

No. 688.503.

Patented Dec. 10, 1901.

M. S. CROSS.
SAFETY HITCHING DEVICE.

(Application filed Apr. 6, 1901)

(No Model.)

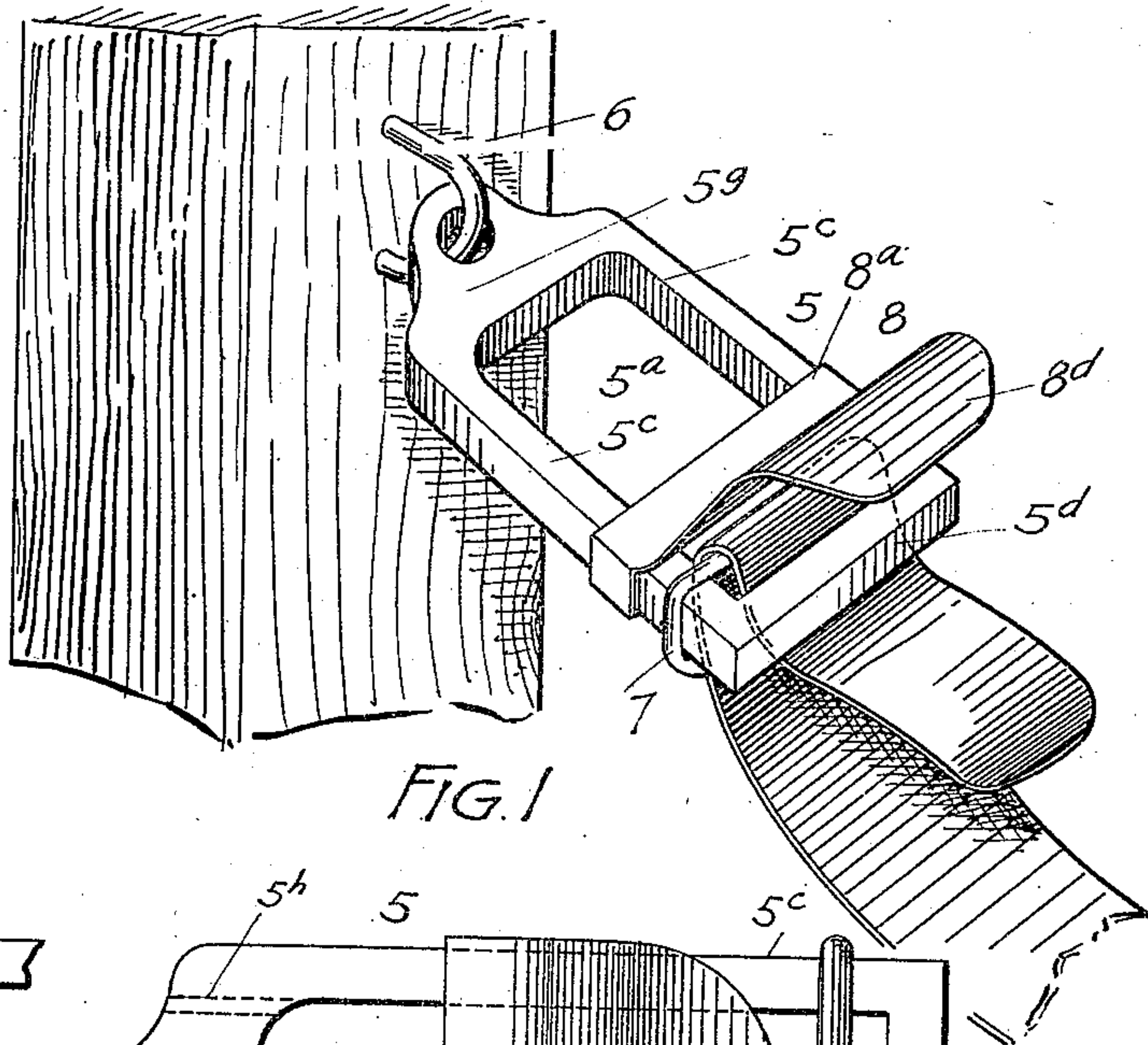


FIG. 1

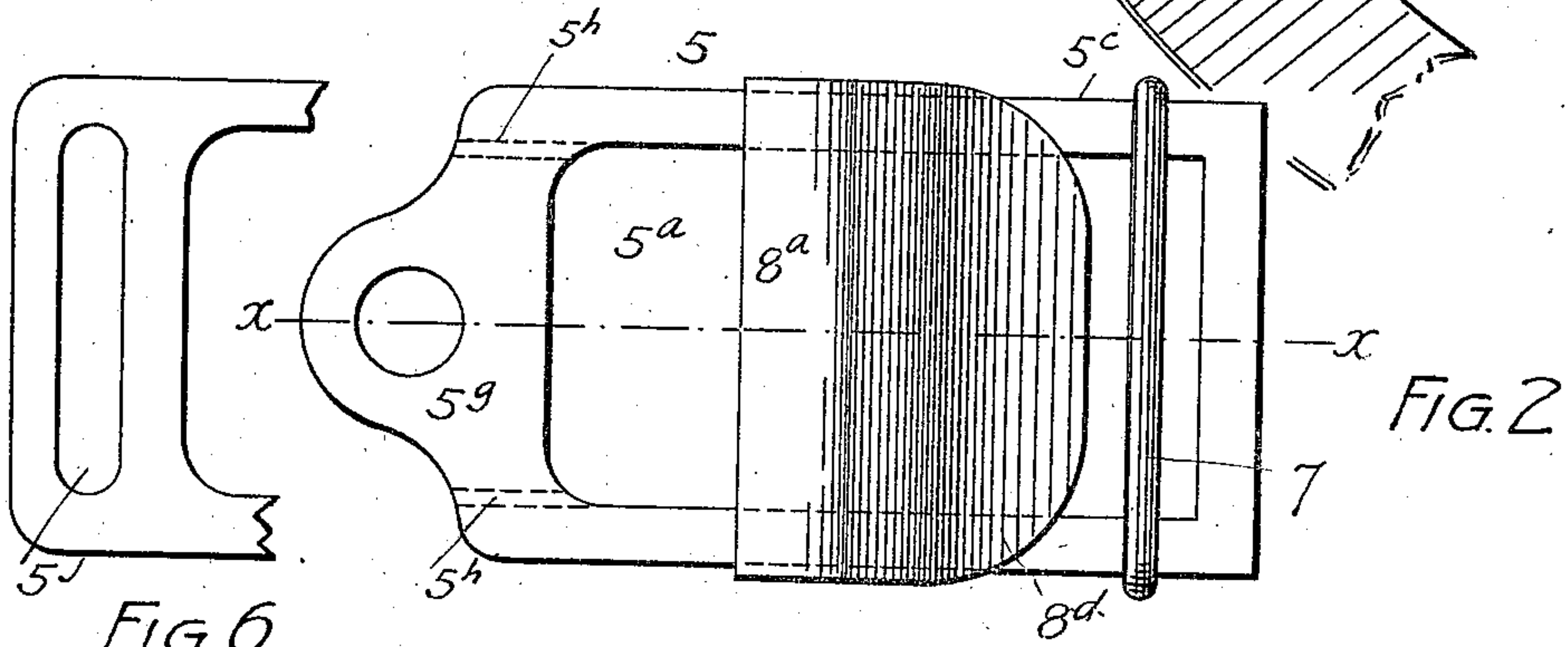


FIG. 2

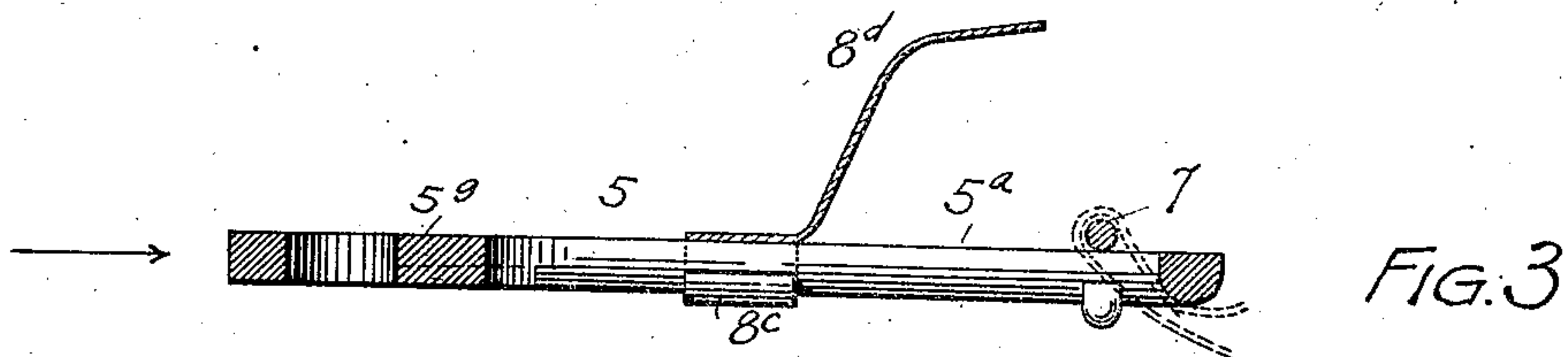


FIG. 3

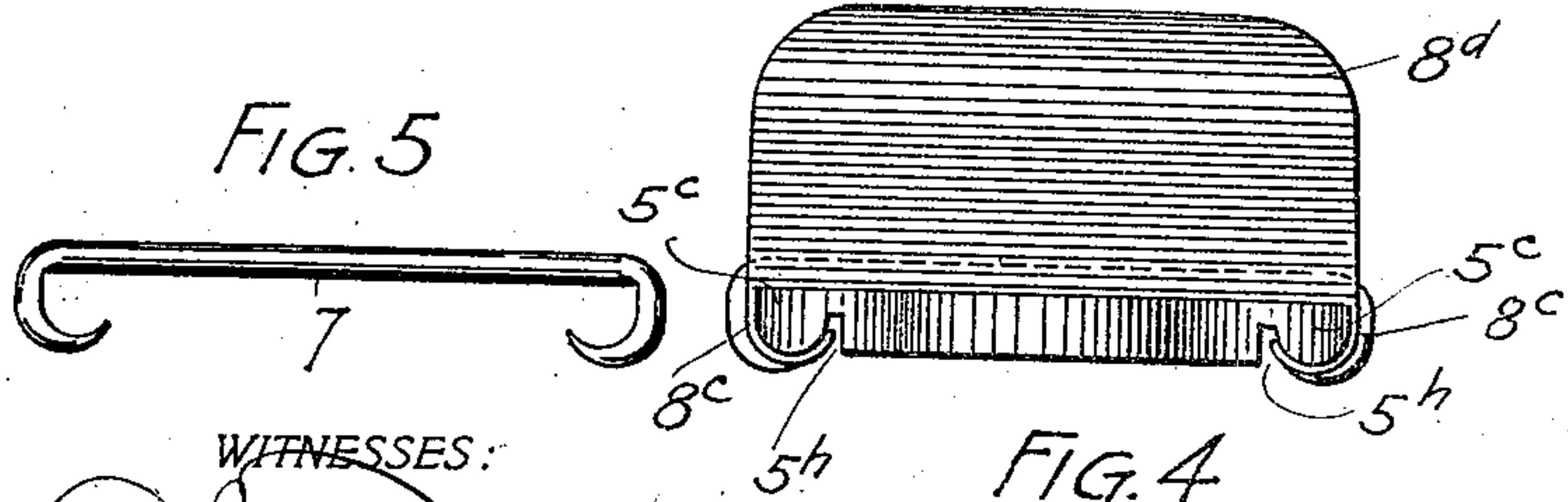


FIG. 4

WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARION S. CROSS, OF DENVER, COLORADO, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO
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SAFETY HITCHING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 688,503, dated December 10, 1901.

Application filed April 6, 1901. Serial No. 54,727. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARION S. CROSS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Denver, in the county of Arapahoe and State of Colorado, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Safety Hitching Devices; 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 figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in safety hitching devices for horses.

My improved device is adapted for use in stables, on hitching-posts, and wherever it may be necessary to hitch horses or other animals.

My object is to provide a device which shall render it unnecessary to tie a knot in the halter-strap, as is required under ordinary circumstances, and which shall greatly lessen the difficulty of fastening and unfastening hitching-straps.

My improved device may also be used as a buckle and will be found particularly valuable for use in connection with saddle-girths.

To these ends the invention consists of the features hereinafter described and claimed, all of which will be fully understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, in which is illustrated an embodiment thereof.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device in use. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the device. Fig. 3 is a section taken on the line $x x$, Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an end view looking in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the locking-bar. Fig. 6 shows a slightly-modified form of construction.

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

Let the numeral 5 designate the body portion of the device, which is formed, preferably, of metal and as shown in the drawings is rectangular in shape and provided with an opening 5^a. This body or frame has two parallel side arms 5^c and is closed at both ends, as shown at 5^d and 5^e, respectively. The end 5^e

is provided with an opening to allow it to be fastened by means of a staple 6 or other suitable device to a stationary structure. Slidably mounted on the side arms 5^c of this body part is a locking-bar 7. As shown in the drawings, the extremities of this bar are turned to form hooks adapted to slide freely on the arms 5^c, which are rounded on one side for the purpose. The manner of securing the halter-strap is illustrated in Fig. 1 and is accomplished by passing the free end of the strap up through the opening 5^a, over the bar 7, and then down between the bar and end arm 5^d of the device. By pulling on the free end of the strap the latter may be drawn through the device as far as desired, while a pull on the opposite end of the strap will clamp the latter tightly between the bar 7 and the part 5^d. The end 5^e of the body part of the device is provided with two grooves 5^h, and the hooks 7^a of the locking-bar are so shaped as to allow the bar to be removed and replaced at pleasure.

To prevent the horse from grabbing the strap with his teeth where it passes over the locking-bar and possibly loosen the strap and unhitch himself, a shield or guard 8 is employed and consists of a part 8^a, bent around the arms 5^c, as shown at 8^c, and adapted to slide freely thereon. The hooks 8^c are also so shaped that the shield, as well as the locking-bar, may be removed and replaced at pleasure by reason of the grooves 5^h. The shield is further provided with a part 8^d, which projects outwardly from the part 8^a and covers the strap and the locking-bar, as shown in Fig. 1. This position it assumes by gravity when the device hangs down in its natural position.

In Fig. 6 the top of the device is provided with an elongated opening 5^j, whereby it is adapted for use as a buckle.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A safety hitching device, comprising a body part having parallel side arms and a closed end; a locking-bar slidable on the arms and arranged to cooperate with the closed end to clamp the strap, and a shield also slidable on the body part and constructed to project outwardly over the locking-bar, which posi-

tion it assumes by gravity for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination with a body part having parallel side arms, closed ends, and a central opening, a locking-bar slidable on the arms and having its extremities bent to form hooks, one of the closed ends of the frame or body part, being provided with grooves forming ways for said hooks whereby the bar may be removed and replaced at will.

3. The combination of a body part having parallel side arms and closed ends, a locking-bar slidable on the arms and adapted to cooperate with one of the closed ends to clamp the strap in place, and a shield slidable on the said arms, its sliding part having hooks, and the body part being provided with grooves at one end to permit the shield to be removed and replaced at will.

4. The combination with a frame or body

part having side arms and closed ends, of a locking-bar slidable on the arms of the body part, the two parts being constructed to allow the said bar to be removed and replaced at will, and a shield slidable on the arms of the body part and adapted to overlap the locking-bar.

5. The combination of a frame having parallel side arms, closed ends and a central opening, a bar slidable on the arms of the frame and readily detachable, and a detachable shield also slidable on the arms of the frame and adapted to overlap the locking-bar.

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

MARION S. CROSS.

Witnesses:

DORA C. SHICK,
MARY C. LAMB.