

March 30, 1926.

1,579,160

A. R. SPIKINGS

BRACING COUPLING

Filed June 17, 1924

Fig. 1.

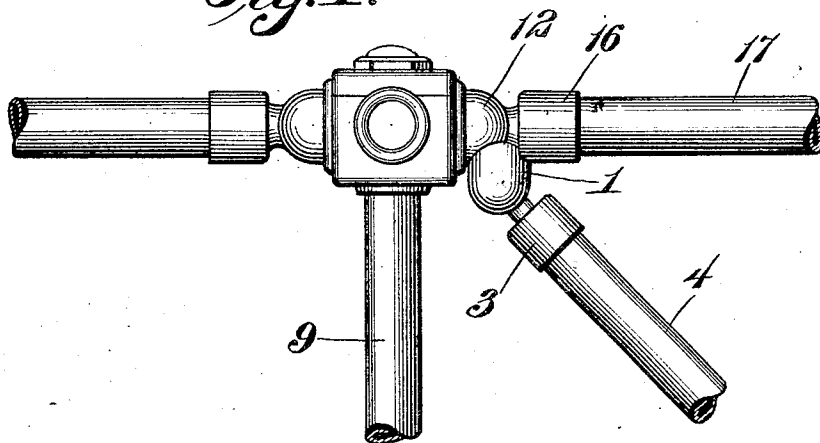


Fig. 2.

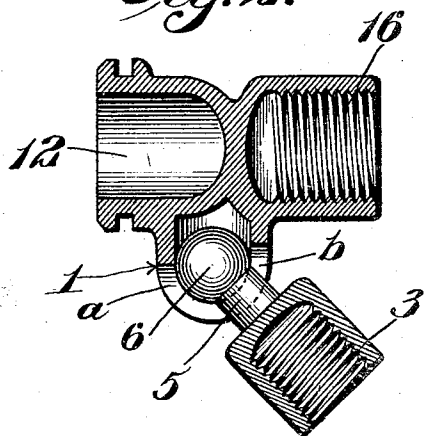
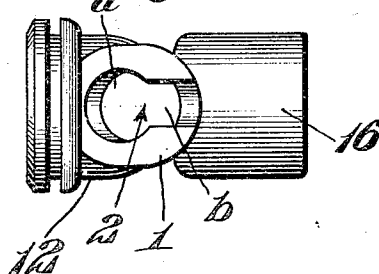


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT RICHARD SPIKINGS, OF LAKE PLACID CLUB, NEW YORK.

BRACING COUPLING.

Application filed June 17, 1924. Serial No. 720,582.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT RICHARD SPIKINGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lake Placid Club, in the county of Essex and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bracing Couplings, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to bracing couplings and has relation more particularly to a device of this general character especially designed and adapted for use in connection with railing structures, and it is an object
15 of the invention to provide novel and improved means whereby a brace can be applied or removed without interfering with the structure or necessitating the taking down of the upper rail of the structure.

20 Another object of the invention is to provide a novel and improved bracing coupling particularly adapted for use in connection with rail fittings as disclosed in my pending application Serial No. 696,847, filed
25 March 4, 1924.

The invention consists in the details of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts of my improved bracing coupling whereby certain
30 important advantages are attained and the device rendered simpler, less expensive and otherwise more convenient and advantageous for use, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

35 The novel features of my invention will hereinafter be definitely claimed.

In order that my invention may be the better understood, I will now proceed to describe the same with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

40 Figure 1 is a fragmentary view in side elevation illustrating a bracing coupling constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention and in applied position;

45 Figure 2 is a sectional view taken through a coupling constructed in accordance with an embodiment of my invention;

50 Figure 3 is a view in bottom plan of the socket member as particularly illustrated in Figure 2.

55 As disclosed in the accompanying drawings, 9 denotes a supporting post or the like to the upper end portion of which is secured a fitting of a type particularly disclosed in my pending application Serial No. 696,847 filed March 4, 1924, and which fitting has

operatively engaged therewith a socket member 12 which may be rotatable or non-rotatable as desired. The outer portion of the member 12 is provided with a socket 16 in
60 which is adapted to have threaded engagement an end portion of a railing section 17.

The socket member 12 at its inner portion is provided with a hollow extension or protuberance 1 substantially semi-spherical in
65 form and which is provided in its peripheral wall with a slot 2 one end portion *a* of which being substantially circular and the opposite end portion *b* being restricted. The slot 2 is disposed lengthwise of the socket
70 member 12 with the restricted portion *b* thereof adjacent to the socket 16.

A cap or head 3 is adapted to be threaded or otherwise connected with the brace member 4. This cap or head 3 at its axial center
75 is provided with an outstanding member 5 terminating in an enlargement or head 6 substantially spherical in form. This head 6 is readily insertable through the portion *a* of the slot 2 but not through the portion *b*.
80 By this means the brace member 4 may be readily adjusted to the angle desired and can be applied or removed with respect to the socket member 12 without removing such socket member or in any way interfering
85 with the associated railing section 17.

While I disclose in the present embodiment of my invention only a single extension or protuberance 1 it is to be understood that a plurality of the same can be employed
90 in cluster should the requirements of practice so necessitate. The particular location of the hollow extension or protuberance 1 as herein disclosed is also of essential advantage in materially strengthening or reinforcing the structure comprised in the assembly of the socket member 12 as said hollow extension or protuberance provides
95 added metal or material.

From the foregoing description it is
100 thought to be obvious that a bracing coupling constructed in accordance with my invention is particularly well adapted for use by reason of the convenience and facility with which it may be assembled and operated, and it will also be obvious that my invention is susceptible of some change and
105 modification without departing from the principles and spirit thereof and for this reason I do not wish to be understood as
110 limiting myself to the precise arrangement and formation of the several parts herein

shown in carrying out my invention in practice except as hereinafter claimed.

I claim:—

5 A rail structure comprising, in combination, a socket member having recesses provided at one end thereof for connection with a railing post, the opposite end portion of the socket member being tubular and internally threaded for engagement with a rail,
10 the central portion of the socket member having formed integral therewith a laterally directed hollow extension, the wall of

said extension having a slot, a portion of the slot being enlarged, a cap adapted for connection with a brace member, said cap 15 being provided with an outstanding member terminating in an enlargement, said enlargement being insertable through the enlarged portion of the slot of the extension, and said outstanding member being movable within 20 the slot.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

ALBERT R. SPIKINGS.