

(No Model.)

J. D. WARFEL.
BRIDLE BIT.

No. 576,502.

Patented Feb. 2, 1897.

FIG. 1.

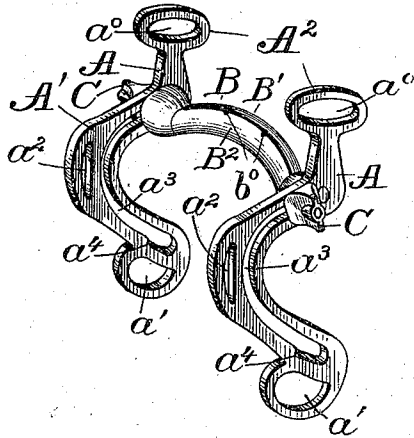


FIG. 2.

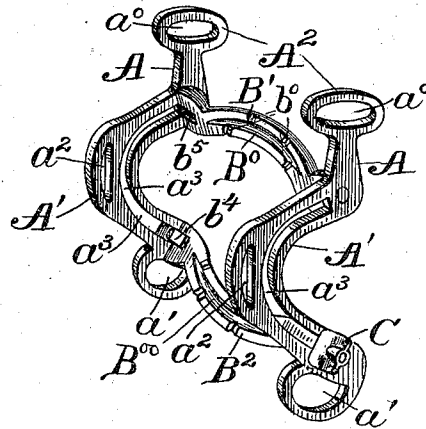


FIG. 3.

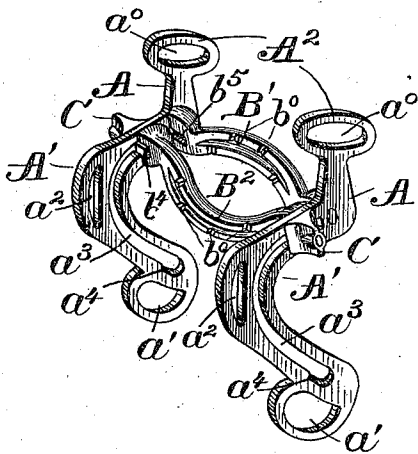
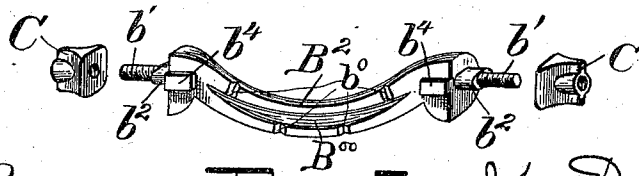
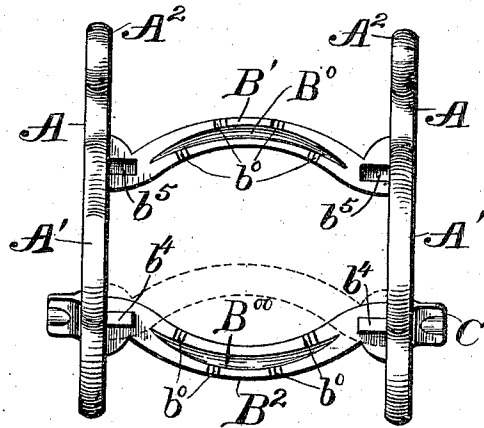


FIG. 4.



WITNESSES

Percy C. Bowen.
John L. Wilson

FIG. 5.

INVENTOR

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By Whitman & Milkenam,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN D. WARFEL, OF BUFORD, GEORGIA.

BRIDLE-BIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 576,502, dated February 2, 1897.

Application filed November 9, 1896. Serial No. 611,532. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN D. WARFEL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Buford, in the county of Gwinnett and State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bridle-Bits; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in bridle-bits; and it consists in the novel features and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

My invention will be understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein the same parts are indicated by the same letters throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the bit as used for an ordinary "curb-bit." Fig. 2 is a similar view of the bit, showing the movable sections of the mouth-bar thereof as separated from the stationary section to its fullest extent. Fig. 3 is a similar view of the bit, showing the movable section of the mouth-bar adjacent to the fixed section, but reversed. Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the bit in the position shown in Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the movable section of the mouth-bar with its securing-nuts.

A and A represent the two side pieces of the bit. These two side pieces are exactly similar and have curved lower portions A' A', which extend first backward and then forward, as seen in Figs. 1 to 3 of the drawings. The upper ends A² A² of these side pieces are provided with openings a⁰ a⁰ for the passage of the cheek-straps or other straps for connecting the bit to the headstall of a bridle or halter.

In the lower ends of the curved lower portions A' A' of the side pieces are openings a' a', in which may be secured the ends of a pair of riding or driving reins. Another pair of openings a² a² are provided in the curved portions A' A' at their extreme rear for the attachment of either a pair of reins when the bit is used for riding or driving purposes or for the attachment of the cheek-straps of a bridle or halter when used for the purpose of opening the mouth of the animal to which it is applied.

A pair of curved elongated openings or slots a³ a³ are formed through the curved lower portions A' A' of the bit to allow of the adjustment of the adjustable section of the mouth-bar, as hereinafter described.

B represents the mouth-bar, which is composed of the fixed section B' and the adjustable section B². Each of these sections is half-cylindrical in cross-section, and when the two are fitted together, as seen in Fig. 1, they form a cylindrical bar which has a slight upward curve at the center thereof. The adjustable section B² has a pair of rounded flattened shanks b² b² upon its ends, terminating in reduced screw-threaded ends b' b' and adapted to be engaged by thumb-nuts C C, as seen most clearly in Fig. 5. The flattened shanks b² b² upon the ends of the adjustable section B² are adapted to slide in the curved openings a³ a³, but cannot turn therein except at the lower ends of said openings, which are enlarged, as shown at a⁴ a⁴ in Figs. 1 and 3. Lugs b⁴ b⁴ are provided upon the flat side of said adjustable section B² at the ends thereof to engage in recesses b⁵ b⁵ in the stationary section B', as seen most clearly in Fig. 4, when the sections are brought together in the adjustment shown in Fig. 1.

For use as a driving or riding bit the adjustable section of the mouth-bar is adjusted to the position shown in Fig. 1, as above described, with its flat side against the flat side of the stationary section. The thumb-nuts C C are then tightened and the two sections of the bar B are as one.

For use as a mouth-opener for veterinary purposes, such as bleeding or treating the teeth or throat, the adjustable bar B² may be loosened and slid around to the lower end of the openings a³ a³, where it may be secured again by means of the thumb-nuts, as before. The curve of the openings a³ a³ will cause this adjustable section to turn almost if not entirely over, as seen in Figs. 2 and 4. In this position the animal's mouth will be held open and the hand or any instrument may be inserted between the two sections of the bar B into the animal's mouth or throat with perfect ease and safety. Again, the bar B² may be adjusted for use in "drenching" by first sliding the said bar down to the lower ends of the openings a³ a³, as above described and

shown in Figs. 2 and 4 in full lines, and then turning the said bar in the enlarged openings $a^4 a^4$ and locking the same in that position by means of the thumb-nuts CC, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 4. In this position the neck of a bottle may be inserted between the bars B^1 and B^2 , and the animal's tongue may work beneath the adjustable bar B^2 .

When the bit is to be used upon a horse that is addicted to the habit of "clenching" or holding the bit between his teeth, the bar B^2 may be adjusted to the position shown in Fig. 3 by first moving it to the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4, as above described, and then moving it upward again in the reversed position. In this adjustment the horse cannot close his teeth upon the bar B, and hence clenching of the bit and the possible disaster incident to a runaway are avoided.

The mouth-bar B is provided with a chamber for the reception of an antiseptic or medicinal substance by having a recess made in each section of the mouth-bar, as shown at B^0 and B^{00} , so that when the two sections are fitted together these two recesses form a single chamber. The substance in this chamber so formed may ooze out between the two sections of the bar, or a plurality of smaller grooves or recesses b^0 may be provided in the two sections of the bar B to allow this substance in the holding-chamber to escape therefrom more readily. Thus this chamber in the bar B may be filled with asafetida, tar, or any other similar substance, which will be gradually drawn out into the mouth of the animal wearing the bit.

I do not wish to limit myself to the uses and adjustments of the bit herein referred to, as it may be used and applied in various ways unnecessary to refer to herein.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a bridle-bit, the combination with the two side pieces each having an opening at the top for the attachment of a strap on the head-stall of a bridle or halter, an opening at the bottom for the attachment of a rein, a rearwardly-curved portion between said ends having a short opening for the attachment of a strap on the said bridle or halter, and having also an elongated curved opening therethrough; of a mouth-bar composed of two semicylindrical portions, the one rigidly attached to said side pieces, the other having a shank at each end adapted to slide in said curved openings in said side pieces, and having screw-threaded ends; and thumb-nuts engaging the said screw-threaded ends of said shanks, and adapted to secure said movable section at any desired position in said curved openings, substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. In a bridle-bit, the combination with the two side pieces each having an opening at the top for the attachment of a strap on the head-

stall of a bridle or halter, an opening at the bottom for the attachment of a rein, a rearwardly-curved portion between said ends having an elongated curved opening therethrough; of a mouth-bar composed of two curved semicylindrical portions, the one rigidly attached to said side pieces, the other having a flattened shank at each end adapted to slide in said curved openings in said side pieces, and having reduced screw-threaded ends; and thumb-nuts engaging the said screw-threaded ends of said shanks, and adapted to secure said movable section at any desired position in said curved openings, substantially as and for the purposes described.

3. In a bridle-bit, the combination with the two side pieces each having an opening at the top for the attachment of a strap on the head-stall of a bridle or halter, an opening at the bottom for the attachment of a rein, a rearwardly-curved portion between said ends having a short opening for the attachment of a strap on the said bridle or halter, and having also an elongated curved opening therethrough; of a mouth-bar composed of two curved semicylindrical portions, the one rigidly attached to said side pieces, and having a pair of recesses in the flat face thereof, the other having a pair of lugs upon its flat face adapted to engage said recesses in the flat face of said rigid portion, and having a flattened shank at each end adapted to slide in said curved openings in said side pieces, and having reduced screw-threaded ends; and thumb-nuts engaging the said screw-threaded ends of said shanks and adapted to secure said movable sections at any desired position in said curved openings, substantially as and for the purposes described.

4. In a bridle-bit, the combination with the two side pieces each having an opening at the top for the attachment of a strap on the head-stall of a bridle or halter, an opening at the bottom for the attachment of a rein, a rearwardly-curved portion between said ends having a short opening for the attachment of a strap on the said bridle or halter, and having also an elongated curved opening therethrough with an enlargement at its lower end; of a mouth-bar composed of two curved semicylindrical portions, the one rigidly attached to said side pieces, the other having a flattened shank at each end adapted to slide in said curved openings in said side pieces, and having reduced screw-threaded ends; and thumb-nuts engaging the said screw-threaded ends of said shanks, and adapted to secure said movable section at any desired position in said curved openings, substantially as and for the purposes described.

5. In a bridle-bit, the combination with the two side pieces each having an opening at the top for the attachment of a strap on the head-stall of a bridle or halter, an opening at the bottom for the attachment of a rein, a rearwardly-curved portion between said ends having a short opening for the attachment of a

strap on the said bridle or halter, and having
also an elongated curved opening there-
through; of a mouth-bar composed of two
semicylindrical portions, the one rigidly at-
5 tached to said side pieces, the other having
a shank at each end adapted to slide in said
curved openings in said side pieces, and hav-
ing screw-threaded ends; and thumb-nuts en-
gaging the said screw-threaded ends of said
10 shanks, and adapted to secure said movable
section at any desired position in said curved
openings, and each having a hollow recess in

its flat side, with grooves leading from said
hollow recess, said recess and said grooves in
said sections adapted to coincide when the 15
two sections are brought together, substan-
tially as and for the purposes described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN D. WARFEL.

Witnesses:

LEROY PHARR,
H. P. THOMAS.