

No. 628,724.

Patented July 11, 1899.

B. T. ROGERS.  
BASE BALL MASK.

(Application filed Jan. 11, 1899.)

(No Model.)

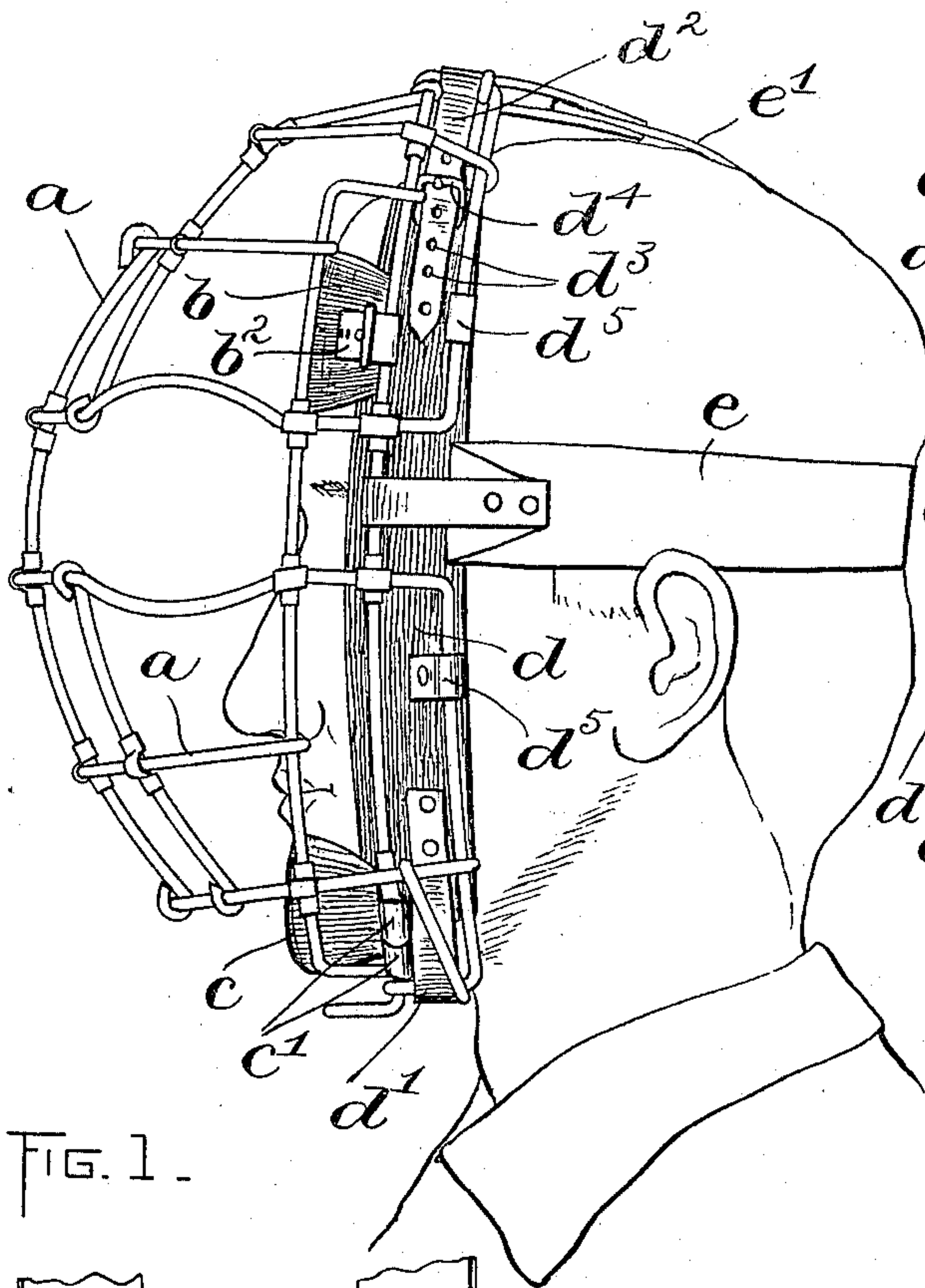


FIG. 1.

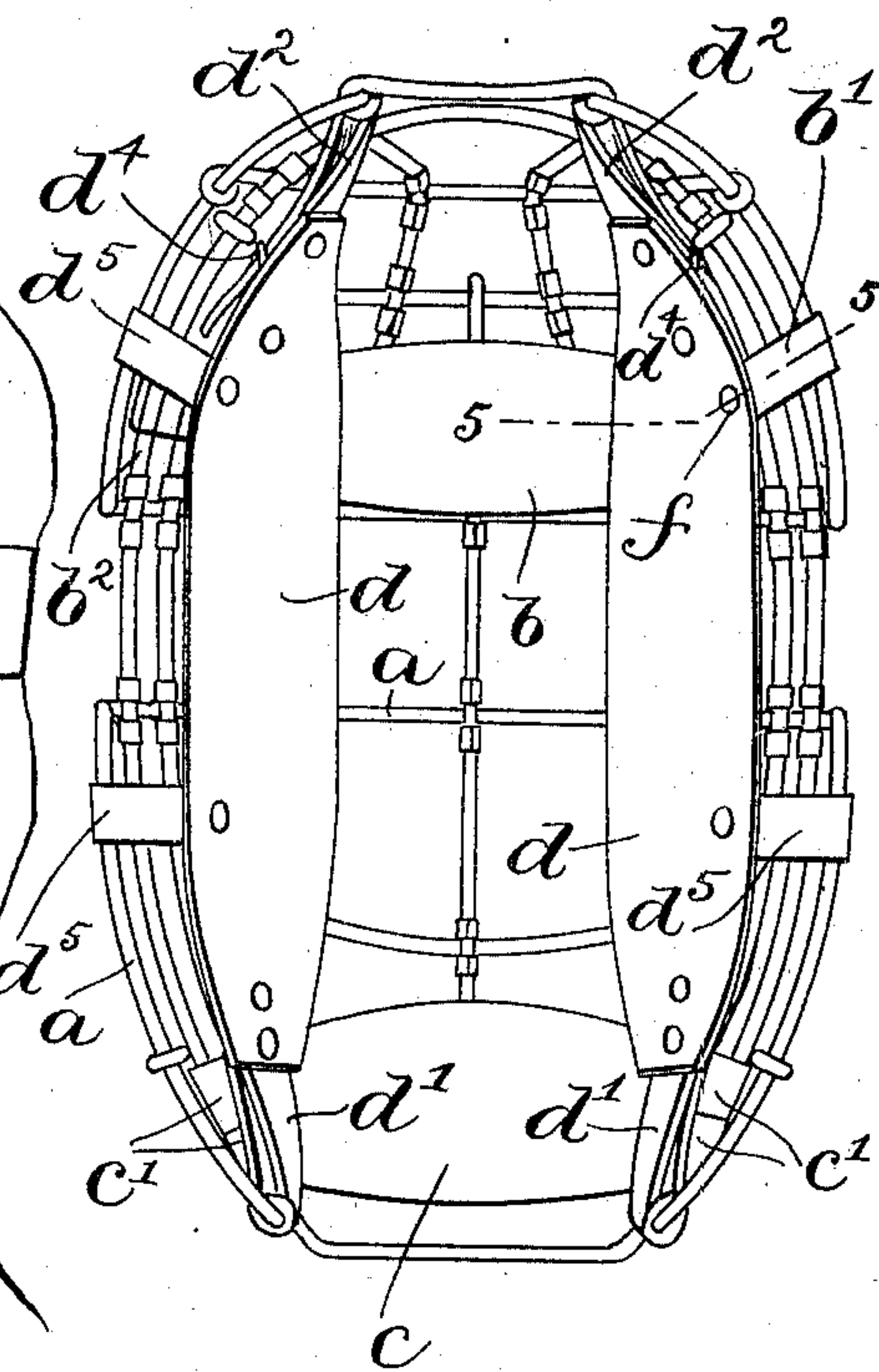


FIG. 2.

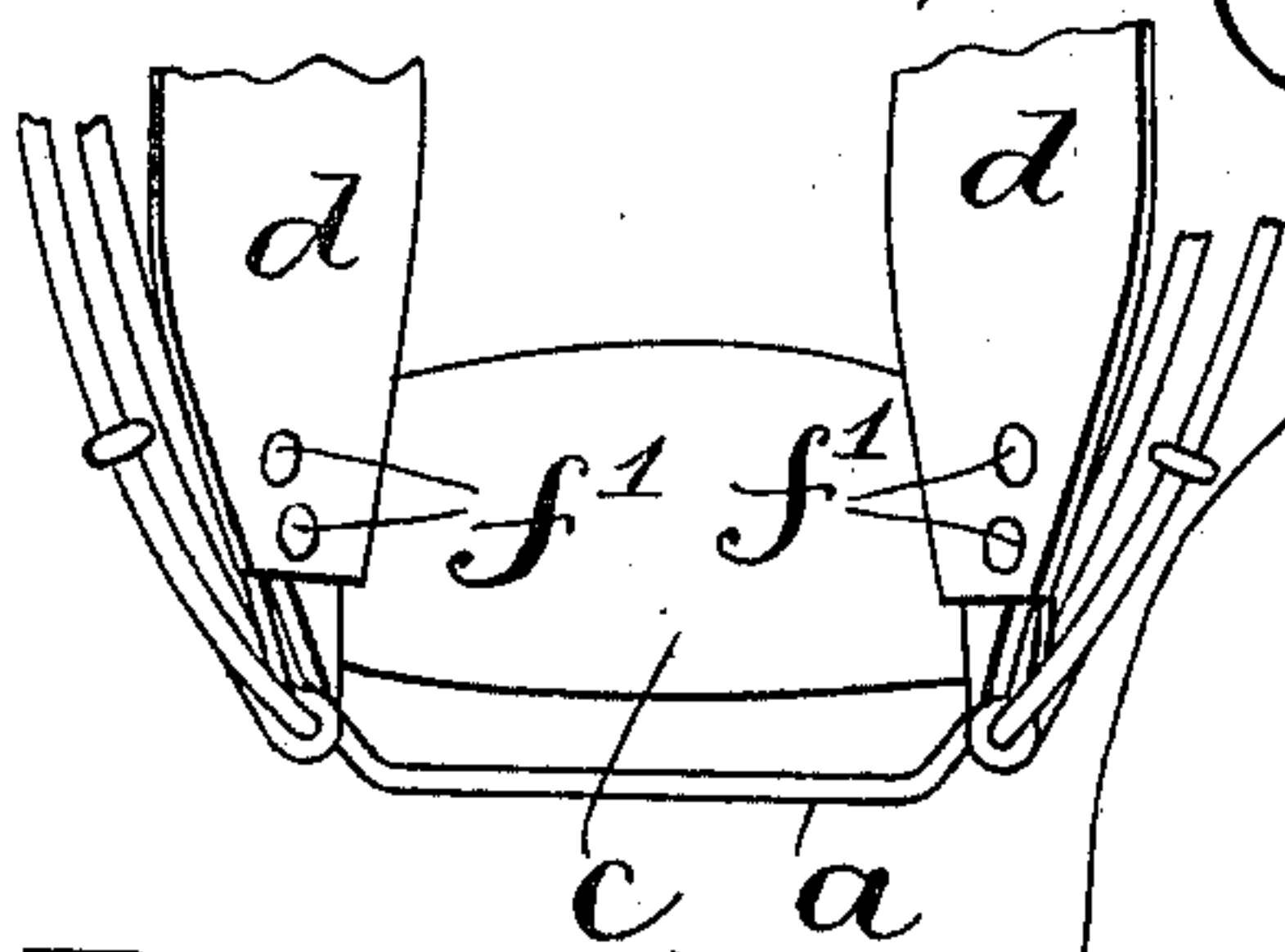


FIG. 4.

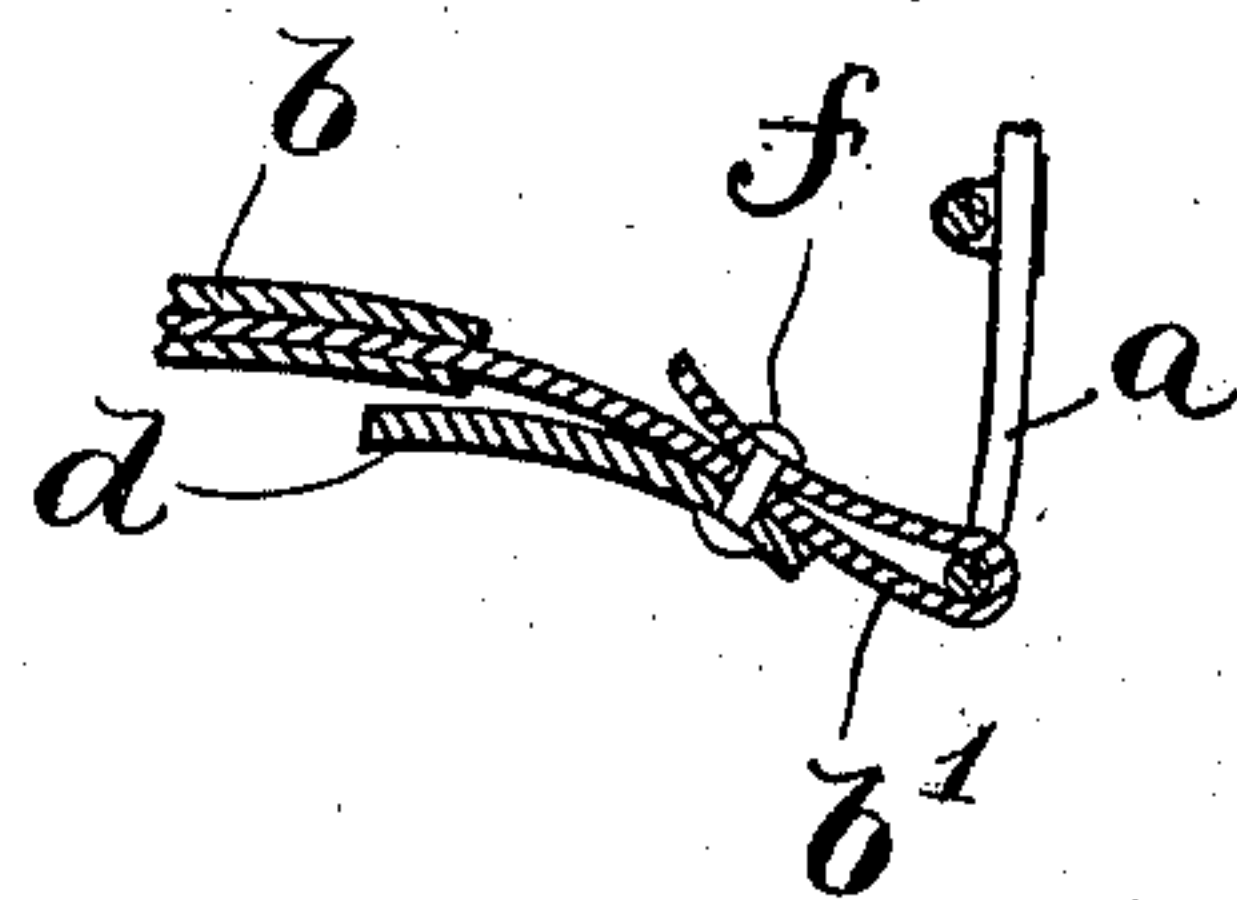


FIG. 5.

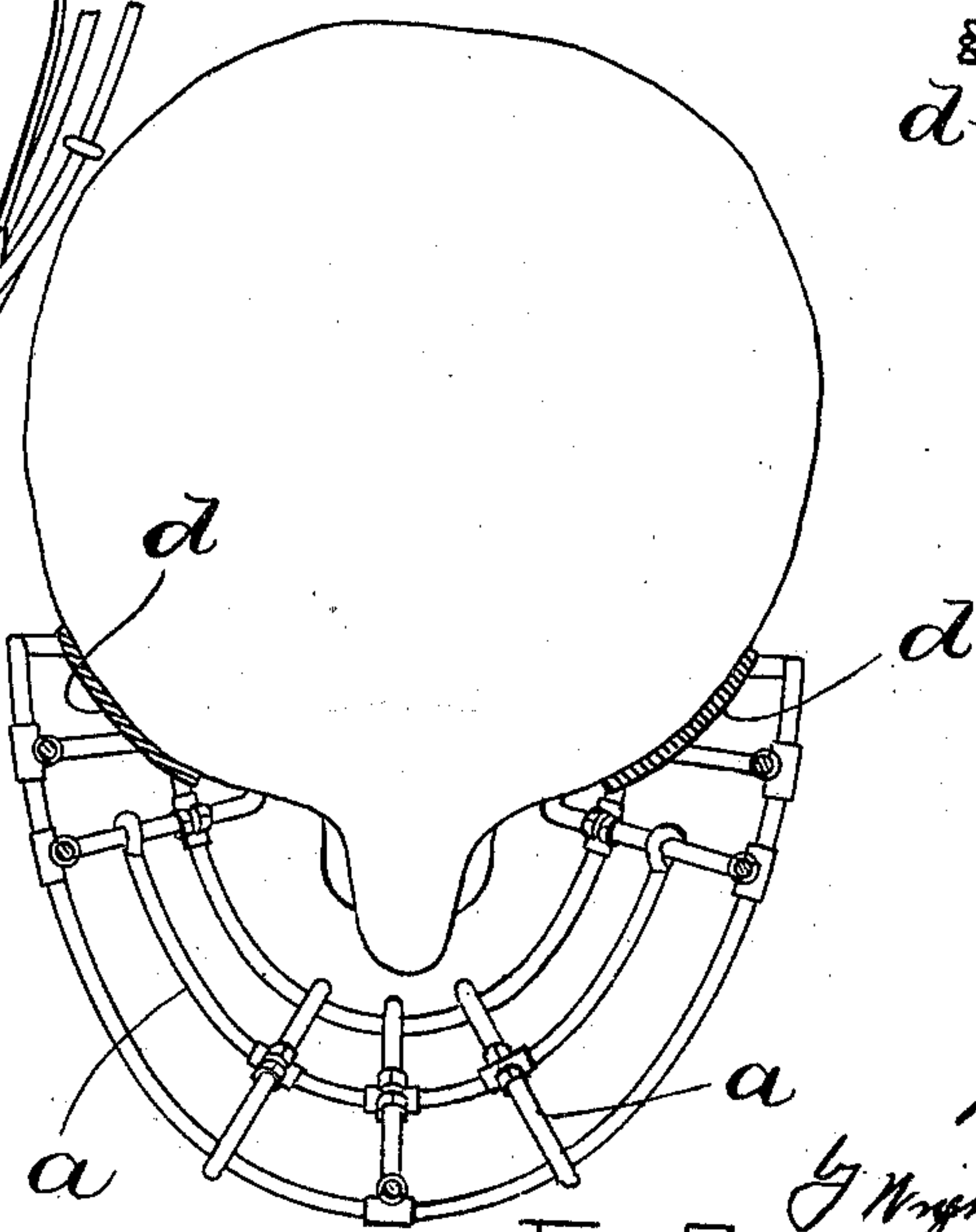


FIG. 3.

WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BURT T. ROGERS, OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

## BASE-BALL MASK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 628,724, dated July 11, 1899.

Application filed January 11, 1899. Serial No. 701,791. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BURT T. ROGERS, of Springfield, in the county of Hampden and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Base-Ball Masks, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to base-ball masks, and more particularly to the cushioning parts thereof, which bear against the wearer's face and protect it from direct contact with the metal frame.

Among other things the invention has for its object to provide improved adjustable side cushions for the mask, so constructed as to render the mask better fitting and more comfortable to the wearer and also constructed and arranged to increase the protection afforded by distributing more evenly the force of blows and to allow the mask to be more easily and quickly thrown off the head.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved mounting for the forehead and chin bands.

Base-ball masks as heretofore constructed have been cushioned at the sides with stuffed pads attached rigidly to the side bars or wires of the frame. This construction is comparatively stiff and unyielding and is non-adjustable. Its defects are overcome in a simple manner by means of my invention, an embodiment of which I shall now proceed to describe in detail with the aid of the accompanying drawings.

Of the drawings, Figure 1 represents a side elevation of a base-ball mask constructed in accordance with my invention and in position on a wearer. Fig. 2 represents a rear elevation of the mask. Fig. 3 represents a horizontal section thereof. Fig. 4 represents a partial rear elevation showing a modification. Fig. 5 represents a section on the line 5 5 of Fig. 2.

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

Referring to the drawings, *a a* designate the bars or wires of the mask-frame or main body. *e* and *e'* designate the elastic head-straps, which are attached to the frame and extend over and in back of the wearer's head to hold the mask in place.

*b* and *c* designate, respectively, the fore-

head and chin bands, attached by means of loops or straps *b' c'* to the side bars of the frame near the top and bottom of the latter and subserving their usual functions.

In place of the usual stuffed pads at the sides of the frame *a a* I employ the vertical bands *d d*, attached at their lower ends to convenient bars on the said frame by means of the looped straps *d' d'* and at their upper ends by means of looped straps *d<sup>2</sup> d<sup>2</sup>*, whose ends are perforated with holes *d<sup>3</sup> d<sup>3</sup>* and pass through buckles *d<sup>4</sup> d<sup>4</sup>*. The side edges of the bands *d d* are also attached to the frame by means of looped straps *d<sup>5</sup> d<sup>5</sup> b'*. To secure the attaching-loops to the bands, the parts may be riveted together, as shown, or other suitable attaching means may be employed.

When the wearer places the mask on his head, the bands *d d* embrace the sides of his face and conform perfectly to the contour thereof. They bear with the requisite firmness against the face and in conjunction with the forehead and chin bands *b c* hold the frame *a a* in place and prevent the face from going too far into the mask. At the same time, being supported away from the frame, they are perfectly yielding and are free from hard protrusions, such as the stuffed pads heretofore employed frequently present. By adjusting the upper attaching-straps *d<sup>2</sup>*, having the buckles *d<sup>4</sup>*, the tension of the bands *d* may be regulated and their spread thereby varied to accommodate the mask to heads of different sizes and shapes. The disposition and construction of the said side bands also permit the mask to be more easily and quickly thrown off, because when the lower end of the mask is tilted outwardly the wearer's forehead sinks in between the side bands and spreads them apart, rendering the removal of the mask more easy than when unyielding pads are employed as cushions.

To obviate the tendency of the forehead-band *b* to be displaced vertically when the mask is put on, I may attach one of its ends to one of the side bands *d*, as shown in Fig. 5, wherein the loop *b'* at the end of the forehead-band is represented as serving to attach both the forehead-band *b* and the side band *d* to the side bar of the frame, the loop *b'* and band *d* being held together by a rivet *f*.

In Figs. 1 and 2 the chin-band *c* is shown



as attached in the usual manner to the side bars of the frame *a a*. As illustrated, however, in the modification shown in Fig. 4, I may support the chin-band *c* by attaching its  
5 ends to the side bands *d d*, as shown, rivets *f' f'* or other means being employed to effect the connection. This causes the chin-band to give or yield more freely than when it is attached to the rigid frame-bars.

10 I claim—

1. In a base-ball mask, a frame, and vertically-disposed flexible side bands attached to and supported away from said frame, said bands being under tension and adapted to  
15 yieldingly embrace the sides of the wearer's face.

2. In a base-ball mask, a frame, side cushioning members attached thereto at their ends and under tension, and means for adjusting said members inwardly and outwardly to vary  
20 the space between them.

3. In a base-ball mask, a frame, vertically-disposed side bands attached thereto at their upper and lower ends, and means for adjusting the longitudinal tension on said bands, to  
25 vary their spread.

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

BURT T. ROGERS.

Witnesses:

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HENRY L. PHELPS.