N. O. WILCOX.

Clasp-Hook for Advertising Display Boards, &c.

No. 161,919. Patented April 13, 1875.

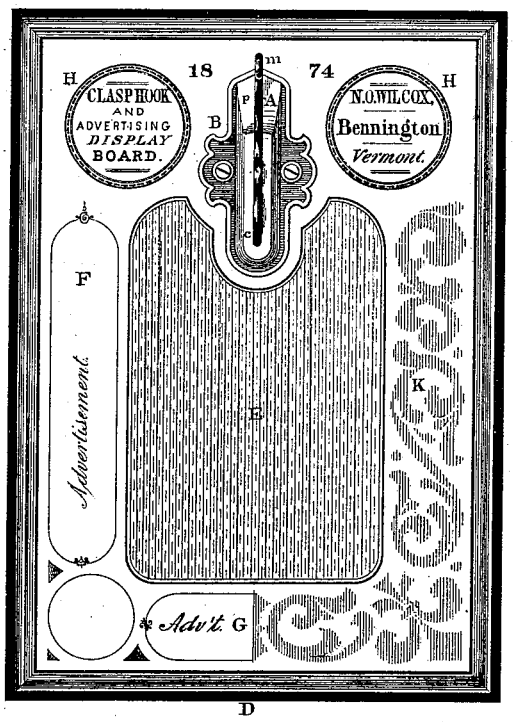

FIG. 1.

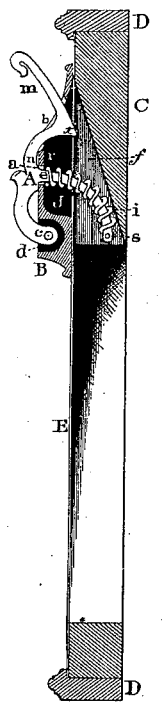

FIG. 2.

WITNESSES,

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON O. WILCOX, OF BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

IMPROVEMENT IN CLASP-HOOKS FOR ADVERTISING DISPLAY-BOARDS, &c.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **161,919**, dated April 13, 1875; application filed January 2, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELSON O. WILCOX, of Bennington, in the county of Bennington and State of Vermont, have invented a Clasp-Hook and Advertising Display-Board, of which the following is a specification:

This invention consists of a clasp-hook, of the character hereinafter described, adapted to be attached to or mounted upon an ornamental display-card stretcher or board suitably framed, and is designed for holding and exhibiting a variety of goods, such as boot and corset laces, watch-guards, skeins of thread, silk, &c., and, in fact, all analogous articles usually sold in singles, but which are put up by the manufacturer in dozens or by the gross, and which are liable, like boot-laces, to be drawn into a snarl, or to become entangled in detaching a single one from the group by drawing it out.

Figure 1 of the drawing shows a front view of my invention, and Fig. 2 exhibits a vertical cross-section of the same.

The desiderata sought for in this invention are to provide retail dealers of the articles previously alluded to, and others having occasion to frequently recur to the bunch, bundle, or package, for a single one of any of them, with one or more clasp-hooks to be attached to a show-card or stretcher, all substantially framed, or which can be detached from the display-board and used separately by attaching the same to the building, bench, or counter, as may be desirable or convenient.

These hooks or clasps work in a socket-plate or stand, are actuated and controlled by a spring, and are so constructed that the goods are grasped between the interior of the curve of the hook and the face of the stand-plate, so that, as the pieces are severally drawn or pulled out, the hook, by the action of the spring, is forced back and closes upon the remaining pieces, holding them firmly enough that a single one may be withdrawn without disturbing, disarranging, or entangling those remaining.

As many of these clasp-hooks, and of the construction best adapted to the various articles desired to be thus displayed and arranged, may be attached either to a frame, board, or other suitable foundation, which foundation may be faced with a lithographic or other ornamental design, with a ground-work of such color as by contrast exhibits to the best advantage the goods so arranged thereon.

The mechanical construction and arrangement of my invention are clearly shown in Fig. 2 of the drawing. The device for holding the goods consists of the clasp-hook A and the socket-plate B; the lower end of the hook being inserted in a slot or recess, *d*, of the plate B, and there pivoted by means of the pin *c*.

There are four peculiarities about this hook, viz: It works upon a pivot; it is actuated by a spring; it has at its upper end a lip, outwardly everting to facilitate the introduction of the goods to be exhibited or hung up; and, lastly, it is arranged to work in or through slots in the socket-plate to which it is pivoted.

The socket-plate B is provided with ears, by which it is attached to a foundation by screws. The slotted or central portion of this plate projects forward from the base of the plate, and the upper part of this projecting portion is beveled or sloped backward to a level with the surface of the main plate, and has the slot *b*, through which the lip *m* plays. The arrangement of the parts is such that when the hook is drawn forward so that the point *x* of the hook has receded sufficiently far from the plate the articles may be drawn down between the lip *m* and the beveled face *p*, into that part of the hook *n* designed to retain them. When the hold upon the articles is released, the constantly-acting spring *i* upon the stem *e* exerts its force, thereby causing the hook to press backwardly upon the goods and firmly close them in between the curve *n* of the hook and the portion *r* of the plate B, and continues to exert this force until the last piece has been withdrawn from the hook. The stem *e* is constructed upon the arc of a circle of which the pin *c* is the center, and is provided with a pin, *s*, or a nut, as may be most convenient, which pin or nut receives the thrust of the coil-spring *i* working against the back or inside of the socket-plate as its fulcrum.

The socket-plate, with its attachments, is securely fastened to the stretcher-frame or other foundation, upon which it may be put by screws or otherwise. I have shown, as a very simple mode of construction, an ordinary

stretcher, having the cross-bar at the top made sufficiently wide to take on the plate and hook, and have made the frame of sufficient thickness to enable me to recess or cut away upon the face side of the cross-bar C sufficiently to let in or receive the stem *e* and spring *i* of the clasp-hook, in this way making a chamber, in which the spring is safely inclosed and securely works.

Over the stretcher-frame I have drawn or stretched my design, which forms the background, against which I show the articles or goods, this ornamental design to be in keeping with the line of the goods exhibited.

I have constructed these hooks so as to allow the stem *e* which carries the spring *i* to slide in a way provided therefor in the socket-plate B, and have thus been enabled to dispense with the pivot *c*, shown in the drawings; but I regard the vertical slot *a*, through which the stem *e* plays, as an equivalent for a way or guide through which a straight stem could be made to slide or work; in which case the stem would have to be made of a shape to fit and not turn in the way, so that when the hook is drawn forward to its fullest extent it would preserve its proper position.

I claim as my invention—

The hook A, having the lip *m*, curved space *n*, stem *e*, and spring *i*, pivoted as shown, in combination with the slotted socket-plate B, for the uses set forth, and operating as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereto subscribed my name this 29th day of December, 1874.

N. O. WILCOX.

Witnesses:

CHARLES G. COLE,

CHARLES G. PHILLIPS.