

No. 637,627.

Patented Nov. 21, 1899.

W. H. LUDEWIG.
UTERINE SUPPORTER.
(Application filed Feb. 24, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

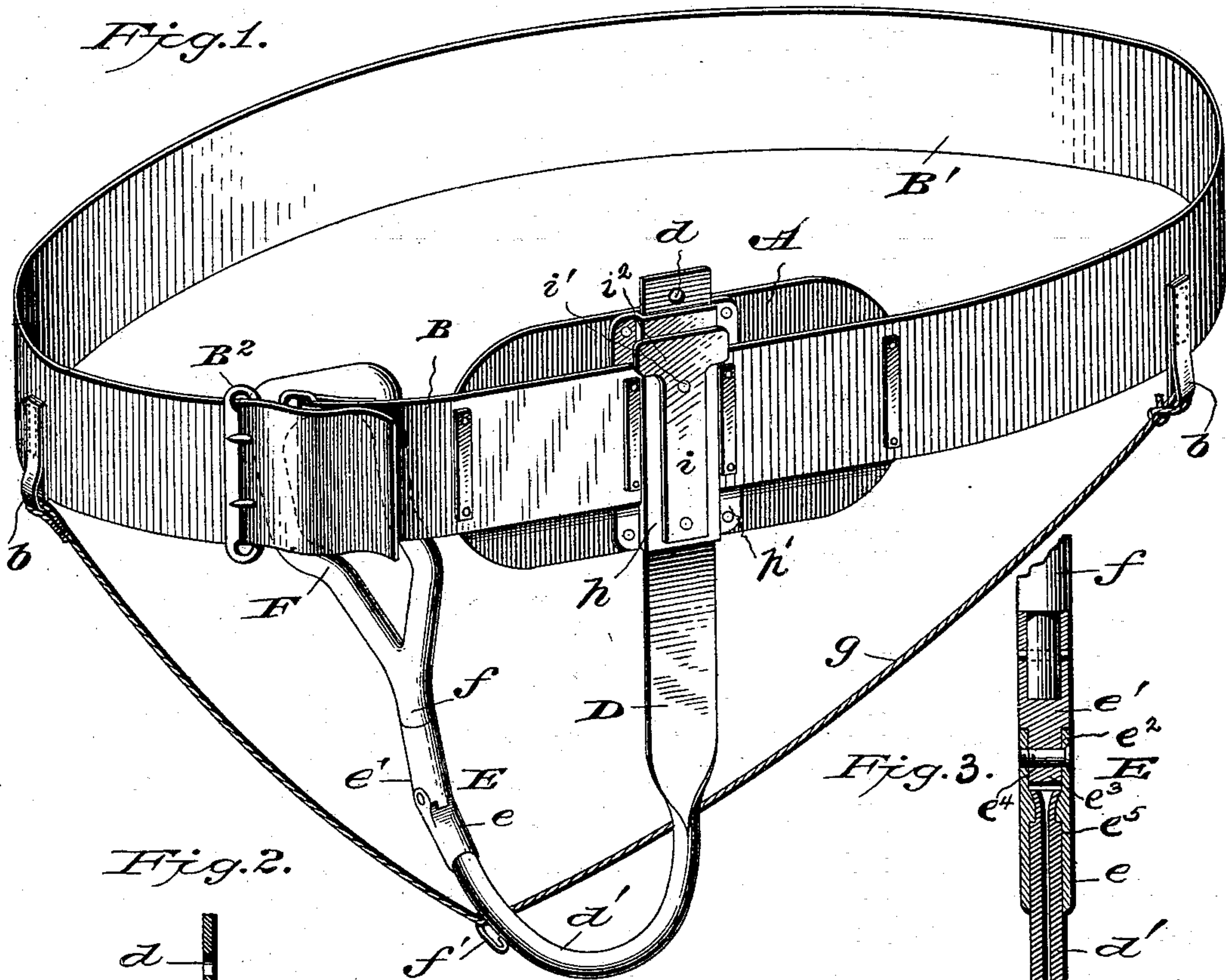


Fig. 2.

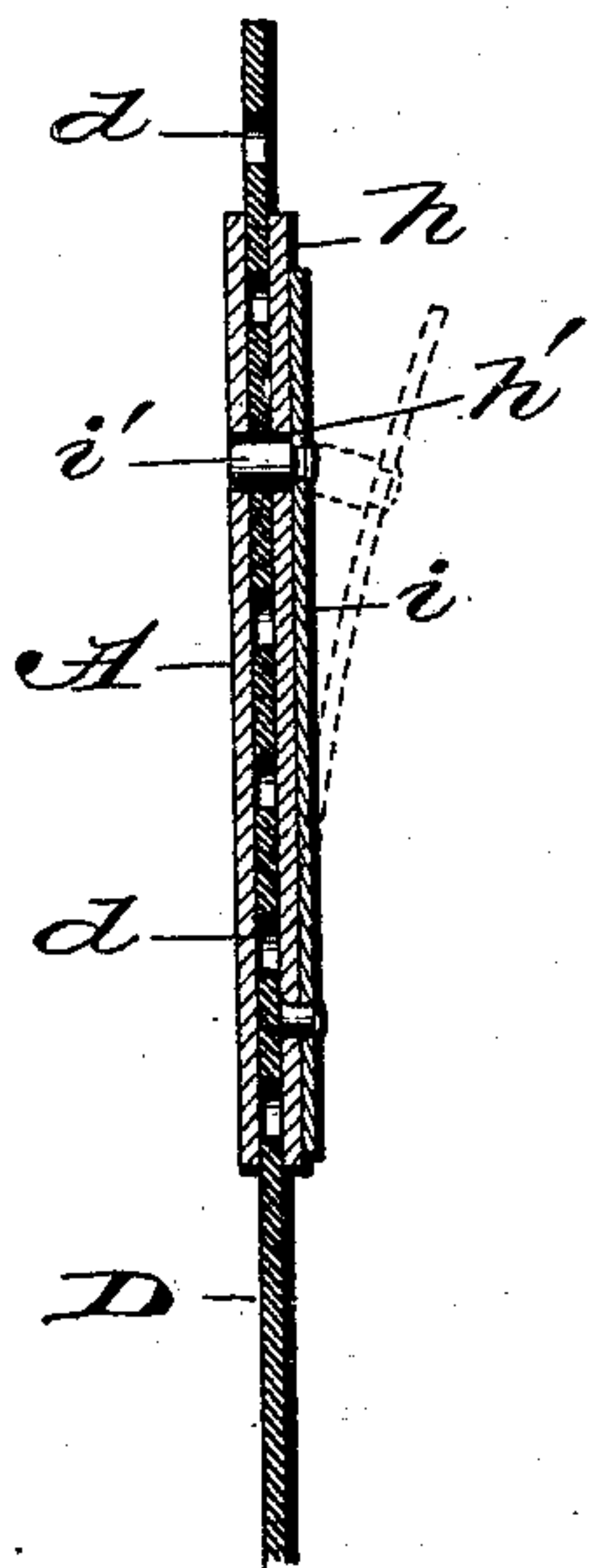
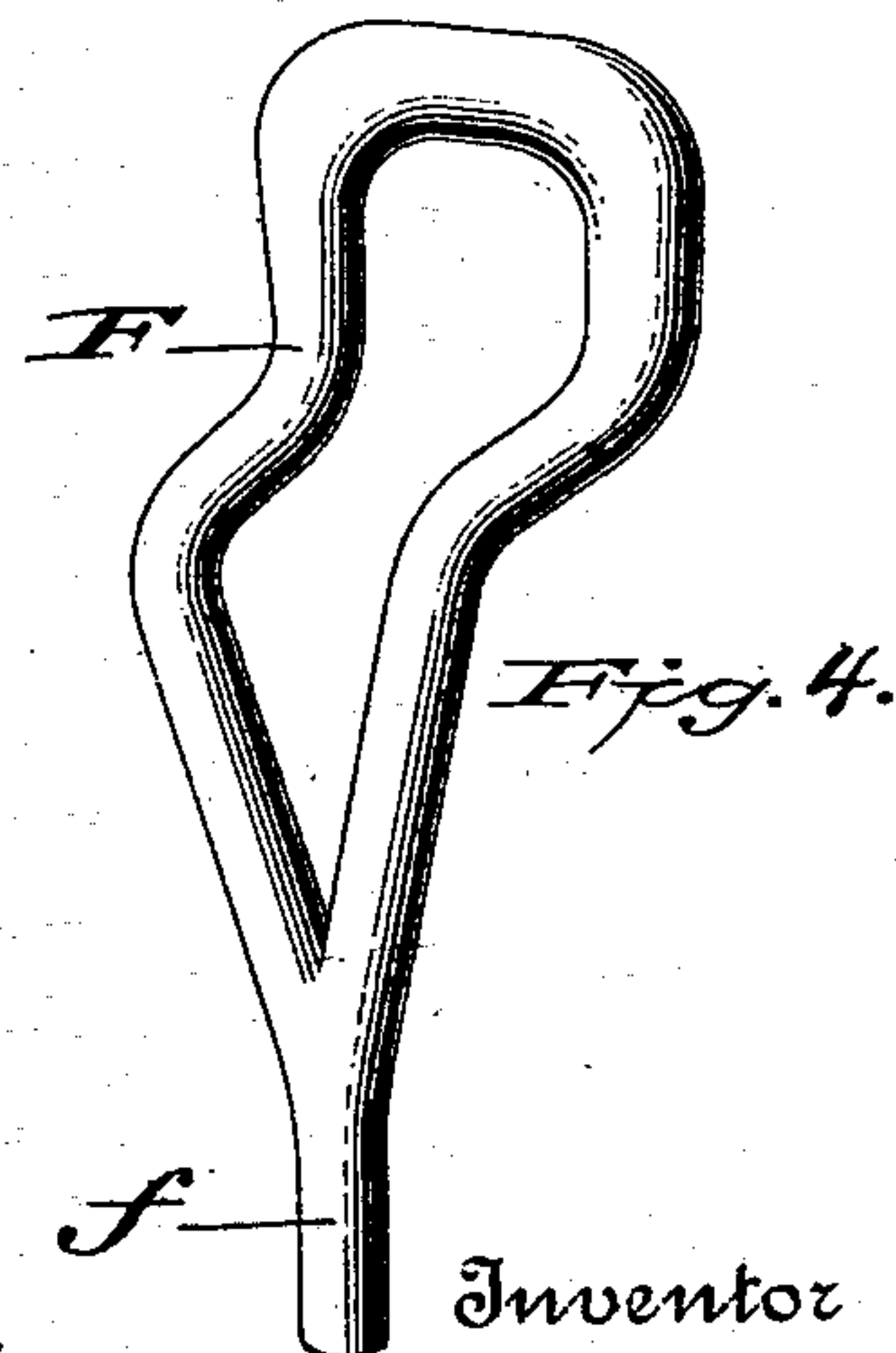
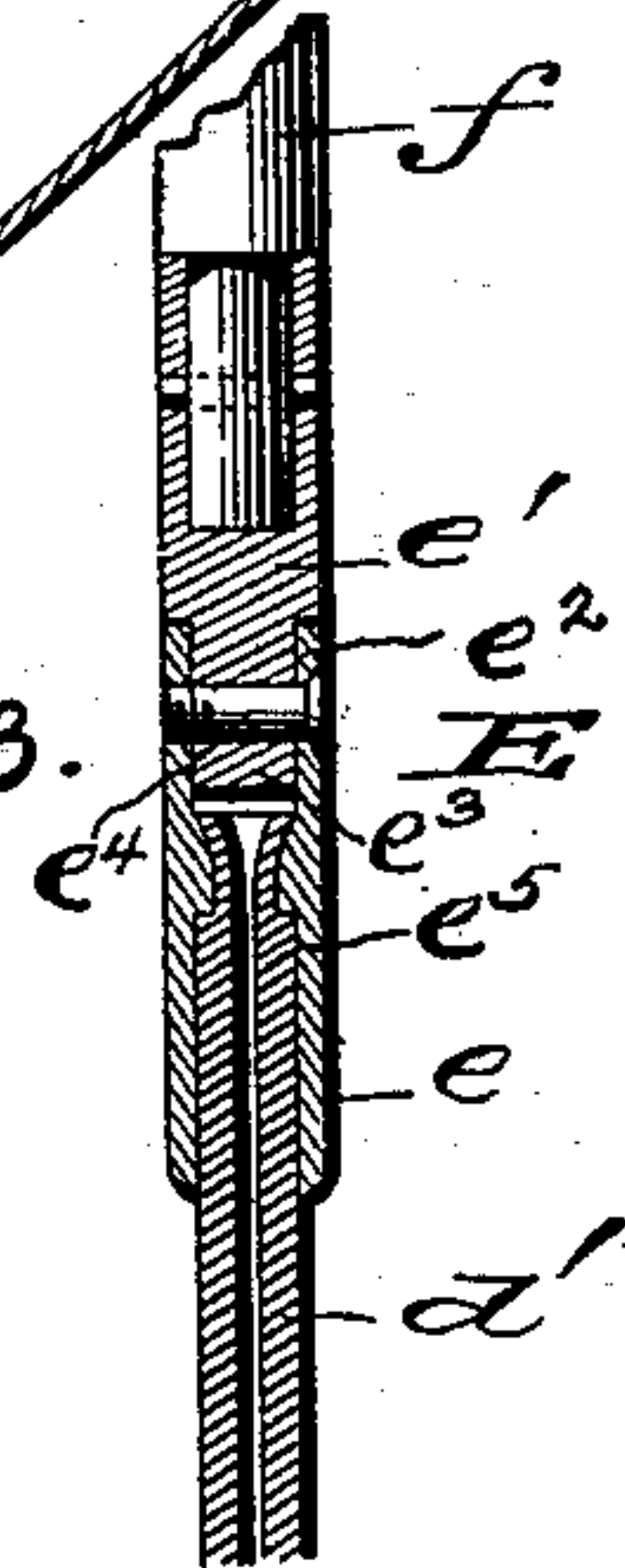


Fig. 3.



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UTERINE SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 637,627, dated November 21, 1899.

Application filed February 24, 1899. Serial No. 706,678. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. LUDEWIG, of Rock Island, in the county of Rock Island and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Uterine Supporters; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

This invention is an improvement in uterine supporters; and the object I have in view is the production of such an appliance as will meet the approval of the medical practitioner and the patient by supplying the former with a thoroughly practical device and by furnishing the latter an appliance that may be worn without discomfort and with the best attainable results.

My invention consists in certain novel features of construction of the supporter, and will hereinafter be fully described, and summarized in the claims.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the supporter with the parts arranged approximately in the position they would assume in use. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of the preferred form of latch. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of the swivel-joint, enlarged; and Fig. 4 is a detail view of a pessary.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a thin flat plate of such size and form as will afford a brace to the lower part of the abdomen of the wearer and prevent chafing, and will also form a suitable holder for the pessary-supporting rod D. This plate A is preferably formed of hard rubber, but may be of any suitable material, perforated or imperforate, as desired, and uncovered or covered, as preferred, with any suitable material—as silk or leather, for example—which might add to the comfort of the wearer. To the outer side of this plate is secured by any appropriate means a vertical keeper *h*, between which and the plate A the flat upper extremity of the rod D is adjustably fitted. The keeper *h* extends from the bottom to the top of the plate, is U-shaped in cross-section, and provided with lateral flanges *h'*, by which it is secured to the plate A, the space between the flanges forming a vertical guideway for

the pessary-supporting rod D, this guideway being of such length that lateral oscillation of the said supporting-rod is prevented.

To the outer side and lower end of keeper *h* is riveted the end of a flat T-shaped spring *i*, which is provided near its upper end with an inwardly-projecting pin *i'*, which is adapted to project through a hole in keeper *h* and to engage any one of a series of perforations *d* in the upper part of rod D, and may project through perforations *d* into and almost through a hole in plate A. Thus the pessary-supporting rod D may be adjusted to any desired height relative to the plate A and then firmly held by means of the locking device just described. The upper end of the locking-spring *i* is provided with laterally-projecting ears *i''*, which project beyond the guiding portion of the keeper *h*, so that the finger-nail may be inserted under the projecting parts *i''* of the rod and the latter pushed outward, thereby disengaging the pin *i'* from the rod D. It will be observed, however, that the head of the spring lies close to the plate and has no outwardly-projecting portions which would disarrange or catch in the garments of the wearer.

The plate A is connected to a belt of any suitable kind. As shown, the belt is formed of two pieces B B', each attached at one end to the plate. To the outer end of piece B is secured a buckle B², which is engaged by the end of piece B' to secure the plate to the body after it is properly adjusted to the wearer. To the belt, at opposite sides of the plate, are fastened the two loops *b b*, to which are attached the ends of a supporting-cord *g*, hereinafter referred to.

The pessary-supporting rod D is preferably shaped as indicated in Fig. 1, its front upper end being flat and provided with a series of holes *d*, while its lower portion *d'* is formed into a small upwardly-curved part, as shown. The extremity of part *d'* is shouldered and fitted into a corresponding socket *e⁵* in the lower member *e* of a swivel-joint *e e'*, the end of part *d'* being slightly expanded (see Fig. 3) within the part *e*, so as to retain it in position therein, while at the same time permitting part *e* to rotate freely on the part *d'*. This part *e* is bifurcated and between the bifurcations *e²* thereof is pivoted the shank *e³* of

the upper member *e'* of the swivel-joint, a pin *e⁴* transfixing the bifurcations on the shank, as shown in Fig. 3. This permits both members to be rotated upon the rod *d'* and the upper member *e'* to be turned at any angle upon the part *e*, and as the part *e'* is connected to the pessary it enables the latter to be adjusted to any position desired, while at the same time firmly supporting it on the rod D.

The upper member *e'* of the swivel-joint is formed with a hollow socket, in which is fitted and secured the stem *f* of a pessary or uterine supporter F, as indicated in the drawings. Thus it will be seen that the pessary when its stem is attached to the swivel-joint will be susceptible of a free forward, rear, or lateral movement, while continually affording a constant support to the uterus. I propose having the rod D of such length and the swivel-joint so made, as described, that various styles of pessaries can be fitted to the supporter by cutting their stems to meet the requirements of the most extreme cases, and thus cut the stems of the pessaries so as to fit the same to the wearer exactly in accordance with the order of the attending physician.

To the under side of the portion *d'* of the rod D, near the swivel-joint, is secured an intumed hook or keeper *f* for retaining the elastic cord *g* in proper position. This cord extends from the loops *b b* on the belt down over the gluteal region of the wearer, thus holding the curved part of the rod in close contact with the body and producing a gentle upward and backward pressure on the pessary, which renders it much more comfortable to the wearer. The intumed hook *f* will retain the cord in position and at the same time allow it to be readily disconnected from the pessary-supporting rod when desired.

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

1. In a uterine supporter, the combination of a plate, means for attaching said plate to the wearer; and a pessary-supporting rod having its upper end adjustably secured to said plate and having its lower end curved rearwardly and upwardly; with a swivel-joint composed of the parts *e*, *e'*, part *e* being rotatably connected to the lower end of

said rod, and part *e'* having a shank pivoted between bifurcations on the upper end of part *e*, and a pessary connected to part *e'* of said joint, substantially as described.

2. In a uterine supporter, the combination of the plate A provided with means for attaching said plate to the wearer, a vertically-disposed U-shaped keeper *h* attached to said plate, and a pessary-supporting rod D having a flattened upper end guided in and secured to said keeper and provided with a series of perforations, the lower end of said rod being rounded and curved rearwardly and upwardly; with a flat locking-spring *i* attached to the keeper and having lateral projections *i²*, *i²*, on its head, and a pin *i'* adapted to project through a perforation in the keeper and engage one of the perforations in the flattened end of rod D, substantially as described.

3. The herein-described uterine supporter, comprising an abdominal plate A provided with a vertical guide or keeper *h* on its outer surface, the belt attached to said plate provided with loops at opposite sides of the plate, and the locking-spring *i* attached to said keeper, having lateral projections *i²* on its upper end and a pin *i'* adapted to project through a perforation in the keeper and engage one of the holes in the pessary-supporting rod; with a pessary-supporting rod having a flattened upper end D passing through said keeper and provided with a series of holes adapted to be engaged by the locking-pin *i'*, and also having a rearwardly and upwardly curved lower end provided with a closed loop *f'*, a swivel-joint composed of a part *e* swiveled on the lower end of said rod and a part *e'* pivoted to part *e*, the pessary connected to the upper member *e'* of said joint, and an elastic cord connected to the belt at opposite sides of the plate and attached to said closed loop to impart a gentle upward pressure to the pessary, all substantially as and for the purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM H. LUDEWIG.

In presence of—

J. E. PEETZ,

H. B. SIMMON.