

No. 879,358.

PATENTED FEB. 18, 1908.

J. S. BRANT.

PIERCELESS EAR DROP.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 13, 1907.

FIG. 1.

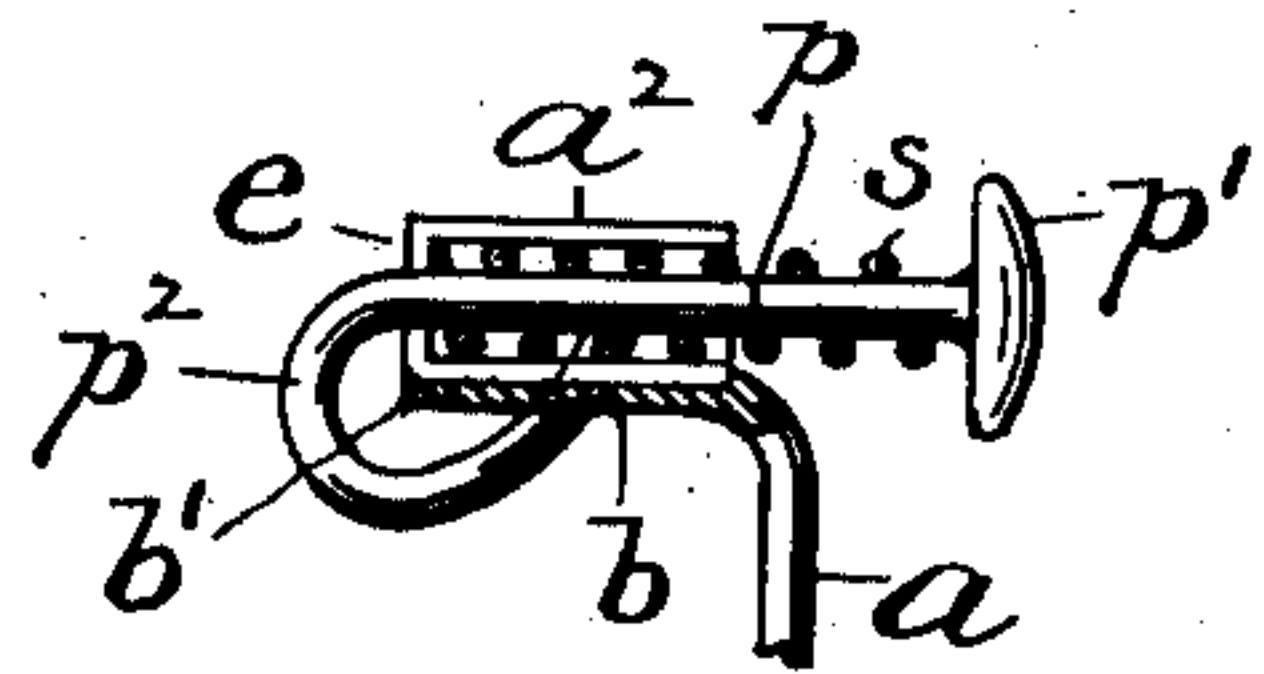
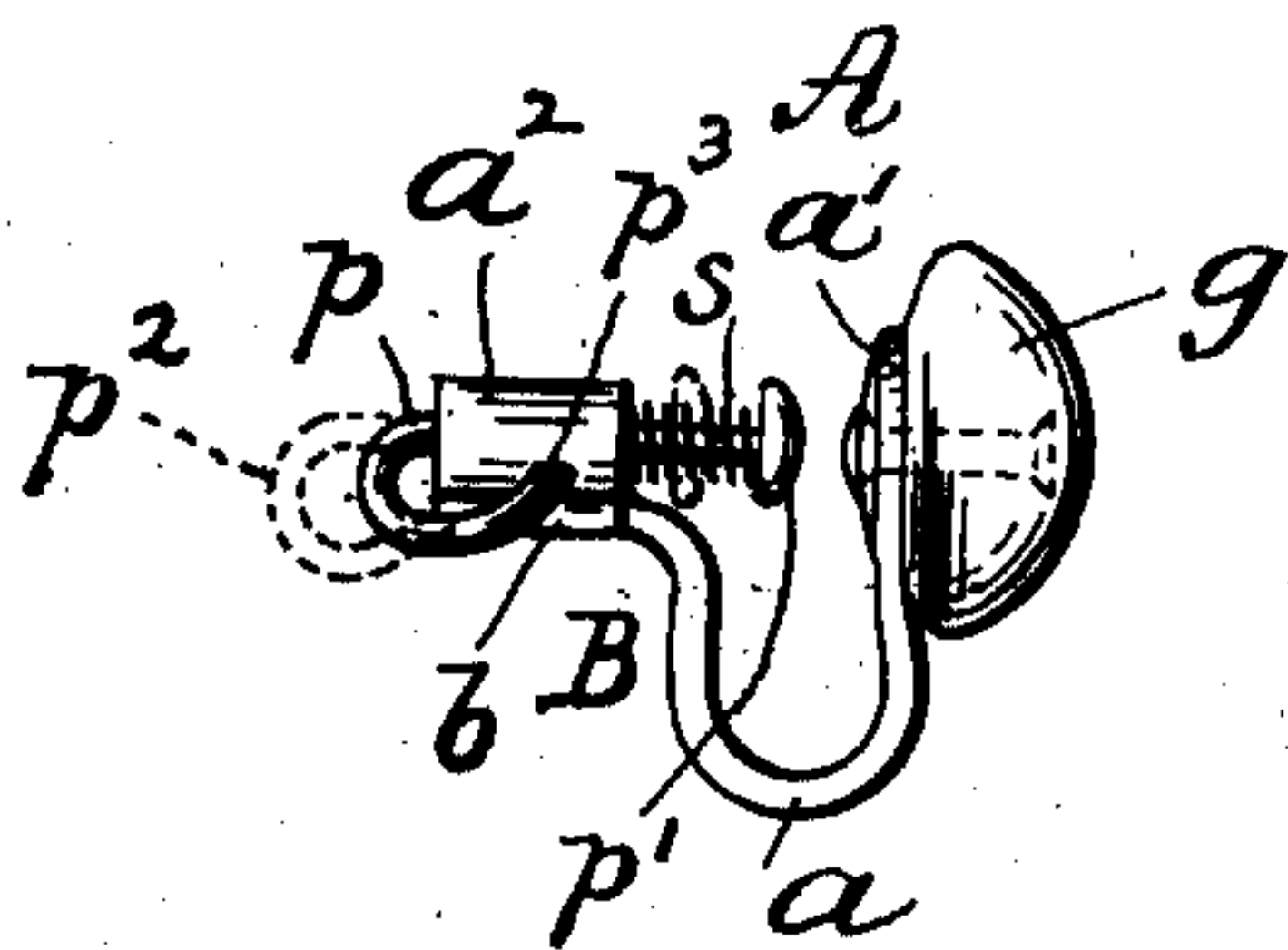


FIG. 5.

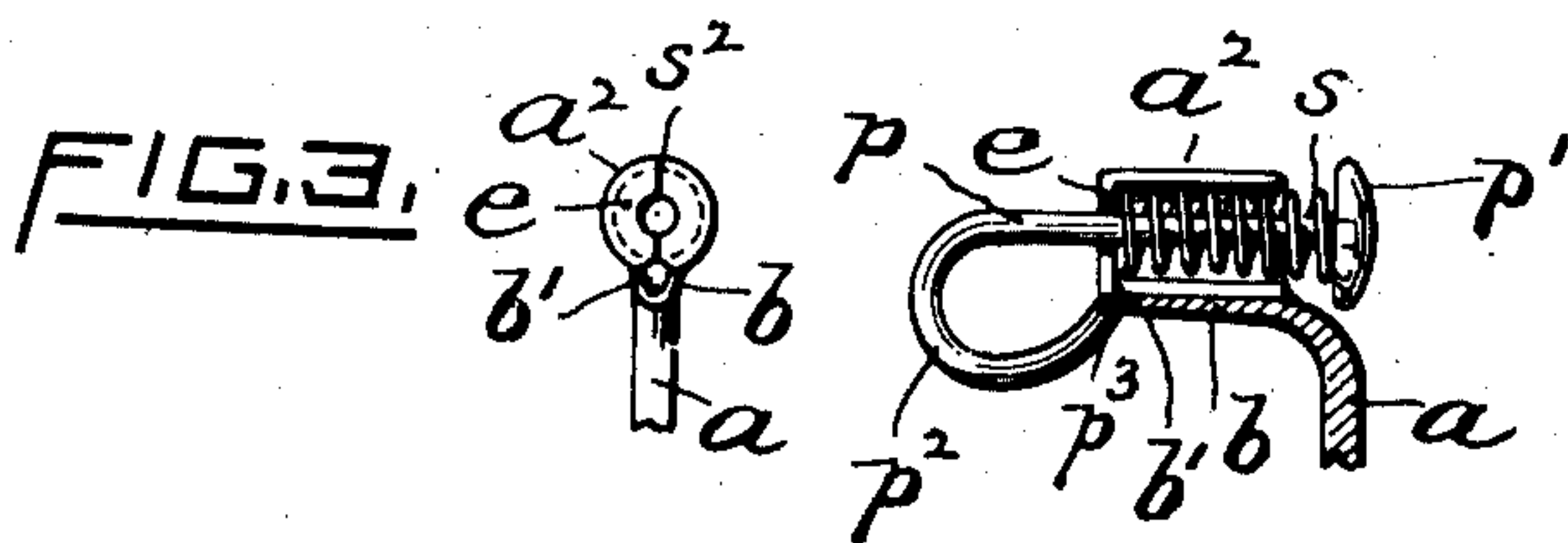


FIG. 2.

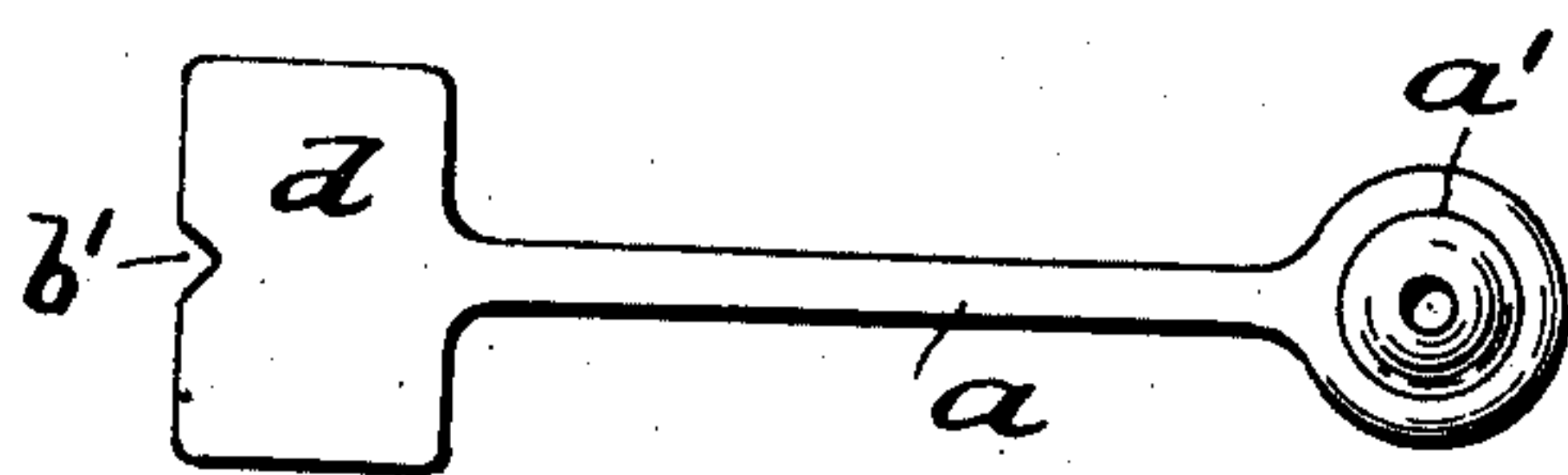


FIG. 4.

WITNESSES.

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PIERCELESS EAR-DROP.

No. 879,358.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 18, 1908.

Application filed September 13, 1907. Serial No. 392,655.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. BRANT, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Providence, in the county of Providence and State of Rhode Island, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Pierceless Ear-Drops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in ear-drops of the pierceless type, and it consists of an integral frame bent to a U-shaped form, one end of which constitutes a setting for the gem or ornament the other end portion being hollow and cylindrical and provided with a spring pressed retaining-bar, the rear end of the latter being adapted to interlock with said cylinder so as to hold the bar in the retracted or open position, all as more fully hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents, in enlarged scale, a side elevation of my improved pierceless ear-drop. Fig. 2 is a partial longitudinal sectional view, further enlarged, showing the retaining-bar in the retracted or normally open position. Fig. 3 is a corresponding end view, the bar member being omitted. Fig. 4 represents a plan view of the metal blank from which the frame or yoke is formed, and Fig. 5 is a sectional view, similar to Fig. 2, showing a slight modification, the bar being in the released or advanced position.

In my improved pierceless ear-drop A the frame or yoke member B thereof is integral and formed from the sheet-metal blank represented in Fig. 4. That is to say, one end, a^1 , is enlarged and adapted or arranged to constitute a setting for the gem or ornament, as g ; the opposite or inner face of said portion a^1 being convex-shaped. The shank a of the frame is bent to a U-shape and terminates at its rear end in the horizontal tubular member a^2 ; this latter is by means of suitable tools and dies converted from the blank portion d (Fig. 4) into the cylindrical form, the stock at the same time being bent or intumed to form the rear end e , a suitable notch b^1 being formed at the bottom as clearly shown.

A light wire, or retaining-bar p , passes longitudinally through the center of said tube a^2 and end e ; its rear portion, p^2 , being bent and terminating in the end p^3 , the latter arranged to fit the said notch b^1 . The opposite or front end of the bar is provided with a fixed cap or enlargement p^1 having a con-

vex form cross-sectionally, adapted in use to bear against the rear surface of the ear lobe, and being oppositely disposed to the said convex surface of the setting member a^1 .

A light helical spring s is mounted on the bar p and is supported in the tubular head a^2 ; the action of the spring when the ear-drop is in use being to maintain the parts a^1 and p^1 in resilient frictional contact with the ear-lobe of the wearer. By making the outer diameter of the spring equal to the bore of the tubular part a^2 , and its inner diameter equal to the thickness of the rod or bar p the latter is thereby properly guided endwise or axially and prevented from material lateral movement.

The manner of operation is as follows: The user say first grasps the bent portion p^2 of the bar and draws it rearwardly, at the same time turning it axially, until the end p^3 registers with and springs into the notch b^1 , the spring maintaining it in the locked or open position. See Fig. 2. Now upon placing the ear-drop in the desired position, the ear-lobe then extending into the open yoke, the wearer simply turns the retaining-bar axially a short distance, to free it from said notch, and at the same time releases it, the spring then expanding to snugly press the opposing members, a^1 , p^1 , against the respective sides of the ear-lobe, thus completing the operation. A reversal of the action just described quickly releases the ear-drop.

The device is simple, efficient and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture, and is practically solderless.

I am aware that pierceless ear-drops, so called, have been devised prior to my invention. In former articles of this class the retaining-bars or analogous members have in some cases been screw threaded; in other cases the bars or movable members have been provided with swinging levers arranged to be manipulated by the wearer for the purpose of varying the space or opening to receive the ear-lobe.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by United States Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improved article of manufacture the pierceless ear-drop herein described, the same consisting of a substantially U-shaped frame or yoke having one arm or member thereof provided with a setting arranged to carry a gem or ornament, an endwise movable spring-pressed retaining-bar carried by

the other arm of said frame, said bar being disposed at the rear of and in substantial alinement with the said setting, and means for locking the bar when in its retracted or open position.

2. In a pierceless ear-drop, the combination of an integral U-shaped yoke having its front end enlarged and adapted to carry a gem or ornament the other or rear end of the yoke being bent to form a hollow horizontal cylinder, and a spring-pressed retaining-bar longitudinally and axially movable therein having its rear portion extending through the back end of the cylinder and adapted to engage therewith for holding the bar in the normally open or retracted position, substantially as described.

3. In a pierceless ear-drop, a U-shaped yoke or frame, a head member having its free end enlarged and convex-shaped on its rear

face and adapted to bear directly against the adjacent surface of the ear-lobe of the wearer, an endwise movable spring-pressed retaining-bar supported by the other or rear member of the frame having its forward end enlarged and convex-shaped and adapted to yieldingly contact with the rear surface of the ear-lobe whereby the ear-drop is adapted to be readily attached to the ear, and means for temporarily securing the bar in the open or retracted position, substantially as hereinbefore described and for the purpose set forth.

Signed at Providence, R. I., this 12th day of September 1907.

JOHN S. BRANT.

Witnesses:

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