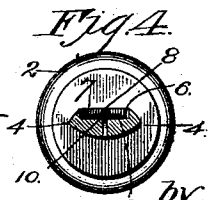
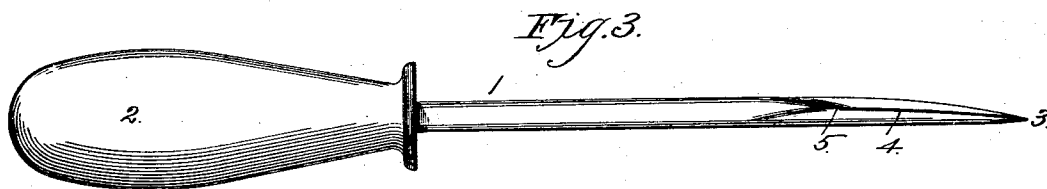
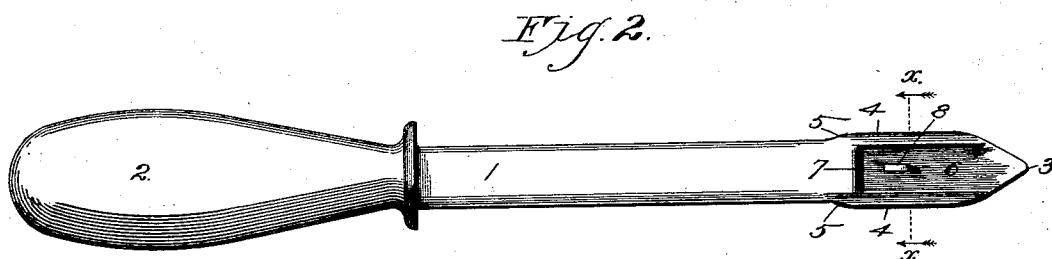
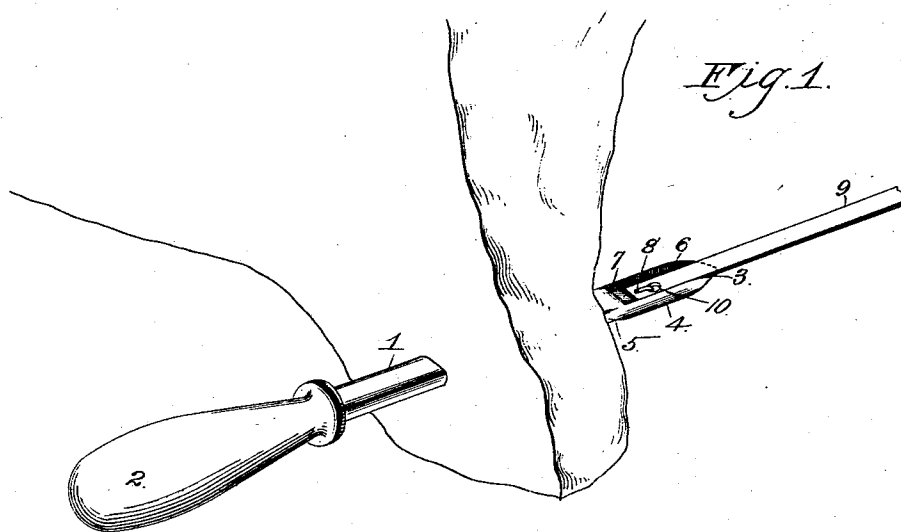


(No Model.)

T. A. BRAY.
MEAT PUNCTURING INSTRUMENT.

No. 570,593.

Patented Nov. 3, 1896.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS A. BRAY, OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

MEAT-PUNCTURING INSTRUMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 570,593, dated November 3, 1896.

Application filed February 24, 1896. Serial No. 580,610. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS A. BRAY, of Kansas City, Jackson county, Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improve-
5 ments in Meat-Puncturing Instruments, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part thereof.

My invention relates to meat-puncturing
10 instruments, and is designed particularly as a quick and efficient means for threading through the meat, such as a carcass of a beef or other animal, a tag, whereby such meat
15 will be properly identified at all times as to ownership, destination, and other necessary information for the persons through whose hands it passes in shipment or transportation.

With this object in view the invention consists in its novel and peculiar construction;
20 as will be hereinafter described and claimed.

In order that the invention may be thoroughly understood, I will proceed to describe it with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which—

25 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a meat-puncturing instrument embodying my invention and in position relative to a tag to thread the latter through a piece of meat. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the instrument on a larger
30 scale. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 4 is a cross-section of the same, taken on the line *xx* of Fig. 2.

Referring to said drawings in detail, 1 designates the shank of the instrument, which is
35 preferably of rectangular form in cross-section, but not necessarily so. At one end it carries a handle 2, while at its opposite end it tapers gradually to a point 3, and for a suitable distance from such pointed end it is
40 made slightly wider than its shank, preferably as shown. Such widened portion is also beveled in such manner that its side margins 4 are brought to a knife-edge, which at their inner ends taper gradually inward to the body
45 of the shank, as shown at 5, so as to prevent or form no abrupt shoulders that will interfere with the withdrawal of the instrument after the puncture is made, or, in other words, for the purpose of facilitating such with-
50 drawal. The instrument in the upper side of its widened portion is formed with a longitudinal recess 6, which is closed at its in-

ner end by the substantially abrupt shoulder 7, such recess being considerably deeper than the thickness of the tag with which the instrument will be used. Projecting upwardly
55 and centrally of said recesses and disposed longitudinally toward its inner or closed end is a hook 8, the upper surface of which is also some distance below the plane of the upper
60 side of the shank of the instrument, as illustrated most clearly in Fig. 4.

In practice, when it is desired to secure in position a tag, such as the thin metal strips
65 ordinarily used for this purpose, the instrument is first forced through the meat or carcass at the proper point, as illustrated in Fig. 1. The tag 9 is then fitted within the recess 6 of the instrument and with the hook 8 projecting through the eye or aperture 10, usually
70 found in the end of the tag. The instrument is then withdrawn through the meat (which may be easily accomplished owing to the existence of the sharpened beveled ends 5 and sharpened side margins 4) in order to thread
75 the tag through the meat easily and expeditiously. In this operation it is obvious that the front end of the tag being held closely down to the bottom of the recess by the hook and adjacent to the shoulder 7 it cannot pos-
80 sibly come into contact with the meat and thereby obstruct the withdrawal of the instrument through the meat, and this is particularly the function of such shoulder. The instrument is then disconnected from the tag,
85 and the latter, upon which may be printed or stamped the instructions requisite, as hereinbefore indicated, is sealed in the usual or any preferred manner.

Thus it will be seen that I have produced
90 an instrument for quickly and easily securing tags in position which will obviate many disadvantages now encountered in this operation, and it is also obvious that I have produced an instrument of this character which
95 is simple, durable, and inexpensive of manufacture, which may be used for an indefinite length of time without resharpening when made from proper material, such as steel.

Having thus described the invention, what
100 I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A meat-puncturing instrument, comprising a shank having a handle at one end and

tapered to a point at its opposite end and also tapered at such end to form sharpened side margins which project slightly beyond the sides of the shank, and provided furthermore
5 with a recess in its upper side and with a hook projecting upwardly and inwardly of said recess, substantially as described.

2. A meat-puncturing instrument, comprising a shank having a handle at one end and
10 tapered to a point at the other, the latter end being slightly wider than the shank and beveled to form sharpened side margins, and recessed also in the upper side of such portion so as to form a shoulder at one end, and a

hook projecting upwardly and inwardly of 15 said recess and lying slightly below the plane of the upper side of the shank, in combination with a tag which occupies said recess and is provided with an aperture or hole at one end through which projects said hook, 20 substantially as described.

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

THOMAS A. BRAY.

Witnesses:

CHAS. W. CLARKE,
M. R. REMLEY.