

No. 626,089.

R. M. PANCOAST.
TOWEL HOLDER.

Patented May 30, 1899.

(Application filed June 6, 1898.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

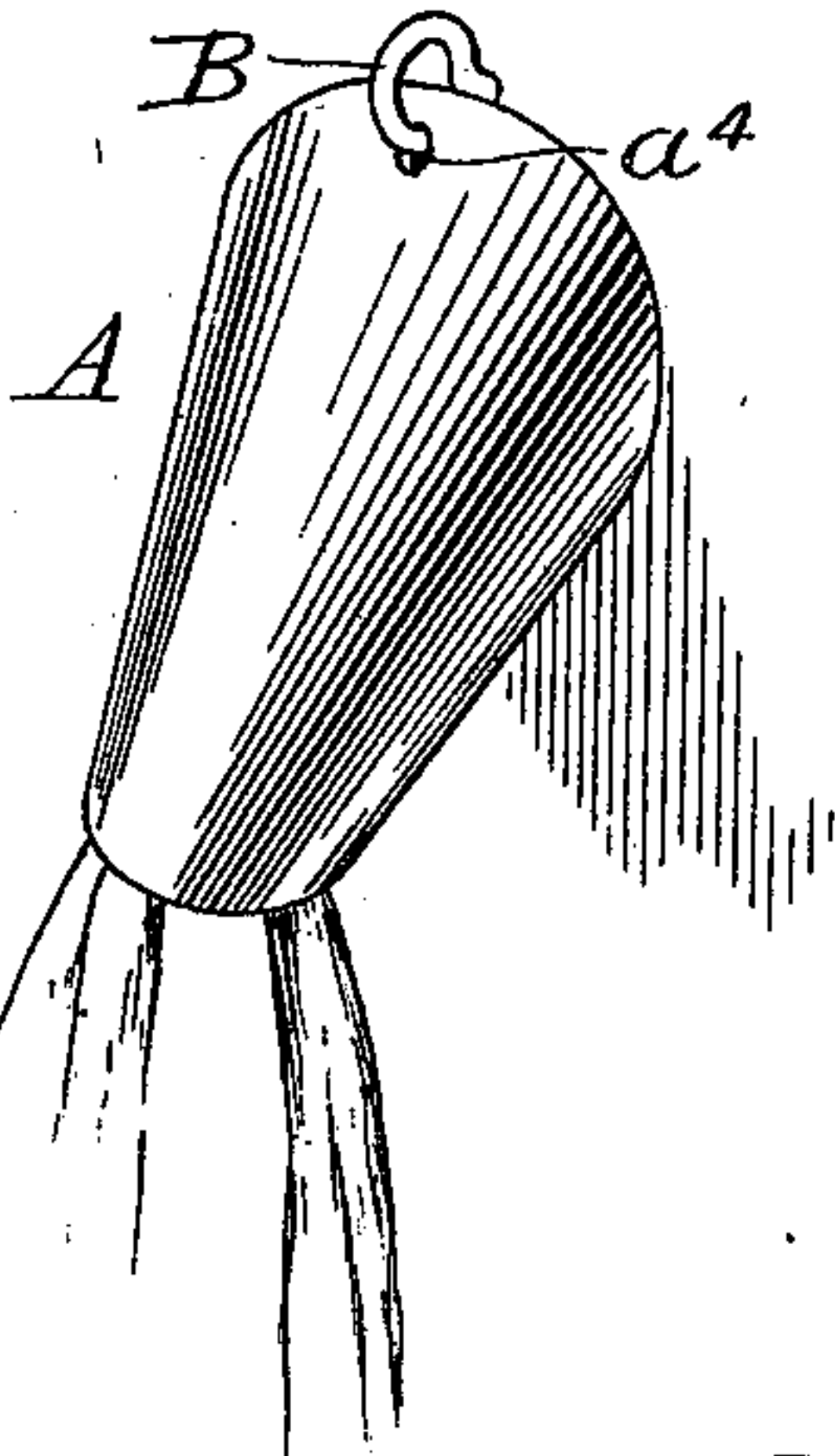


Fig. 2.

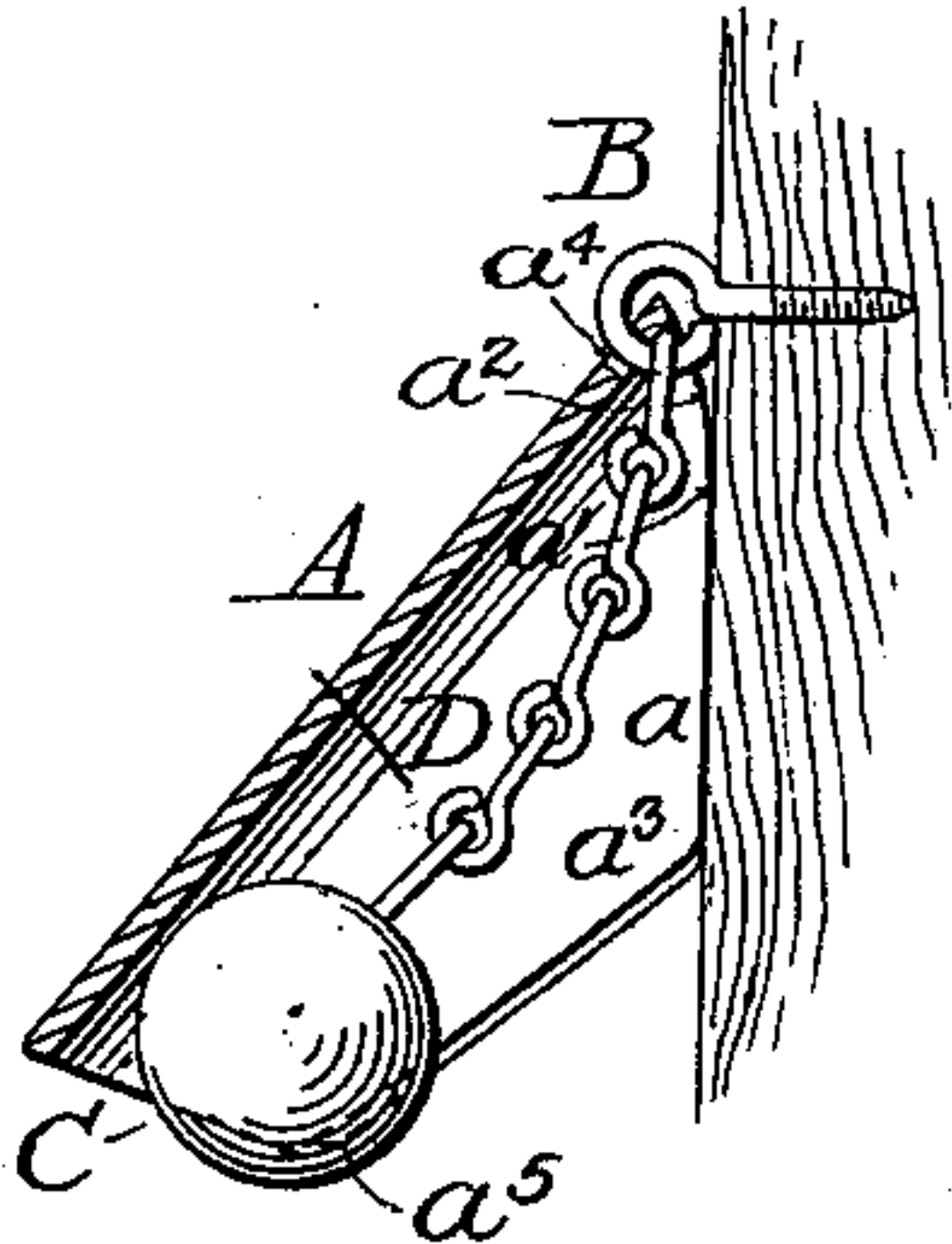


Fig. 3.

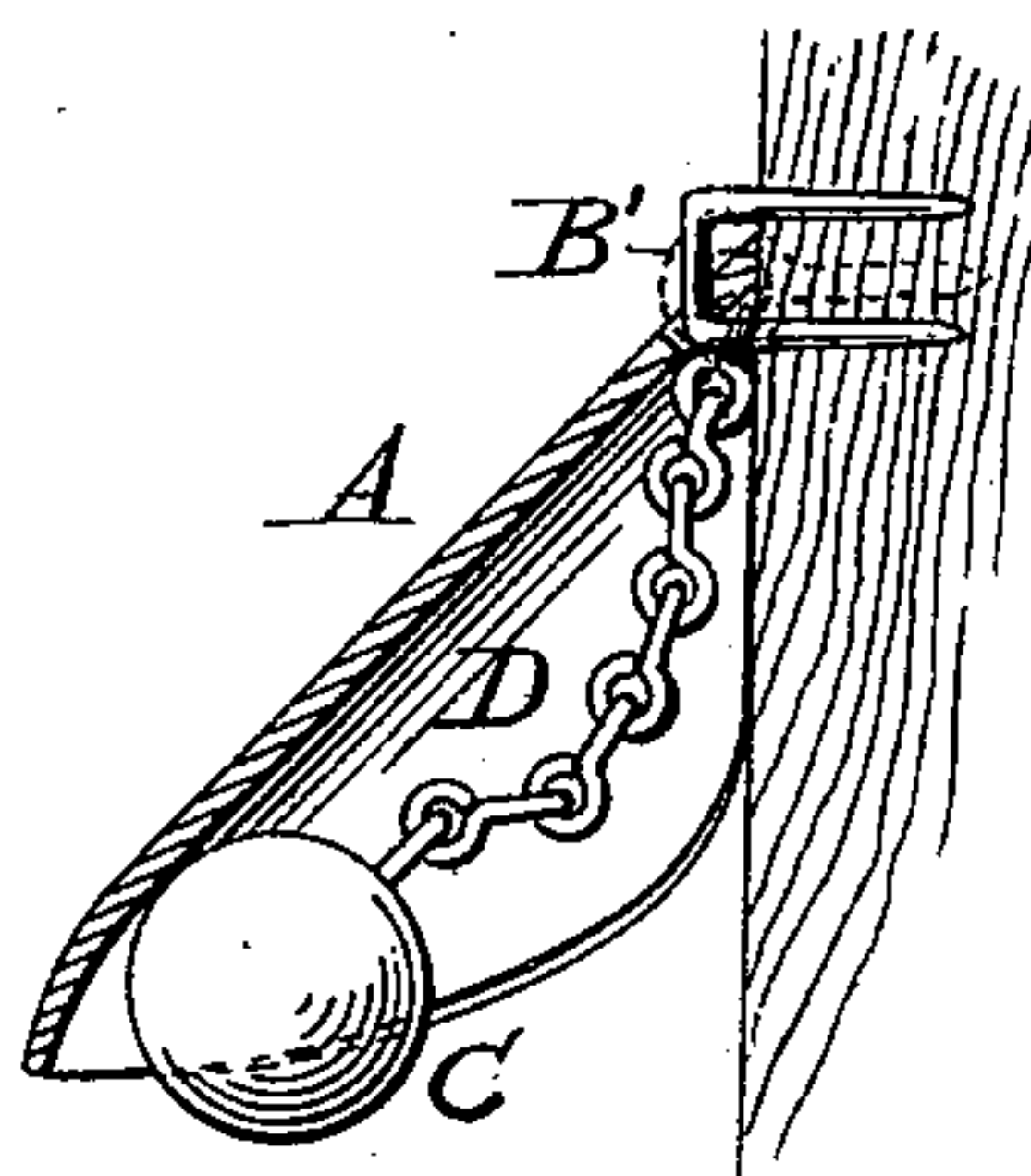


Fig. 1^a.

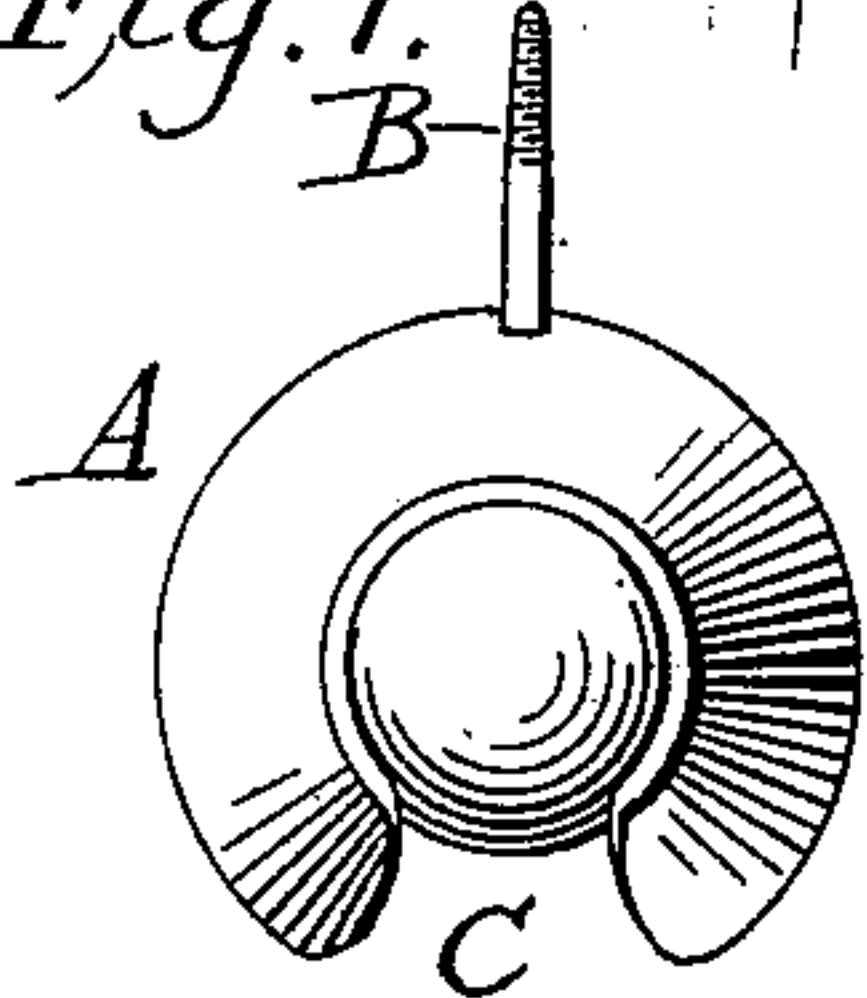


Fig. 4.

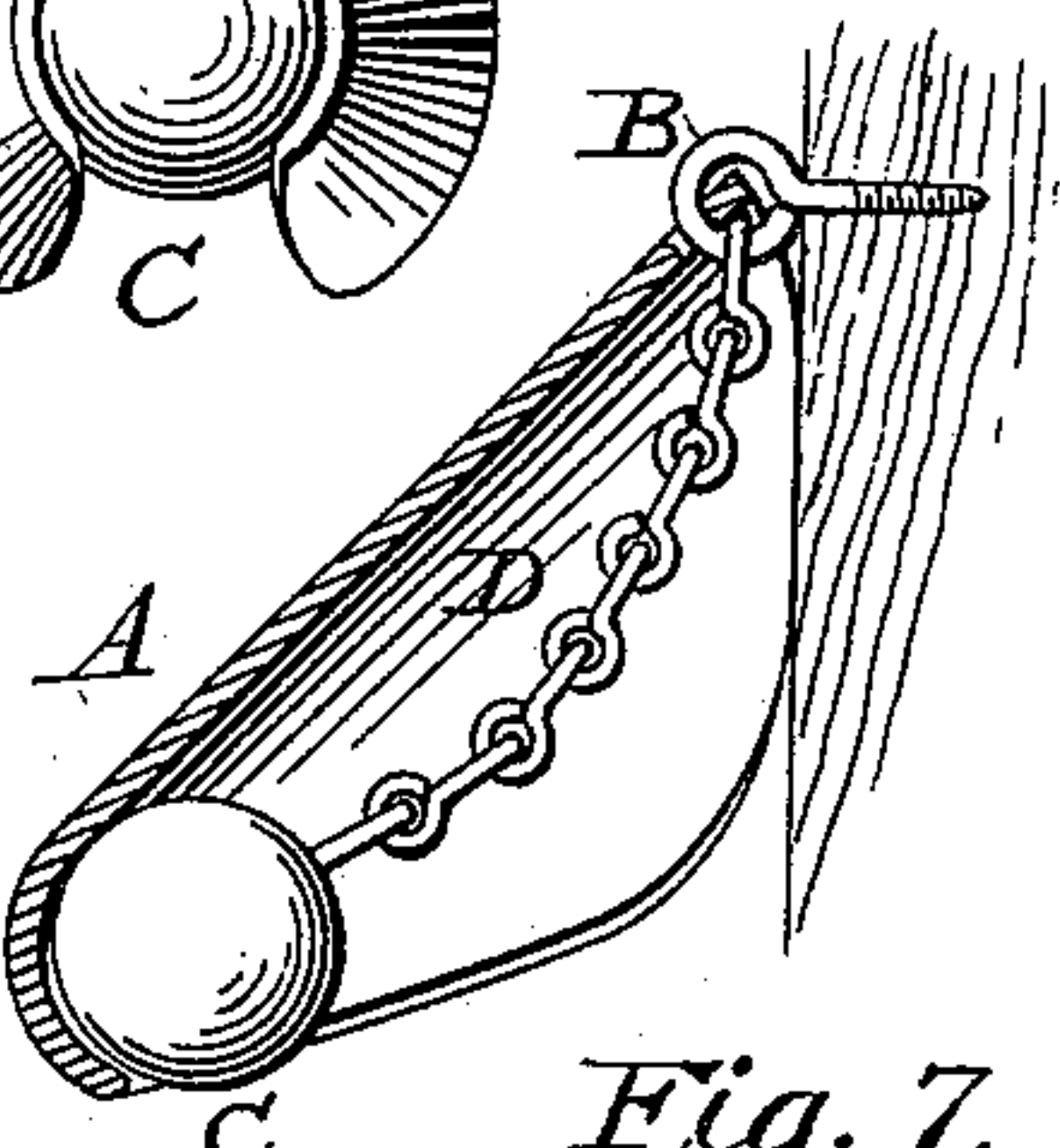


Fig. 5.

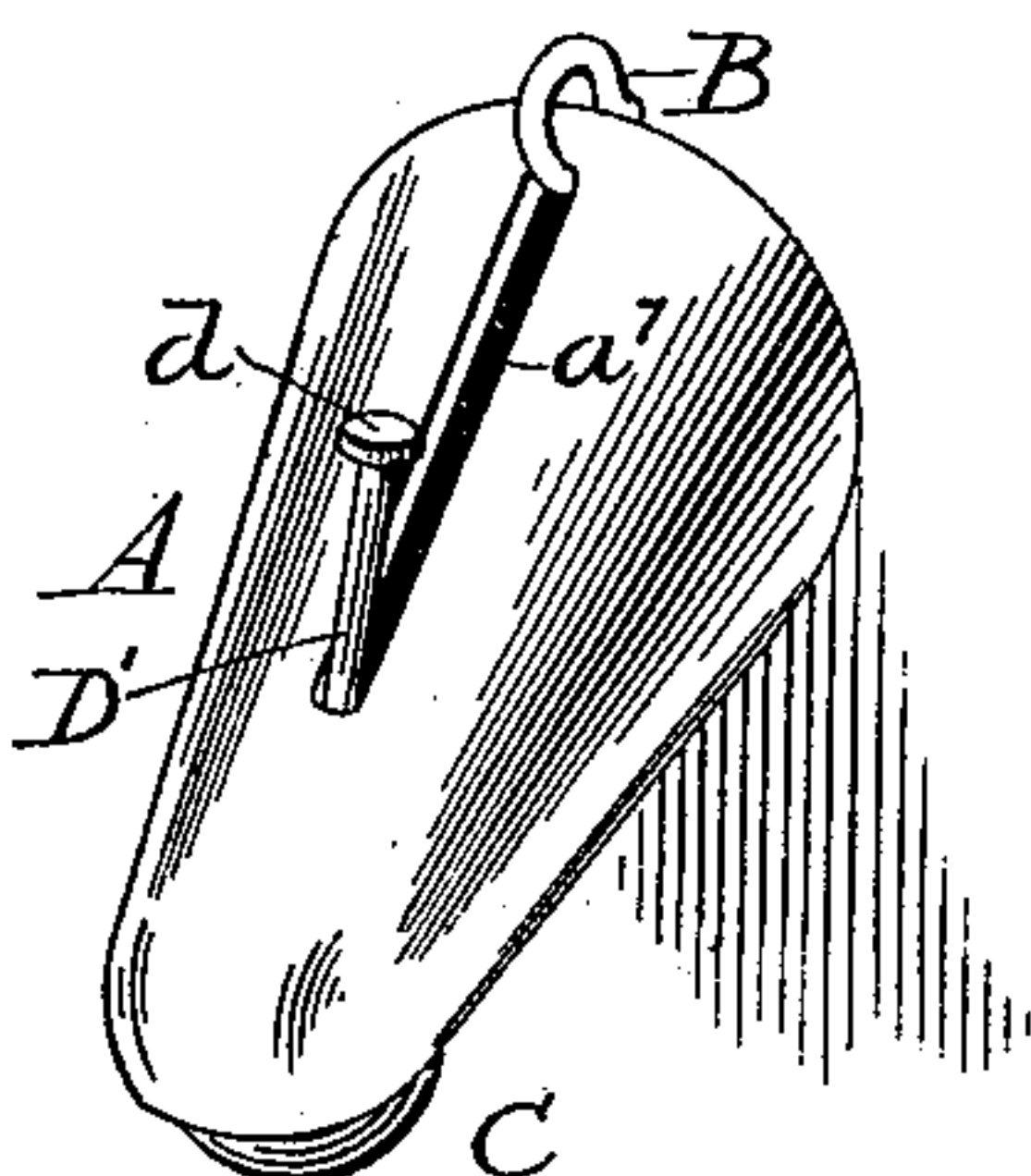


Fig. 6.

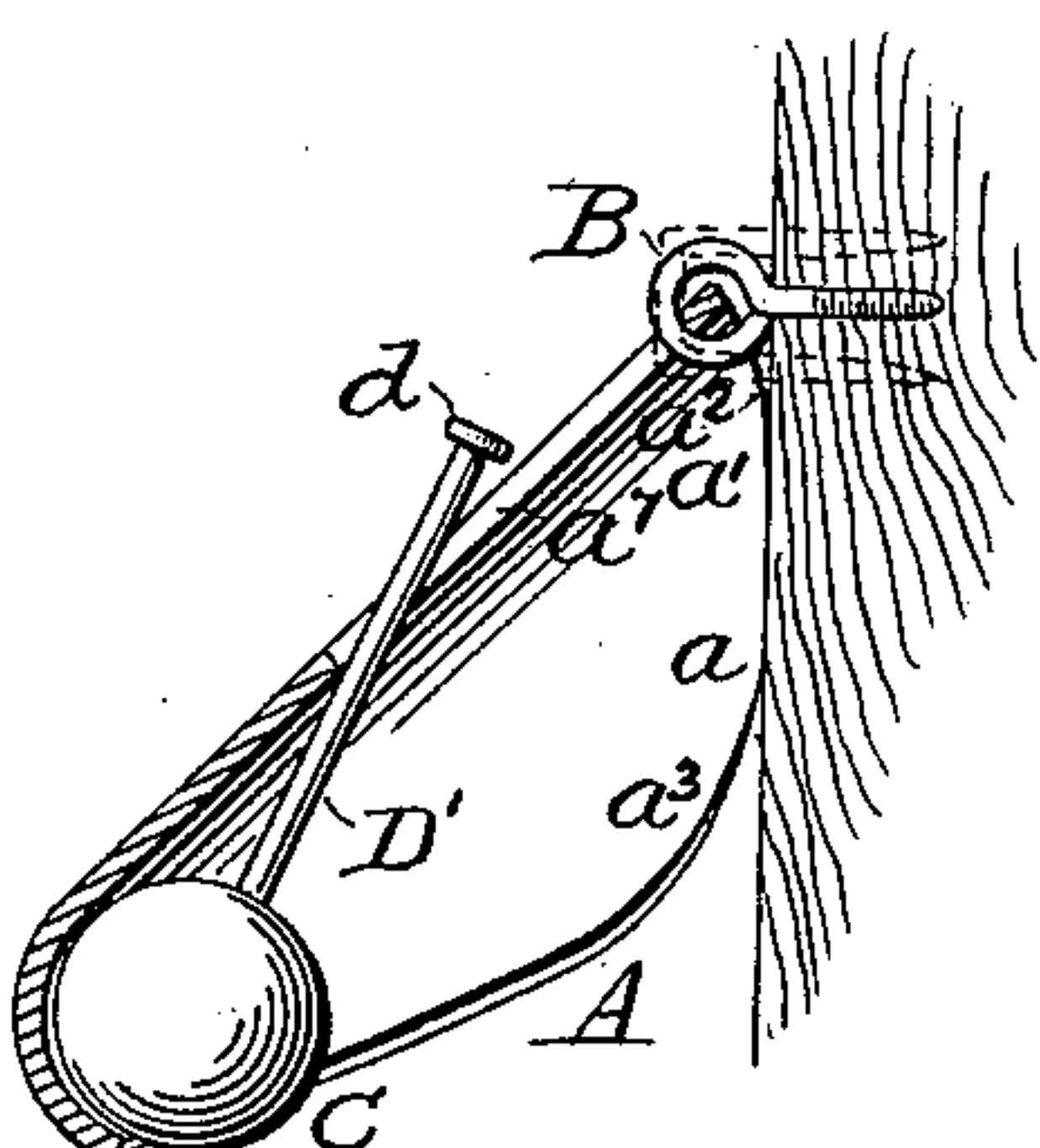


Fig. 7.

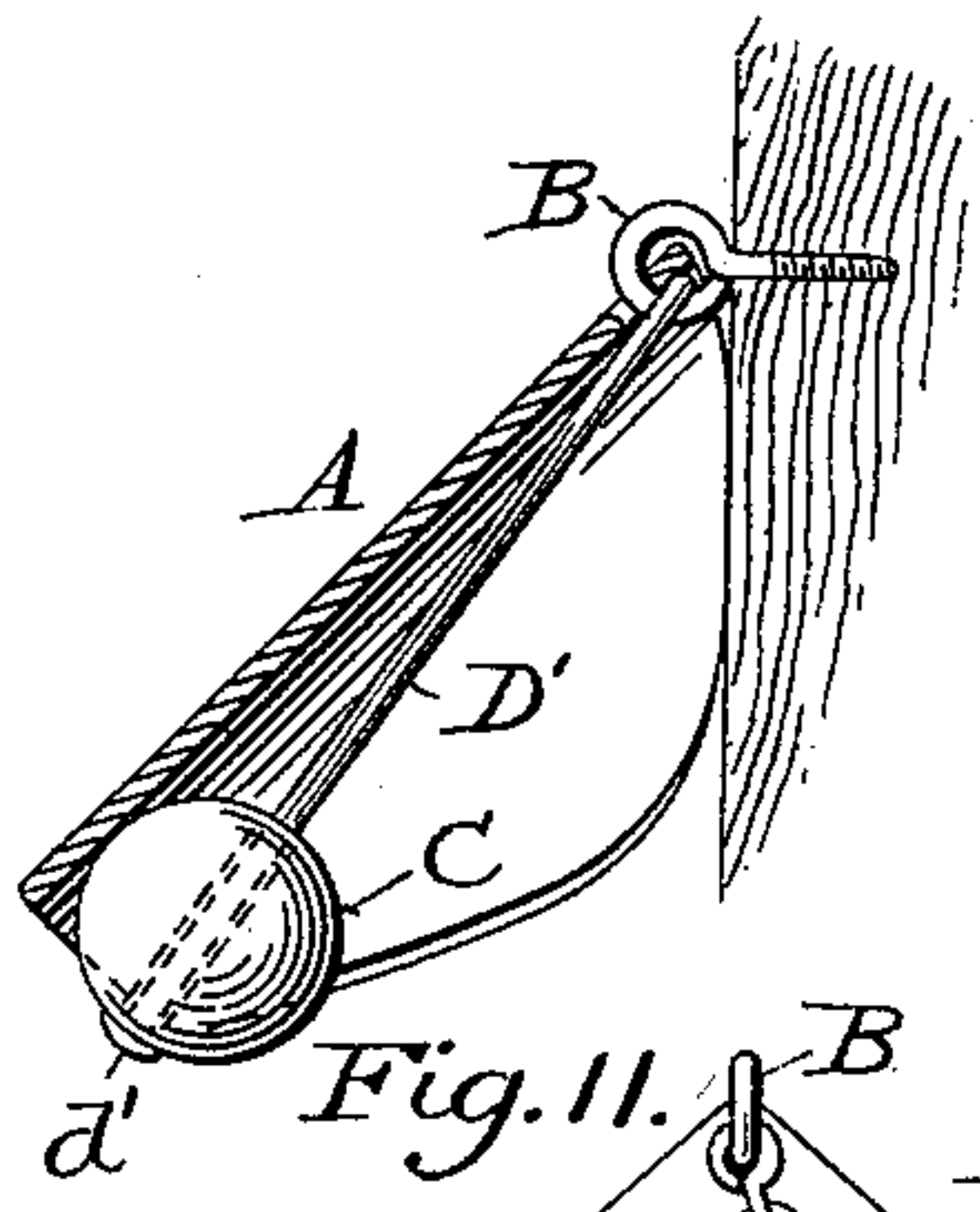


Fig. 8.

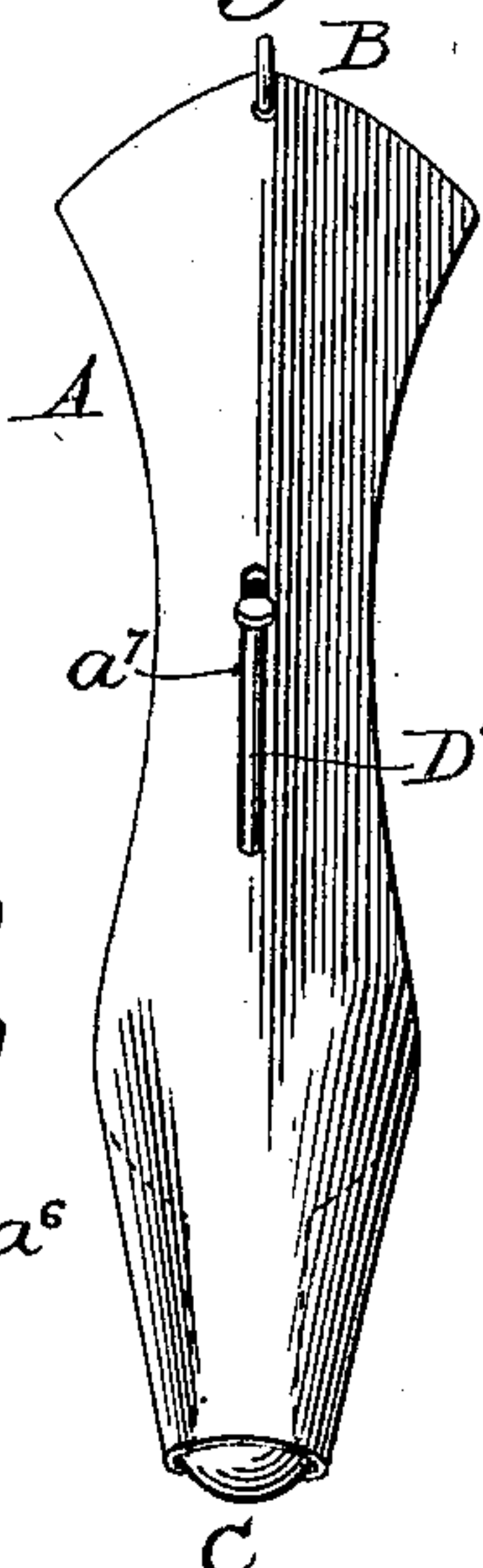


Fig. 9.

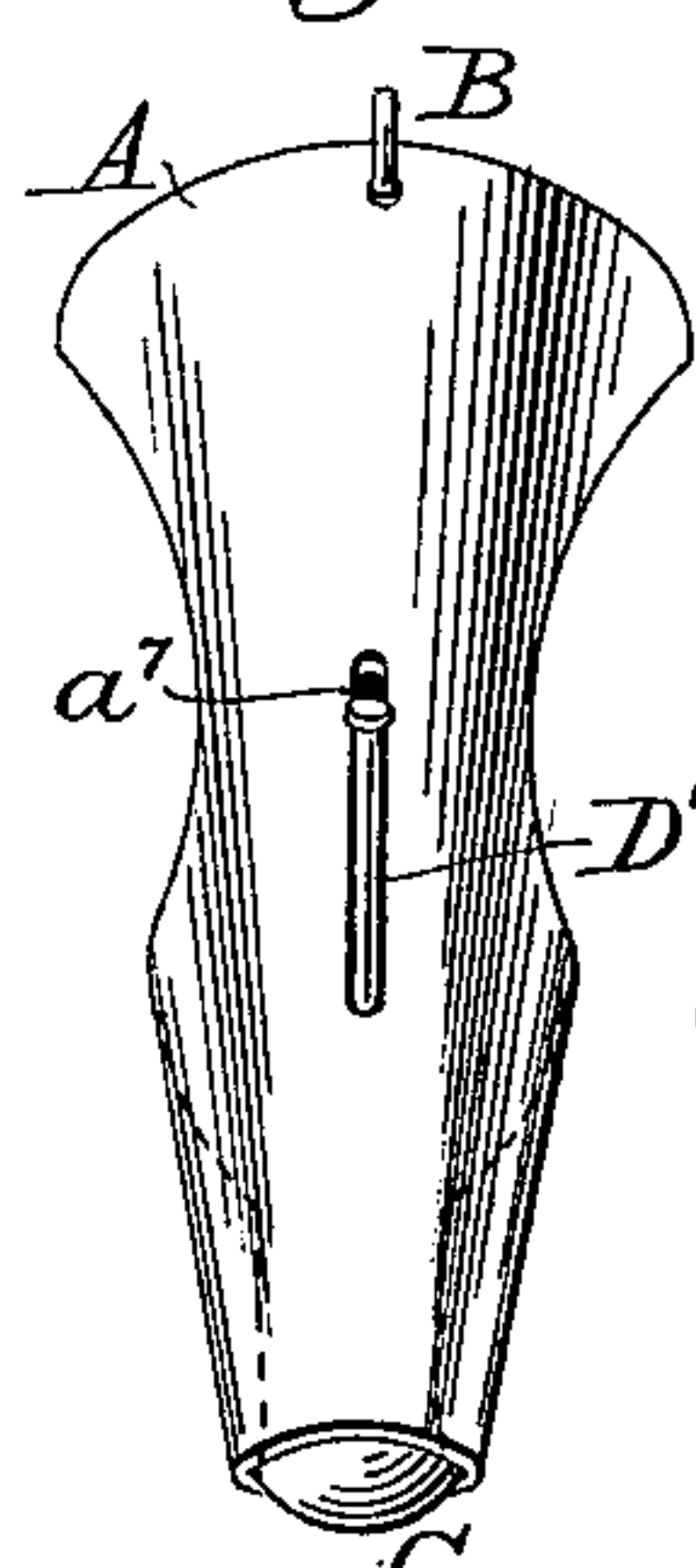


Fig. 10.

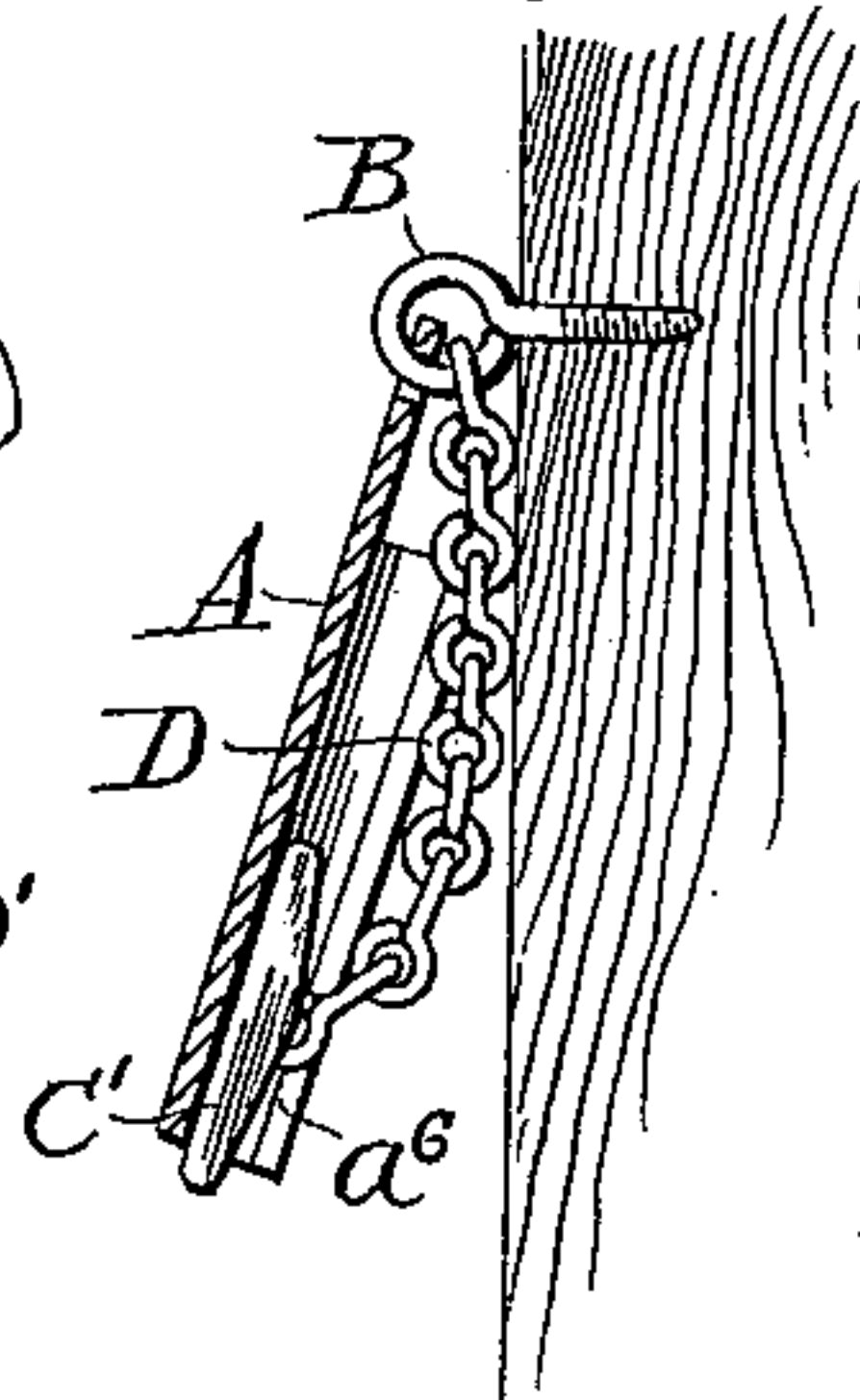
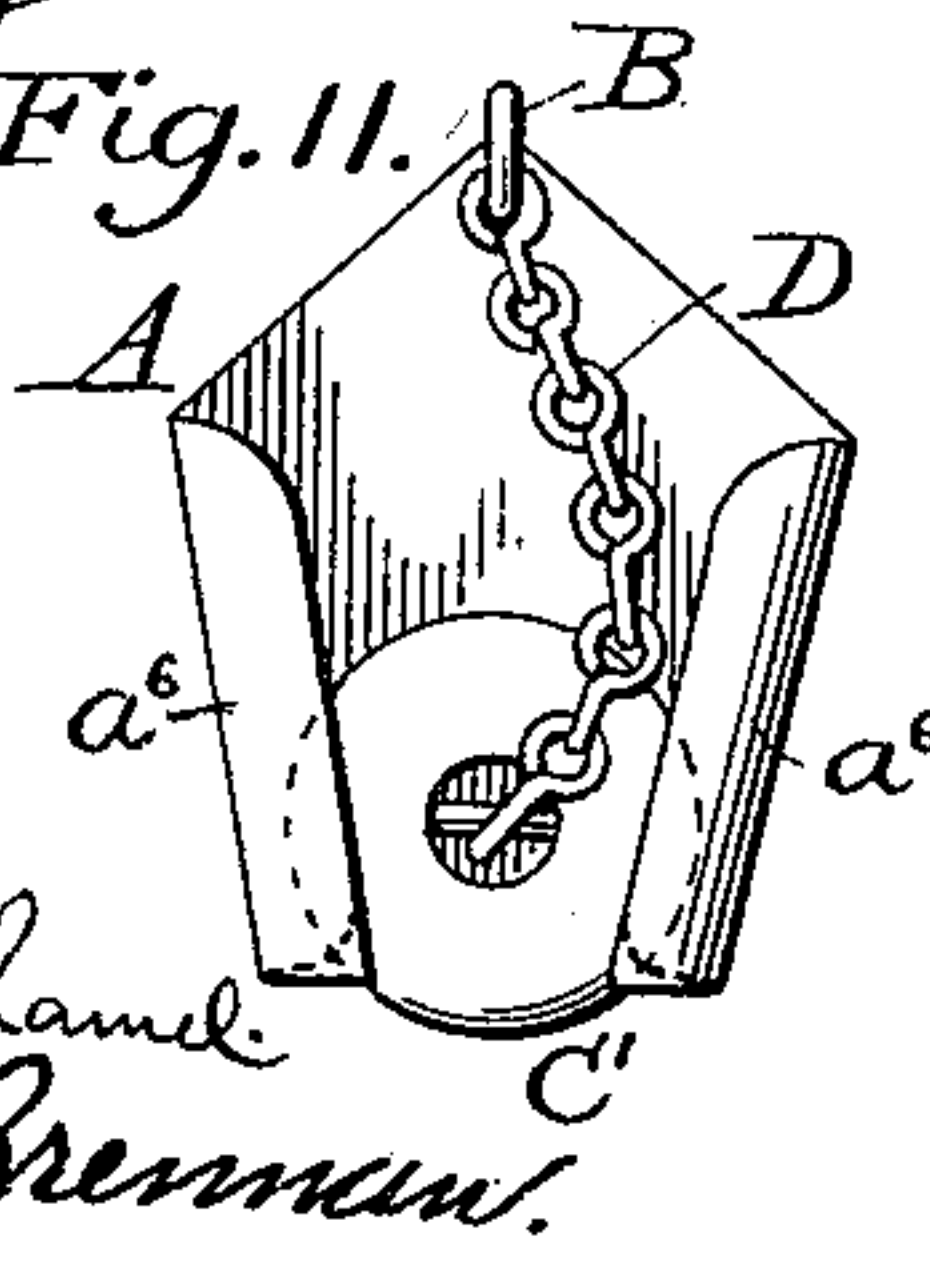


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD M. PANCOAST, OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY.

TOWEL-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 626,089, dated May 30, 1899.

Application filed June 6, 1896. Serial No. 594,535. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD M. PANCOAST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Camden, in the county of Camden and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Towel-Holders; 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.

My invention relates to devices for holding towels or napkins or similar articles; and its object is to provide a simple and inexpensive contrivance which shall be easily manipulated, efficient in operation, impossible to get out of order, and neat in appearance.

Various devices of this class have been proposed heretofore in the nature of clamps, hooks, or the like, and some of them are in use. My invention aims to provide a substitute for these in which all springs or clamps or teeth are done away with, the holding action being due entirely to the weight of the towel or other article acting upon the peculiarly-shaped parts of my holder.

In brief the invention consists in a tubular tapering case open on the under side; a loose retainer adapted to wedge itself in the lower end of the case, a guard connecting the retainer with the case, and a screw-eye or other means for suspending the case. The corner or edge of the towel is wrapped around the retainer, which is then dropped into the case. By pulling the towel downward the retainer is wedged tightly in place and the towel is securely held.

Several modifications of my invention are shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a holder in use. Fig. 1^a is an end view. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same holder. Figs. 3 and 4 are similar sections of slightly-modified forms of cases. Fig. 5 shows a different kind of guard. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a similar section of a modification. Figs. 8 and 9 show further modifications in the shape of the case.

Figs. 10 and 11 show a flat case with a flat retainer.

The case A is preferably made of sheet metal pressed into shape, though it may be made of any suitable material, such as cast metal. It is substantially a frusto-conical tube, preferably circular in cross-section, open on one side and having its larger end cut off on an incline, so as to make two flat bearing edges between the points a a' . Above and below these points the edge of the case is rounded off, forming an upper curve a^2 and lower curves a^3 . At or near the middle of the upper curve is attached a suspending device, preferably a screw-eye B, engaging loosely a hole a^4 in the case. The upper curve a^2 permits the case to hang freely on the screw-eye, with its bearing edges a a' resting against the wall or other support, into which the screw-eye is inserted. When a staple B' is used instead of a screw-eye, the upper curve a^2 may be omitted. The lower curves a^3 prevent the case from marring the support, as might be the case if the corners of the case were left sharp, as shown at a^2 , Fig. 2. The lower end or nose of the case may be cut off square; but it is preferably cut on a slight incline, as shown in Fig. 2, in order that the towel may hang straight down and to facilitate the removal of the towel. Moreover, if the corner a^5 is square it will tend to catch in the towel on removal; but by cutting the end of the case on an incline the corner a^5 is made obtuse and less likely to catch. It may be rounded off slightly, but not too much, since any considerable removal of material there would let the retainer drop out. If desired, the corner of the case may be slightly curved down, as shown in Fig. 3, or turned down to cover the end of the case, as in Figs. 4, 5, and 6. This construction is advisable when the case is slotted for the use of a rod D', because the curved nose strengthens the case, otherwise weakened by the slot. In some instances the case may be made quite long, as in Figs. 8 and 9, or flat with side flanges a^6 , as in Figs. 10 and 11.

If the case is made of sheet metal, it may be light enough to yield somewhat, so that a thick towel may be drawn well to the end and hang as far out as a thin one. In this case it is necessary to have the guard of a length less

than that of the case, so as to limit the distance the retainer can be drawn out to prevent it from being pulled entirely through the nose of the case.

5 The retainer C is preferably spherical and may be made of any suitable material—such as wood, metal, glass, rubber, or the like—though I prefer wood on account of the ease with which it can be attached to the guard
10 and because it is less likely to stain or injure the towel. The retainer is of such a size that while it readily enters the upper end of the case it will wedge itself in the nose of the case. In Figs. 10 and 11 the retainer is a flat but-
15 ton C. The retainer is attached to the case by a guard, which is preferably flexible, like the chain D, Figs. 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11, though it may be a rod, as at D', Figs. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. When a chain is used, it may be conven-
20 iently attached to the screw-eye B. When a rod is used, it is passed through a longitudinal slot a' in the case and is provided with a head d' to keep it from slipping out. The slot permits the retainer to be moved freely in all
25 directions. A less desirable construction is shown in Fig. 7, in which the rod is jointed to the screw-eye and the retainer slides loosely on the rod, being kept from slipping off by a head d' at the lower end of the rod.

30 In operation the corner or edge of the towel, napkin, or other article is wrapped around or over the retainer, which is then slipped into the larger end of the case and slid down toward the nose thereof until the retainer and
35 towel are wedged tightly in the case. The towel thus hangs freely, and the hold on it will be tightened by any pulling to which it is subjected. To remove it, an upward and backward jerk will dislodge the retainer from
40 the case and free the towel.

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

1. A towel-holder consisting of a conical

case made of sheet metal, having open ends 45 and an opening along one side; a retainer movable longitudinally in the case; a guard attached to the retainer for preventing its withdrawal and loss; and means for supporting the case at its upper end; in substance as 50 set forth.

2. A towel-holder consisting of a tapering case having open ends and an opening along one side; a retainer movable longitudinally in the case; a guard attached to the retainer 55 for preventing its withdrawal and loss; and means for supporting the case; the edges of the opening of one end of the case being cut away adjacent the point of support, whereby the case can be held in an oblique position 60 when in use; in substance as set forth.

3. The combination in a towel-holder, of a tapering case having open ends; a retainer movable in the case; a guard attached to the retainer for preventing its withdrawal and 65 loss; and a screw-eye attached to the case at the upper end for supporting the said case; one end of the case having the edges of the opening substantially oblique to the longitudinal axis of the case and provided with 70 rounded corners; in substance as set forth.

4. A towel-holder having a slot larger at the upper end than at the lower end; a spherical retainer adapted to move longitudinally in the holder and wedge with the towel into 75 the smaller end; an eye at the upper end of the holder for supporting it in position when in use; and a chain, one end of which is attached to the retainer and the other end suitably secured for preventing the loss of the 80 retainer; in substance as set forth.

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

RICHARD M. PANCOAST.

Witnesses:

JONAS S. MILLER,
PHILIP SCHMITZ.