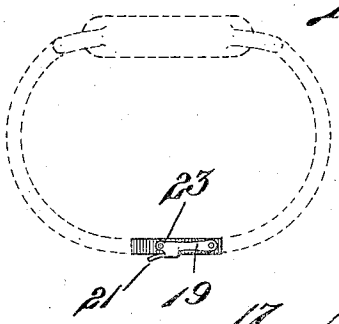
June 7, 1927. 1,631,824

P. W. JONES

SAFETY CATCH

Filed Aug. 20, 1926

Fig. 1.



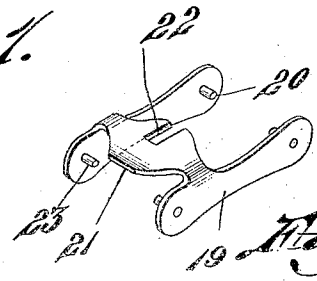


Fig. 2.

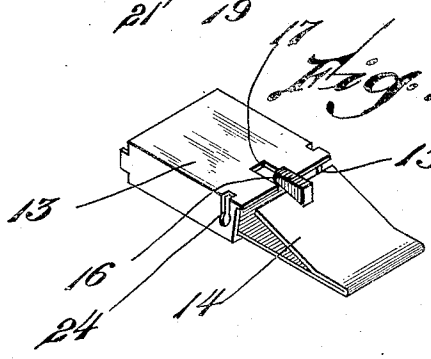


Fig. 4.

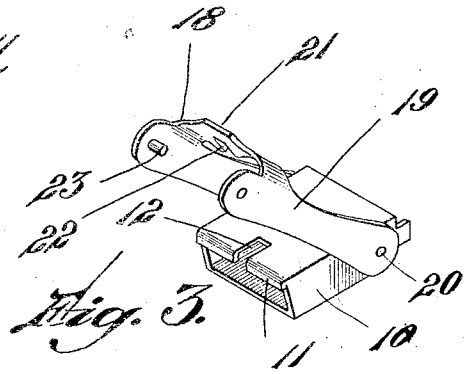


Fig. 3.

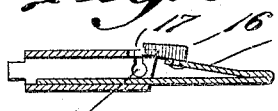


Fig. 6.

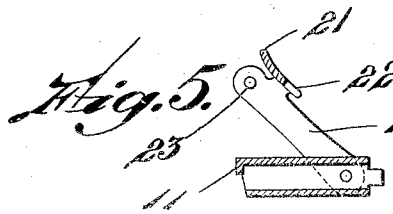


Fig. 5.

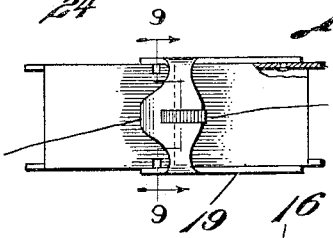


Fig. 8.

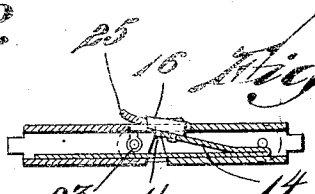


Fig. 7.

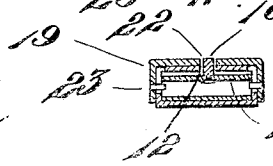


Fig. 9.

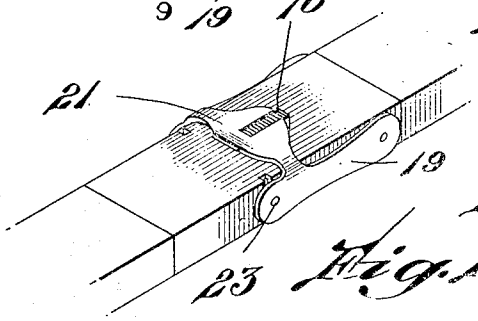


Fig. 10.

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BY
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Patented June 7, 1927. 1,631,824

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PERCIVAL W. JONES, OF WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND, ASSIGNOR TO LOUIS STERN COMPANY, OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, A CORPORATION OF RHODE ISLAND.

SAFETY CATCH.

Application filed August 20, 1926. Serial No. 130,447.

This invention relates to an improved construction of safety clasp for chains, more particularly flexible bracelet chains, and has for its object to provide a guard member for preventing accidental detachment of the ends of the bracelet.

A further object of this invention is to provide a yoke member, having a portion swingable into proximity with the manually operable finger-piece for detaching the clasp for obstructing access thereto.

A still further object of this invention is to provide a yoke member on one end of the bracelet to hook over a protuberance or finger-piece on the opposite end of the bracelet with means to secure the yoke in its hooked over locked position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, as will be more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the safety clasp equipped with a locking device, with a wrist-watch and bracelet illustrated on dotted lines.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the locking member.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the locking member attached to one of the end links of bracelet.

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the resilient tongue and finger-piece for operating the same which engages the opposite end link of the bracelet to releasably secure the two ends of the bracelet together.

Figure 5 is a sectional side elevation of the locking member and end link carrying the same, showing the locking member in raised or unlocked position.

Figure 6 is a sectional side elevation of the tongue of the clasp and end link carrying the same.

Figure 7 is a sectional side elevation of the two ends of the bracelet held together by the catch, with the improved locking member in its locking position.

Figure 8 is a plan view of the same.

Figure 9 is a sectional end elevation on lines 9—9 of Figure 8.

Figure 10 is a perspective view of the locking member in locking position with the ends of the bracelet attached.

It is found in practice, in the operation of a watch bracelet of the type having end hooks to be snapped through the bails of a wrist-watch, that continued attachment and detachment of the end hooks causes the same to break or become so sprung that loss of the watch and its bracelet occurs. It is also found in bracelets of sufficient expansion to withdraw the watch and bracelet over the hand of the wearer that continued expansion of the bracelet for this purpose causes undue strain on the springs. And, in order to obviate these undesirable effects, a so-called center clasp has been provided intermediate of the hook ends of the bracelet, by which the watch bracelet may be easily separated to be removed from the wrist of the wearer.

It is also found desirable to secure such a clasp positively against accidental movement, which I have accomplished by providing a yoke having a notch to swing over and receive the finger-piece for separating the clasp and lie in close proximity thereto to guard the finger-piece and obstruct operation thereof, thus preventing accidental opening of the clasp to release the ends of the bracelet. And, in order to make the lock additionally secure, I have provided recess and detent means between the walls of the bracelet and the locking member so that the locking member may be snapped and frictionally held in its locking position, and the following is a detailed description of the present embodiment of my invention, showing one means by which these advantageous results may be accomplished:—

With reference to drawings, 10 designates the end link of one of the bracelet parts which is shown as substantially box-shaped, with a slot 12 and an inturned lip or flange 11 to act as a catch for the resilient tongue. The opposite end link 13 of the bracelet part is provided with a resilient tongue 14, the edge 15 of which engages the inner side of the catch or flange 11, as shown in Figure 7, to hold the end links together.

A finger-piece 16 is carried by the tongue 14 and is located and guided in the slots 12 and 17 by means of which the tongue 14 may be depressed to disengage the same from the catch 11 to separate the ends of the bracelet.

In order to lock the catch against detachment, I have provided a locking member or yoke 18 formed of a pair of arms 19 pivoted

at 20 to the end link 10, the opposite or free ends of which are secured together by means of a bridge-piece 21, which is provided with a slot 22 to receive the finger-piece 16. The locking member or yoke is also provided with projections or detents 23 which may be snapped into recesses 24 in the side walls of the end link 13 to securely hold the locking member in its locking position.

It will be noticed, especially in Figure 10, that the bridge-piece 21 lies above the surface of the finger-piece 16, thus preventing accidental pressure being transmitted to the finger-piece 16 for detaching purposes. Also, it will be seen that the bridge-piece hooks over the finger-piece to resist oppositely directed endwise strains, and also that the detent and recess means securely hold the yoke member and the end of the bracelet to which it is attached to the opposite end of the bracelet to additionally secure the bracelet ends together.

The locking member not only prevents operation of the clasp for detaching the end links of the bracelet, but also of itself secures the end links of the bracelet together. It will be apparent that detachment of the bracelet end may be had by merely raising the locking yoke, the bridge of which is turned upwardly slightly as at 25 to permit ready access of the finger nail, the same being swingable on its pivots 20 to the raised position shown in Figure 3 to permit operation of the finger-piece for releasing the clasp as heretofore described.

The foregoing description is directed solely towards the construction illustrated, but I desire it to be understood that I reserve the privilege of resorting to all the mechanical changes to which the device is susceptible, the invention being defined and limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. In an ornamental chain, including terminal links, a compressible part carried by one of said links, and a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a yoke having arms hinged to the sides of one of the terminal links of the chain and swingable over the finger-piece to prevent manual manipulation of the finger-piece for detaching the terminal links of the chain.

2. In an ornamental chain including terminal links, a compressible part carried by one of said links and a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a yoke with an opening therein and having arms hinged to one of the terminal links to swing about an axis transverse of the chain to receive the finger-piece in said opening to prevent manipulation of said finger-piece for detaching the terminal links of the chain.

3. In an ornamental chain including terminal links, a compressible part carried by one of said links, and a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a yoke having arms hinged to the sides of one of the terminal links of the chain and swingable over the finger-piece, and detent and recess means between said yoke and the other of the terminal links for securing the yoke in locking position.

4. In an ornamental chain including terminal links, a compressible part carried by one of said links, and a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a pair of arms pivoted at one end to the side walls of the terminal link having the catch part, and a bridge-piece connecting the opposite ends of said arms and adapted to swing over said finger-piece to prevent detachment of said terminal links.

5. In an ornamental chain including terminal links, a compressible part carried by one of said links, and a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a pair of arms pivoted at one end to the side walls of one of said terminal links, a bridge-piece connecting the opposite ends of said arms and having a notch to receive said finger-piece, and frictional recess and detent means between said arms and one of the terminal links for releasably holding said bridge in locked position.

6. In an ornamental chain including terminal links, one of said links having notches in its side walls and a compressible part, a catch part carried by the other of said links and engageable with the compressible part when noncompressed, a finger-piece carried by said compressible part for operating the same, a pair of arms pivoted at one end to the side walls of the link carrying said catch part, a bridge-piece connecting the opposite ends of said arms and having a notch to receive said finger-piece, and detents on the ends of said arms for snapping into said notches to hold said bridge in its locking position.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

PERCIVAL W. JONES.