

No. 610,591.

Patented Sept. 13, 1898.

J. H. STEVENSON.
HAND GUILLOTINE FOR FOWLS.

(Application filed Feb. 6, 1897.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

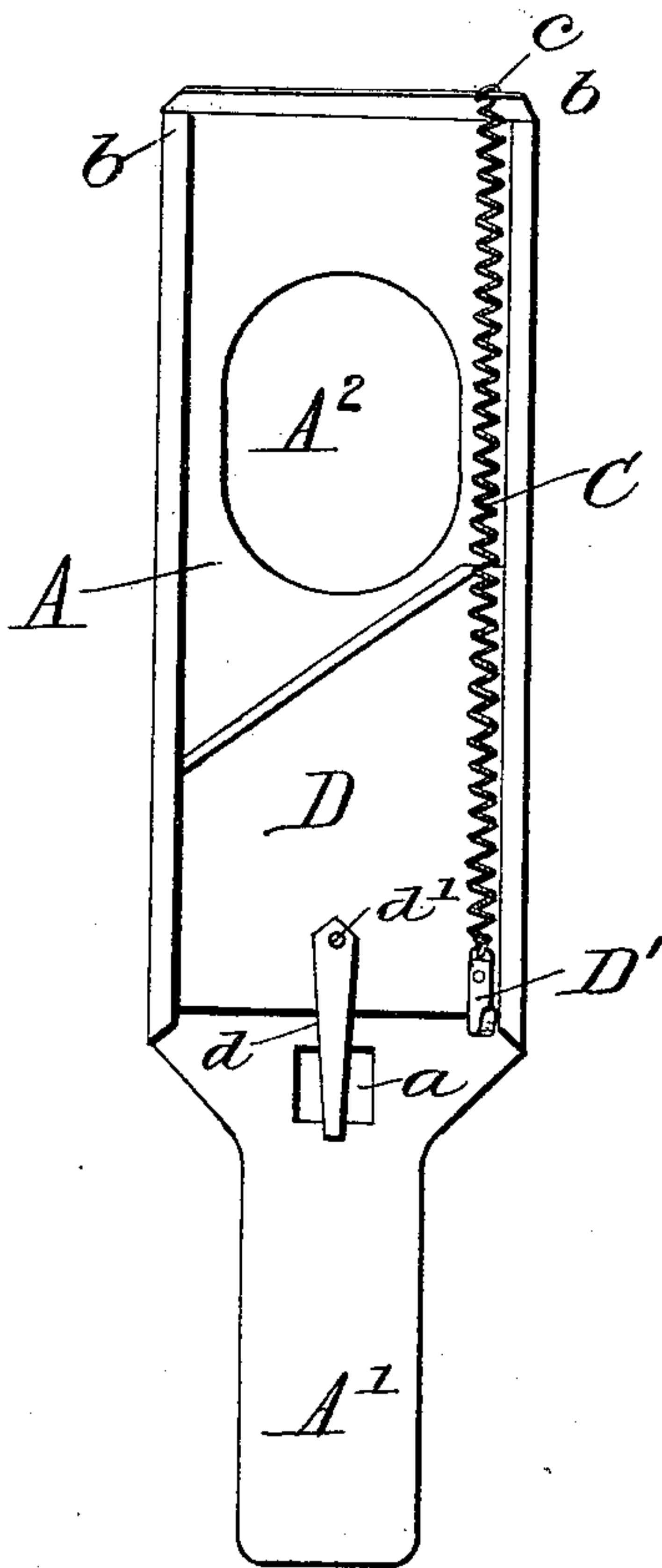


Fig. 2.

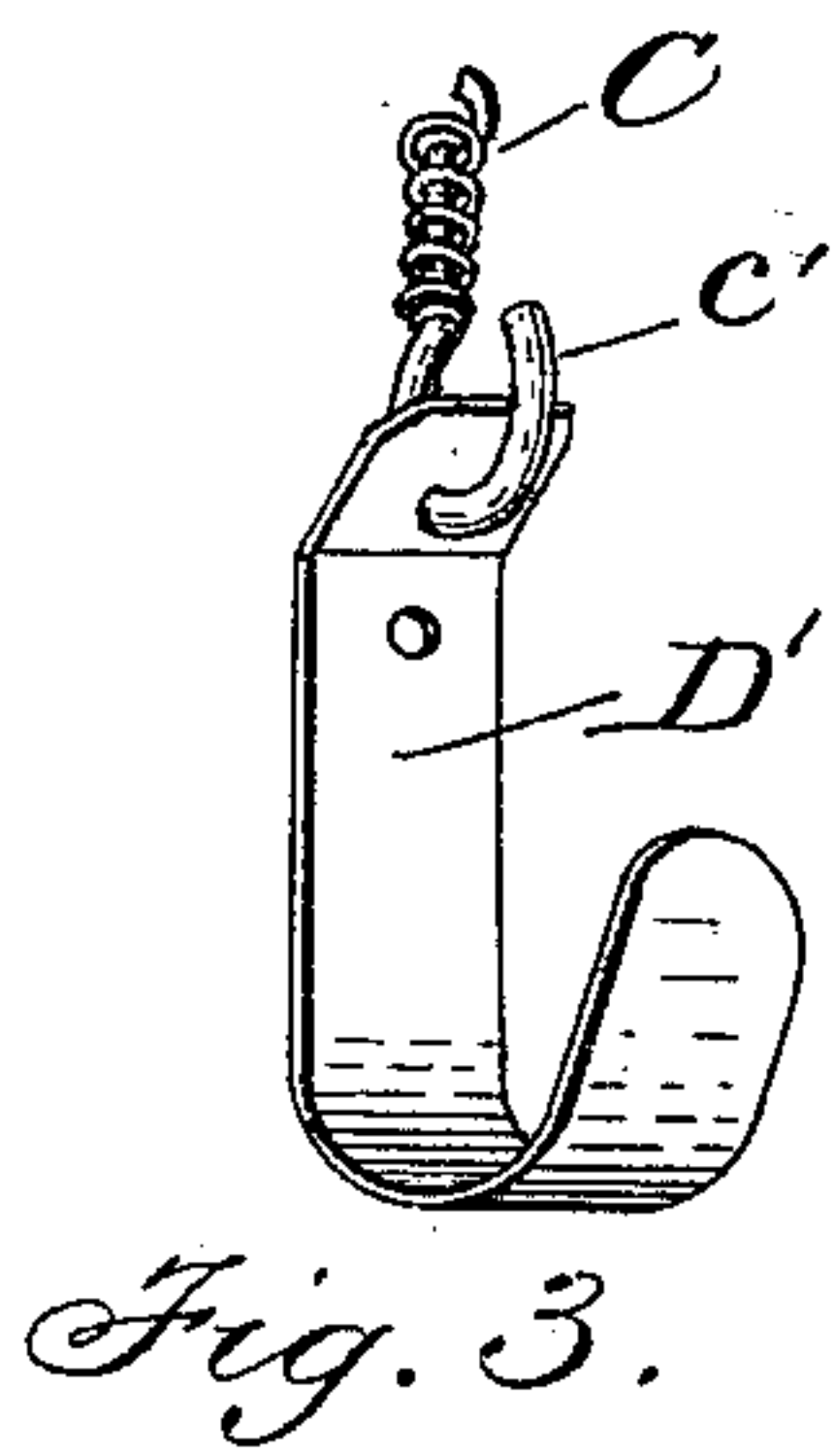
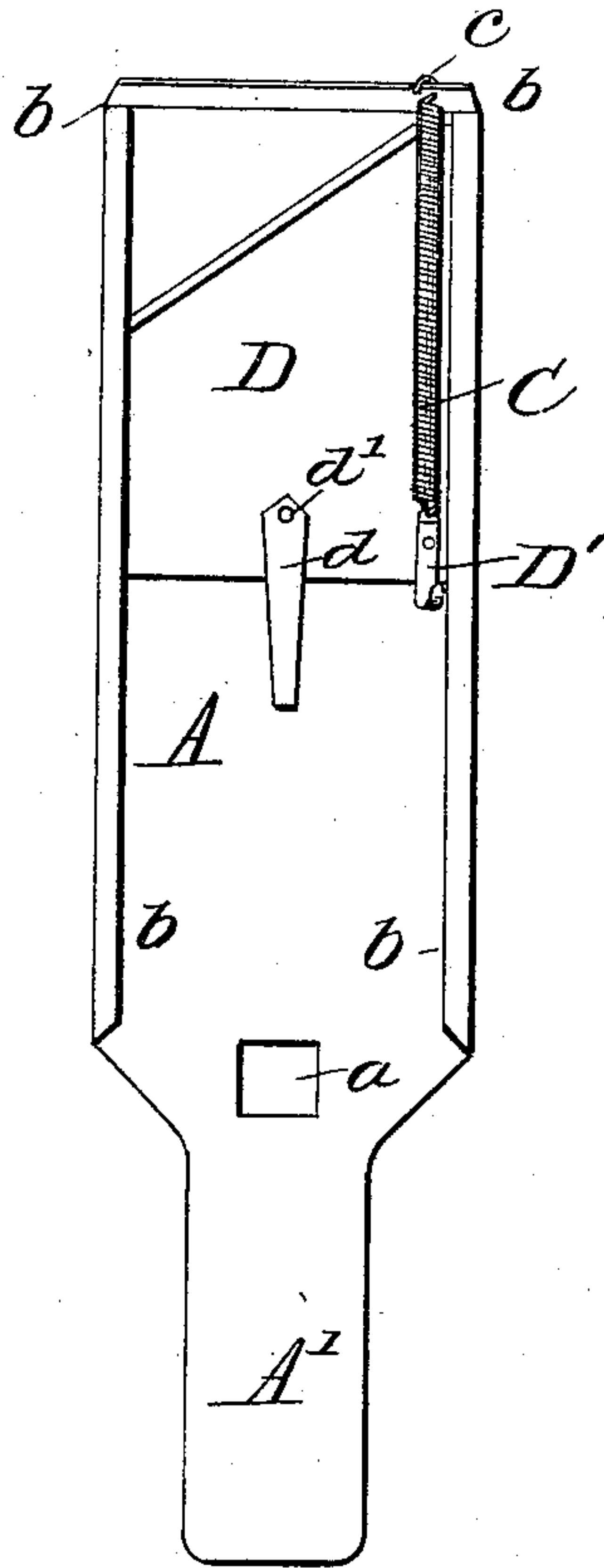


Fig. 4.

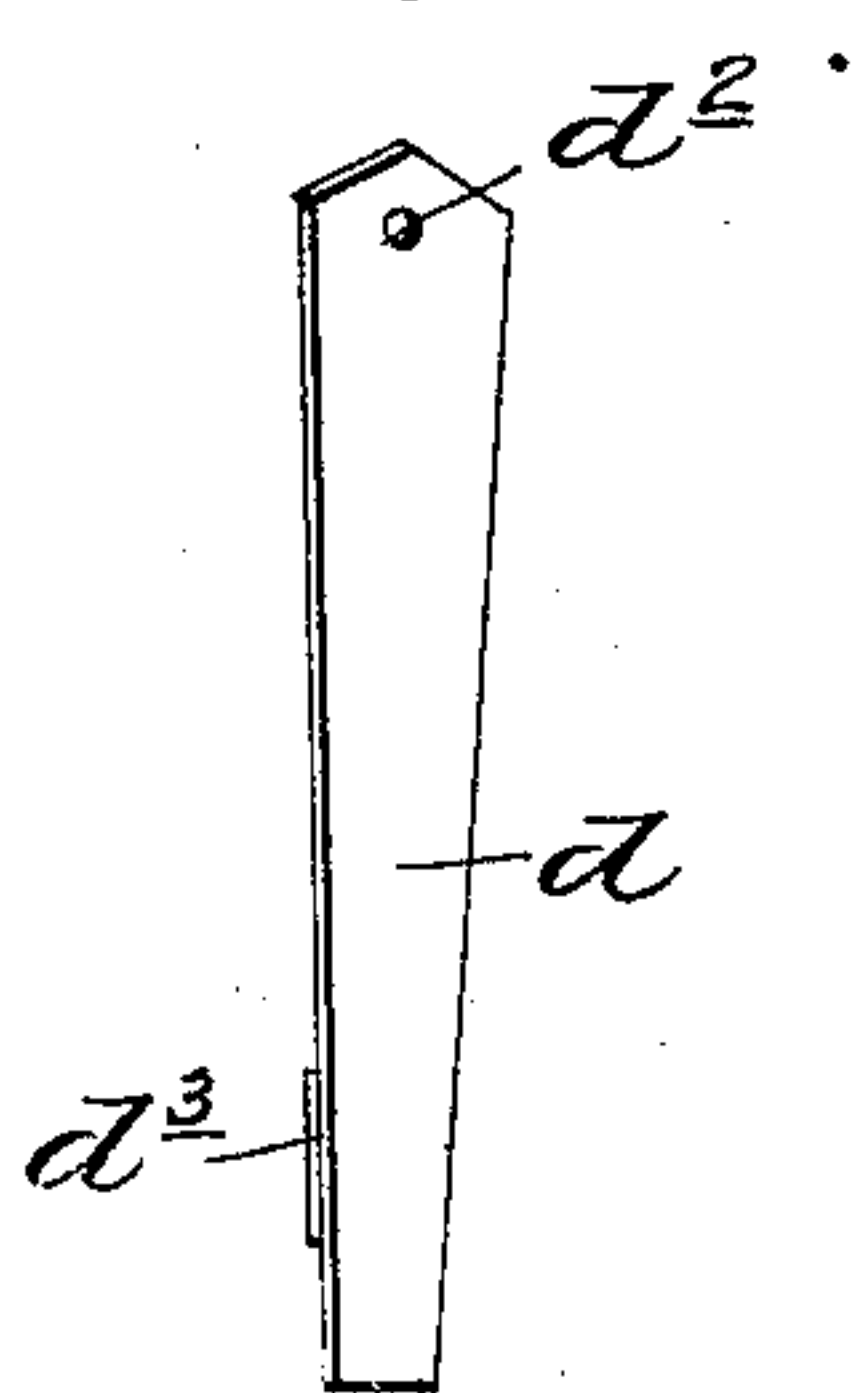


Fig. 5.

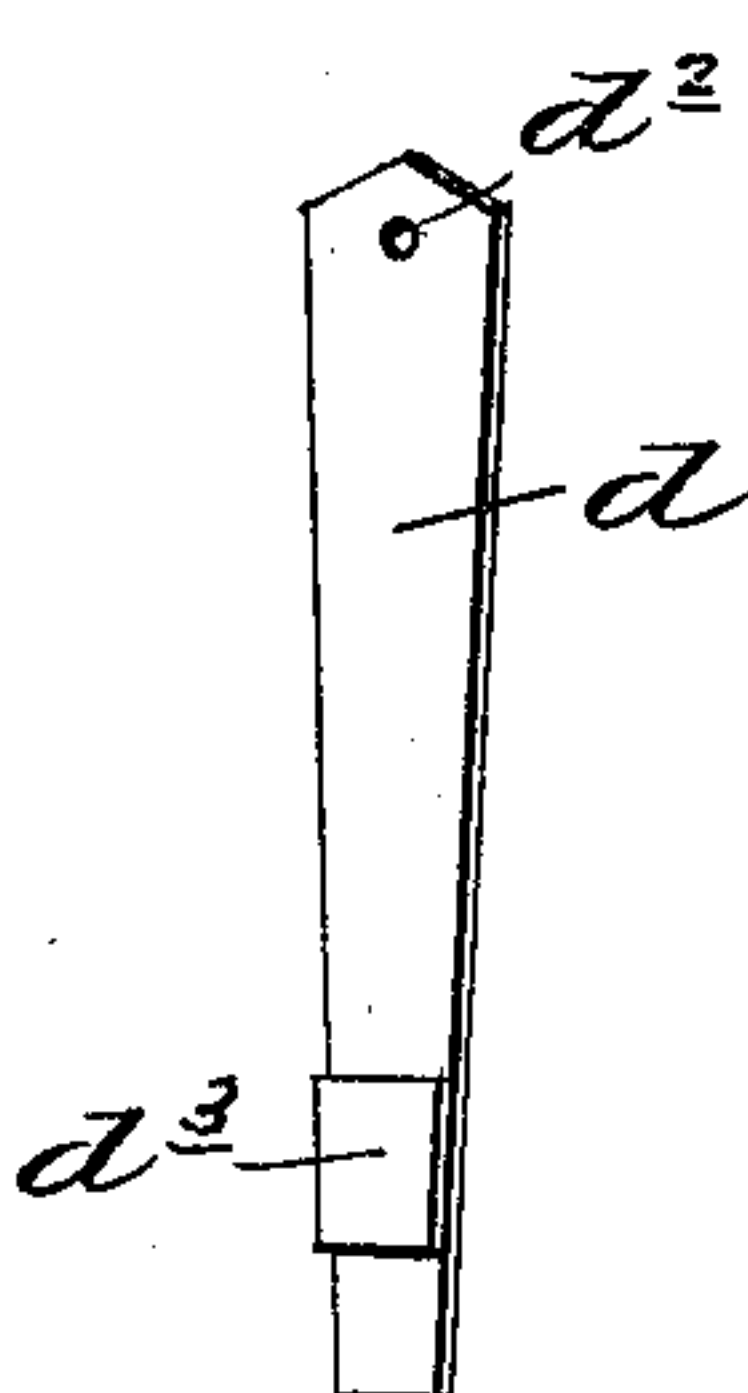
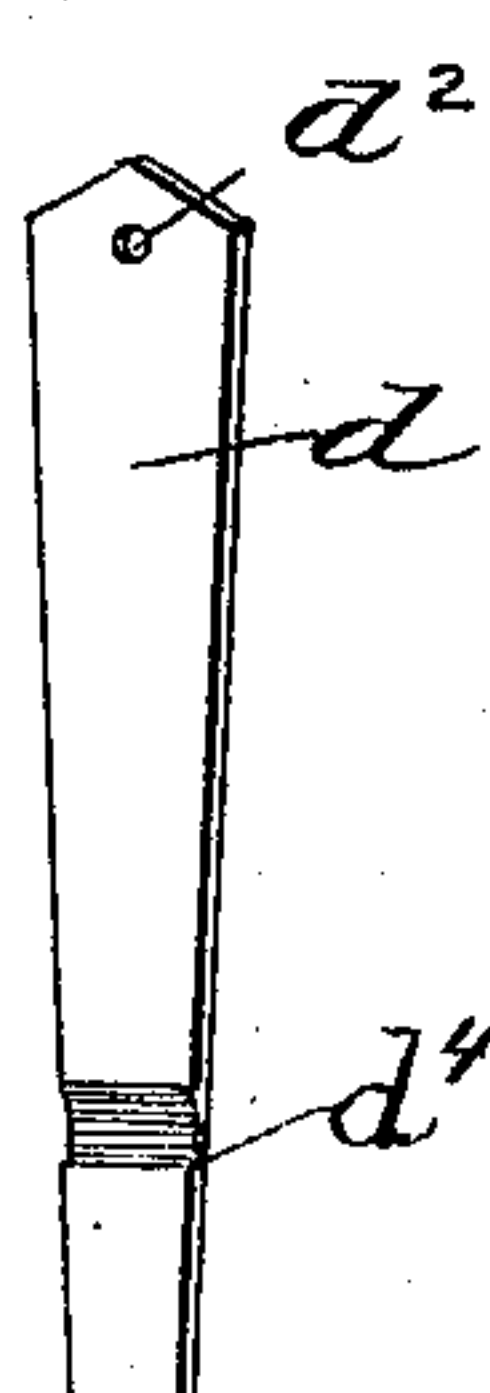


Fig. 6.



Witnesses
Frank L. Ormand.
George J. Heber

Inventor.
John H. Stevenson,
By Edwin Course
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN H. STEVENSON, OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

HAND-GUILLOTINE FOR FOWLS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 610,591, dated September 13, 1898.

Application filed February 6, 1897. Serial No. 622,308. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN H. STEVENSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Allegheny, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand-Guillotines for Fowls; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a hand-guillotine for fowls which may be easily manipulated by one hand of the operator after being set, leaving the other hand free to hold the fowl in the desired position.

With this object in view the invention consists of the several details of construction and combination of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved guillotine, showing the knife retracted ready for use. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the knife in its inoperative position. Fig. 3 is an enlarged view of the finger-hold used in drawing back the knife. Figs. 4 and 5 are detail views of the locking-strap for holding the knife in its retracted position. Fig. 6 is a modification of the locking-strap.

Similar reference-letters indicate similar parts in the several figures.

A represents the main or base plate, reduced at its rear end to form a handle A'. This plate is provided with an aperture A² near its front end of sufficient size to permit the passage of the head of a fowl therethrough. It is also provided with a smaller aperture *a* near the junction of the handle and the main portion of the base-plate for a purpose hereinafter referred to. The side edges of the main portion of the plate A are folded over to form ways *b*, and the front edge is folded over to form a stop *c*.

D represents the knife, supported to slide

on the plate A in the ways *b*, and preferably the cutting edge will be oblique, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

D' is a finger-hold secured to the blade near its rear edge, and C is a spiral spring secured at one end to the finger-hold and at its other end to the front edge of the plate A.

A locking-strap *d* is secured to the rear portion of the knife, as at *d'*, and projects beyond its rear edge. This strap is provided with a locking-shoulder on its under side, which is adapted to be engaged with the front edge of the opening *a* when the knife is in its retracted position, as in Fig. 1. The shoulder may be formed by providing the strap with a lug *d*³, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, or a recess may be made in the strap, as indicated by *d*⁴ in Fig. 6.

The operation is as follows: The operator will grasp the handle with one hand and the finger-hold with a finger of the other hand and retract the knife against the force of the spring until the shoulder on the strap engages the front edge of the opening *a*. The operator can then press on the strap with the thumb of the hand grasping the handle and hold it against accidental release. The other hand will then be free to grasp the fowl to insert its head through the aperture A². When the head is in the desired position, the pressure of the thumb can be released from the strap *d* and one of the fingers be caused to press against the under side of the strap through the opening *a* until it is released, when the spring will propel the knife forward with sufficient force to decapitate the fowl.

Having described the invention, I claim—

A hand-guillotine for fowls, comprising a plate having a handle at its rear end, its side edges folded over to form ways, and a stop at its front end, said plate having also an aperture near its front end through which the head of a fowl may be passed, and another opening near its handle, a knife supported on the plate to slide in said ways, a finger-hold secured to the knife, a spiral spring connected at one end to the knife and at its other end to the front end of the plate, and a shouldered strap secured to the knife and projecting be-

yond its rear edge, the shoulder on the strap
being adapted to engage the front edge of the
said opening in the plate near its handle and
hold the knife against the force of the spring,
5 the engagement of said shoulder with the
edge of the opening being controlled by the
thumb and finger of the operator's hand which
grasps the handle, and the stop serving to

limit the forward movement of the knife, sub-
stantially as described. ro

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

JOHN H. STEVENSON.

Witnesses:

ANDREW HOPKINS,

SAMUEL A. BARR.