W. T. Mersereau,

Stair Rod.

No. 48,825. Patented July 18, 1865.

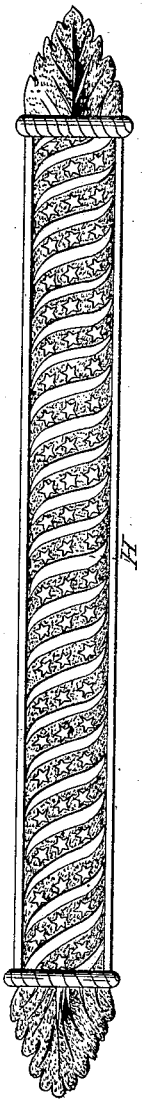


Fig 1.

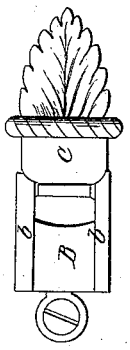
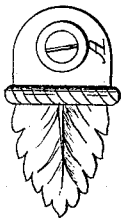


Fig 2.



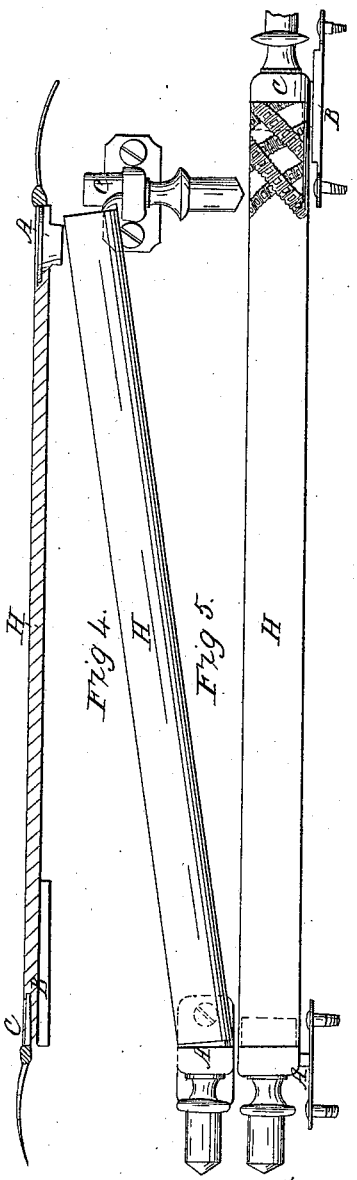


Fig 3. Fig 4. Fig 5.

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. T. MERSEREAU, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

STAIR-ROD.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **48,825**, dated July 18, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, W. T. MERSEREAU, of Newark, Essex county, New Jersey, have invented, made, and applied to use certain new and useful Improvements in the Construction and Operation of Stair-Rods; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and correct description of my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a view showing a flat rod held in position by my improved means for holding and fastening the same; Fig. 2, view of my improved button and sliding catch for holding flat rod in position; Fig. 3, edge view of flat rod held in position; Fig. 4, view of means sometimes employed by me to hold round rod in position; Fig. 5, view showing round rod held in position by my improvements.

In the drawings like parts of the invention are indicated by the same letters of reference.

The nature of my invention consists (*a*) in continuing the metal in the manufacture of the button to allow an ornamental device to be formed upon the same; (*b*,) in continuing the metal in the manufacture of the sliding catch to allow an ornamental device to be formed upon the same; (*c*,) in combining with the rod the stationary button and sliding catch, whether said button and catch be ornamented or not ornamented.

To enable those skilled in the arts to make and use my invention, I will speak of the construction and operation of the same.

A shows a stationary button, formed of metal or any suitable material, and constructed exactly like the button now in use for holding stair-rods, save that in manufacturing the same the metal is continued, so that when the end of the rod H is placed over the button A this continuation of the button shall project beyond the rod H and form, as it were, a part or portion of the same. This continued portion of the button A, as clearly shown in the drawings, may be made of any desired form, and may be ornamented in any desired manner.

B shows a plate of metal, the edges *b* of which are turned over and form ways in which the sliding catch C moves readily when inserted in the same. The edges *b* at their terminus are turned down flush with the plate B, or may be soldered thereto and form stops to hold the sliding catch C within the ways.

C shows the sliding catch, formed of a plate of metal, provided with ears fitting snugly within the ways of the plate A. In making this catch C the metal of which the same is formed is continued, so that when the catch C is slid beneath the rod H to lock the same this continuation of the metal shall project beyond the rod H and form, as it were, a part or portion of the same. This continued portion of the catch C, as in the case of the continued portion of the button A, may be made of any desired form, and may be ornamented in any desired manner.

H shows a stair-rod, either flat or round. In the case of the flat rod the metal forming the same has its edges turned over, so that one end of the flat rod, being passed over the button A, is held upon the same, and that the sliding catch C may be passed within the opposite end, thus securing the rod in position. When a round rod is to be used a cylindrical form of button and catch is employed, and the rod has a portion of its surface cut away or is slotted to accommodate the sliding catch, as clearly shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings. The button A and plate B are attached to the stair, the catch C is inserted within the ways of the plate B, and one end of the rod H being passed over the button A the catch C is inserted or passed within the opposite end of the rod, securing the same in position.

The peculiar advantages arising from the use of my improvements are a ready, convenient, and secure manner of fastening and retaining stair-rods in position as well as of allowing the same to be removed. Aside from this, the continuing of the metal in the manufacture of the button and the catch affords the opportunity not only of adding greatly to the appearance and beauty of the rod used by making this construction of any desired form and giving the same any ornamental appearance desired, at a slight increase of cost, but of using a much cheaper article of rod.

Many equivalents may be used for the button and catch. In Fig. 4 of the drawings I have shown one of many modes that will readily suggest itself, in which the catch C is so constructed that it is made to turn out from

within the rod H when desired to remove or detach the same, and inward or within the same to retain it in position, and in this case the button may be either stationary or movable.

The ornamental device shown need not necessarily be made by continuing the metal, but may be made separately and connected or affixed to either the button, the catch, or the rod itself, and precisely the same effect be produced as in the present case.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. Continuing the metal in the manufacture of the button so that an ornamental device may be formed upon the same, for the purpose specified.

2. Continuing the metal in the manufacture of the sliding catch so that an ornamental device may be formed upon the same, for the purpose specified.

3. Combining with the button and sliding catch, whether the same be ornamented, substantially as shown, or not ornamented, the stair-rod H, for the purposes specified.

WM. T. MERSEREAU.

In presence of—

A. SIDNEY DOANE,

STEPHEN M. OSTRANDER.