

T. ARMSTRONG.

Hoof-Spreaders.

No. 136,689.

Patented March 11, 1873.

Fig. 1.

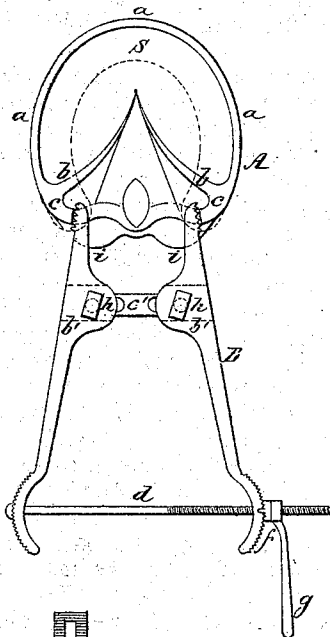


Fig. 2.

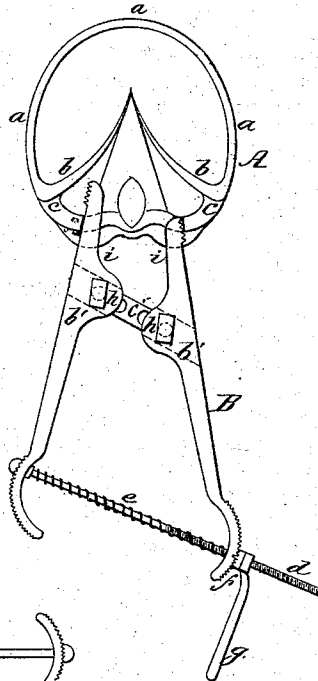


Fig. 3.

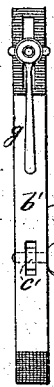
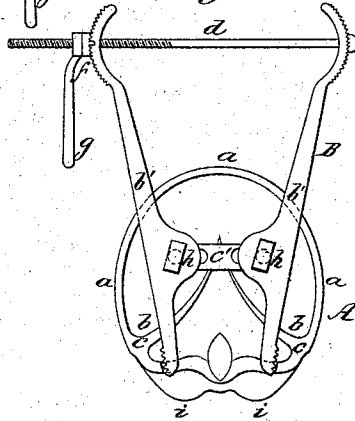


Fig. 4.

Witnesses.

Thomas Hill.
William Gill.

Inventor.

Thos. Armstrong.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS ARMSTRONG, OF HAMILTON, CANADA.

IMPROVEMENT IN HOOF-SPREADERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 136,689, dated March 11, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS ARMSTRONG, of the city of Hamilton, in the county of Wentworth, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, have invented a new and useful Instrument for the use of Veterinary Surgeons and others, for the purpose of restoring and curing what is known as the contracted foot in horses; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification.

The object of this invention is to overcome the difficulties experienced in the use of those instruments formerly used for effecting the same object; in its being more easily applied, and in its accomplishing a better purpose.

In the accompanying drawing the same letters of reference indicate the same parts.

Figure 1 is a view of the under side or sole of a horse's foot, and is marked A. It is shown, in this view, with a shoe, which is marked S. The shoe is supposed to be transparent in order to show the principal parts under it which it may be necessary to refer to in the description; *a a a* being the horny crust of the foot; *b b*, the bars; *c c*, the heels; *i i*, the bulbs of the heels. The spreader B is shown, in this view, attached directly under the shoe and pressing against the heel on each side, and spreading the hoof.

Fig. 2 is also a view of the same parts of the foot as Fig. 1, with the spreader B in this case attached obliquely on the foot, one of the ends bearing on the heel and the other end considerably further in toward the bar *b*, in which position it may frequently require to be used. This view shows the adaptability of the spreader B to be used in every necessary position. It will be observed that in this oblique position one side is being spread out without at the same time spreading the other side to the same extent.

Fig. 3 is still another view of the same part of the horse's foot, showing the spreader B attached in a reverse position, which may frequently be required. It is shown, in this view, to be spreading both sides equally. Same in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an edge view of the spreader B.

This invention consists of two levers, *b' b'*, jointed upon a middle bar, *c'*, with variable centers for the enlargement or contraction of the instrument; a tightening-screw, *d*; spiral spring *e*; (this spiral spring may either be used or not—in some cases it may be better without it); *f*, a grooved washer, with guides to keep the grooves in position for the corresponding grooves on curved ends of levers *b' b'*. *g* is a nut with handle for operating the screw *d*. *h h* are two thumb-screws, which are used as centers for the levers *b' b'*. The instrument is made nearly all of cast-steel.

The advantages of this spreader over the tongs used formerly for this purpose are that it can be used in various positions, as shown on the drawing, where are also shown both the manner of applying and the parts where it is applied, so that any ordinary shoer of horses could manipulate the same. Two or three shoeings with the foot prepared by this spreader, and with the other necessary treatment known to those skilled in veterinary practice, are frequently sufficient to restore the foot to its natural and healthy condition.

Having thus explained my invention, I claim—

The combination and arrangement of the levers *b' b'*, middle bar *c'*, tightening-screw *d*, spiral spring *e*, grooved washer *f*, handle-nut *g*, and thumb-screws *h h*, substantially as described, and for the purposes set forth.

HAMILTON, 26th October, 1872.

THOS. ARMSTRONG.

Witnesses:

THOMAS HILL,
WILLIAM GILL.