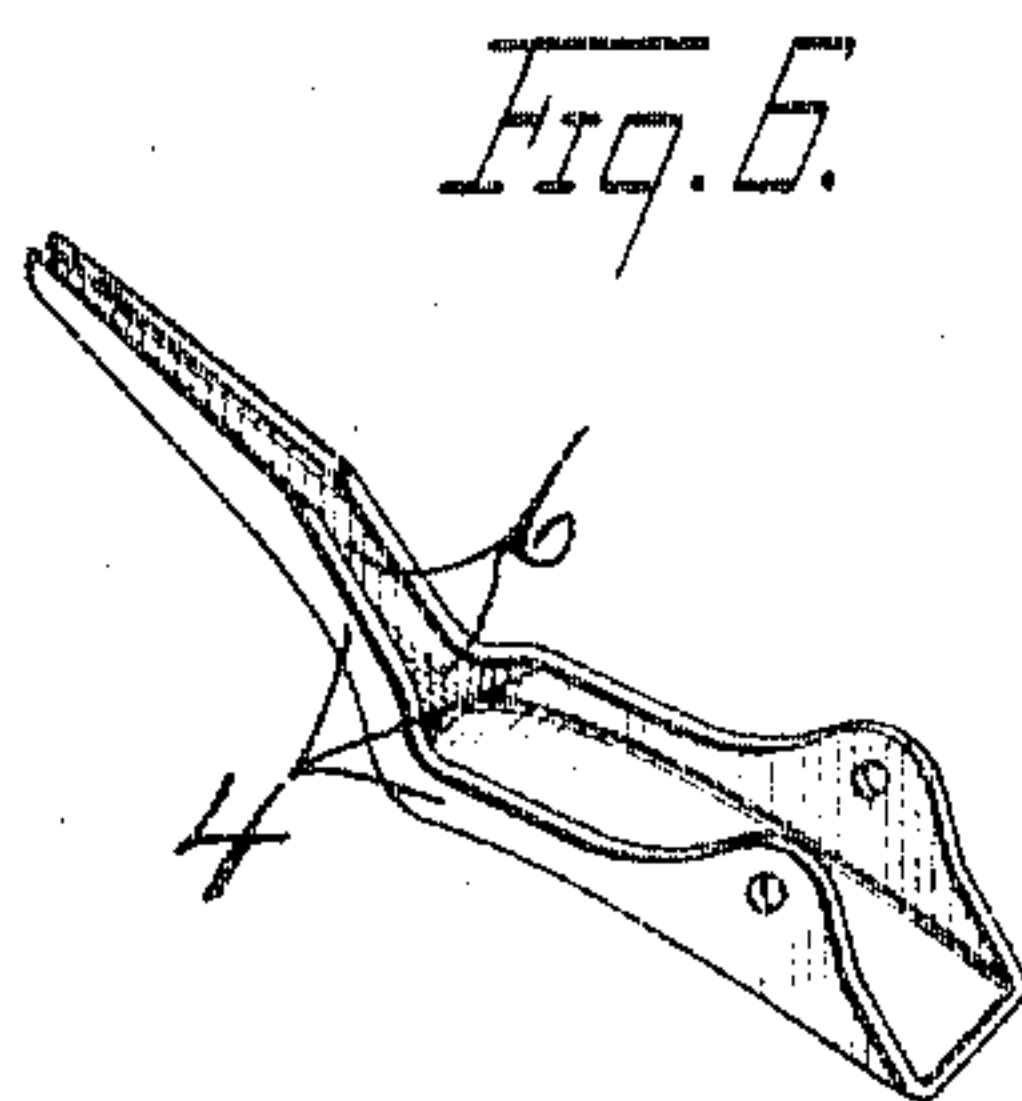
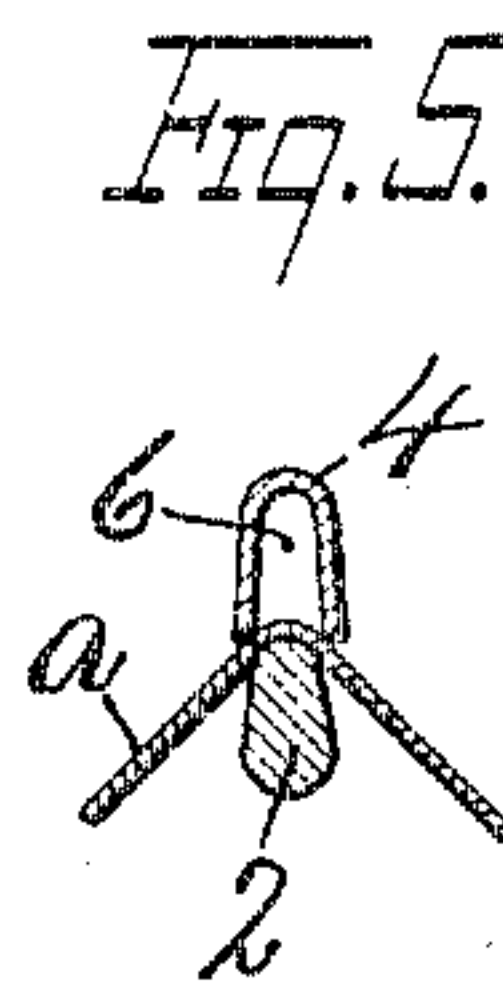
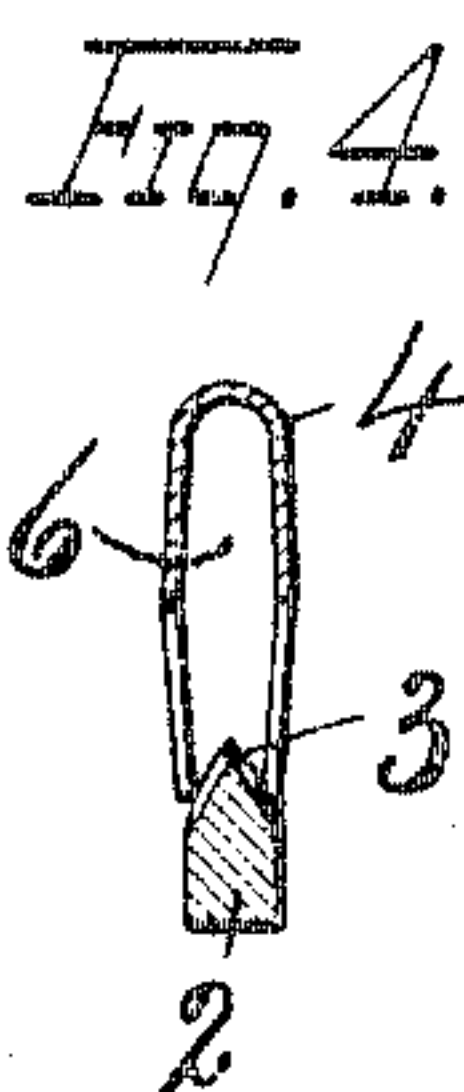
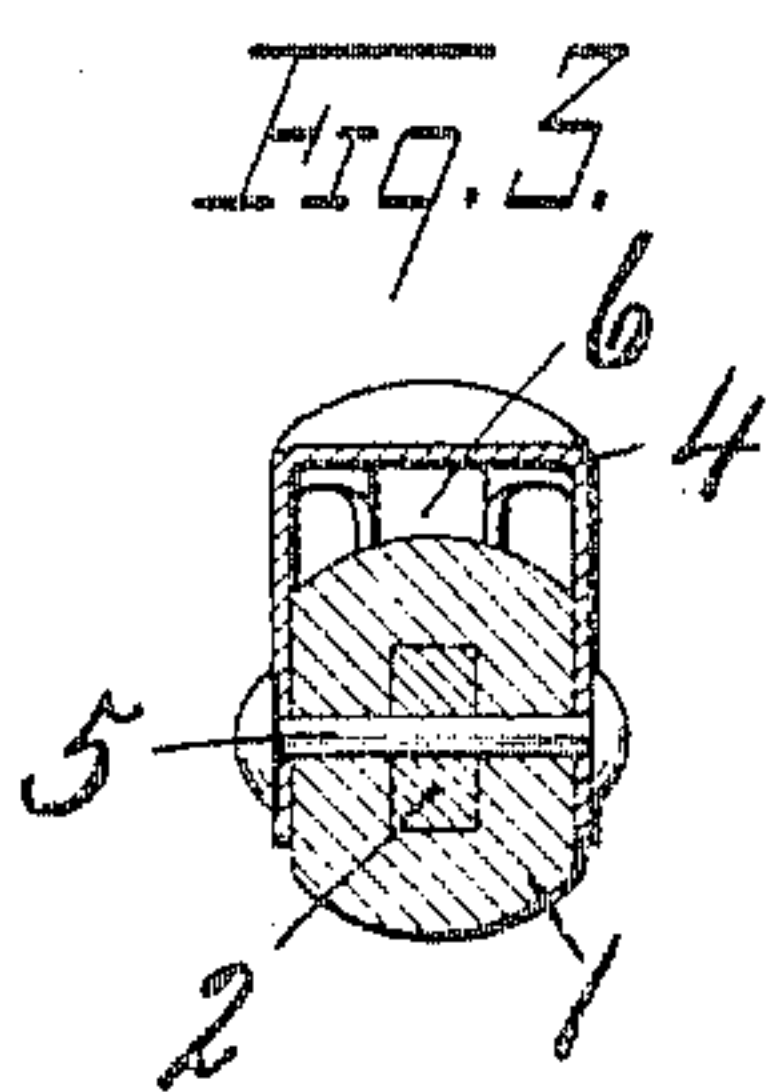
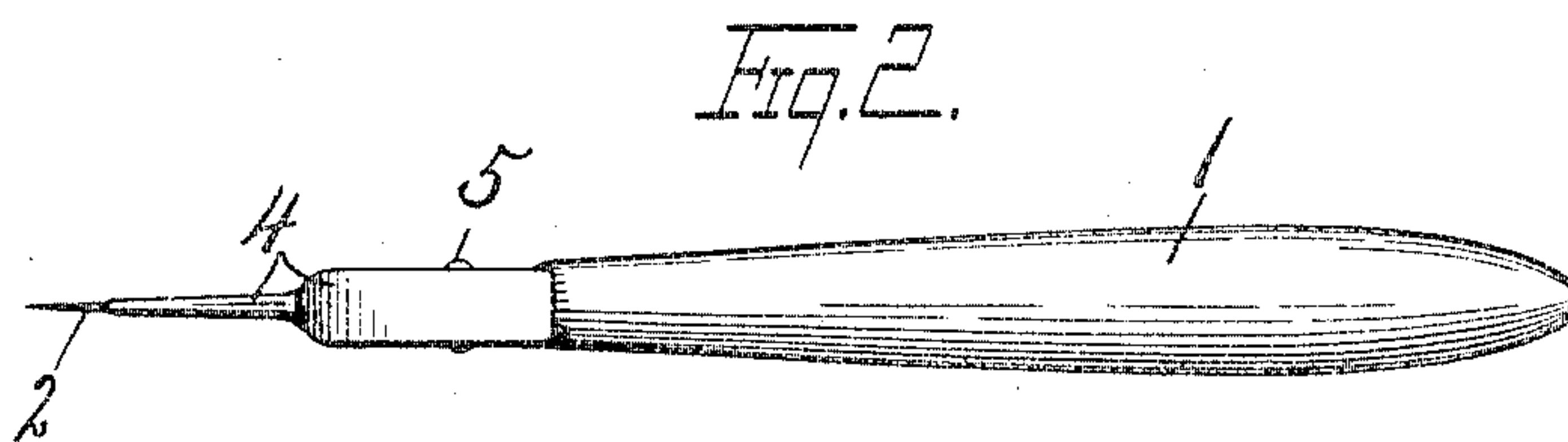
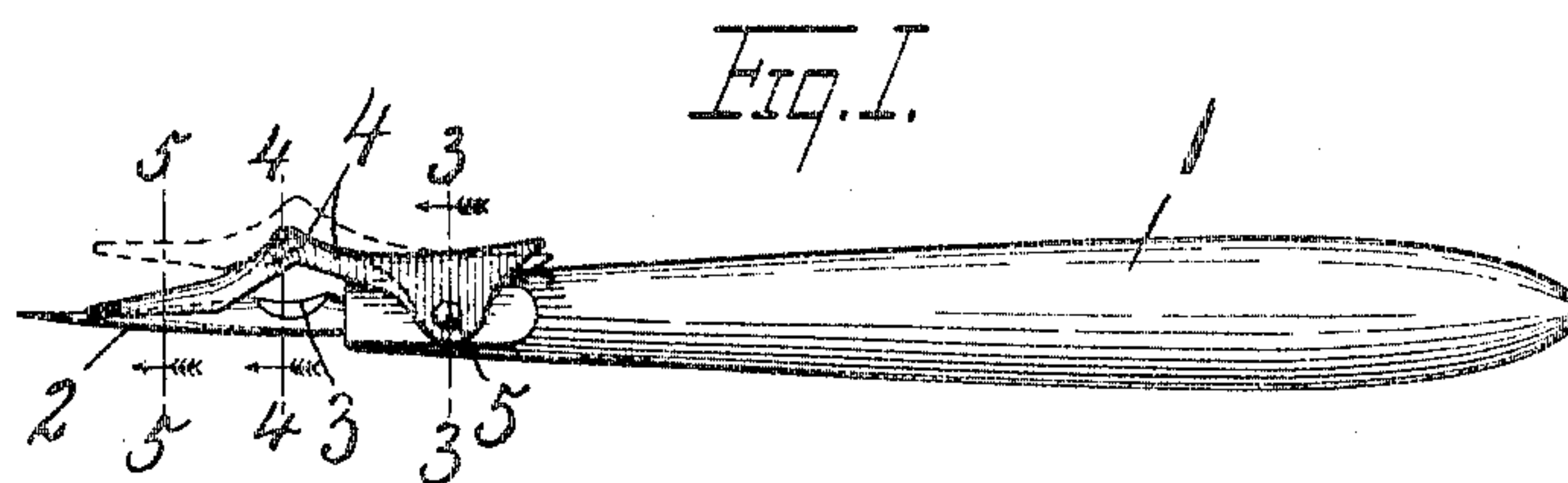


No. 789,296.

PATENTED MAY 9, 1905.

F. A. ROBINSON.  
THREAD PICKER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 15, 1904.



WITNESSES.  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK ALEXANDER ROBINSON, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR TO  
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## THREAD-PICKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 789,296, dated May 9, 1905.

Application filed September 15, 1904. Serial No. 224,578.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK ALEXANDER ROBINSON, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented  
5 new and useful Improvements in Thread-Pickers, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in  
10 thread-pickers for withdrawing stitches or threads—such as hemstitching, basting, ripping—and also for the removal of certain threads of a body of fabric in what is commonly known as “drawnwork.”

15 My object is to provide a simple pointed hand implement with a thumb-operated thread-clamp, whereby the threads may be easily selected and caught upon the point of the implement and then gripped by the clamp  
20 to withdraw the thread, such as a basting-thread or the thread of drawnwork.

Another object is to provide the shank of this pointed instrument with a cutting edge, whereby the threads may be severed when  
25 desired.

Other more specific objects will appear in the following description.

In the drawings, Figures 1 and 2 are respectively side elevation and top plan of a thread-picker embodying the features of my invention. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are sectional views  
30 taken, respectively, on lines 3 3, 4 4, and 5 5, Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the detached thumb-clamp or gripping device.

35 Similar reference characters indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

In carrying out the objects of this invention I provide a suitable handle 1 with an elongated sharp-pointed tool or picker 2, which  
40 is usually made of knife or shear steel and is usually rounding in cross-section at the point, or rather has its upper and lower edges rounded in cross-section, as best seen in Fig. 5, the point being somewhat slender with a long  
45 taper and having a smooth surface, so as to permit the thread, as *a*, to ride easily upon the point. At some distance back from the point on the shank the upper edge of the tool

is drawn to a sharp edge for forming the knife or cutter 3. 50

The thread-clamp preferably consists of a lever 4, which is fulcrumed upon a pivotal pin 5, passing through the front end of the handle 1 and shank of the tool 2 at the rear of the cutter 3. This thread-clamping device 55 or lever 4 is preferably formed of sheet metal, as best seen in Figs. 3 to 6, inclusive, and is provided with a lengthwise channel 6, extending in its entire length from end to end, although the width of the channel at the rear end is 60 considerably greater than that at the front end. This lever extends forwardly from its fulcrum some distance beyond the cutter 3 and terminates a short distance at the rear of the extreme point of the tool 2 and gradually tapers in width from its rear end to- 65 ward its front end, so that the channel at the front end is of substantially the same width as the adjacent upper face of the tool 2, with which the point of the lever engages to clamp the 70 thread thereon after being pulled out by the point 2. This clamping-lever 4 lies almost wholly above the blade or tool 2 and is adapted to be rocked upon its fulcrum by the thumb. In order that this may be easily accomplished 75 and as naturally as possible, the rear upper face of the lever 4 is concave, which concave face extends forwardly and rearwardly beyond the pivotal axis of the lever, so that by pressing downwardly upon the rear end of 80 the lever the point of the clamp is thrown upwardly, as shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1, during the operation of picking or selecting the thread from the fabric, whereupon the part of the thread which is looped over the 85 point is caused to move rearwardly along said point under the gripping edge of the lever 4, and the lever is then rocked by the thumb to force its gripping edge into holding engagement with the thread, whereupon the thread 90 may be readily withdrawn from the fabric. When it is desired to cut the thread, the part which is looped upon the point is brought into engagement with the cutter 3, and by slightly lifting the implement with a drawing motion 95 the thread is readily severed.



It will be observed that the lever 4 lies directly over the cutter 3, and thus forms a shield to protect the edge of said cutter and also to protect the operator from being injured by said cutting edge. It will also be seen upon reference to Fig. 1 that the concave thumb-engaging surface is made to conform as nearly as possible to the contour of the thumb—that is, the upward curvature of the front end of the concave face is more abrupt than the remaining portion, so as to afford a better gripping surface or abutment for the end of the thumb in pressing the point of the lever downwardly upon the point of the tool or upon the thread which may be looped around the tool.

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

1. A thread-picker comprising a handle and a pointed tool thereon, and a channeled lever having a thread-gripping surface and a thumb-engaging portion both at the same side of the point.
2. A thread-picker comprising a pointed tool and a lever pivoted thereon and having a thread-engaging surface and a thumb-engaging portion both at the same side of the point,

the thumb-engaging portion extending forwardly and rearwardly from the fulcrum of the lever.

3. A thread-picker having a pointed tool and a knife-edge at the rear of the point, in combination with a thread-gripping jaw covering the cutter and having a channel receiving said point.

4. In a thread-picker, the combination with a pointed blade having a cutting edge, of a thread-gripping jaw having a channeled blade-engaging part and a thumb-engaging part both at the same side of the blade.

5. In a thread-picker, the combination of a pointed blade and a thread-gripping jaw having a channeled lower face, and a concave thumb-engaging upper face.

6. A thread-picker comprising a pointed blade and a gripping-jaw pivoted to the blade and having a finger-engaging portion extending in front and at the rear of its pivot.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of June, 1904.

FRANK ALEXANDER ROBINSON.

Witnesses:

ALBERT MESENE,  
FRED T. BEACH.