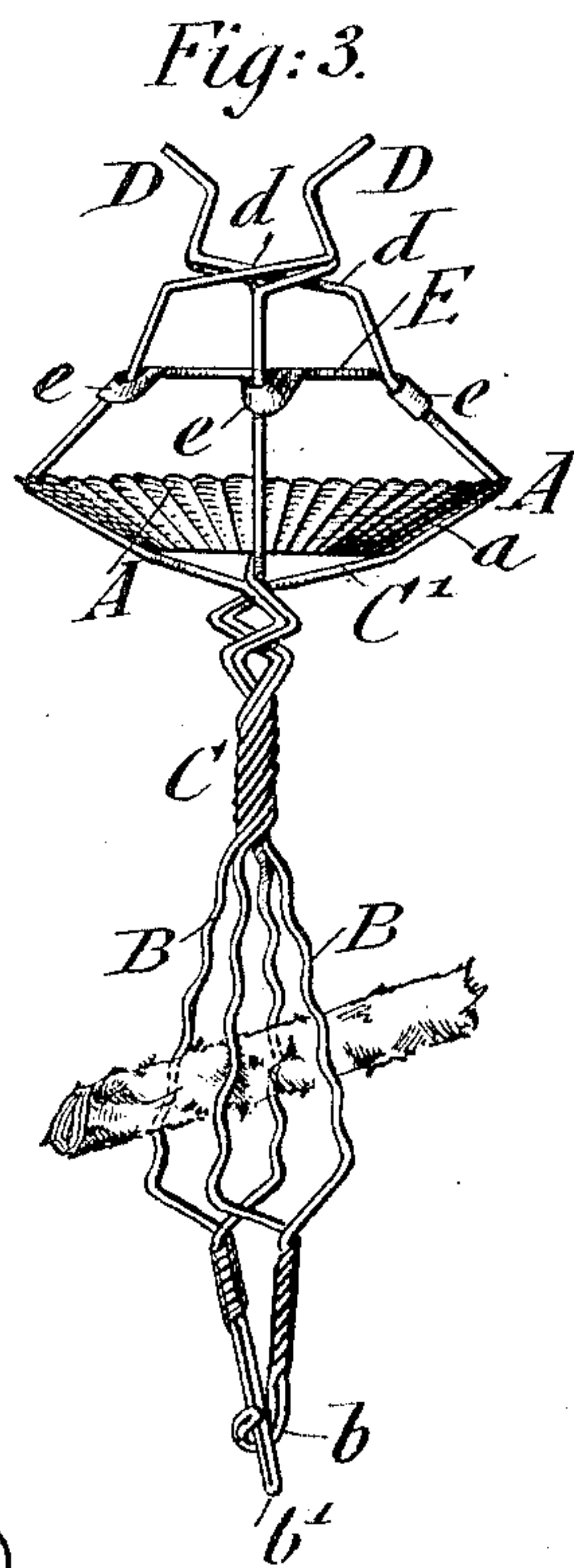
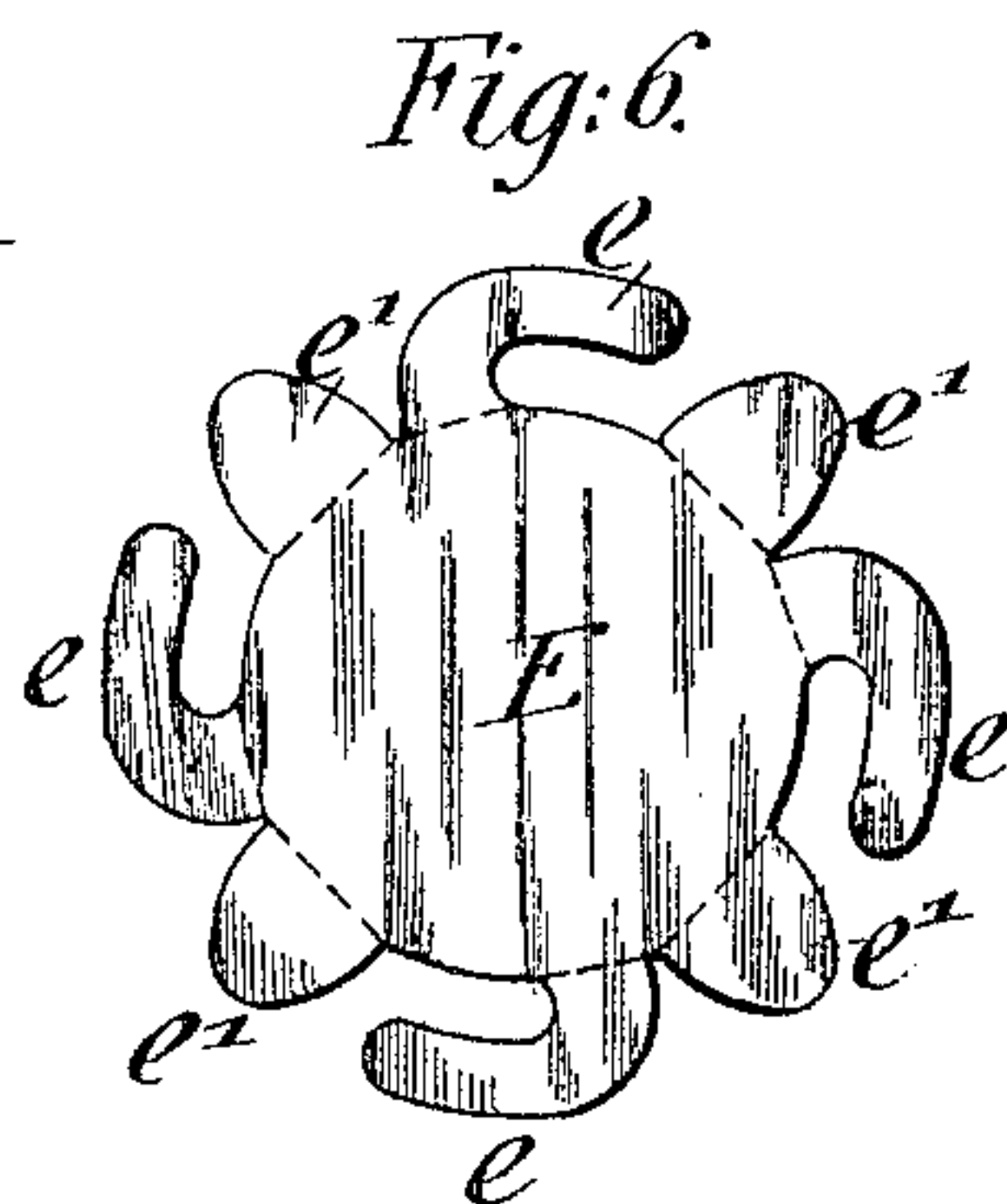
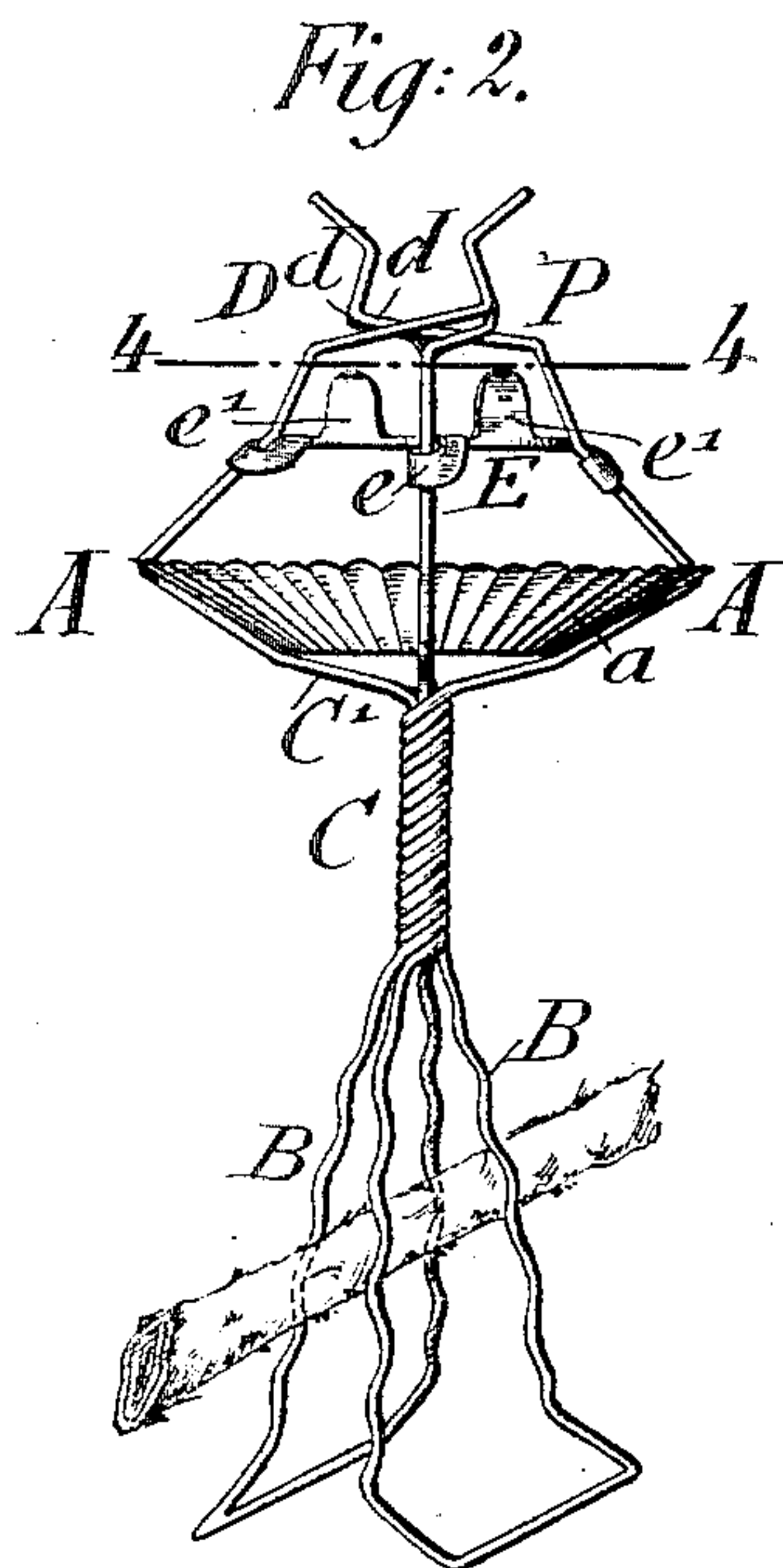
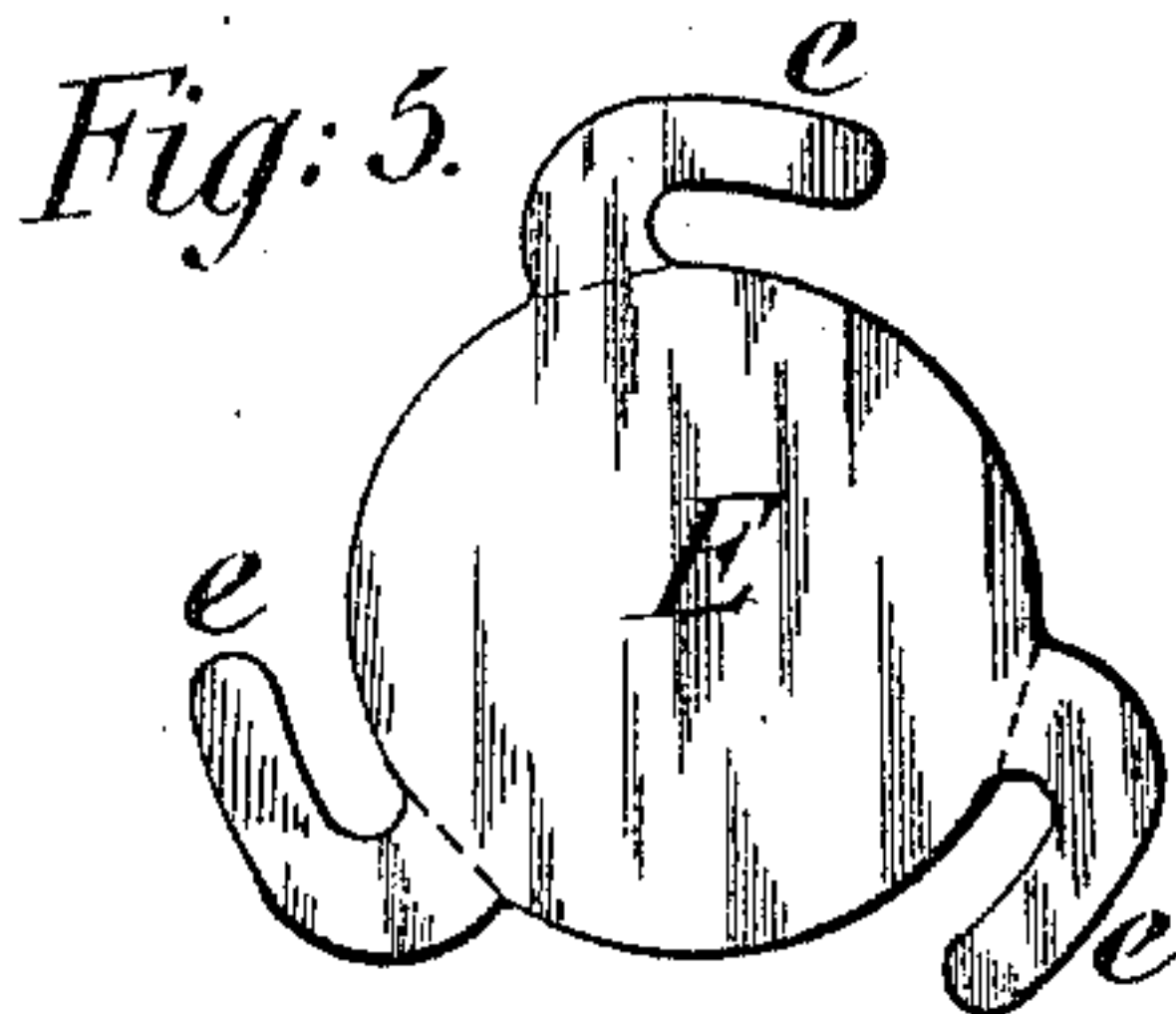
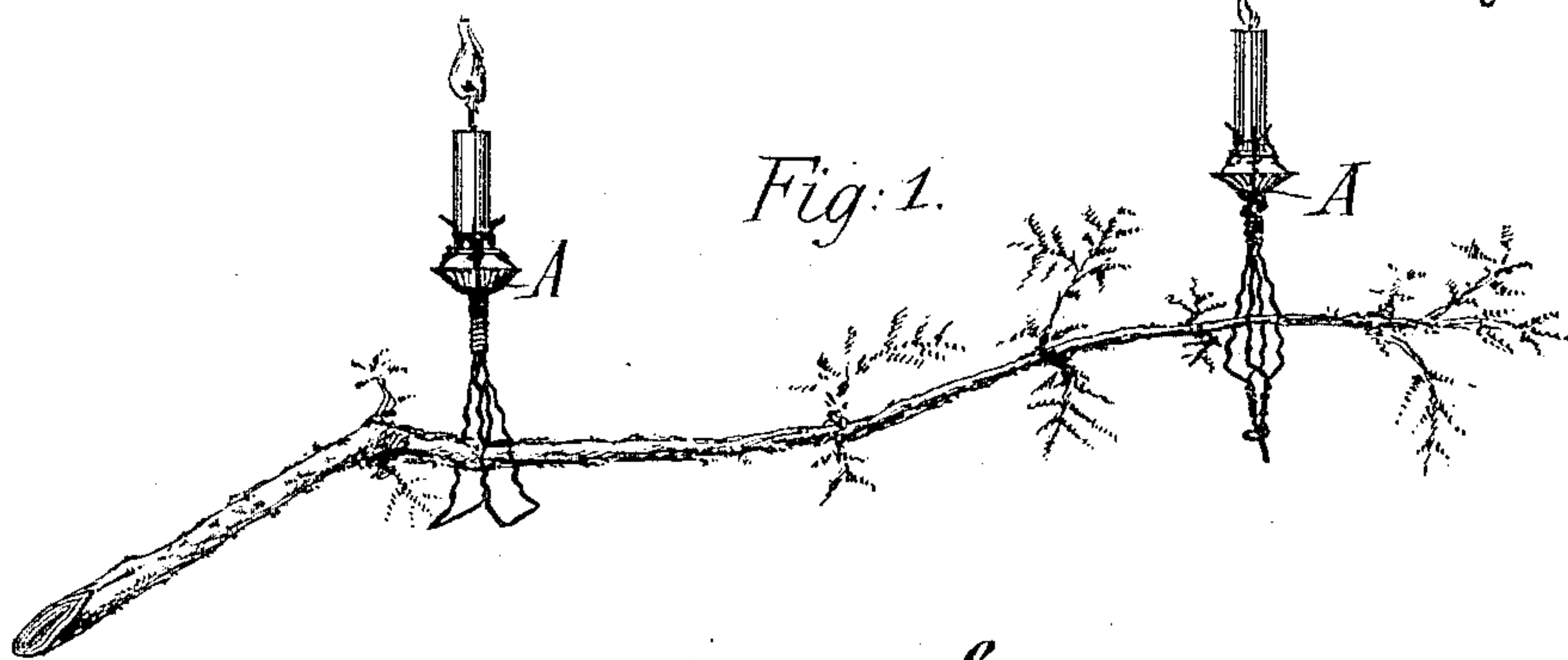
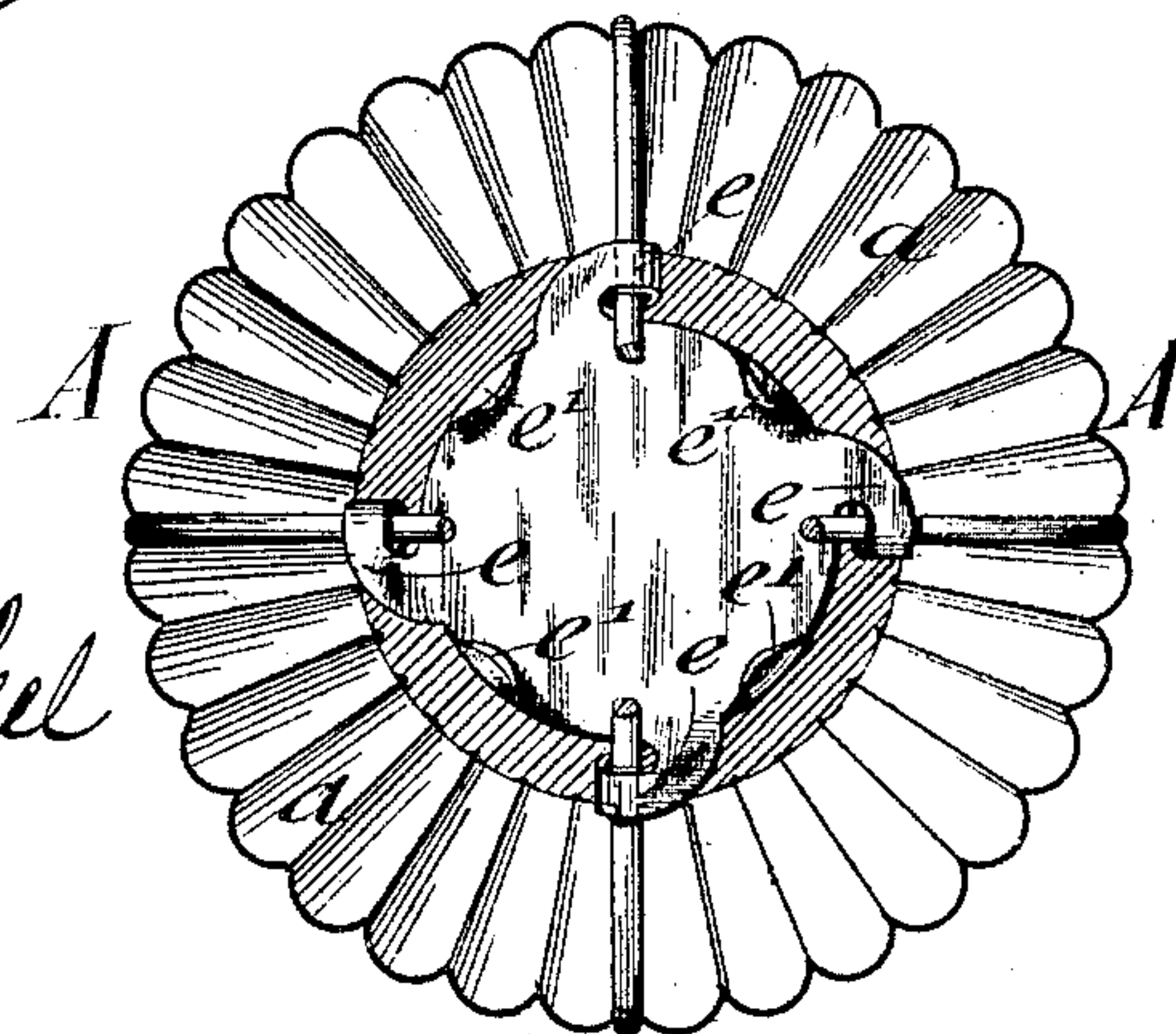


Fig. 4.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALFRED W. HOFFMANN, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO  
EMIL R. HOFFMANN, OF SAME PLACE.

## CHRISTMAS-TREE CANDLE-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 581,725, dated May 4, 1897.

Application filed January 21, 1897. Serial No. 620,012. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALFRED W. HOFFMANN, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Christmas-Tree Candle-Holders, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain improvements in the candle-holder for Christmas trees for which Letters Patent were granted to me heretofore, No. 574,356, dated December 29, 1896, said improvements being designed with the view of preventing the dripping of wax on the floor and carpets in a very effective manner; and the invention consists of a candle-holder composed of a drip-cup provided with a flaring flange, spring-jaws below said drip-cup provided with wave-like corrugations, means for interlocking said spring-shanks below the drip-cup, radial arms extending from the said shanks above the locking means over the drip-cup, spring-prongs extending from the arms above said drip-cup, and an auxiliary supporting-plate for the candle that is attached to said spring-prongs by means of bent lugs and provided with upwardly-bent lugs forming a socket, which form, with the upper ends of the spring-prongs, a socket for the lower end of the candle, from which the drip of the candle is dropped into the drip-cup.

The invention consists, further, of providing the spring-prongs of the candle-holder at their lower ends with an additional locking device for use when extra-firm attachment of the candle-holder is required.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a twig of a Christmas tree, showing two forms of my improved candle-holder thereon. Figs. 2 and 3 are side elevations of the two forms of candle-holder shown in Fig. 1 drawn on a larger scale. Fig. 4 is a plan view, partly in horizontal section, on line 4 4, Fig. 2, showing the supporting-plate of the candle and the drip-cup drawn on a larger scale; and Figs. 5 and 6 are top views of two different blanks for the candle-supporting plates.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

Referring to the drawings, A represents the drip-cup of my improved candle-holder for Christmas trees, which drip-cup is made of suitable sheet metal or other suitable material and is preferably provided with a number of scalloped ribs *a*. Below the drip-cup A are arranged two corrugated spring-jaws B B, which are made of wire of suitable thickness, which is formed in a loop and bent in an outward direction at its lower end. The spring-jaws B B are twisted together above their corrugated portions or provided with a suitable ferrule or locked together in any other manner. The shanks of the spring-jaws B B are bent below the drip-cup in outward directions, so as to form radial arms C', which are passed over the scalloped edge of the drip-cup A, then in an inwardly-inclined direction to some distance above the same, where they are formed into spring-prongs D, which are in turn provided with helically-bent middle portions *d*. The helical portion of each spring-prong D overlaps the correspondingly-bent middle portion of the adjacent spring-prong, as shown clearly in Figs. 2 and 3.

The upper ends of the spring-prongs D are bent first in an inward direction and then in an outward direction, so as to permit the easy introduction of the candle between the helically-bent middle portion of the spring-prongs D, as shown in Fig. 1. The corrugated spring-jaws B B, the shanks C, the outwardly-bent arms C', and the helically-bent spring-prongs D are formed of two integrally U-shaped wires of suitable length, to which the proper shape is imparted by means of suitable dies, so that they can be readily assembled and applied to the drip-cup A and twisted or locked together at the shank.

The parts so far described are shown and described in my prior patent referred to and in the pending application for a candle-holder, Serial No. 616,603, filed December 22, 1896, and I do not desire to claim in this application any of the features so far described.

The novel feature of my improved candle-holder is the arrangement of a candle-supporting plate E at some distance above the drip-cup, said plate being preferably made of disk



shape and of suitable sheet metal and provided at its circumference with as many bent lugs *e* as there are spring-prongs D. When the candle-holder is made with three spring-prongs, the supporting-plate is provided with three lugs *e*. When four spring-prongs are employed, the plate E is provided with four lugs *e*. These lugs are bent around the inwardly-inclined lower portions of the spring-prongs, so as to be supported thereon and form a supporting-plate for the lower end of the candle-holder when the same is inserted into the socket formed by the helical portions of the spring-prongs D. The helical portions "give" sufficiently, so as to firmly hold the candle, which is pushed down on the plate E. The supporting-plate E may be provided at its circumference, intermediate between the curved lugs *e*, with outwardly-bent lugs *e'*, which complete the supporting-socket for the candle, but these lugs can be dispensed with, as they are not absolutely necessary. The supporting-plate E is supported at a sufficient distance from the drip-cup, so that the wax that drips from the candle is collected on the drip-cup and immediately cooled off, as the distance between the supporting-plate E and the drip-cup A is such that no heat is imparted to the drip-cup, as the only connection between the supporting-plate and the drip-cup are the inclined lower portions of the spring-prongs. As the drip-cup is made considerably larger than the supporting-plate E, which latter corresponds to the thickness of the candle, the wax dropped is caught by the drip-cup, whether the candle-holder is in vertical or inclined position, so that thereby the candle is not only supported sufficiently above the drip-cup, whereby a better appearance is imparted to the candle-holder, but also constructed in such a manner that the wax is collected by the drip-cup and prevented from dropping on the floor, carpet, or table.

In some cases it is necessary, especially when the candle-holder is applied to the smaller or exposed limbs of the Christmas tree, that a positive locking action of the spring-jaws on the limb should be exerted. For this purpose in place of the lower outwardly-flaring ends of the spring-jaws B B the lower ends of the same are twisted together, as shown in Fig. 3, one of them being formed in the shape of a hook *b* and the other in the shape of a straight tong *b'*, which latter may be locked by pressing the parts *b b'* together below the limb, by which locking action the spring-jaws are pressed with extra

force on the limb and any liability of a change in position of the candle-holder avoided.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A Christmas-tree candle-holder composed of a suitable drip-cup, means for attaching the drip-cup to the supporting-limb, radial arms extending over said drip-cup, spring-prongs extending from said radial arms and adapted to form a socket above said drip-cup, and a supporting-plate provided with lugs for attachment to said spring-prongs, said supporting-plate being located some distance above the drip-cup, substantially as set forth.

2. A Christmas-tree candle-holder, composed of a drip-cup, corrugated spring-jaws below said drip-cup, means for locking the shanks of the spring-jaws, radial arms extending from said shanks over the drip-cup, spring-prongs extending from said radial arms above the drip-cup, and a supporting-plate attached to the spring-prongs, substantially as set forth.

3. A Christmas-tree candle-holder, composed of a drip-cup, spring-jaws below said drip-cup and provided with corrugated lower portions, means for locking the shanks of the spring-jaws together, radial arms extending from the upper ends of said shanks over the drip-cup, spring-prongs extending from said radial arms above the drip-cup, and a supporting-plate attached by means of curved lugs to the inclined lower portions of the spring-prongs, said plate being provided with upright lugs, substantially as set forth.

4. A Christmas-tree candle-holder, composed of a drip-cup having a circumferential flange, corrugated spring-jaws below said drip-cup, means for locking the shanks of said spring-jaws together, radial arms extending from the shanks over the drip-cup, and spring-prongs forming a socket above said drip-cup, said spring-jaws being provided at their lower ends respectively with a hook and interlocking tongue for being applied with extra pressure to the supporting-limb, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED W. HOFFMANN.

Witnesses:

PAUL GOEPEL,  
GEO. W. JAEKEL.