

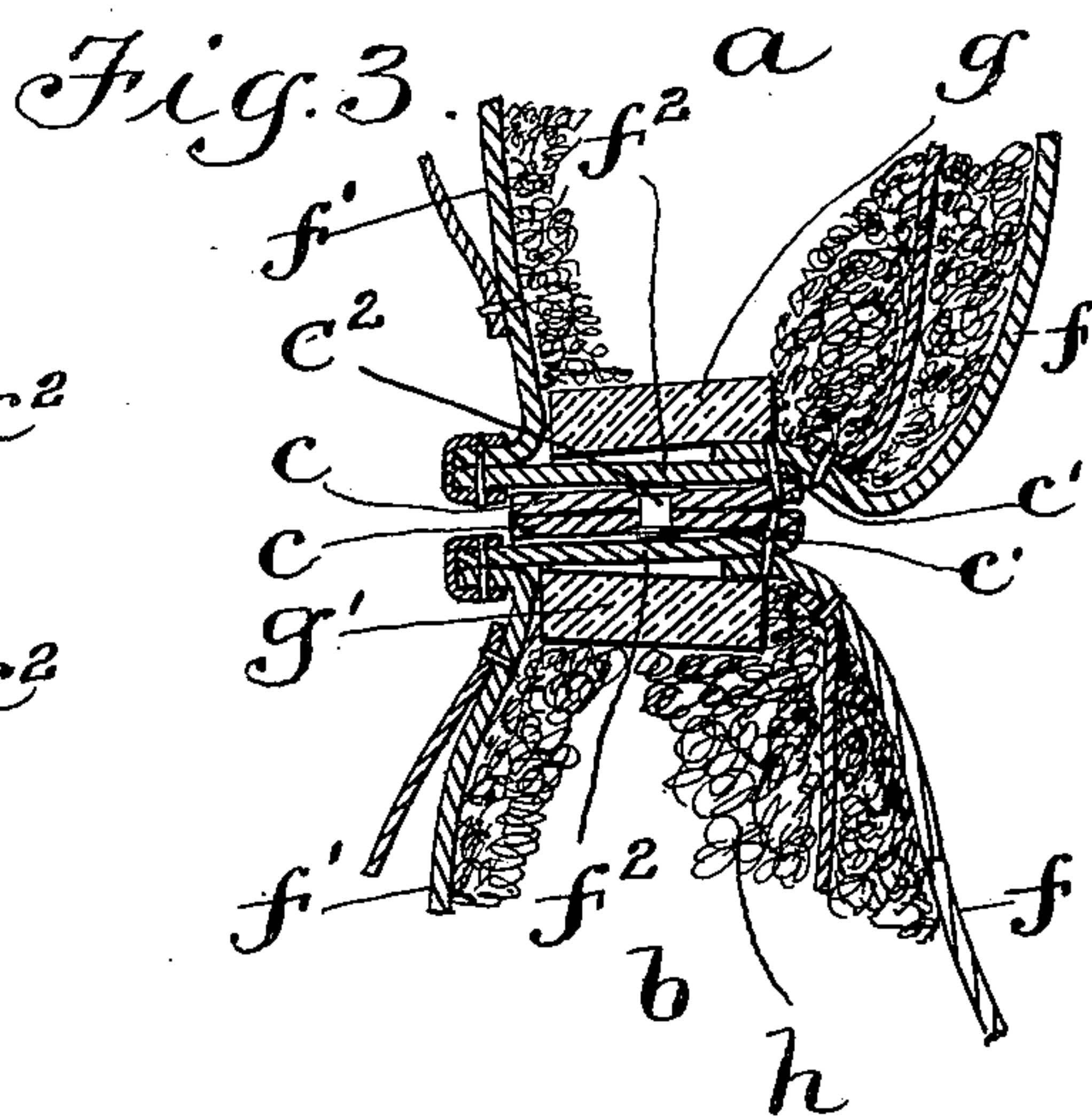
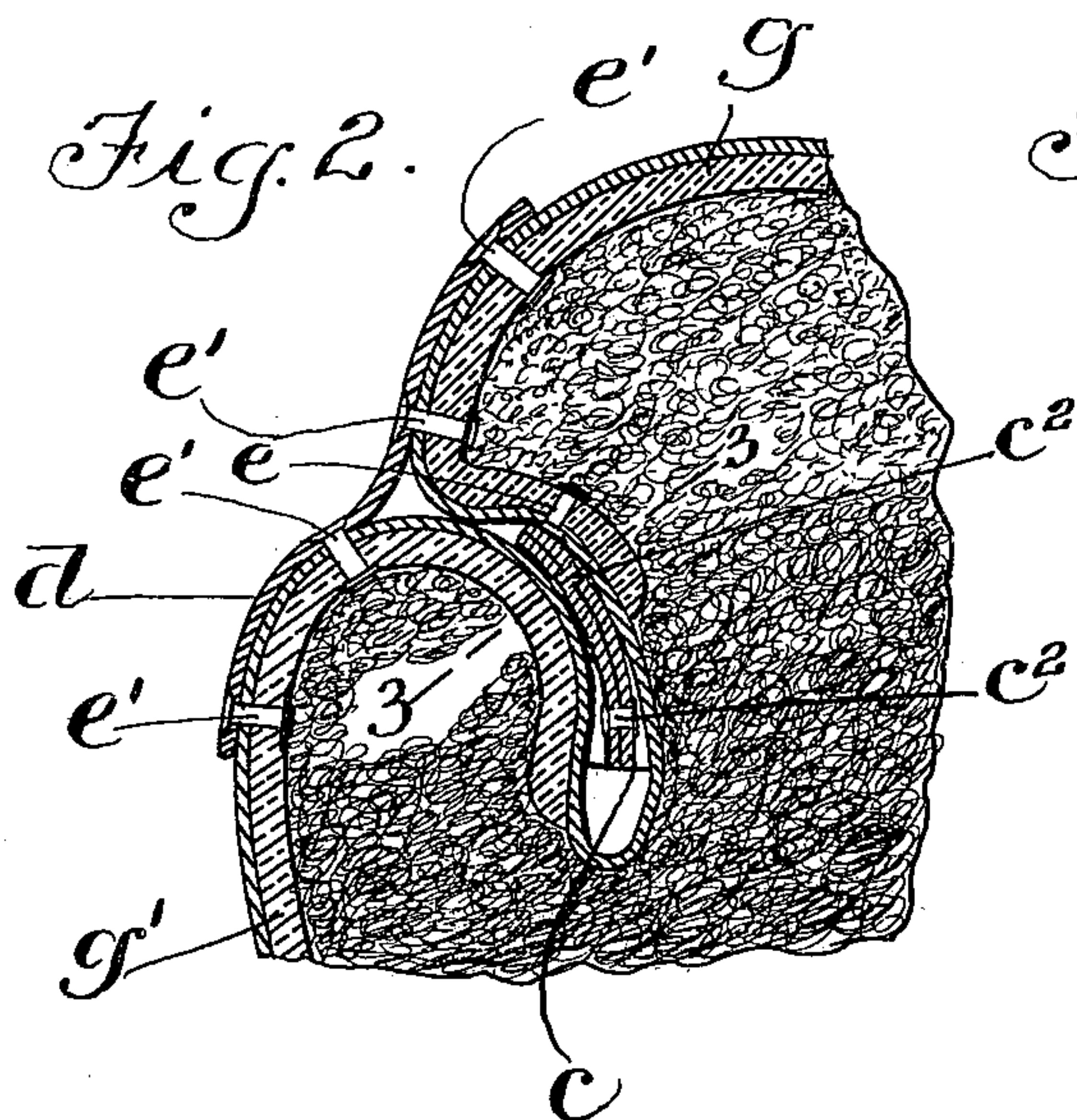
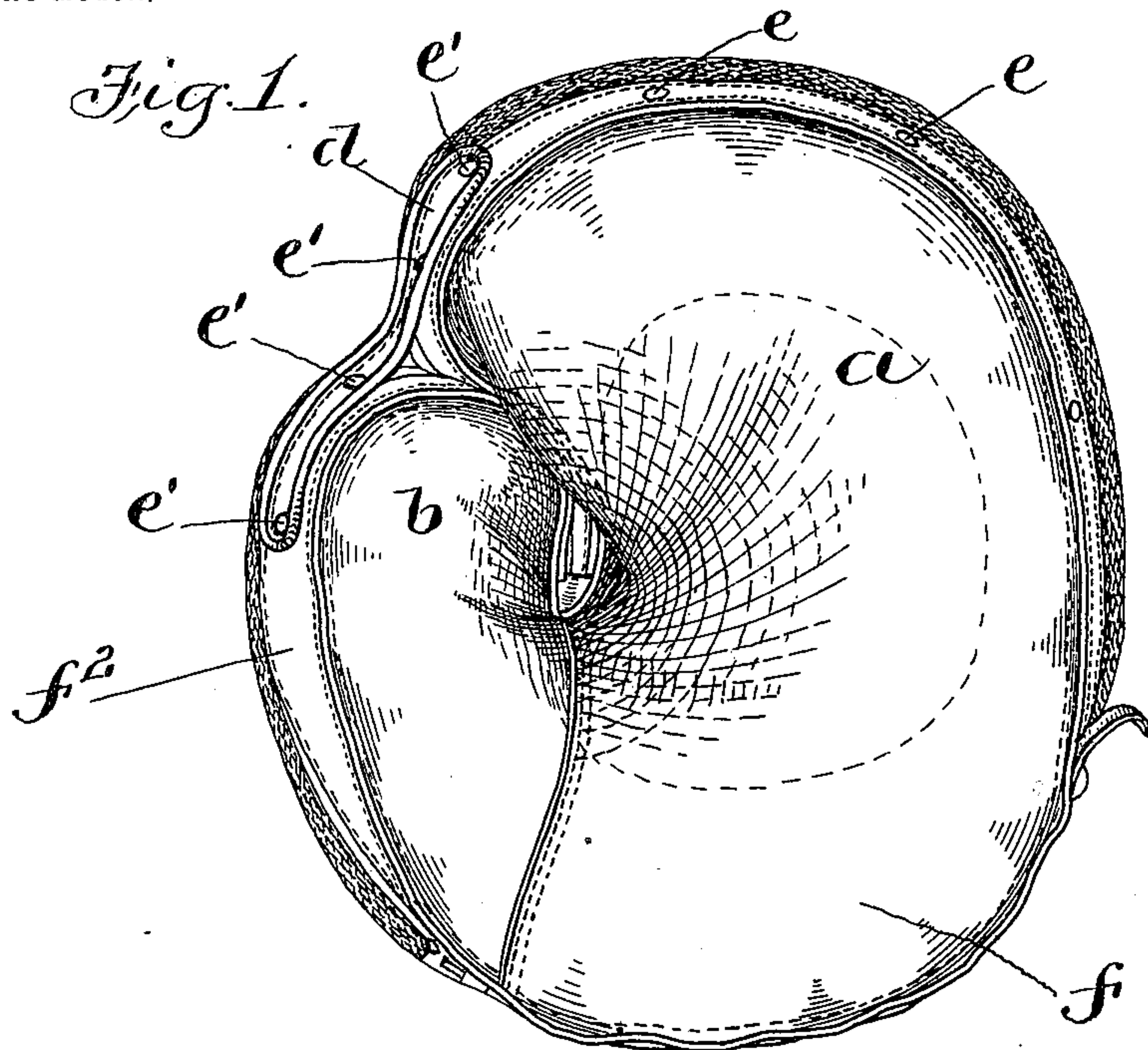
No. 627,687.

Patented June 27, 1899.

J. F. DRAPER.
CATCHER'S MITT.

(Application filed Feb. 7, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

A. S. Harrison.

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Inventor:

J. F. Draper
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JASON F. DRAPER, OF ASHLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ASSIGNOR TO THE
DRAPER & MAYNARD COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

CATCHER'S MITT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 627,687, dated June 27, 1899.

Application filed February 7, 1899. Serial No. 704,851. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JASON F. DRAPER, of Ashland, in the county of Grafton and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Catchers' Mitts, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to mitts or gloves for base-ball catchers, in which the thumb and palm portions are connected across and drawn together to form a hollow for the reception of the ball. Heretofore the connections between palm and thumb in mitts of this kind have been made adjustable and have been somewhat unsatisfactory in operation, complicating the construction of the mitt, besides adding considerably to the cost of manufacture.

The object of the present invention is to overcome the objectionable features existing heretofore in mitts of the character specified by the provision of an improved permanent connection between the thumb and palm portions of a mitt or glove to render the same stronger to withstand the blow from a ball received in the hollow above referred to; and to this end the invention consists in the novel features of construction and arrangement hereinafter fully described and claimed.

Of the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a view of the palm side of a mitt constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 represents an enlarged detail section taken in the plane of the mitt through the cleft between palm and thumb portions. Fig. 3 represents a detail section through portions on the line 3 3 of Fig. 2.

The same reference characters indicate the same parts in all the figures.

Referring to the drawings, the letters *a* and *b* designate, respectively, the palm and thumb portions of the mitt, and *f f'* *f*² designate the front, back, and edge portions of the outer skin or cover of the mitt, inclosing the internal stuffing or padding *h*. Along the upper edges of the palm and thumb portions in the mitt illustrated in the drawings are located internal protective and stiffening strips *g g'* of considerable thickness. These strips may be composed of a suitably firm but pliable ma-

terial, such as rubber vulcanized with alternate layers of cloth, and they are secured to the edge cover-strip *f*² by means of rivets.

The palm and thumb portions *a b* of the mitt, which would normally be separated or spread apart a greater or less distance, are in accordance with my invention drawn and held close together in the manner shown in Figs. 1 and 2 by a permanent fastening, which may take the form of a strap *d*, secured to the palm and thumb portions *a b* across the ends thereof by means of rivets *e' e'*, which pass through the strap *d*, edge cover-strip *f*², and stiffening-strips *g g'*. This connection makes a hollow in the mitt in front of the cleft between the thumb and palm portions, such hollow, as is well known, greatly aiding the catcher in holding the ball when it strikes the mitt. The palm and thumb portions *a b* are in accordance with my invention also attached by a permanent connection in the cleft, as indicated in Figs. 2 and 3. This connection may comprise two independent flaps of leather *c c*, sewed along their front edges by stitching *c' c'* to the cover of the mitt and secured flatwise to each other just behind said stitching by a permanent fastening, such as the rivets *c*² *c*², thus bringing the palm and thumb portions close together. I may of course employ other means of fastening the flaps *c c* to the mitt and to each other; but the method shown is desirable, as it permits the flaps to be sewed in place early in the manufacture of the mitt and afterward connected by a simple operation.

The flaps *c c* when connected aid the connection across the outer edge portions in holding the palm and thumb portions together and also prevent the passage of the ball too far into the cleft.

I claim—

1. A catcher's mitt having the palm and thumb portions secured close together by a permanent connection, said connection including independent flaps secured to said palm and thumb portions, and a permanent fastening securing said flaps flatwise to each other.

2. A catcher's mitt having a permanent connection between the palm and thumb por-

tions, said connection comprising independent flaps permanently secured to said portions and to each other, and a strap attaching said portions across their ends and permanently
5 secured thereto.

3. A catcher's mitt having the internal protecting and stiffening strips *g g'* on the edges of the palm and thumb portions, and a permanent connection between said portions, the
10 said connection including the strap *d* attaching said portions across their ends, and the

rivets *e' e'* passing through the strap *d* and edge strips *g g'* and serving to permanently secure said strap to the palm and thumb portions.

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

JASON F. DRAPER.

Witnesses:

JOHN F. MAYNARD,
C. F. BROWN.