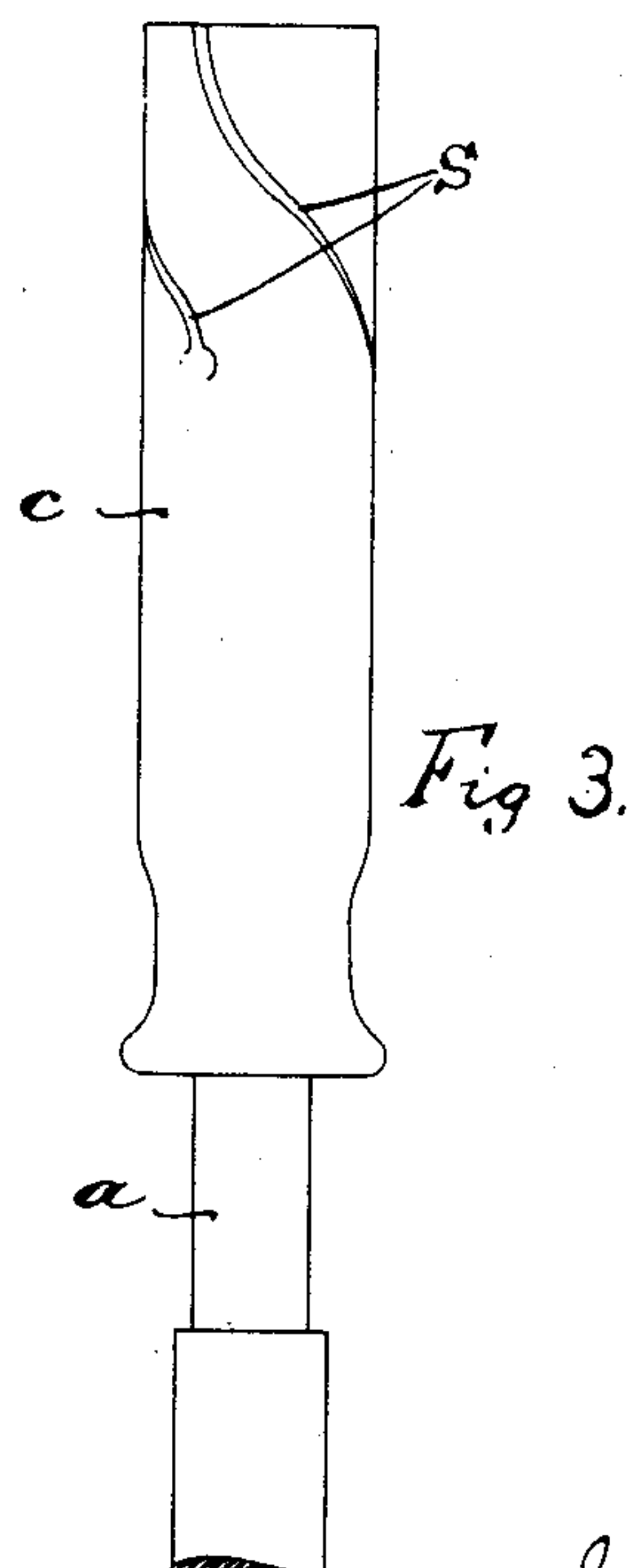
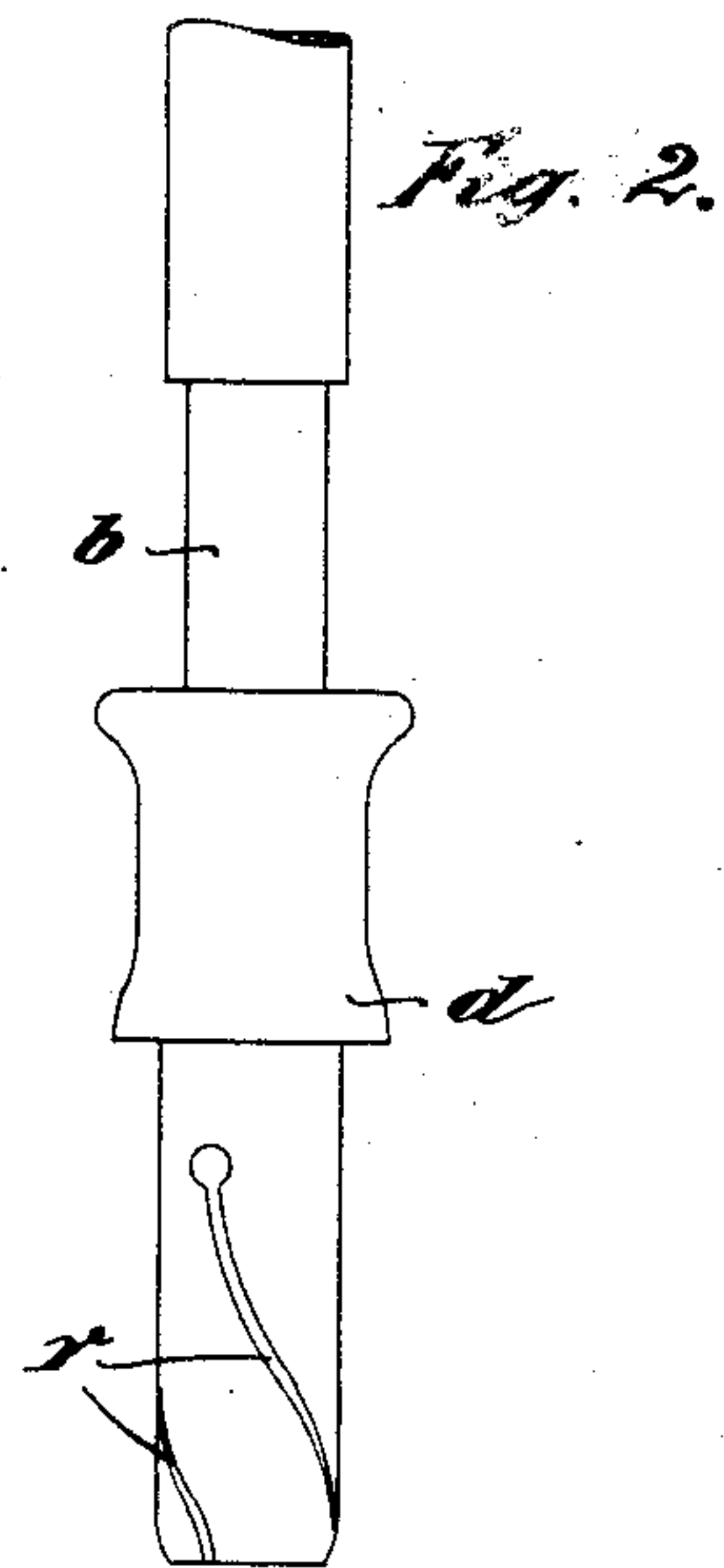
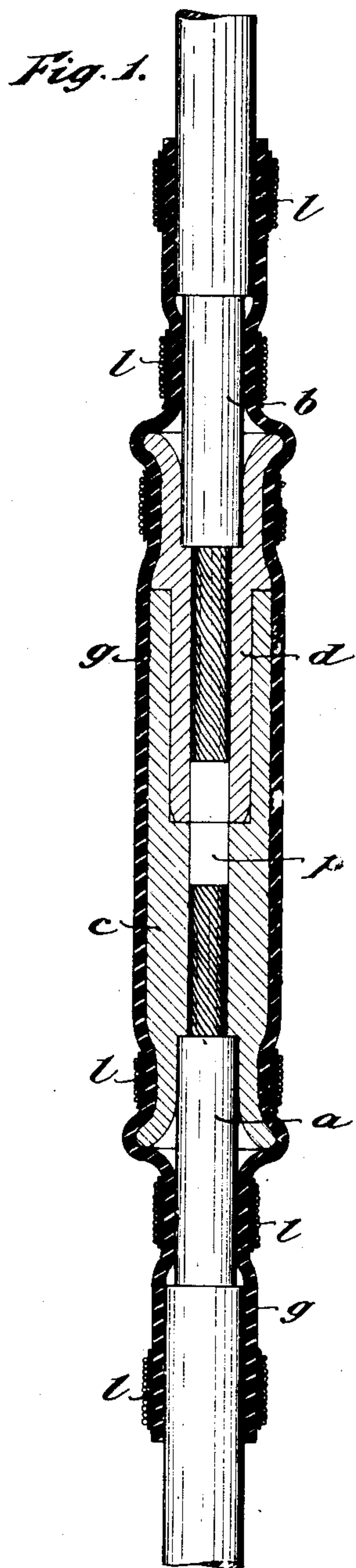


No. 868,460.

PATENTED OCT. 15, 1907.

G. L'HOEST & H. PIEPER.
COUPLING FOR ELECTRIC CABLES.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 10, 1905.



Witnesses
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GUSTAVE L'HOEST, OF BRUSSELS, AND HENRI PIEPER, OF LIEGE, BELGIUM.

COUPLING FOR ELECTRIC CABLES.

No. 868,460.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1907.

Application filed August 10, 1906. Serial No. 273,692.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, GUSTAVE L'HOEST and HENRI PIEPER, subjects of the King of Belgium, and residing, respectively, at 74 Rue Malibran, Brussels, and 18 Rue des Boyards, Liege, Belgium, have jointly invented certain new and useful Improvements in Couplings for Electric Conductors, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to couplings for electric conductors, and has for its object to provide means whereby such conductors can be coupled and remain coupled under ordinary strains, but when subjected to extraordinary strains, less than that which would injure the conductor, the coupling will be broken.

To these ends our invention consists of a coupler embodying a construction and having the general arrangement of parts and breakable under the conditions substantially as hereinafter more particularly set forth.

In the accompanying drawing wherein we have illustrated a preferred embodiment of the invention,—Figure 1 is a longitudinal section of the coupling; and Figs. 2 and 3 show the electrical coupling pieces attached to the ends of the conductor, the mechanical or breakable coupling part being omitted.

As above intimated, the object of our invention is to provide an electric coupling for conductors which will be operative under ordinary strains but which, under extraordinary strains, will break and break before the strains are of such a character as to injure the conductor.

We have shown an embodiment wherein *a* and *b* represent the two adjacent ends of an insulated conductor to which ends are respectively secured the coupling pieces *c*, *d*, which may be of any desired character, they being shown in the form of tubes secured to the ends of the conductor, the reduced end of one tube fitting in a socket in the other. These ends are shown as slitted as at *s*, *r* respectively so as to make a friction connection between the two parts. When these two parts are coupled the continuity of the electric circuit is completed.

In order to impart to this coupling the amount of resistance necessary for keeping it together, and to avoid the possibility of accidental separation and at the same time to permit the parts to be separated under a severe strain, and under a strain less than that which would injure the conductor, we provide a mechanical means for connecting the parts, which mechanical means is breakable under a predetermined strain, but is strong enough to hold the coupling together under ordinary strains. In the present instance, we have shown a protecting sheath *g*, which is preferably made of insulating material, and which envelops the adjacent ends of the coupler and preferably extends beyond the same over a portion of the insulated covering of the conductor, and it is secured in place by any suitable means, as the bindings *l*. With this construction, the terminals of the conductor are normally held together under ordinary conditions by the coupling pieces *c*, *d*, supplemented by the protecting sheath, but when the conductor is subjected to a predetermined strain, which is less than that which would injure the conductor, the mechanical coupling or protecting sheath will be disrupted and the couplings allowed to separate and the cable be protected. It will thus be seen that under ordinary conditions there is complete electric connection between the ends of the conductor, but that under extraordinary strains the ends of the conductor will be separated before the conductor itself is injured.

What we claim is,—

A separable coupling for electric conductors, comprising detachable electrical coupling parts separable under a longitudinal strain, and a protecting sheath for said parts breakable under a predetermined strain greater than that required to separate the electrical coupling parts and inclosing the electrical coupling parts.

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

GUSTAVE L'HOEST.

HENRI PIEPER.

Witnesses:

JEAN WINGEN,
VICTOR HAMAL.