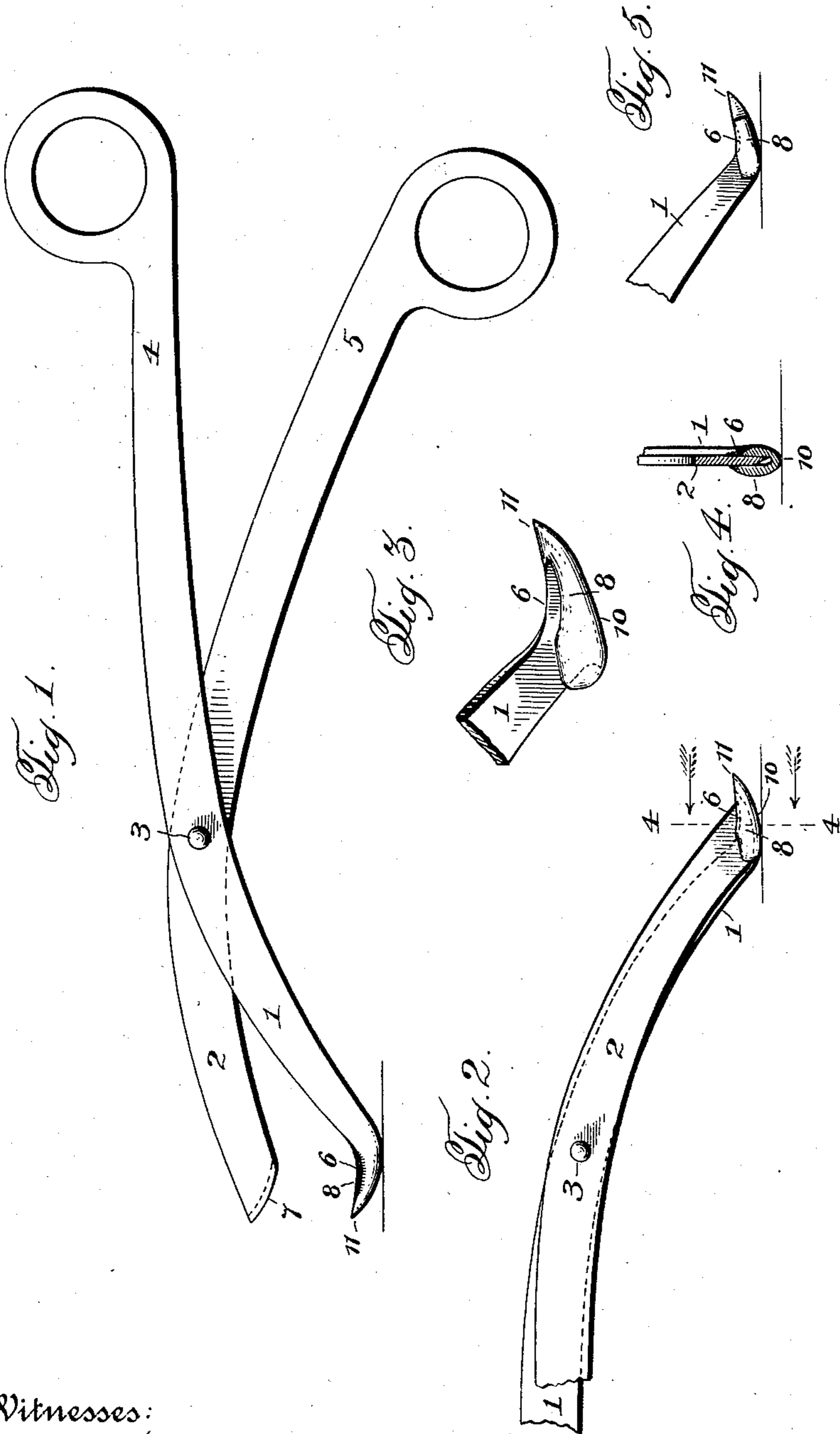


No. 840,468.

PATENTED JAN. 8, 1907.

A. B. BENNETT.
CUTTING IMPLEMENT.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 14, 1906.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ABIJAH BENJAMIN BENNETT, OF OPELIKA, ALABAMA.

CUTTING IMPLEMENT.

No. 840,468.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 8, 1907.

Application filed February 14, 1906. Serial No. 301,074.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ABIJAH BENJAMIN BENNETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Opelika, in the county of Lee and State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cutting Implements, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to cutting implements.

The main object of the present invention is to provide an improved cutting implement especially designed for physicians or surgeons use, whereby in the operation of removing the stitches from wounds the stitches can be quickly and conveniently severed without pain to the patient or danger of reopening the wound or tearing or cutting the edges thereof.

With these and other objects in view a convenient embodiment of the invention comprises the construction and arrangements of parts hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of one side of my improved cutting implement, showing the arms separated. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the opposite side, showing the arms in their closed relation. Fig. 3 is a detail view, on an enlarged scale, of the forward portion of one of the arms. Fig. 4 is a section on line 4 4, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail view illustrating a modification in the construction of the forward portion of the arm shown in Fig. 3.

Referring to a detailed description of the drawings, wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, 1 and 2 designate two curved oppositely-operating arms pivotally connected at their inner ends at 3 and provided with integral offset rearwardly-extending operating-handles 4 and 5 and longitudinally-offset cutting edges 6 and 7, respectively, the cutting edge 7 being in a plane that cuts the upper and lower edges of the arm 2. The cutting edges 6 and 7 at the outer ends of the arms are arranged to cooperate one with the other, and the curved arm 1 is provided at one side thereof adjacent its cutting edge 6 with an integral flange for the reception of the cutting edge 7 of the curved arm 2. The flange which extends slightly to the rear of the cutting edge 6 comprises a bottom

wall 10 and a side wall 8, the upper edge of which curves upwardly from front to rear and extends above the cutting edge 6. The side wall 8 of the flange acts as a guide for the arm 2, serving to prevent switching or lateral play between the arms during the cutting operation. The under surface of the bottom wall 10 of the flange is made smooth and rounded in cross-section to provide a resting and engaging surface for the implement in operation, adapted to fit in the crease of a wound or the like. This bottom wall 10 constitutes a stop to limit the movement of the arms toward each other and, as will be seen, serves to prevent the cutting edge 7 from coming in contact with the surface or material with which the bottom wall 10 is brought into engagement.

The forward outer end of the arm 6 and the forward part of the flange merge and terminate in a pointed portion 11 in advance of the cutting edge 6, the upper edge of the portion 11 being straight and forming a continuation of the cutting edge 6. The pointed portion 11, which is provided with a curved under surface, is adapted to pick up the stitches and guide them between the cutting edges 6 and 7. As illustrated in Fig. 5, the flange may be arranged to terminate short of the portion 11, and when this is the case the portion 11 will be supplied by extending the outer end of the arm 1 or in any other convenient manner.

In use the bottom wall 10 of the flange constituting the bearing or engaging surface of the implement in operation is adapted to enter the crease of a wound and be moved along the same, so that the stitches will be picked up by the pointed portion 11 and cleanly severed by the cutting edges without any twitching or lateral play of the arms during the cutting operation, the cutting edge 7 of the arm 2 being brought into cooperation with the cutting edge 6 of the arm 1 by means of the operating-handles. The provision of means to prevent the twitching or lateral play between the arms during the cutting operation is a highly essential characteristic, as otherwise the twitching of the arms tends to pull the sutures from the wound, resulting in pain to the patient and annoyance to the operator, and increases the liability of tearing or cutting the edges of the wound.

It will be understood that my improved implement may be employed for other pur-

poses than that for which it is particularly designed and that various changes in the form and construction of parts hereinbefore described within the scope of the appended
5 claims may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

What I claim is—

1. An implement for severing wound-
10 stitches comprising a pair of operating-handles, movably connected together and having downwardly-extending jaw portions arranged to hold the handles away from the flesh when in use, one of the jaw portions being
15 offset at its end outwardly therefrom, said offset portion having an upwardly-facing cutting edge and being rounded transversely and tapered longitudinally to a point, and the other jaw member being formed with a
20 complementary cutting edge arranged to close into shearing relation with said first-mentioned cutting edge.

2. An implement for severing wound-

stitches comprising a pair of operating-handles movably connected together and having
25 downwardly-extending jaw portions arranged to hold the handles away from the flesh when in use, one of the jaw portions being offset at its end outwardly therefrom and provided with an upwardly-turned flange to
30 provide a groove for the reception of the other jaw, said offset portion having an upwardly-facing cutting edge and being rounded transversely and tapered longitudinally to a point, and the other jaw member
35 being formed with a complementary cutting edge arranged to close into shearing relation with said first-mentioned cutting edge and enter the groove adjoining the same.

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

ABIJAH BENJAMIN BENNETT.

Witnesses:

JAS. KELLY HAYNIR,

A. H. READ.