

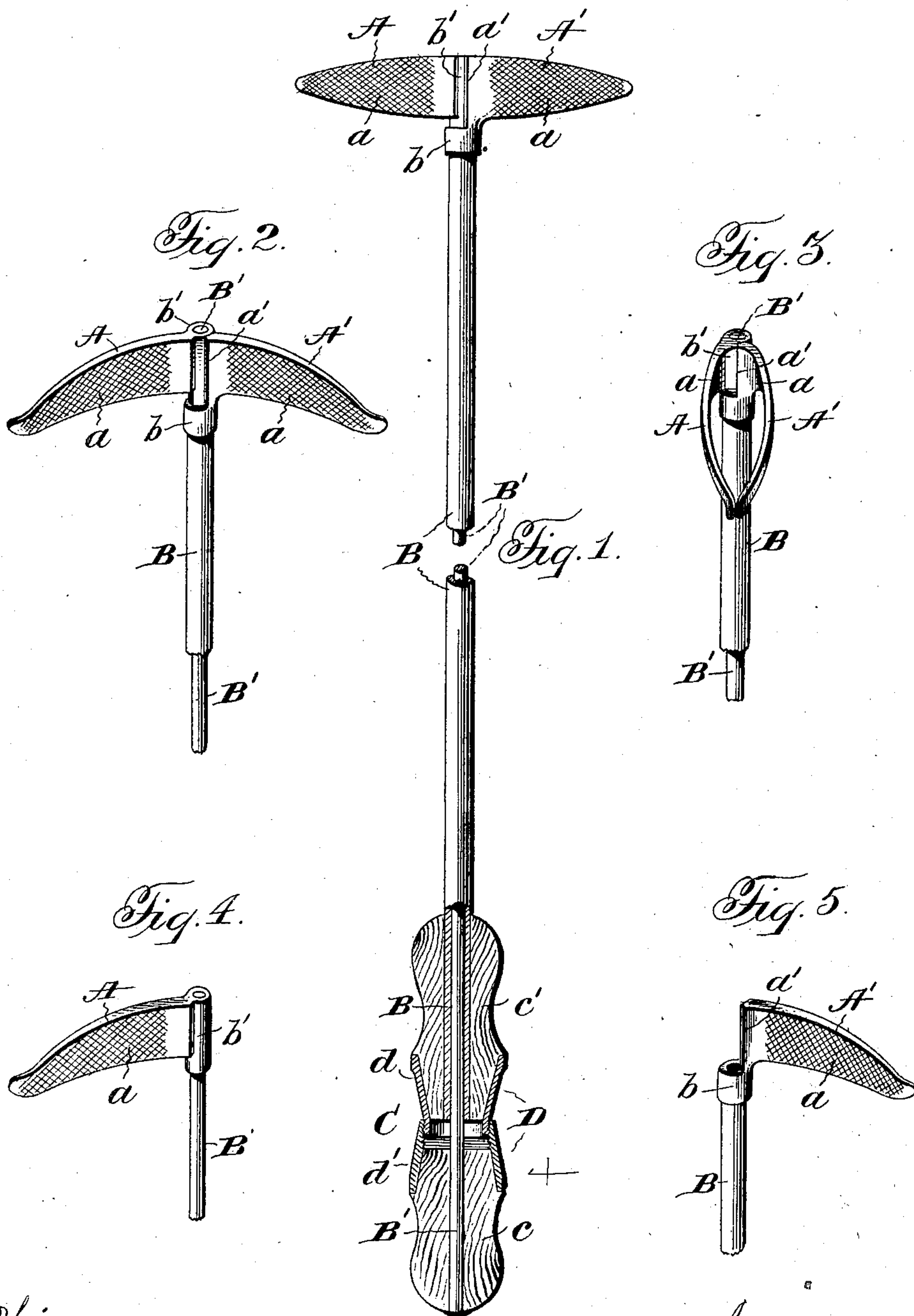
No. 728,941

PATENTED MAY 26, 1903.

B. F. LANHAM.  
LIFTING DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 24, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses:  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## LIFTING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 728,941, dated May 26, 1903.

Application filed December 24, 1902. Serial No. 136,450. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. LANHAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Decatur, in the county of Macon and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Lifting Devices, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an improved lifting device designed primarily to facilitate the handling of store goods—such as cans, bottles, and similar articles—stored upon high shelves or in other elevated places beyond the reach of an ordinary person.

The invention contemplates the provision of a device of the character above mentioned comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, means for operating the same to cause them to approach and grasp the article desired, and means for locking the gripping members upon the article.

Novel details in the construction and operation of the several parts of the device will be apparent from the detailed description hereinafter when read in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming part hereof, and wherein a preferable embodiment of the invention is disclosed for the purpose of illustration.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of the device, showing the gripping members in open position, parts being sectioned. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the end portion of the device, showing the gripping members in open position. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2, showing the gripping members in closed position; and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail views.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, wherein like reference characters refer to corresponding parts in the several views, A A' designate oppositely-extending curved gripping-arms, either or both of which have their inner engaging surfaces scored or otherwise roughened, as at *a*. The inner edge *a'* of the arm A' is cut away to permit the inner edge of the arm A to occupy a plane parallel therewith and alongside the same. The arm A' is secured to a collar *b*, projecting from its lower inner portion, said collar in turn being rigidly secured to and carried by an elongated

sleeve B, and the arm A has a somewhat similar collar *b'* rigidly secured to and carried by the upper end of a rod B', passing loosely through and capable of movement independently of said sleeve B in a rotary as well as a longitudinal direction.

C designates the handle portion of the device, which is of a double type and has the oppositely-arranged grips *c* and *c'*, the one arranged directly above the other, and the former being rigidly secured to the lower end of the rod B', while the latter is similarly secured to the lower end of the sleeve B. The grips of the handle portion C are connected together at their adjacent ends through the medium of an adjustable coupling D, comprising ferrules *d* and *d'*, projecting from the ends of the grips, the ferrule *d'* being interiorly threaded to receive a complementary exteriorly-threaded portion of the ferrule *d*. This adjustable coupling permits the grips of the handle to turn in opposite directions relative to each other, whereby a corresponding movement is imparted through the sleeve B and rod B', respectively, to the gripping-arms to cause the latter to approach and grasp the article desired or to separate to release said article, while the screw-threaded engagement will constitute a lock for retaining the parts in adjusted positions.

It is to be understood that while I have herein referred to certain details of construction it is not with the intention of being limited to any such details except in so far as they may be specifically defined in the appended claims, because many minor changes may be made without in the least departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the opposite arm passing loosely through said sleeve to a point beyond the lower end of the sleeve and adapted to be turned therein; substantially as described.

2. A lifting device of the character de-



- scribed comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the
- 5 opposite arm passing loosely through said sleeve to a point beyond the lower end of the sleeve and adapted to be turned therein, and means whereby the arms are locked in adjusted positions; substantially as described.
- 10 3. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms independently of the other
- 15 arm and a rod secured to the opposite arm independently of the said first-mentioned arm and extending into said sleeve, and grips on the rod and sleeve; substantially as and for the purpose described.
- 20 4. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the
- 25 opposite arm and extending into said sleeve, grips on the rod and sleeve for turning the same, and means whereby the arms are locked in adjusted position; substantially as described.
- 30 5. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the
- 35 opposite arm and extending into said sleeve, grips on the rod and sleeve for turning the same, and an adjustable coupling between the grips for locking the arms in adjusted positions; substantially as described.
- 40 6. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the
- 45 opposite arm and extending into said sleeve, grips on the rod and sleeve for turning the same, and an adjustable threaded coupling between the grips for locking the arms in adjusted positions; substantially as described.
- 50 7. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping-arms, means for causing said arms to approach including an elongated sleeve secured to one of the arms and a rod secured to the
- opposite arm and extending into said sleeve, 55 grips on the rod and sleeve for turning the same, and an adjustable coupling between the adjacent ends of the grips comprising ferrules projecting from the grips, and a threaded engagement between the ferrules, substantially as and for the purpose described.
8. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, means for causing said members to clamp an article, and means operable 65 simultaneously with said first-mentioned means whereby the members are locked in adjusted positions; substantially as described.
9. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, grips for operating the same, and an adjustable coupling connecting the grips for locking the gripping members in position; substantially as described.
- 70 10. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, grips for operating the same, and an adjustable threaded coupling connecting the grips for locking the gripping members in position; substantially as described.
- 80 11. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, grips for operating the same, and an adjustable coupling between the adjacent ends of the grips comprising ferrules thereon, and a threaded engagement between the ferrules; substantially as and for the purpose described.
- 8 12. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, grips for operating the same, and a coupling connecting the grips permitting independent movement thereof; substantially as and for the purpose described.
- 9 13. A lifting device of the character described comprising oppositely-disposed gripping members, grips for operating the same, and a coupling connecting the grips permitting movement thereof in opposite directions; substantially as and for the purpose described.
- 9 In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.
- BENJAMIN F. LANHAM.
- Witnesses:  
GEO. S. DURFEE,  
BERT C. BOBB.