

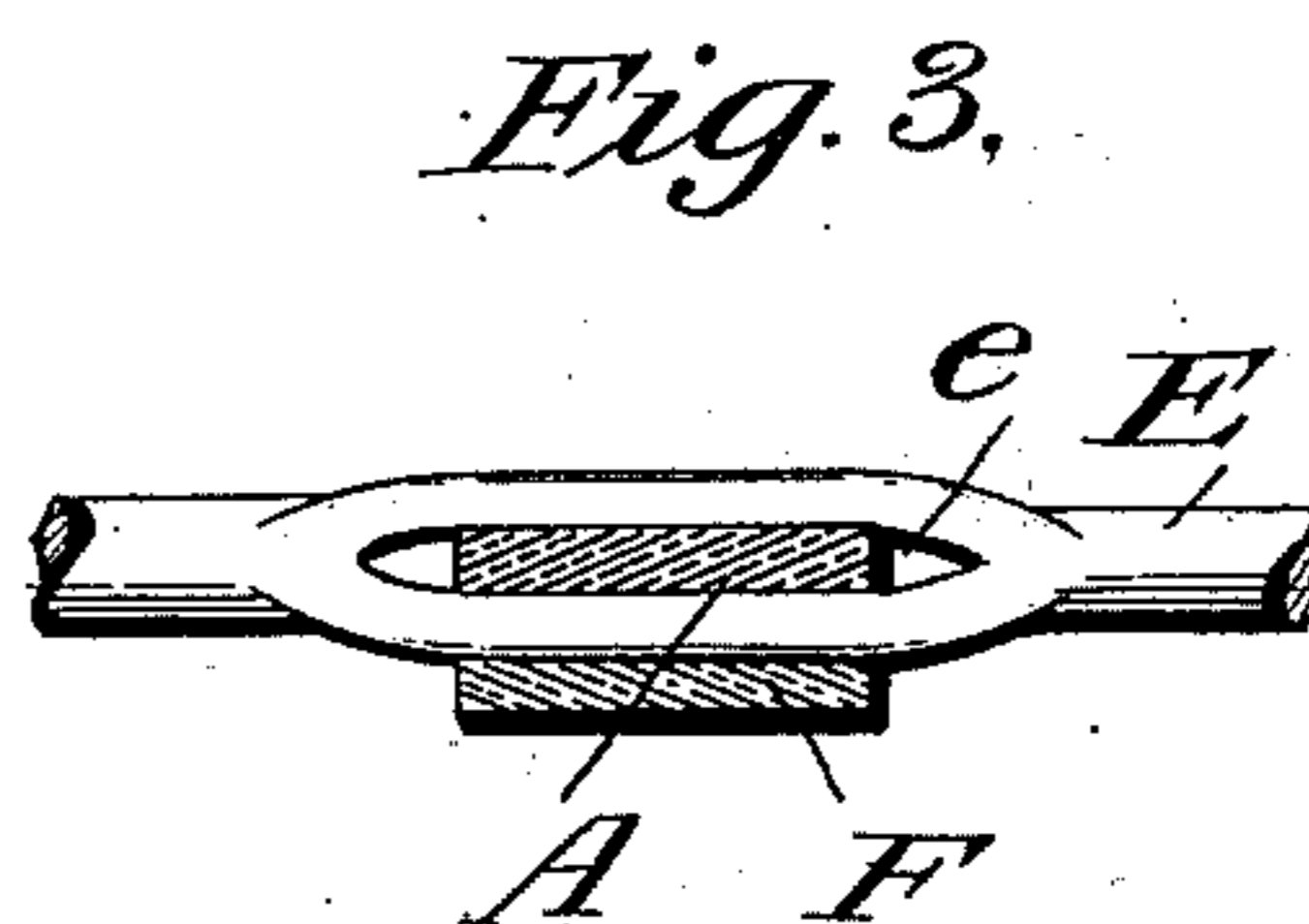
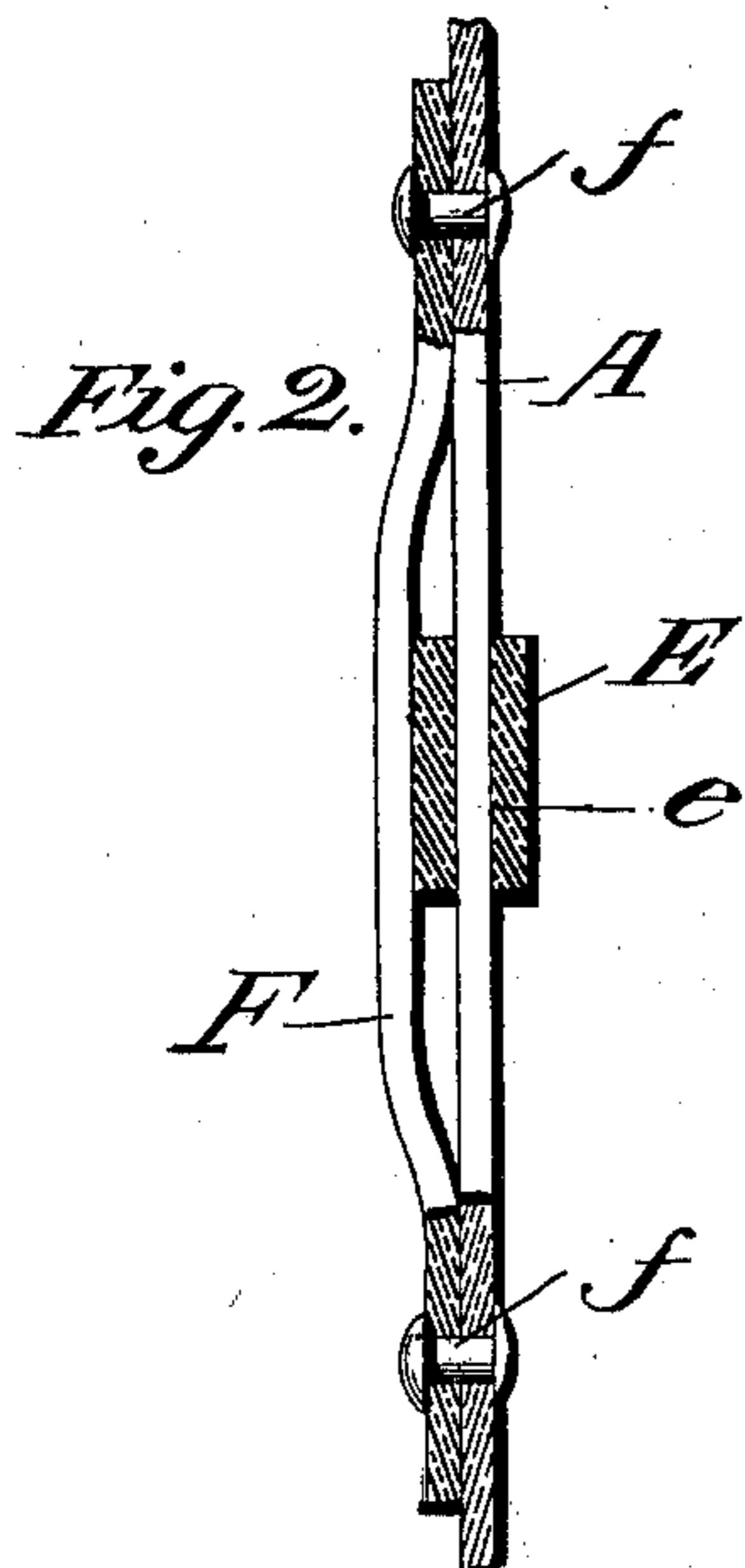
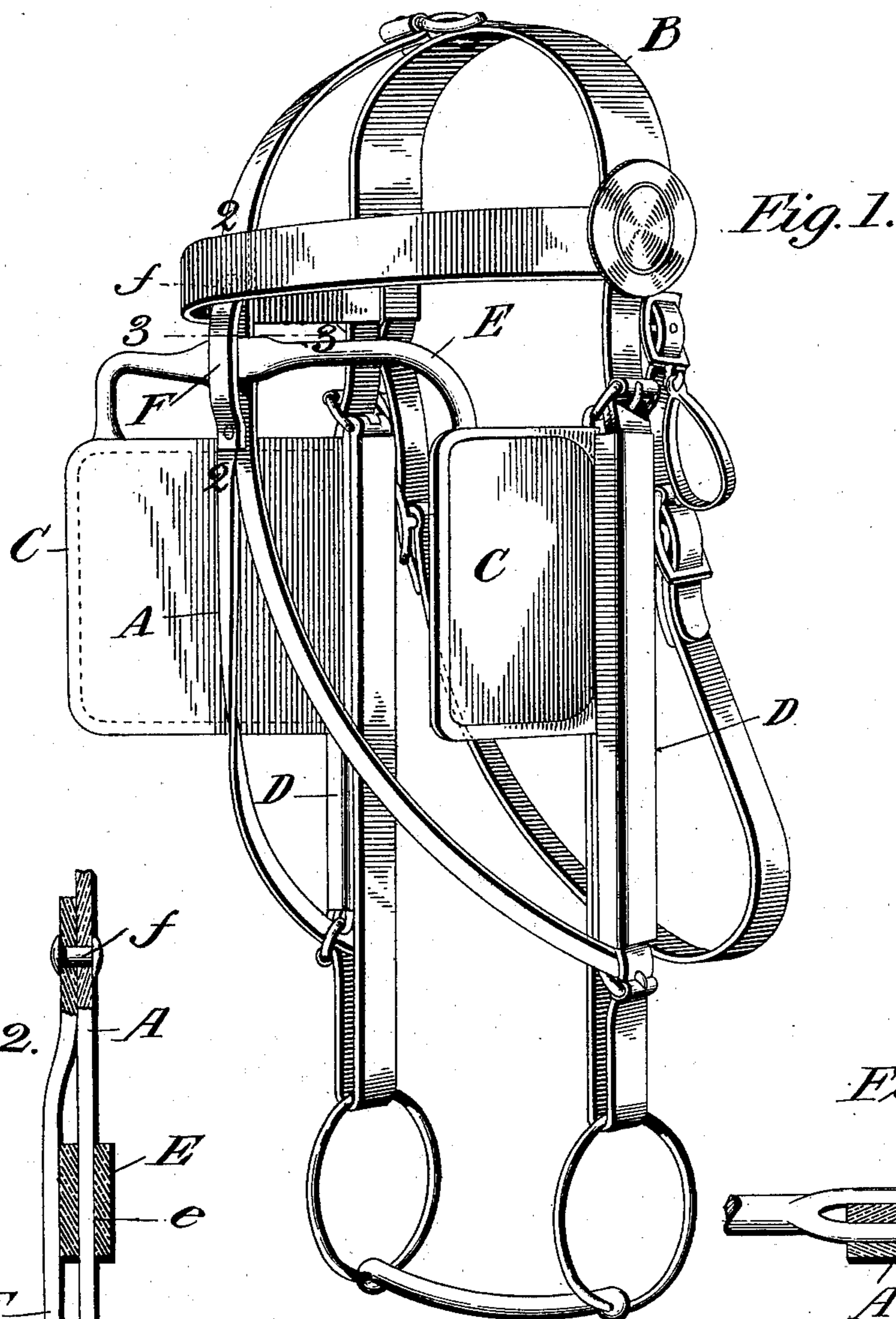
No. 656,397.

Patented Aug. 21, 1900.

I. H. ELLSWORTH.
BRIDLE BLIND BRACE.

(Application filed Apr. 26, 1900.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IRVIN H. ELLSWORTH, OF OAK HARBOR, OHIO.

BRIDLE-BLIND BRACE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 656,397, dated August 21, 1900.

Application filed April 26, 1900. Serial No. 14,434. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, IRVIN H. ELLSWORTH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oak Harbor, in the county of Ottawa and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bridle-Blind Braces; 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.

This invention relates to harness, and is directed particularly to improvements in devices for bracing the winkers or blinds of the bridle, the object of the invention being the production of a simply-constructed blind-brace which is self-adjusting longitudinally on the central stay or face-piece and which supports the blinds at the proper distance from the eyes and precludes lateral movement thereof.

The invention in its preferred embodiment will be readily comprehended, reference being had to the following detailed description and to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bridle of which my improved blind-brace forms a part. Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view in line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional view in line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

Referring to the said drawings by letter, A denotes the central stay or face-piece, which at its upper end may be fixed to the crown-piece B, as shown, or may, as in overcheck-bridles, be slidably attached to the crown-piece, but secured against lateral movement. Toward its lower end the central stay or face-piece is divided or bifurcated and attached to the lower part of the bridle or to a separate bit. Thus secured, the central stay is incapable of sidewise movement, though a slight vertical play sufficient to allow for the up-and-down movement of the animal's head is permitted. The blinds or winkers C C are secured to the cheek-pieces D D, which are attached to the crown-piece and bit.

E denotes the blind-brace, consisting of a preferably-continuous and inflexible strip the ends of which are secured to the upper outer corners of the blinds. Centrally of the brace is an opening *e*, slidably receiving the face-piece or central stay. This opening may be formed in a number of ways. Consequently I do not limit the invention to the construction shown, which consists in leaving unattached the central portion of a brace made up of two strips elsewhere secured together. Whatever the construction, the opening receives the central stay freely. Only the width of the opening is slightly in excess of the width of the stay, whereby lateral or sidewise movement of the brace relative to the stay is effectually prevented. The stay being, as above stated, incapable of sidewise movement, the brace, and consequently the blinds, are immovably held, and thus the shifting and flapping of the blinds are precluded, the blinds being maintained at equal distance from the center of the animal's head.

It has been stated that the central stay is capable of longitudinal movement through the brace. Such provision allows of conformation of the stay to the movement of the head of the animal without imparting movement to the blinds; also it allows of the cheek-pieces being buckled high or low on the crown-piece without interfering with the stay. The range of movement of the stay through the brace is limited, and this I accomplish by providing a stop on the stay above and below the point where it passes through the brace. These stops may be of any form or type which will serve the purpose, but I prefer to attach a short strip F near its ends to the face side of the stay by rivets *ff* or other fastening devices, the strip covering the brace and the rivets serving as shoulders to limit the range of adjustment.

My invention, while very simple and inexpensive in construction, is very efficient in preserving the proper position of the blinds and in permitting the described adjustments, and it possesses the further advantage of its adaptability to existing bridles.

Various modifications may be made with-

out departing from the spirit of the invention.

I claim as my invention—

5 The combination with a central stay or face-piece attached at its ends to be incapable of sidewise movement, of blinds and a brace connecting the blinds and having centrally thereof a vertical opening slidably receiving

the stay or piece and stops on the latter to limit vertical movement thereof.

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

IRVIN H. ELLSWORTH.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. GRAVES,
WM. E. GRAVES.