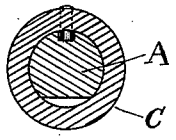
(No Model.)

A. J. AVERY.

WALKING LADDER.

No. 568,557. Patented Sept. 29, 1896.

Fig. 3



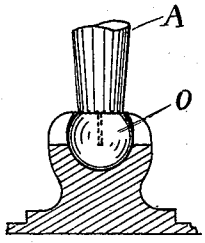


Fig. 4

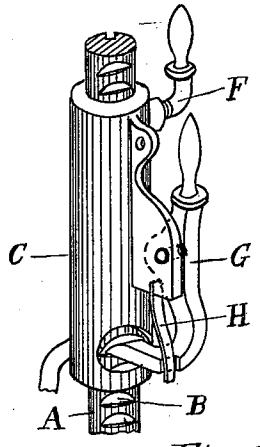


Fig. 2

Fig. 1

Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW J. AVERY, OF SACO, MAINE.

WALKING-LADDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 568,557, dated September 29, 1896.

Application filed February 14, 1896. Serial No. 579,250. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW J. AVERY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Saco, in the county of York and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Walking-Ladders; 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 walking-ladders. It is designed to enable a person while standing on the ladder to move it about from place to place.

In the drawings herewith accompanying and making a part of this application, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my ladder. Fig. 2 is a detail view showing sleeve and ratchet mechanism. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the standard, sleeve, and spline; and Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view showing universal joint for foot of standards.

Same letters refer to like parts.

In said drawings, A represents standards, B racks on the sides of said standards, and C sleeves splined on said standards and adapted to slide up and down thereon. Rigidly secured to said sleeves are foot-supports D, which are connected together by link E. Said sleeves are provided with set-screws F and with spring-controlled pivoted pawls G, which are held normally in engagement with the racks on the standards by springs H. Pivotally secured to the standards near the top are rearwardly-extended braces I, and pivotally secured to the sleeves are laterally-extended braces J. Near the top are spring-clasps K, adapted to secure the lateral braces in upright position when not in use. The foot-supports may be of any convenient form and may have a toe part L, turned upwardly. They also may have upturned ears at the side, and secured therein straps M for holding the foot in place, and the sleeves may have straps N, secured thereto in any convenient manner, adapted to pass around the ankle. The base of the uprights may be formed with a universal joint O and with extended bars P to afford great stability. The universal joint is not necessary, but is convenient when the ladder is being operated in the field when the surface is uneven.

The operation of my improved device is as follows: The foot-supports are drawn down near enough to the bottom of the standards to enable a person to step into them. Once in position he raises each foot alternately, and with it the foot-supports, until he reaches the required height. He may then use the device in the nature of stilts, walking about at will. The rearwardly-extended braces drag loosely upon the ground or floor, as the case may be, when moving forward, and serving as braces when at rest. If it is desired to have greater stability, the lateral braces are let down, thus affording a very strong support. To lower the foot-supports, the ratchet is withdrawn from the rack on one side and its support lowered a convenient distance, and then the other side, and so on alternately.

Having thus described my invention and its use, I claim—

1. In a walking-ladder, suitable standards having racks in the sides thereof, vertically-adjustable sleeves mounted on said standards and carrying foot-supports rigidly secured thereto, a pivoted link connecting said foot-supports and spring-controlled pawls adapted to engage said racks and support said sleeves on said standards when in their normal position, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In a walking-ladder, suitable standards having racks in the sides thereof, sleeves vertically adjustable on said standards, said sleeves carrying foot-supports and spring-controlled pawls adapted to engage said racks and a link pivotally connecting said foot-supports, in combination with rearwardly-extended braces pivotally secured to the tops of said standards, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In a walking-ladder, suitable standards, vertically-adjustable sleeves on said standards, foot-supports on said sleeves and a link pivotally connecting said foot-supports, in combination with laterally-extended braces pivotally secured to said sleeves.

4. In a walking-ladder, suitable standards, vertically-adjustable foot-supports on said

standards, a pivoted link connecting said supports, braces for said standards and a limited ball-and-socket-joint connection between the lower extremities of said standards and base-bars, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 12th day of February, 1896.

ANDREW J. AVERY.

Witnesses:
ELGIN C. VERRILL,
WILLIAM H. CLIFFORD, Jr.