A. G. MOLNAR, Jr.

OYSTER OPENER.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 3, 1908.

904,000. Patented Nov. 17, 1908.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

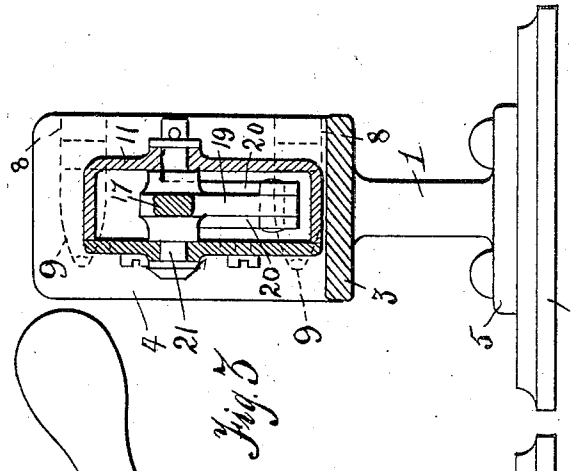

Fig. 3.

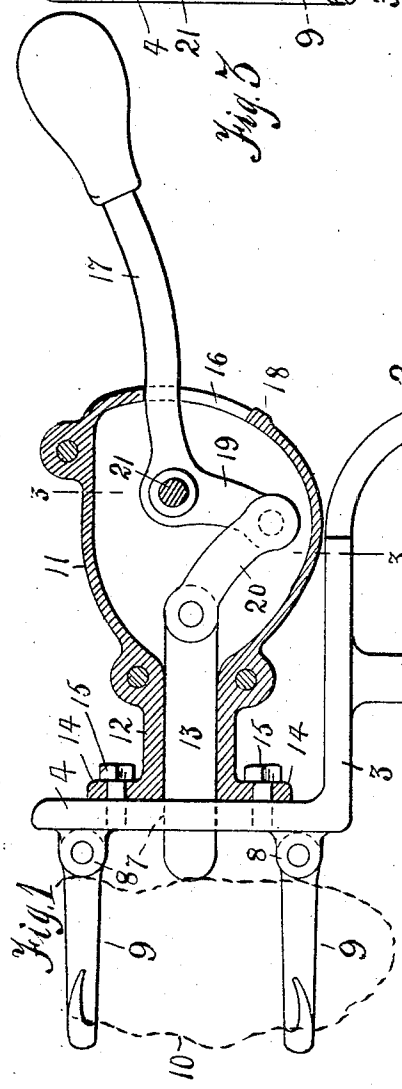

Fig. 1.

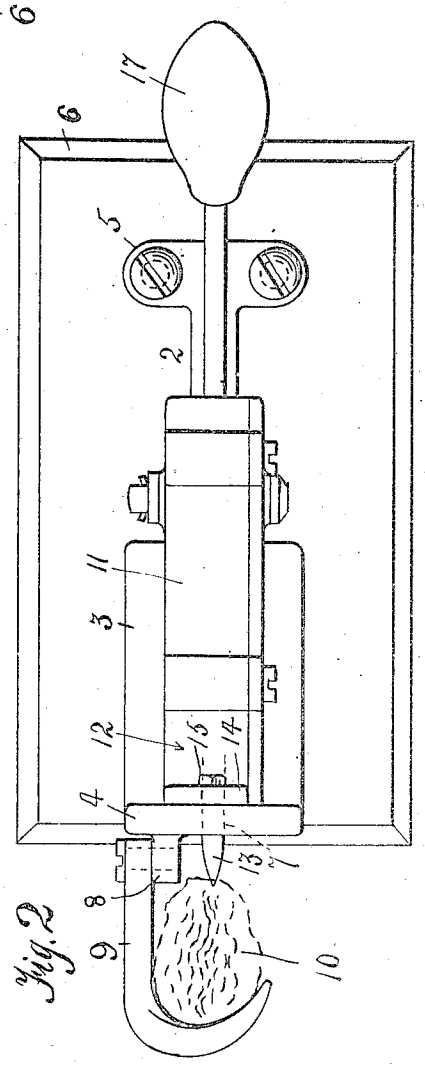

Fig. 2.

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Albert G. Molnar, Jr. Inventor,
By Thornton & Brown Attys.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4

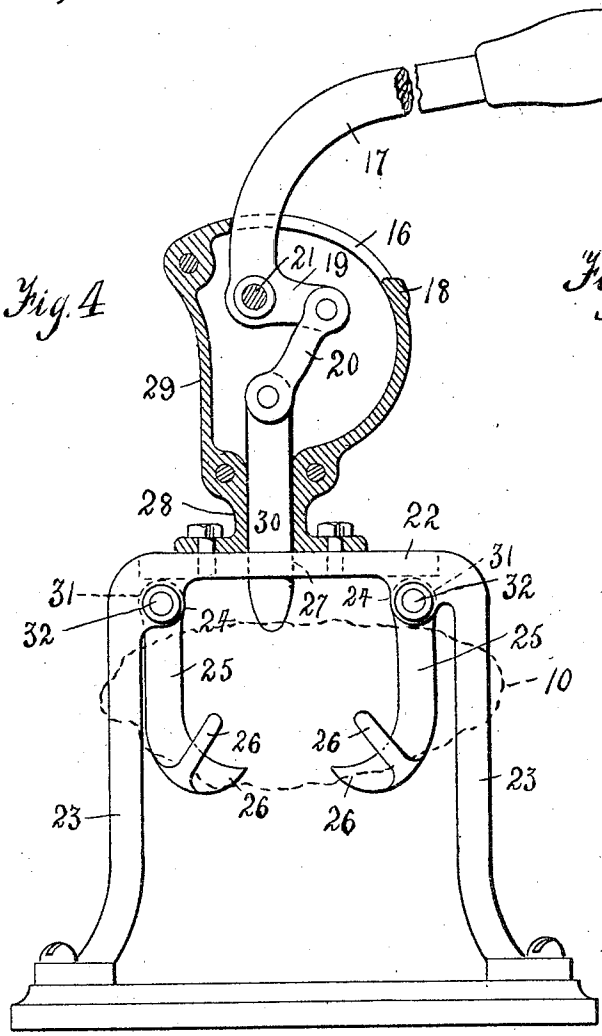
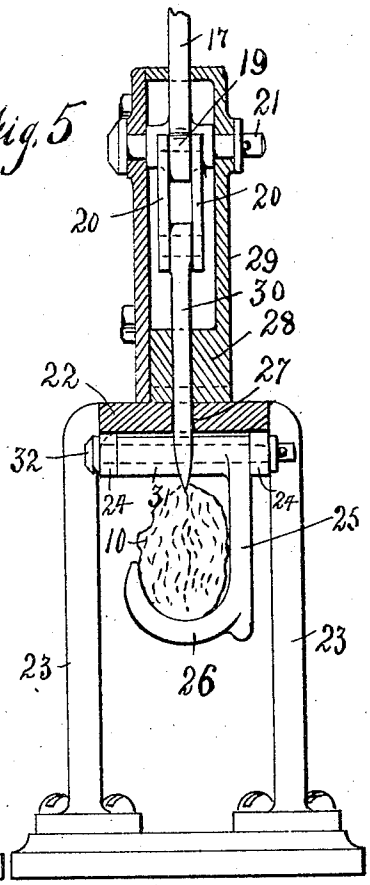


Fig. 5



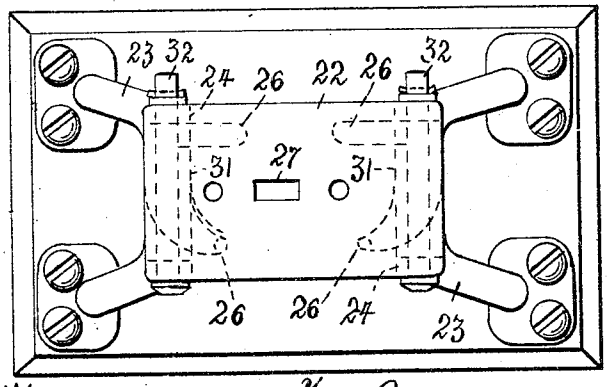
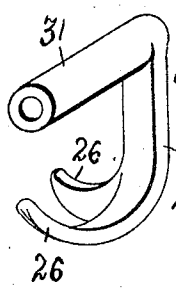


Fig. 6

Fig. 7



Witnesses,
M. R. Meacham
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT GEO. MOLNAR, JR., OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

OYSTER-OPENER.

No. 904,000. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 17, 1908.

Application filed February 3, 1908. Serial No. 414,084.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT GEORGE MOLNAR, Jr., a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Oyster-Openers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to oyster openers.

One object is to provide a device embodying such characteristics that the oysters may be supported thereby and expeditiously opened.

Another object resides in the provision of an oyster opener embodying simplicity, inexpensiveness, durability and efficiency.

A still further object is to provide a device of the nature stated including a frame or stand, means on the frame or stand to support the oyster, and a hand operated element arranged above the supporting means for manipulation to act upon the shell to open the same.

With the above and other objects in view, the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes may be made in the form, proportion, size and minor details without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a side elevation partly in section illustrating one embodiment of my invention. Fig. 2 is a top plan view. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of a modified form of the invention. Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view of a modified form. Fig. 6 is a plan view of the support employed in the modified form of the invention, and Fig. 7 is a detail perspective view of one of the oyster holding prongs employed in the modified form of the invention.

Referring now to the accompanying drawings, and more particularly to Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the reference characters 1 and 2 indicate the supporting legs of the support 3 which latter is provided with an upwardly directed part 4, said legs having feet 5 by which the support is secured to a suitable base member 6 adapted to rest upon a table or other support or to be suspended in any suitable manner from a wall or support so that it may hang vertically, if desired, instead of being disposed horizontally as shown. The supporting stand may be of any form, and under certain conditions it need not be necessarily fixedly secured to a base or any other support.

In the stand shown in Figs. 1 to 3 inclusive, the part 4 is provided with a slot 7 for a purpose presently explained and it is also provided with spaced ears 8 to which are pivotally connected the oyster holding prongs 9 which receive and hold the oyster 10 to permit of opening of the latter.

Secured in any suitable manner upon the extension 4 of the stand is a casing including a hollow head 11 and a reduced or neck part 12 which latter is adapted to aline with the slot 7 of the stand to guide the oyster opening knife or other element 13 in its operation. As shown in the drawings, this casing may have feet 14 through which are passed bolts, screws, or other suitable securing elements 15, whereby the casing is rigidly secured to the stand. The head part 11 of said casing is provided with a slot 16 in which works and by which is guided a suitable operating handle 17, the ends of said slot 16 forming stops to limit the strokes of the handle and the casing adjacent the lower end of said slot 16 may be increased in thickness as at 18, to strengthen the casing so that it may withstand any undue wear incident to jarring, if any, occasioned by downward strokes of the operating handle.

The inner end of the handle 17 is provided with a lug 19, to which and to the inner end of the opening element 13, there is pivotally connected a pair of links 20, as shown. At the juncture of the handle 17 and its lug or extension 19, the former is pivoted within the head part 11 of the casing by means of the pivot 21, whereby, when the operating handle is thrown from its upper position to its lower position, the link connections 20 will cause the opening element 13 to move outwardly of its casing into and between the shells of the oyster 10 to open the latter, the oyster being held by one hand until the opening element and the oyster are in proper positions with relation to each other. By reverse movement of the operating handle the opening element is drawn into its casing. Thus the opening element has a reciprocating movement upon operation of the handle 17. A single stroke

of the handle 17 may effect an opening of the oyster, but obviously, as many strokes as necessary may be made.

It will be understood that my device is equally capable of opening clams and other analogous commodities, and reference to Figs. 4 to 7 inclusive will disclose that my modified type of device is capable of performing all of the functions hereinbefore stated and that while the two structures differ somewhat, that the principles involved in each are the same. It is therefore unnecessary to enter at great length into detail relative to the modified form of invention, and I will therefore describe it briefly.

The stand in the modified type of the invention consists of a supporting part 22 provided with legs 23, the supporting part having pairs of depending ears 24 to which are pivotally connected the oyster holding prongs 25, each prong having a pair of fingers 26 at its free end. The platform part 22 of the stand is provided with a slot 27 adapted to aline with the neck part 28 of a casing whose outer end terminates in the hollow head 29. The oyster opening element 30 operates in the same manner and by the same means as that hereinbefore described, and as will be apparent from the drawing.

It might be stated in connection with the oyster holding prongs 25 that they have a substantial shaft or pintle 31 whose ends are reduced as at 32 to fit into the corresponding ears 24 of the stand and that by virtue of this mounting these prongs have a substantial supporting engagement with the stand to offset any possible disconnection by reason of pressure thereupon incident to the opening of the oysters.

What is claimed is:—

1. A device of the character described comprising a supporting means, a pair of oyster holding prongs pivotally secured independently of each other to the supporting means whereby the prongs may be adjusted independently of each other to support the oyster, an oyster opening element operable between said prongs, and means whereby the opening element may be reciprocated.

2. A device of the character described comprising a supporting means having a slot, a pair of oyster holding prongs pivotally secured to the supporting means upon opposite sides of said slot, a casing secured to the supporting means and having communication with said slot, the casing also having a slot at its outer end, an oyster opening element mounted in said casing and slidable through the slot of the supporting means and between said prongs, a handle pivoted in said casing and projecting through the slot of the latter, and a link connection in the casing between the inner end of the oyster opening element and the inner end of said handle whereby the oyster opening element may be reciprocated upon operation of the handle.

3. In a device of the character described, a supporting means, a pair of oyster holding prongs pivotally mounted independently of each other upon the supporting means whereby the prongs may be adjusted independently of each other to support the oyster, an oyster opening element, and means whereby the oyster opening element may be reciprocated.

4. In an oyster opener, a supporting stand, a pair of oyster holding prongs mounted independently of each other upon the stand whereby the prongs may be adjusted independently of each other to support the oyster, a casing secured to the stand, an oyster opening element adapted for reciprocation into and out of said casing, and means whereby the opening element may be reciprocated.

5. In an oyster opener, a supporting means, a pair of oyster holding prongs movably mounted upon the stand, whereby the prongs may be adjusted independently of each other to support the oyster, an oyster opening element, and means whereby the oyster opening element may be operated.

6. In an oyster opener, a supporting stand, oyster holding prongs pivotally carried by the stand, the stand having a slot, a casing secured to the stand and provided with two slots, one slot for alinement with the slot of the stand, an oyster opening element adapted for reciprocation through said alining slots, a handle pivoted in said casing and working through the second of its slots, and a connection between the handle and said element whereby the latter may be reciprocated.

7. In an oyster opener, a supporting means, oyster holding prongs secured independently of each other to said means whereby the prongs may be adjusted independently of each other to support the oyster, a casing secured to said means and provided with a slot, an oyster opening element adapted for reciprocation into and out of said casing, a handle pivoted in said casing and working through said slot, and a connection between the handle and said element whereby the latter is operated.

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

ALBERT GEO. MOLNAR, JR.

Witnesses:

JOSEPH W. ODOMS,

LILLIE BROCKETT.