

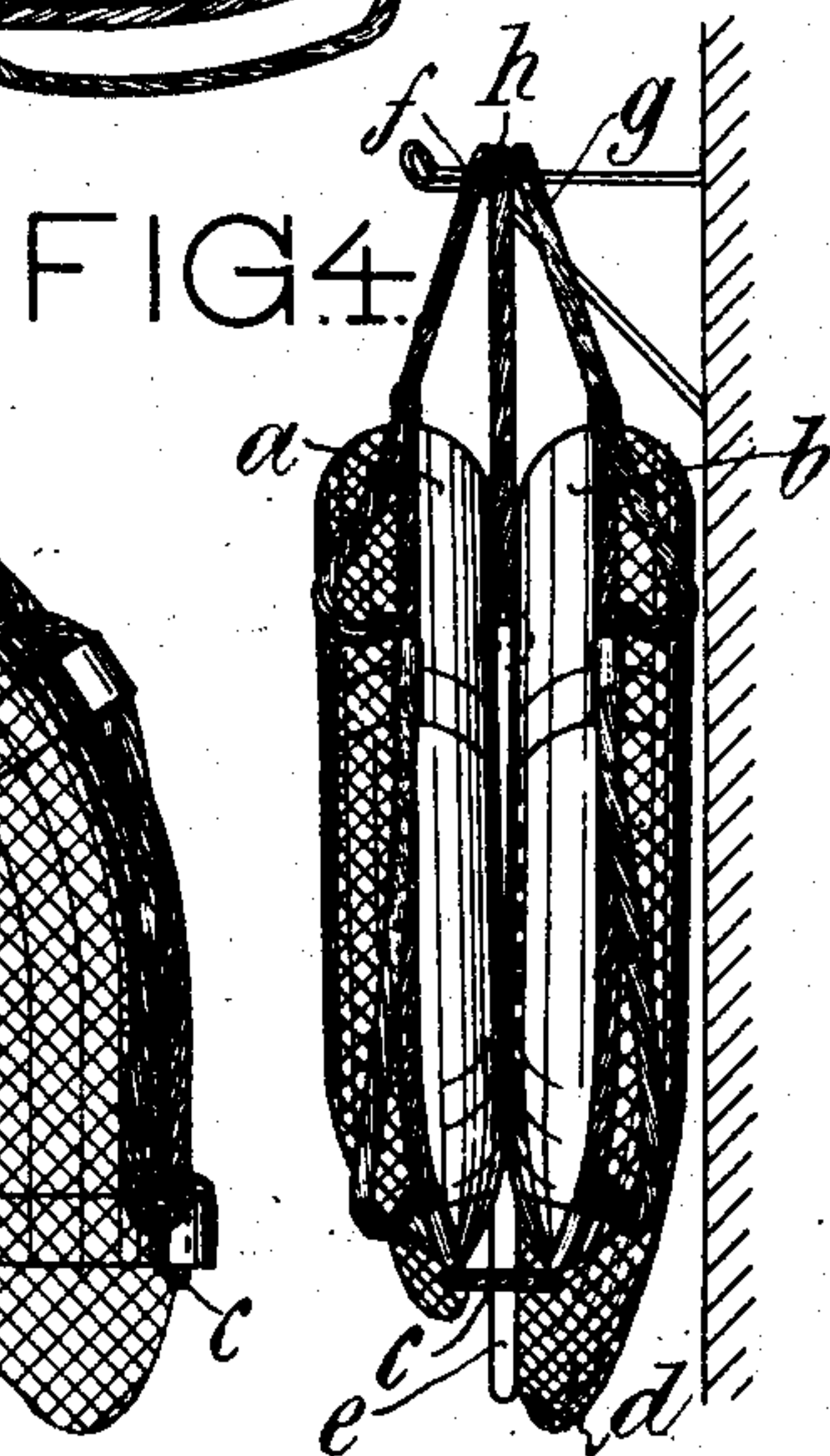
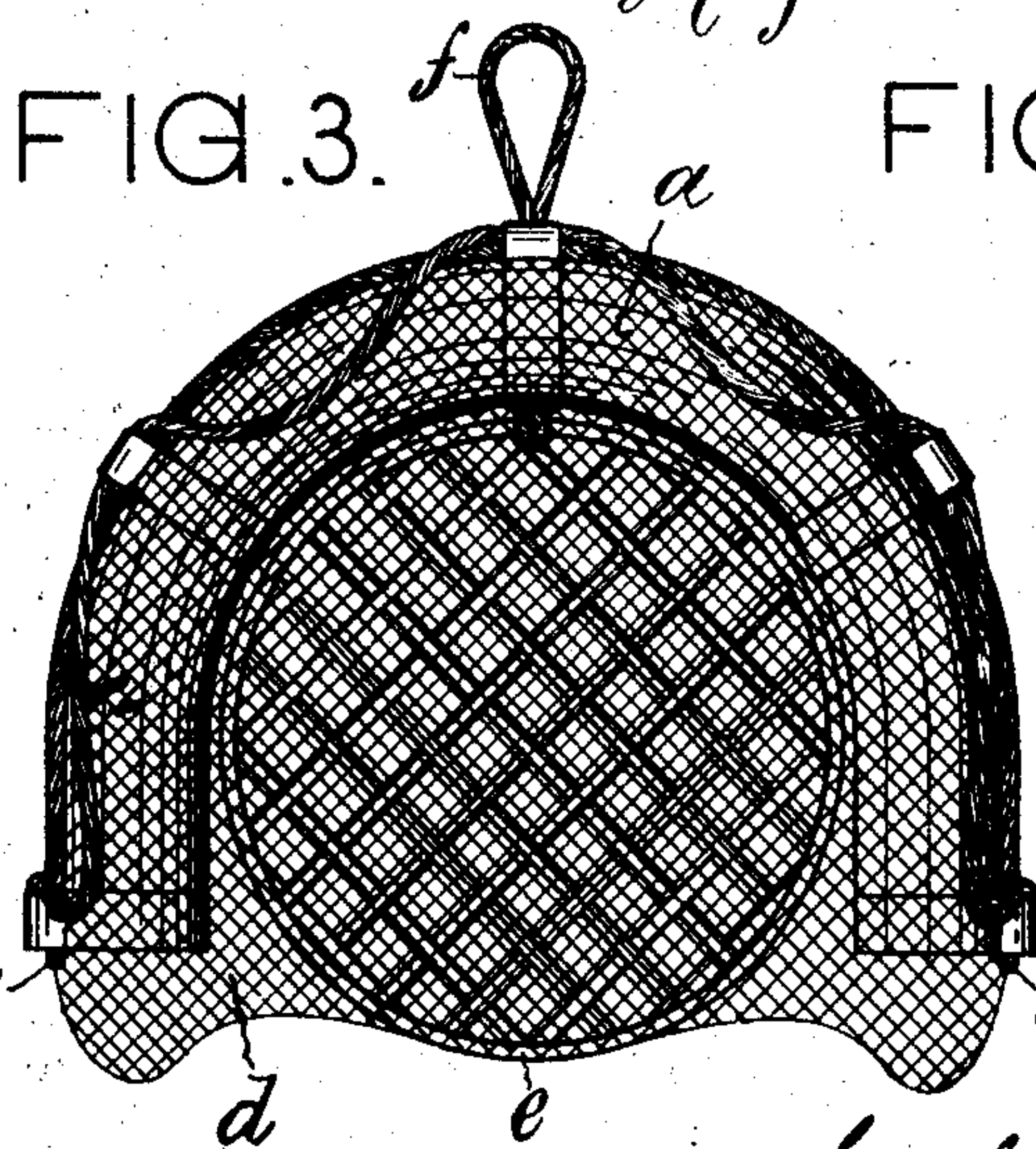
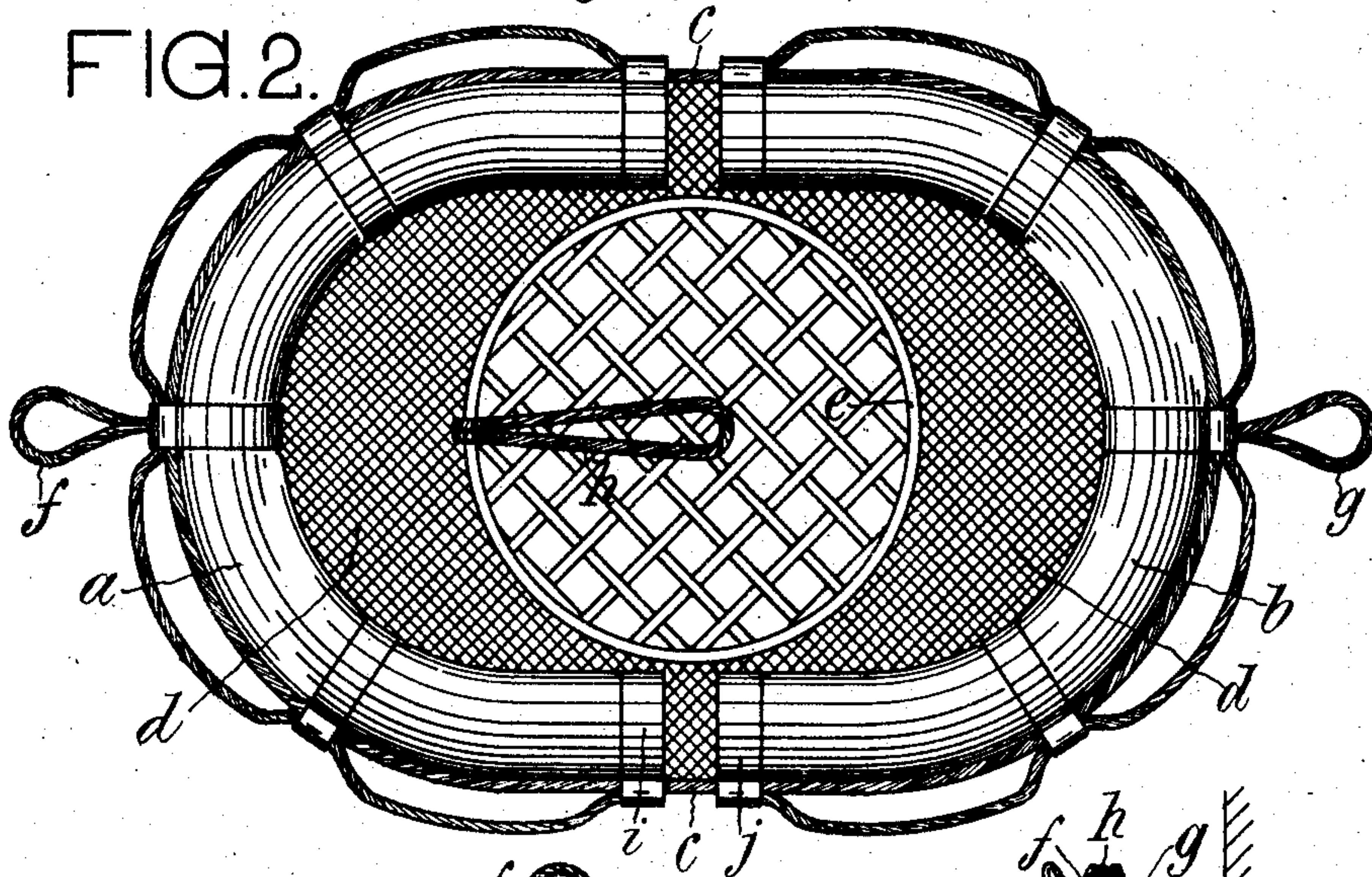
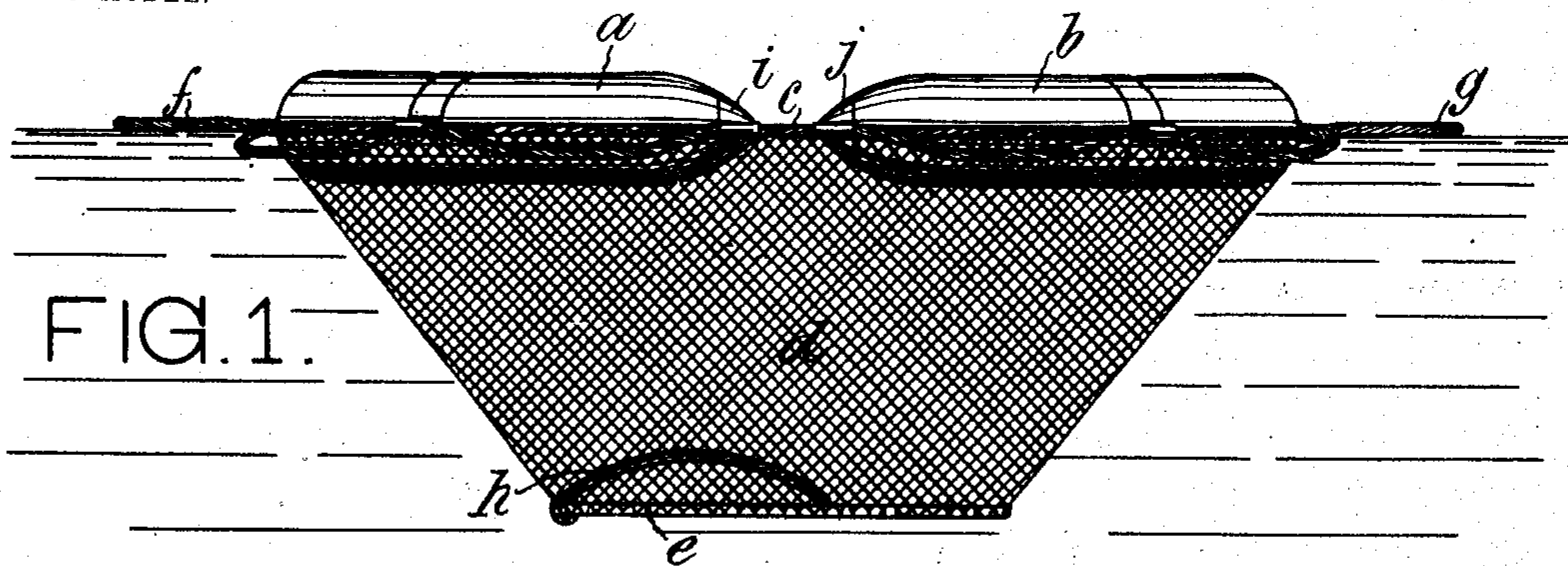
No. 772,690.

PATENTED OCT. 18, 1904.

C. BASWITZ.  
LIFE BUOY.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1904.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses.  
Albert A. Hays  
Florence Pick

Carl Baswitz  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CARL BASWITZ, OF BERLIN, GERMANY.

## LIFE-BUOY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 772,690, dated October 18, 1904.

Application filed March 25, 1904. Serial No. 199,976. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CARL BASWITZ, a subject of the King of Prussia, Emperor of Germany, residing at 91 92 Alt-Moabit, Berlin, N. W., in the Kingdom of Prussia and Empire of Germany, have invented new and useful Improvements in Life-Buoys, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to life-buoys.

Of late years several forms of open life-buoys, in contradistinction to the well-known ring-shaped buoys, have been constructed, but opinion differs as to whether preference should be given to the open or to the closed form. It appears that one or the other form is to be preferred, according to the dexterity of the person whose life is to be saved by the buoy, for it requires a certain amount of practice to get into the ring, which after the person has entered may insure the greater safety than the open buoy, while the latter affords a temporary hold to the persons, however unskilful they may be.

One object of my said invention is to construct a life-buoy combining the advantages of both the aforesaid forms of buoys. For this purpose the improved life-buoy consists of two half-rings which are connected with each other at their ends and adapted to be folded, so that when folded the half-rings form an open buoy and when opened out they form a closed buoy.

Another object of this invention consists in providing the buoy with an open-worked bottom connected by a net with the two half-rings and enabling the persons to tread thereon. This bottom is adapted to be hung up together with the two half-rings, which leave a space wherein it is placed, the arrangement being such that on removal of the buoy from its suspension-hook the said bottom will assist by its weight in opening the two half-rings as the buoy is thrown on the water.

In the accompanying drawings I have represented, by way of example, a constructional form of my invention.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the life-buoy. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same. Fig. 3 is a side elevation showing the two half-rings and bottom folded. Fig. 4 is an end elevation corre-

sponding to Fig. 3, the folded half-rings and bottom being hung up together.

The improved buoy is made of two half-rings *a* and *b*, the corresponding ends of which are at a short distance from each other and fastened together by a cord *c*, thus forming a flexible connection which enables the two half-rings to be folded one against the other. It will be understood that the connection between the ends of the half-rings *a* and *b* may also be established by other suitable means. When a folded buoy thus constructed is thrown obliquely on the water, the two half-rings will remain in position one upon the other, thus forming an open buoy, while when thrown in the open state of the two half-rings it will reach the water as a closed buoy; but in either case a simple manipulation is sufficient to change the buoy from an open to a closed one, and vice versa, so that it may always be employed in the form most suitable for practiced and unpracticed persons.

All around the buoy may be fastened the upper edge of a net *d*, which, as it extends downward, tapers at the two ends of the device, the lower edge of the net being attached to a metallic ring, upon which straps or the like are stretched, so as to form an open-worked bottom *e*, designed for the person in the buoy to tread on. An arrangement of this kind is chiefly intended for large life-buoys fitted for the reception of a number of persons. Prior to this invention attempts have already been made to use buoys of such a size on ships, but the difficulty of placing them was found to be a very serious drawback. This difficulty is obviated by enabling the two half-rings *a* and *b* to be folded, as herein set forth, and by furnishing them with loops *f* and *g* and the bottom *e* with a loop *h*, attached to it in such a manner that the half-rings and bottom may be hung up together, the latter occupying an intermediate position. In this position the bottom *e* may fit in the space left by the two closed half-rings, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

In the constructional form illustrated I have made the two ends *i* and *j* of the half-rings *a* and *b* taper, and the flexible connections *c* are so short that when the two half-rings are



folded the said ends will exert a slight pressure against each other. On the removal of the buoy from its suspension-hook the ends of the two half-rings *a* and *b*, owing to the aforesaid pressure, tend to force these half-rings apart, while the bottom *c*, through the medium of the net *d*, exerts a pull upon these half-rings to open them. Thus when the buoy is falling down it will reach the water with the two half-rings opened out.

It is expedient to throw the life-buoy, if provided with a bottom and net, by a line attached either to the loop *f* or *g*, for should it be thrown obliquely and reach the water with the two half-rings *a* and *b* still closed upon each other a violent jerk on the line will be requisite in order to open the half-rings immediately and with certainty.

Evidently some changes from the specific construction herein disclosed may be made. Therefore I do not wish to limit myself to the precise constructional form represented and described, but desire the liberty to make such modifications in working my invention as may fairly come within the spirit and scope of the same.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A life-buoy of the character described, consisting of two halves constructed to form permanent half-rings having tapered ends con-

nected with each other, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

2. A life-buoy of the character described, consisting of two half-rings having tapered ends connected with each other, a bottom, and a net connecting the said bottom with the half-rings, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. A life-buoy of the character described, consisting of two half-rings having tapered ends connected with each other, a bottom fitting in the space left by the two closed half-rings, and a net connecting the said bottom with the half-rings, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

4. A life-buoy of the character described, consisting of two half-rings provided with loops and having tapered ends connected with each other by cords, a bottom provided with a loop and fitting in the space left by the two closed half-rings, and a net connecting the said bottom with the half-rings, substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CARL BASWITZ.

Witnesses:

WOLDEMAR HAUPT,  
HENRY HASPER.