N. SCHROEDER.
Fire-Escape.

No. 200,878. Patented March 5, 1878.

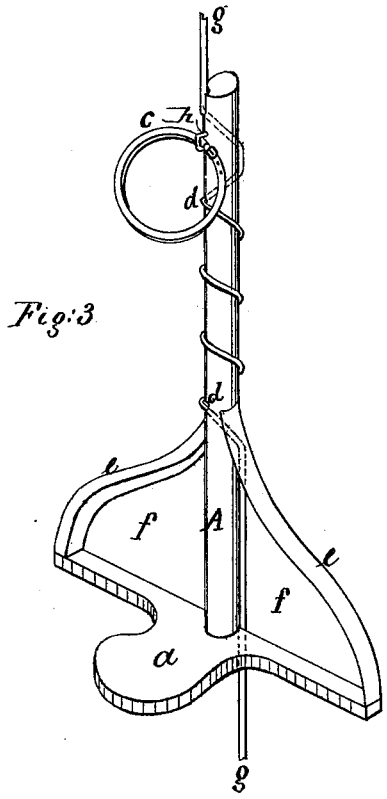

Fig: 3

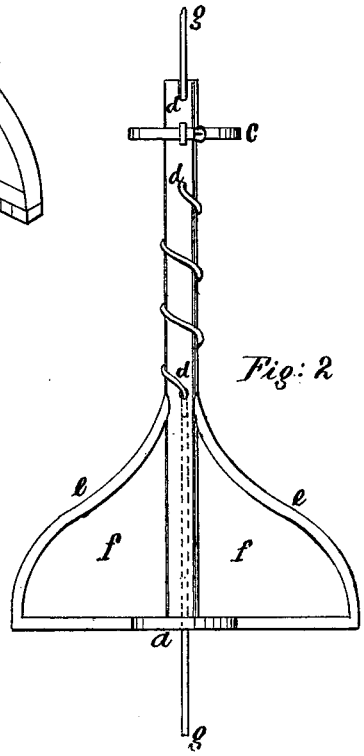

Fig: 2

Fig. 1.

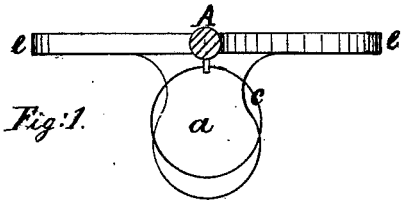

Fig: 1.

Witnesses:
F. G. Clausen.
Louis P. Best

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NICOLAUS SCHROEDER, OF DAVENPORT, IOWA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-ESCAPES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **200,878**, dated March 5, 1878; application filed May 9, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NICOLAUS SCHROEDER, of the city of Davenport, county of Scott, and State of Iowa, have invented an Improved Life-Preserver, of which the following is a specification:

The object of my invention is to make a fire life-preserver easily used and operated by any person in case of fire, by the combination of a seat, *a*, and strap and buckle *c*, attached to an upright pole, A, with holes *d d*, through which a rope, *g*, of sufficient length, is drawn, so as to produce sufficient friction to sustain the weight of any person, as shown in Figure 3 of the annexed drawing.

The preserver is illustrated more particularly in the plan view, Fig. 1, and the vertical view, Fig. 2. The seat *a* is attached to the lower end of the pole A rigidly, as shown, and so arranged that a person sitting on it can put his feet through, between the side supporters *e e* of the seat and the pole A at *f f*; and in fastening the strap *c* around under the arms of the person, there is no danger of falling off from the instrument. The side holes *d d* through the pole (or, instead of the holes, staples or eyes might be cast on the pole) are so arranged that a line drawn through these holes, and passed either around the pole in a spiral form, or along the sides of the pole in a serpentine manner, will produce sufficient friction to sustain any weight placed on the seat. If the friction of the rope is not sufficient to support the person using the preserver, the least pressure on the rope at the pole, or pulling at the lower end of the rope, will increase the friction.

The pole itself may be either round, flat, or any other shape, and be made of any material.

It will be easily seen that by fastening one end of the rope to an object in the room, and throwing the other end out of the window, and placing themselves on the seat, persons may save their lives, in case of fire, without danger or loss of time or much trouble.

I am aware that fire-escapes are in use composed of posts with ropes coiled about them to form a tension equal to the imposed weight, and therefore do not claim, broadly, on this principle.

I am also aware that fire-escapes have been invented with seats attached or swung by ropes, or equivalents, to the post, and do not therefore claim, broadly, a seat attachment for fire-escapes.

It will be observed that I form my device with a post without grooves, having a seat rigidly attached at its lower end, which is sustained by arms connecting said seat with the post. By this means I produce a device rigid and firm in construction and steady in operation, which I claim to be superior to any that I have a knowledge of.

I claim as my invention—

1. The post A, with openings *d d*, in combination with seat *a*, rigidly attached to said post, and sustained by arms *e e*, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination with post A and seat *a*, rigidly secured thereto, the arm-rest *c*, attached to post A by staple *h*, as and for the purpose set forth.

NICOLAUS SCHROEDER.

Witnesses:
F. G. CLAUSEN,
LOUIS P. BEST.