

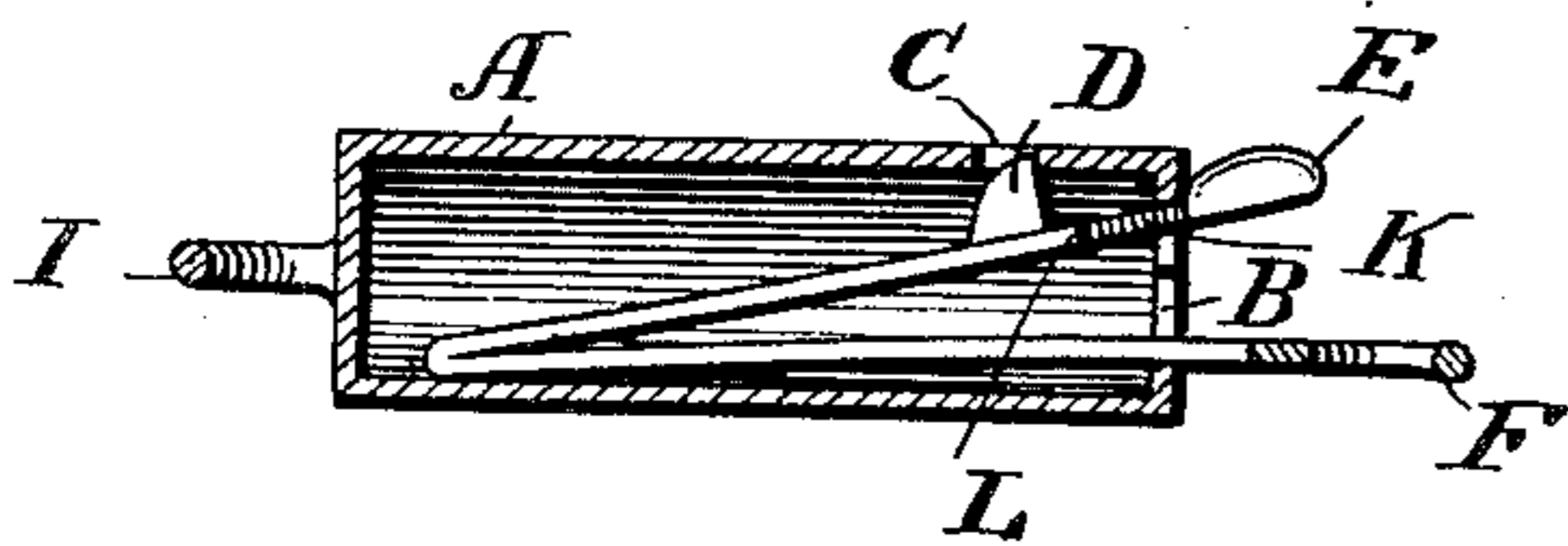
No. 889,230.

PATENTED JUNE 2, 1908.

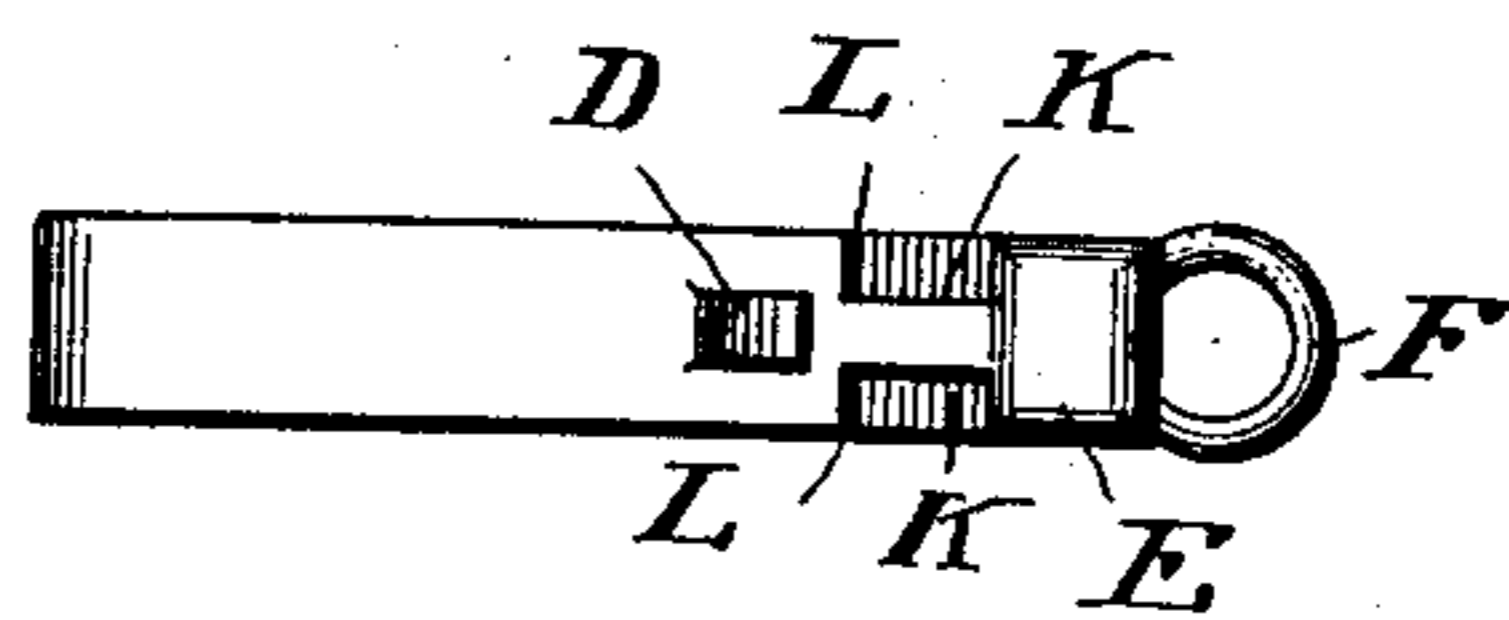
P. W. HOFFMAN.  
CLASP.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 12, 1907.

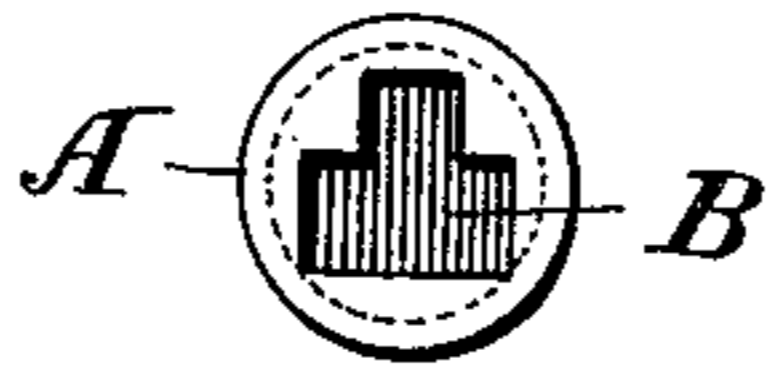
*Fig. 1.*



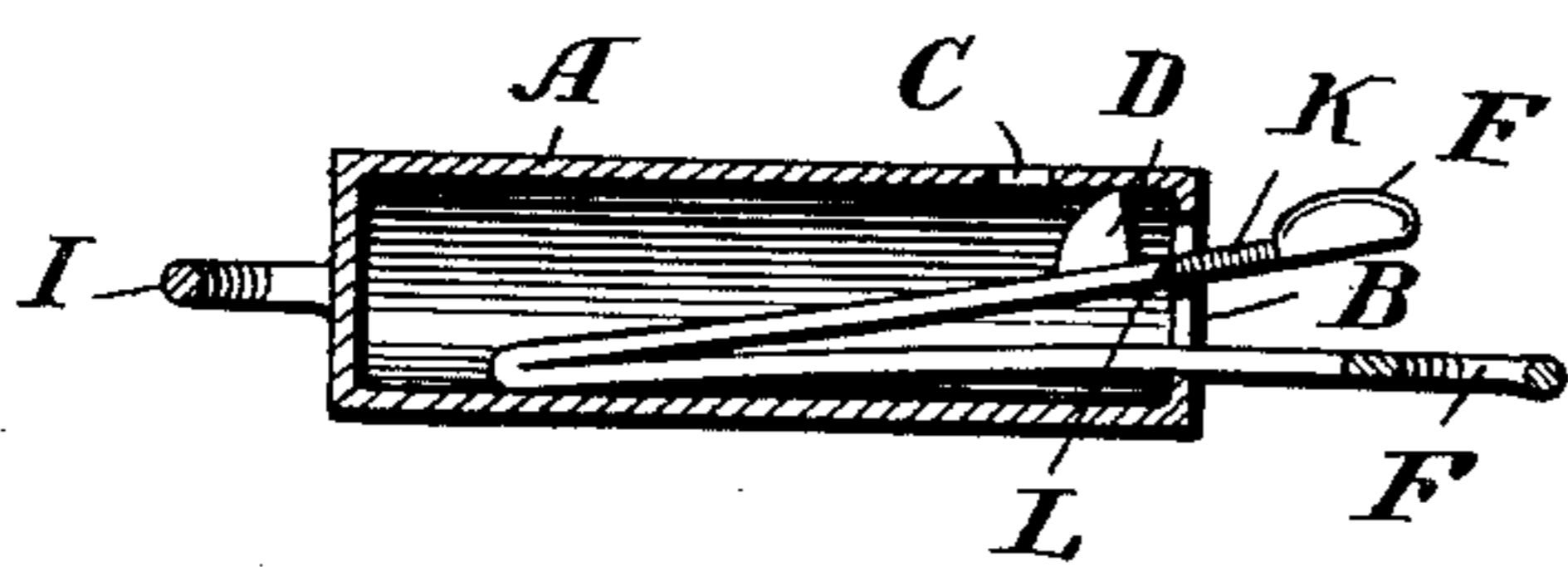
*Fig. 3.*



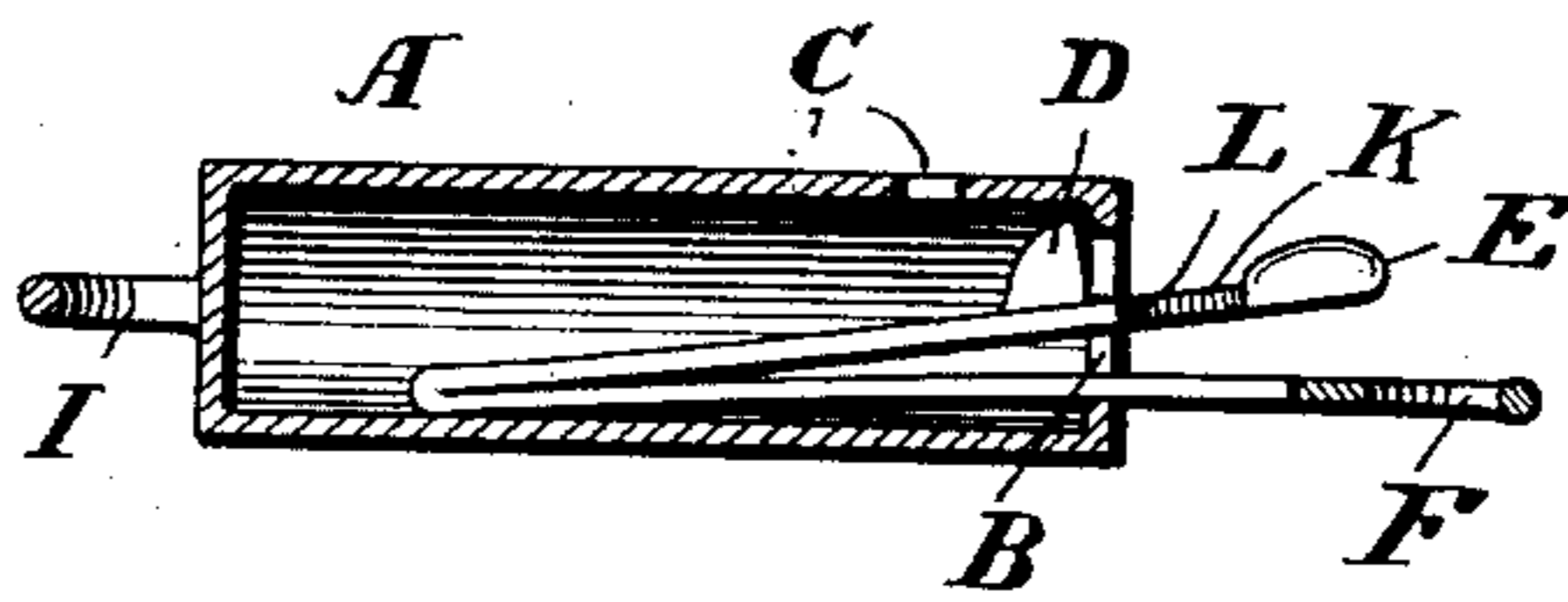
*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 4.*



*Fig. 5.*



Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PAUL W. HOFFMAN, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

## CLASP.

No. 889,230.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 2, 1908.

Application filed October 12, 1907. Serial No. 397,137.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, PAUL W. HOFFMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Albany, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clasps, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to clasps, and more particularly to devices of this character especially designed for securing together the ends of necklaces, and the like.

The primary object of my invention is to produce a clasp of the kind described in which the chance of accidental disengagement shall be reduced to a minimum.

A further object of my invention is to provide a device which shall be strong and simple, and at the same time, cheap to produce.

With the above and other objects in view, my invention consists in the construction and arrangement hereinafter described, and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a central, longitudinal section of my improved clasp. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the barrel. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the spring catch. Fig. 4 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the parts in a different position. Fig. 5 is a similar view, showing the parts in still another position.

Referring to the drawings in detail, my improved clasp comprises a body or barrel A, preferably cylindrical in shape. One end of this barrel is closed, and carries an eye I, to which one end of a chain or necklace may be attached. The other end of said barrel is provided with a head having an inverted T-shaped opening B, therein.

Within the barrel A, a spring catch is adapted to fit, and coöperate therewith. This catch comprised a strip of spring metal bent over on itself, and having its two ends lying adjacent, but sprung apart. This strip is of such width as to nicely slip within the wider part of the slot B.

The barrel is provided near one end with an opening C, and this opening is adapted to receive and engage a projection D, formed on the upper leaf of the spring catch. This upper leaf is also cut away near its end so as to form a neck, K, of a width that will easily fit within the narrow portion of the T slot, B. This neck gives rise to notches, or shoulders, L, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, and a head E. The lower leaf of the catch terminates in a ring or eye, F, to which the other end of a

chain or necklace may be secured. To operate the clasp, the parts E and F are grasped with the fingers, and squeezed together, thus releasing the catch, in the usual manner.

In Fig. 1 the parts are shown in their normal locking position. It will be observed that the shoulders, L are, in this first or normal locking position of the clasp, disposed slightly behind the head of the barrel. In withdrawing the catch, however, and as soon as the projection D has moved free of the opening C, the shoulders L engage the barrel head on each side of the narrow part of the opening B, as shown in Fig. 4, thus constituting a second locking position. It is also possible and preferable to so form the catch that a third locking position, as clearly shown in Fig. 5, occurs after the shoulders L have been freed. This is caused by the projection D engaging the upper inner edge of the barrel head, which projection is, of course, of slightly greater height than the narrow portion of the inverted T-opening.

Thus it will be seen that I have provided a clasp having a plurality of locking positions, the parts being so arranged that, should any one locking means slip or become broken by strain, the catch will still hold, due to the engagement of the next locking means, the parts assuming the next successive locking position. In this way I provide a clasp in which the chances of accidental disengagement of the two parts is very much reduced.

What I claim is:—

1. A clasp comprising a hollow, cylindrical barrel having a perforated head, and a spring catch adapted to pass through the perforation in said head and lie within said barrel, said catch being provided with means to engage and lock with the body of said barrel when in one position, and also with locking shoulders adapted to abut against the edges of said perforation, when said catch is in another position.

2. A clasp comprising a hollow barrel having a head provided with an opening, and a spring catch adapted to coöperate with said barrel and having thereon a locking projection, an aperture in the body of said barrel adapted to receive said projection when the parts are in one locking position, and shoulders on said catch adapted to lock against the edges of the opening in said head, when the parts are in another position.

3. A clasp comprising a barrel having a perforation formed in the body thereof, and

having a head provided with an inverted T-shaped opening, and a spring catch adapted to cooperate with said barrel, said spring catch carrying a stud adapted to enter said  
5 perforation, when the parts are in one locking position, and having shoulders to engage the edges of the narrow part of said opening, when the parts are in another locking position, said stud being of less height than the  
10 distance from the wide part of said opening to the inner surface of said barrel, whereby,

when said stud is withdrawn from said perforation, it may lie within said barrel and permit the proper engagement of said shoulders with the edges of the narrow part of said opening.

In testimony whereof I have affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PAUL W. HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

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LOTTIE PRIOR.