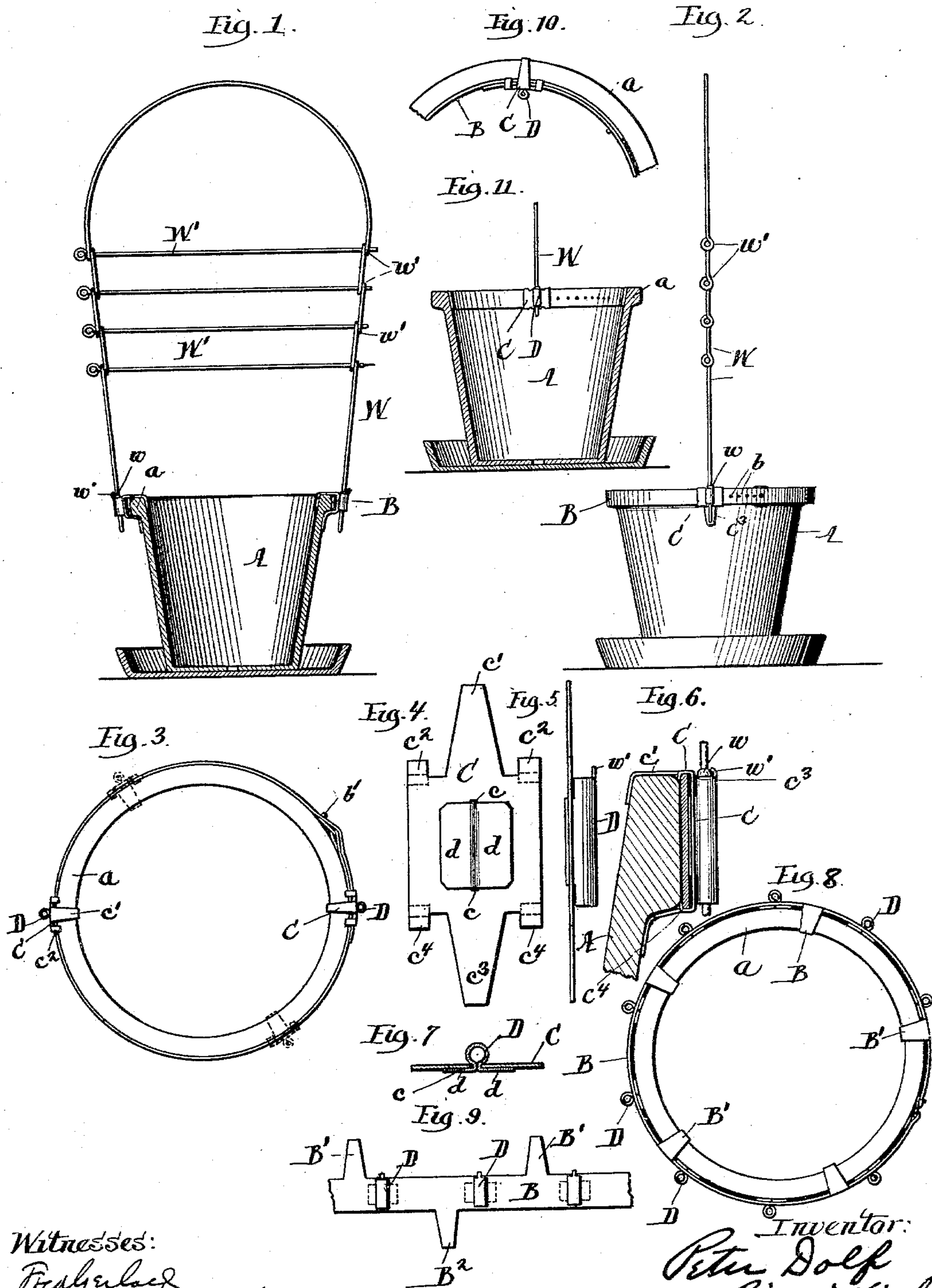


(No Model.)

P. DOLF.
PLANT SUPPORT FOR FLOWER POTS.

No. 597,841

Patented Jan. 25, 1898.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER DOLF, OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN.

PLANT-SUPPORT FOR FLOWER-POTS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER DOLF, a resident of Marquette, county of Marquette, State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Plant-Supports for Flower-Pots, of which I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

The present invention has for its object to provide improved means for sustaining the ladders or lattices used in flower-pots for supporting the vines or growing plants therein; and the invention consists in the novel features of construction hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

Figure 1 is a view in central vertical section through a flower-pot embodying my invention, the ladder or support being shown in elevation. Fig. 2 is a view showing the parts in side elevation. Fig. 3 is a plan view, upon an enlarged scale, of the flower-pot shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view of one of the clips for the sockets or supports whereby the ladder is sustained. Fig. 5 is a view in side elevation of the part shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a view of the upper part of the flower-pot, showing the retaining-band in cross-section and the socket or holder in elevation. Fig. 7 is a view in horizontal section through the clip and socket that sustain the ladder. Fig. 8 is a plan view of a flower-pot with a modified construction of holder or band. Fig. 9 is a detail view, in side elevation, of a part of the band shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 10 is a plan view of a modification, showing the band arranged upon the interior of the pot. Fig. 11 is a view in central vertical section through a flower-pot with the band arranged upon the inside.

In providing flower-pots with ladders whereon the plants or vines may be trained or supported it is the common practice simply to insert the ends of the ladders into the soil contained within the pots. This arrangement is objectionable not only because of the danger of breaking the vines when inserting the ladders, but because no adequate or sufficiently rigid support is afforded for the ladder.

My present invention provides a simple,

cheap, and effective means whereby a ladder may be quickly attached to a flower-pot and removed therefrom and is attended with many advantages which will readily suggest themselves to those familiar with this class of work.

A designates a flower-pot the upper edge of which is shown as formed with the usual annular shoulder *a*. In the preferred form of my invention I place around the shoulder *a* a retaining-band B, the ends of which band may be connected together in any suitable or convenient manner. Preferably one end of the band is formed with a series of holes *b*, while the opposite end of the band is provided with a stud or pin *b'*, adapted to enter any one of the holes *b*. The stud or pin *b'* may be formed or attached directly to the end of the band or may be formed upon a loop or buckle that is connected to the end of the band, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

C designates a sheet-metal clip of the form shown more particularly in Figs. 4, 5, and 6 of the drawings. In the clip C is cut a slot *c*, through which are passed the ends *d* of the socket or holder D, that is adapted to receive one of the ends of the ladder W. After the ends *d* have been passed through the slots *c* they will be bent outwardly, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, in order to retain the socket or holder D securely in place. The clip C is shown as formed with the upper arms *c'* and *c''* and with the lower arms *c'''* and *c''''*. The upper and lower arms *c''* and *c''''* serve to connect the clamp C to the band B, and these arms *c''* and *c''''* will be bent around the edges of the band B, as clearly shown in Fig. 6 of the drawings. The upper and lower arms *c'* and *c'''* serve to hold the parts in position upon the flower-pot, and the upper arm *c'* will be bent over the top of the pot, as shown, while the lower arm *c'''* will be bent inwardly beneath the shoulder or offset *a* at the top of the pot.

Preferably the ladder W will be provided near each of its ends with an offset or enlargement *w*, adapted to rest upon the top of the socket or holder D, and by preference also each socket or holder D will be formed with an arm *w'*, that may be turned over the offset *w*, and thus guard against the accidental withdrawal of the ladder from the socket.

In applying my invention to a flower-pot

the ends of the band B will be overlapped, so that the stud b' shall pass through one of the holes b . One of the clips C will then be fastened over the lapping portions of the band B and another of the clips C will be attached to the opposite side of the band, as clearly seen in Fig. 3 of the drawings. The band will then be placed upon the top of the flower-pot, and the upper and lower arms c' and c^3 of the clip will be bent inwardly, so as to securely retain the band upon the top of the pot. Each band may be provided with any desired number of clips and sockets or holders for the ladder, but two will be sufficient, as the manner of attaching the clips to the band is such that the clips can be adjusted to any position upon the band. This feature of adjusting the clips and sockets or holders for the ladder is highly advantageous, because by such adjustment the ends of the ladder can be placed so as to most effectively support the plants or vines and without danger of injury thereto.

While I have shown what I regard as the preferred embodiment of my invention, it is manifest that the invention may be carried out in a great variety of constructions without departing from the spirit thereof. Thus, for example, in Figs. 8 and 9 I have shown a modification of the invention in which the band B is formed with a series of slots to receive the sockets or holders D, and in this form of the invention the clips C are omitted and the band is provided with the upper and lower arms B' and B^2 , adapted to be bent, respectively, over the top and beneath the shoulder of the flower-pot. This modified form of the invention affords a very simple and cheap construction and one whereby the ladder may be sustained in any desired position.

Instead of locating the band B upon the outside of the flower-pot this band may be placed within the top of the pot, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11 of the drawings. When the band B is thus arranged, the lower arm c^3 of the clip C may be omitted, and, if desired, the upper arm c' of the clip C may be formed of such length as to extend outwardly over and down beneath the shoulder a at the top of the pot, although this is not regarded as essential. I prefer to employ a band B because it not only affords a very secure and rigid means for supporting and retaining the sockets that receive the ends of the ladder, but this band also serves to strengthen the upper portion of the pot and guards against danger of breakage. In some instances, however, particularly where short ladders are used, the clips C may be employed without a retaining-band, in

which case the upper and lower arms c^2 and c^4 of the clips need not necessarily be used.

In order to provide a more convenient and effective construction of ladder whereon the vines or plants may be trained, I prefer to form the ladder from stiff wire provided at intervals with eyes w^{10} , adapted to receive adjustable cross-rods W' . The eyes w^{10} are formed by the bending of the wire that constitutes the sides of the ladder, and these eyes will be of such size that the rods W' may be conveniently inserted into or withdrawn therefrom, so that the ladder may be furnished with any desired number of rods and arranged in any convenient position.

The details of construction above described may obviously be modified or varied within wide limits, and to such details, therefore, I do not wish the invention to be understood as restricted.

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

1. A plant or vine support comprising sockets to receive the ends of a ladder and a band whereby such sockets may be connected to the top of a flower-pot, substantially as described.

2. A plant or vine support comprising sockets to receive the ends of a ladder, clips to which said sockets are connected, a band for encircling the top of the flower-pot and means for retaining said band in position at the top of the pot, substantially as described.

3. A plant or vine support comprising sockets to receive the ends of a ladder, clips to which said sockets are connected, and a band for encircling the top of the pot to which band said clips are adjustably connected, substantially as described.

4. A plant or vine support comprising suitable sockets D to receive the ends of a ladder, clips C to which said sockets are connected, said clips being provided with arms at their upper and lower edges and a band B to which said clips are connected, substantially as described.

5. A plant or vine support comprising a ladder provided near its lower ends with enlargements w in combination with sockets D adapted to receive the ends of the ladder, said sockets being provided with arms w' to engage said enlargements w and means for retaining said sockets in position upon the flower-pot, substantially as described.

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