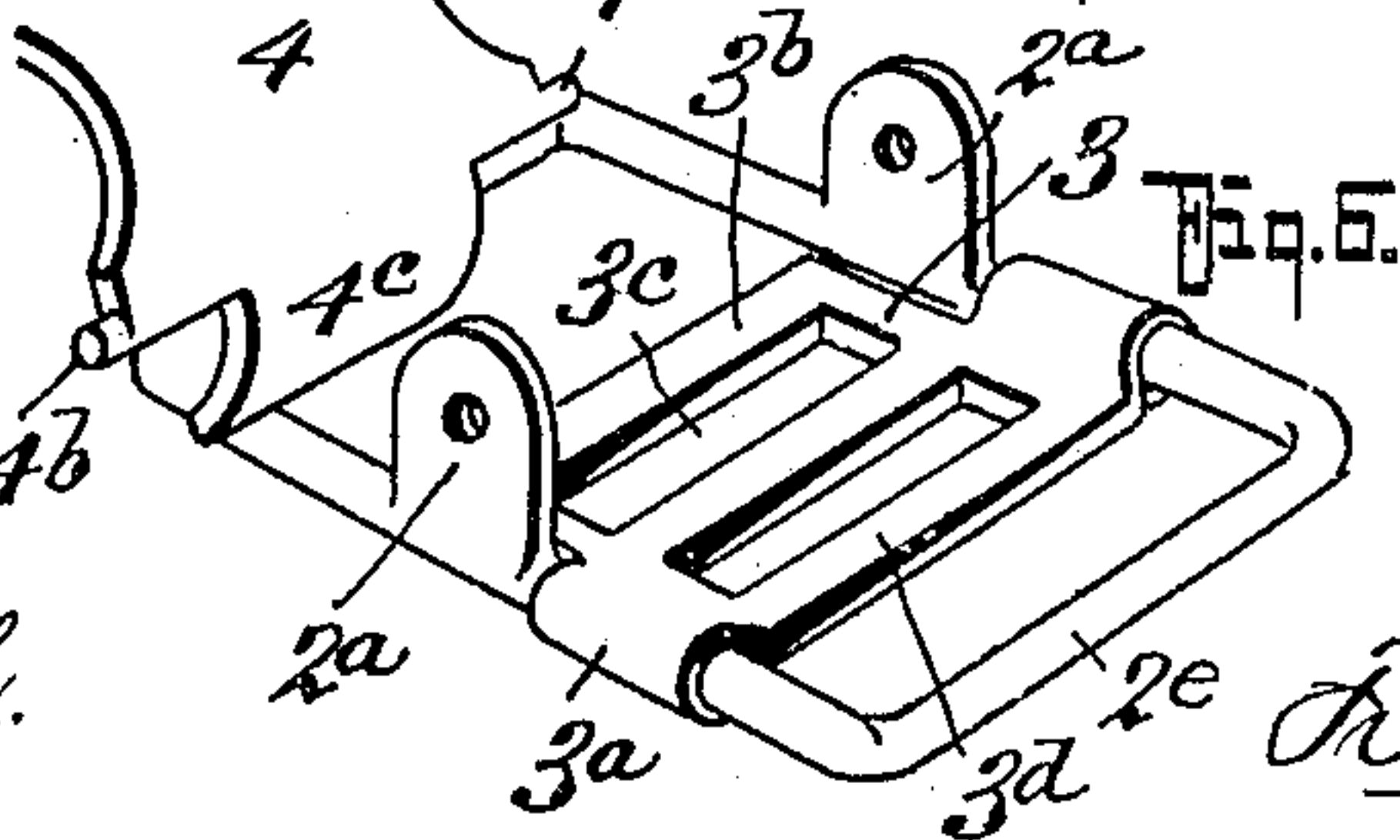
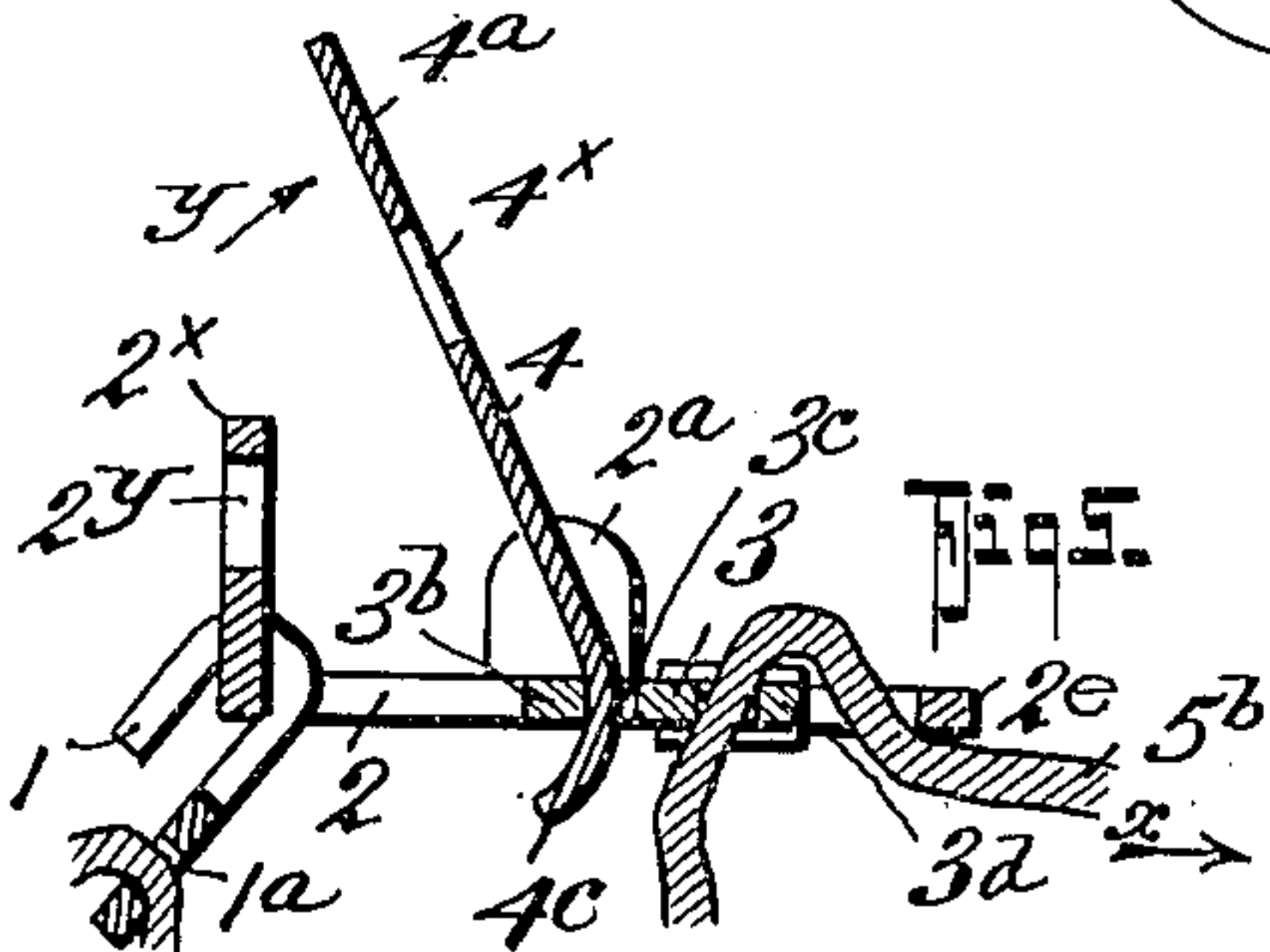
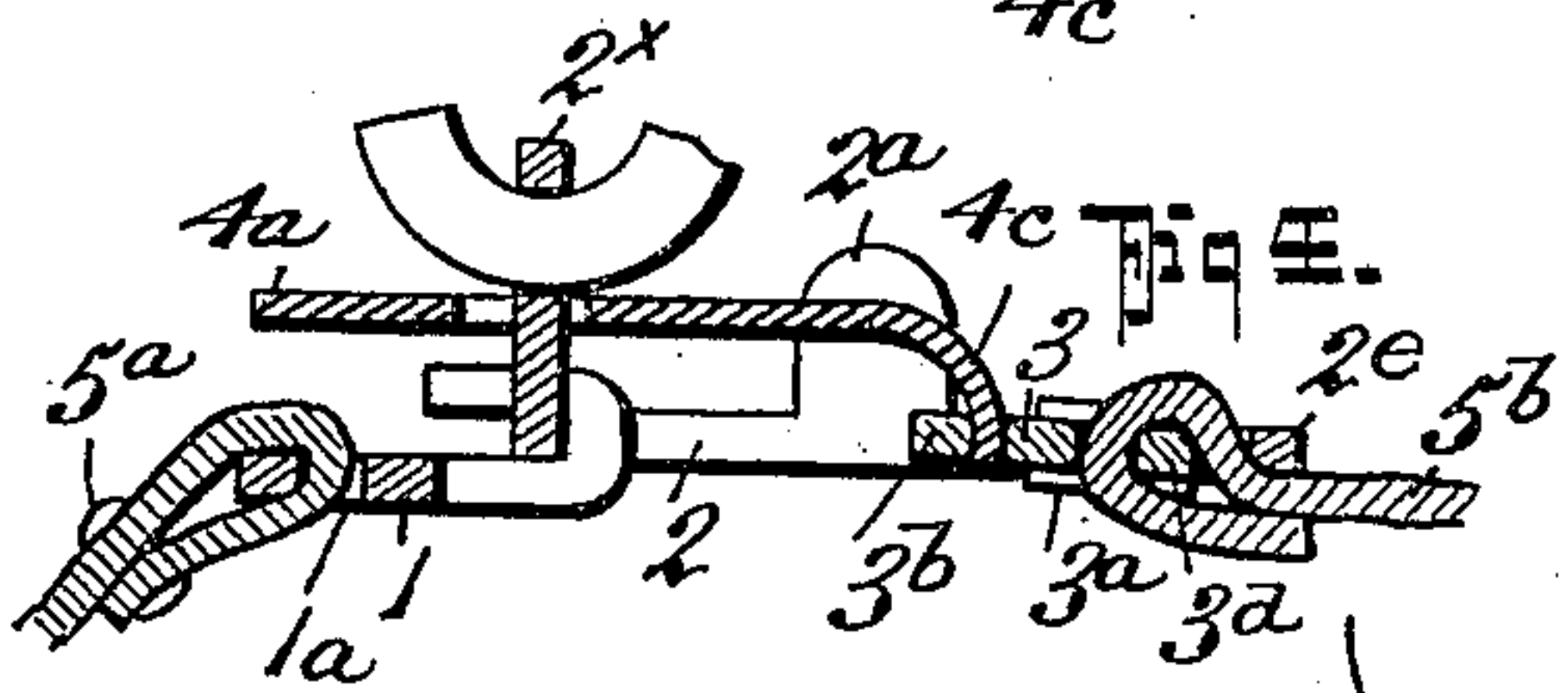
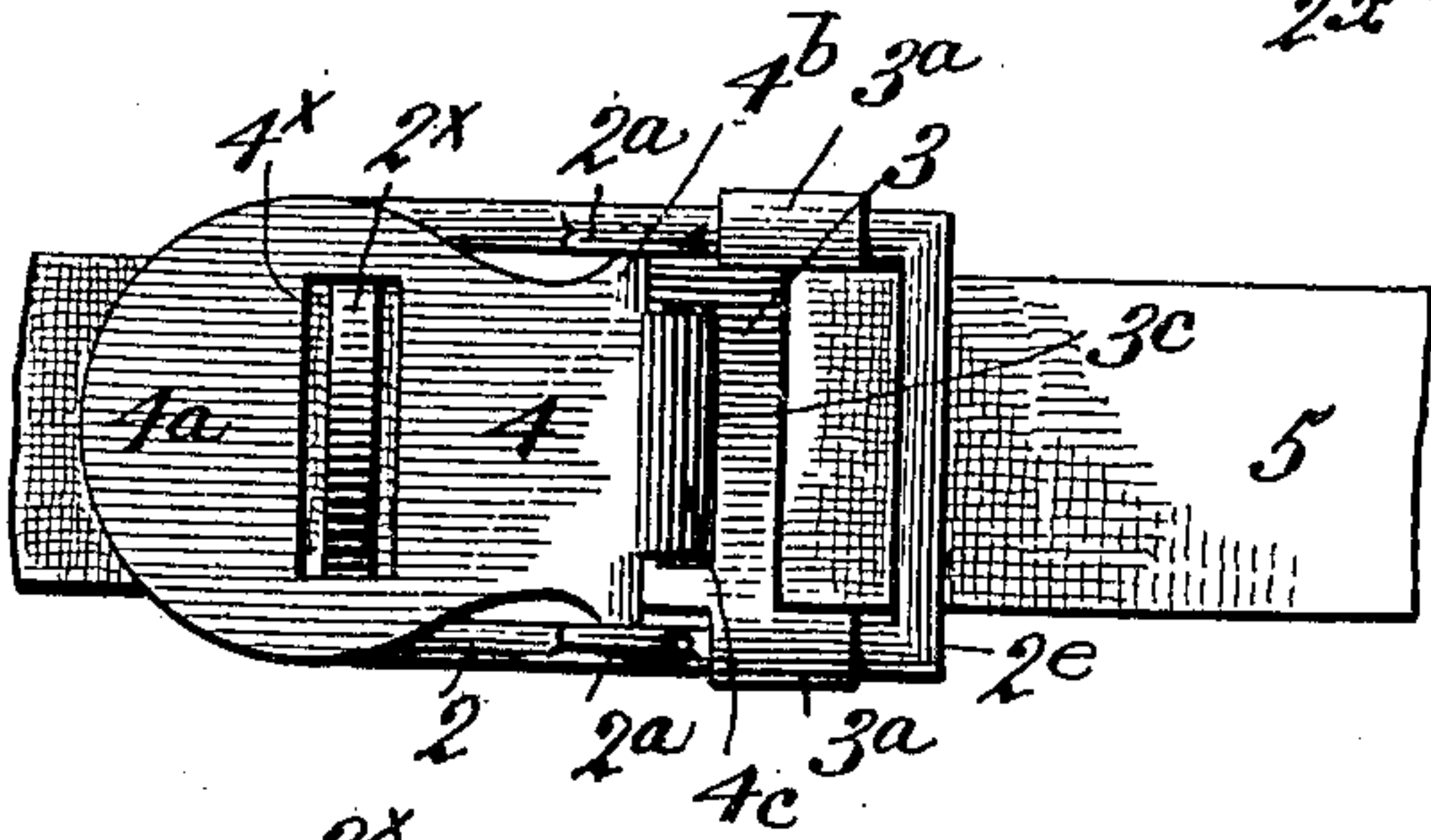
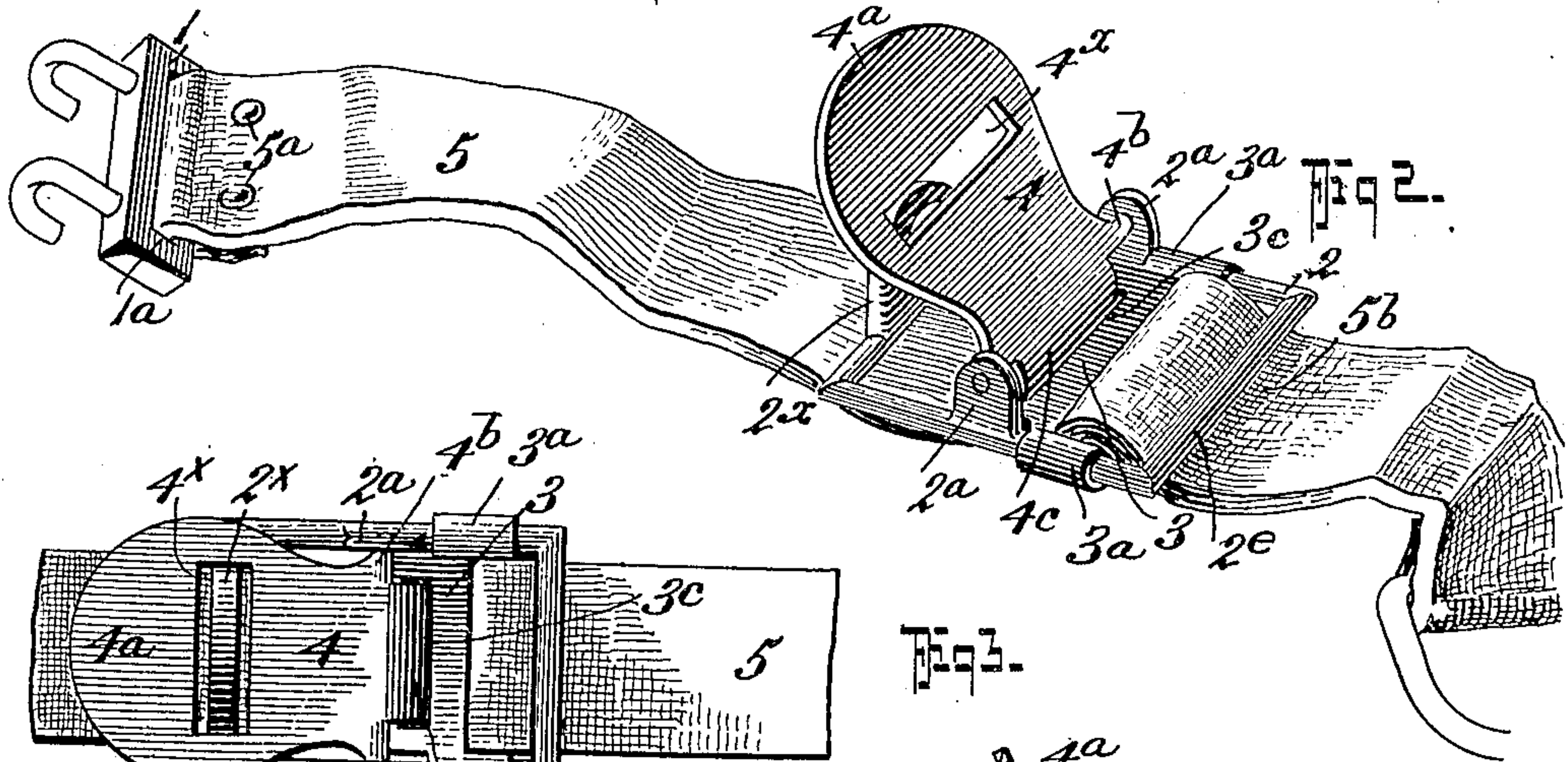


BUCKLE.

904,707.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CONRAD MEINHARDT, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

## BUCKLE.

No. 904,707.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 24, 1908.

Application filed May 16, 1908. Serial No. 433,235.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CONRAD MEINHARDT, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Buckles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in buckles particularly adapted for use in connection with straps for securing mail-bags and the like, and the present invention has for its object to provide an improved buckle of the type disclosed in my Patent No. 899,121, issued September 22, 1908, and the invention comprises a hook member and an eye member having a sliding bridge and a finger engaging lever for operating the bridge to effect a quick release of the strap from the eye member and also means for locking the finger engaging lever in a fixed position so that the strap may not be released as long as the lever is locked.

More specifically my invention embodies those novel details of construction, combination and arrangement of parts all of which will be first fully described, and then be specifically pointed out in the appended claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1, is a perspective view showing the application of my invention to a mail-bag, the neck portion of the mail bag being shown in the drawings. Fig. 2, is a detail perspective view of the strap and buckle complete. Fig. 3, is a top plan view of the buckle and strap ends, the parts being in the strap securing position with the pad-lock removed. Fig. 4, is a central vertical longitudinal section, the parts being in their locked position. Fig. 5, is a similar view, the parts being in their released position. Fig. 6, is a detail perspective view, the finger engaging lever being disconnected from the eye member.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, in which like letters and numerals of reference indicate like parts in all of the figures, 1 represents the hook member and 2 the eye member.

The hook member 1 has an eye 1<sup>a</sup> through which the end of the strap 5 passes, the strap 5 being riveted or otherwise secured to the hook member in a permanent manner, as at 5<sup>a</sup>. The eye member 2 may be formed of any desired material and is provided with upturned ears 2<sup>a</sup> between which a releasing

lever 4 is pivoted, the lever 4 having a finger engaging end 4<sup>a</sup> and laterally projecting studs 4<sup>b</sup> which project into bearing apertures in the ears 2<sup>a</sup>. The lever 4 is also provided with a heel 4<sup>c</sup> to enter a slot 3<sup>c</sup> in a sliding bridge member 3 which slides on the hook member 2 and is held in place by the lever 4 and by the curled over ends 3<sup>a</sup> which embrace the eye member 2, as shown most clearly in Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings.

The bridge member 3 has a projecting portion 3<sup>b</sup> that is of such a width as to be movable between the ears 2<sup>a</sup> and the eye member 2, and the projecting portion 3<sup>b</sup>, is formed with a slot 3<sup>c</sup> to receive the heel 4<sup>c</sup> of the lever 4 hereinbefore referred to.

The lever 4 in my present invention is provided with an aperture 4<sup>x</sup> to permit passage of the lug 2<sup>x</sup> of the eye member 2, the lug 2<sup>x</sup> being provided with an aperture 2<sup>y</sup> through which a fastening means 6 may be passed to lock the lever 4 in a fixed position so that the strap may not be released. The securing means may be in the nature of an ordinary pad-lock such as shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. This is desirable when the buckle is to be used to fasten mail-bags when it is desired that such bags are to be locked, as when registered mail is being transported.

In the present application the strap end 5<sup>b</sup> is passed through the eye member 3<sup>a</sup> of the bridge member 3, from the under side, as indicated in full lines in Fig. 4 and down between it and the front bar 2<sup>e</sup> of the eye member 2 and between the same as shown in Fig. 4. The operator then pulling on the strap 5 in the direction of the arrow *x*, will draw the sliding bridge member in the same direction, thus causing the lever 4 to swing down in a direction opposite to the arrow *y* in Fig. 5, until the parts assume the position shown in Fig. 4, when the bars 3<sup>e</sup> will clamp the end of the strap 5 and firmly hold the same from movement. By pulling on the strap 5 and grasping the bridge member, the strap may be drawn tight after the hook member has been hooked into the eye member in a manner which will be readily understood to those skilled in the art. Should it be desired to release the strap from the package or mail-bag, it is only necessary to grasp the lever 4 and pull on the same in a direction away from the hook member while simultaneously lifting up on the same. This will draw the bridge member toward the hook member and release the strap so that the strap can pass



through the buckle to such a degree as to enable the eye member being readily unhooked from the hook member.

My improved form of buckle is particularly adapted for use to fasten mail-bags and the like where it is desired to have an effective fastening means which can be quickly and easily unhooked or unlocked so that the mail-bag may be quickly opened and so that the bag may reversely be also quickly locked. Furthermore, by providing the means for locking the lever when my invention is used on mail-bags the ordinary pad-locks used by the Post Office Department may be used to lock the buckle on the mail-bags with the use of my invention and avoid the necessity of having a special construction of lock for that purpose.

When I speak of "strap" I do not desire to limit myself by such term to any particular strap, as any material or strap may be used which will perform the desired function.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings it is thought the complete construction, operation and many advantages of my invention will be readily understood by those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains.

What I claim is:

1. A buckle comprising a member, a sliding bridge mounted thereon and having an

eye portion to permit passage of a strap and adapted to clamp the strap in between itself and said member, said member having ears, a lever pivotally mounted between said ears and having a heel to coöperatively engage said bridge to move the same along said member, and means for locking said lever from movement.

2. In a buckle, an open member having up-turned ears, a bridge having an eye and having a portion to embrace said open member and slidable thereon, and a lever pivotally mounted between said ears to engage said bridge to move the same, together with means for locking the said lever from movement.

3. In a buckle, an open member having up-turned ears, a bridge having an eye and having portions to embrace said open member to be slidable thereon, said bridge having a portion to project between said ears, said last named portion having an aperture, a lever pivotally mounted between said ears and having a heel to engage said aperture of the projecting portion of the bridge to operate the same, together with means for locking said lever from movement.

CONRAD MEINHARDT.

Witnesses:

ALBERT E. DIETERICH,  
GEO. S. LIVINGSTON.