(No Model.)

# F. ARMSTRONG.

## SAFETY CLASP.

No. 244,515. Patented July 19, 1881.

Fig. 1

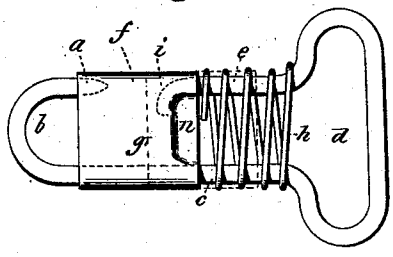
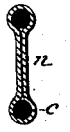



Fig 2




Fig. 3.




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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK ARMSTRONG, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

## SAFETY-CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 244,515, dated July 19, 1881.

Application filed March 9, 1881. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK ARMSTRONG, of Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Safety-Clasps; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a side view; Figs. 2 and 3, transverse sections.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of clasps which are designed for stocking-supporters and like purposes, and which make an engagement by means of a pointed hook; and the invention consists in the construction as hereinafter described, and particularly recited in the claim.

I take a single piece of wire of the required length and point one end, *a*, and from that end, bent to form a hook, *b*, continuing the side *c* opposite the hook straight a distance according to the length of the clasp desired; then, bent to form the attaching-loop *d*, and returned toward the point of the hook, forming a side, *e*, opposite to and parallel with the side *c*, and so as to leave a space or mouth, *f*, between the two ends, and through which mouth engagement may be made with the hook *b*. Over the hook end I pass a sleeve, *g*, made of sheet metal, and so as to slide freely on the body toward and from the hook end. Between the sleeve and the loop *d*, I place a spring, *h*, which bears against the sleeve, tending to force it forward and so as to inclose the point of the hook *a*, and as seen in Fig. 1.

To open the hook, press the sleeve toward the loop, as seen in broken lines; then the hook may be engaged with whatever it is desired to attach it.

As a convenient means for preventing the sleeve *g* from being forced from the body, I turn the end *i* of the side *e* inward, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 1, and then, after the sleeve has been placed over the said end, I set the two sides of the metal of the sleeve inward, as at *n*, and as seen in Fig. 3, so that the part of the sleeve so set will strike against the end *i* at the side *e* as a stop.

While I prefer to make the body, loop, and hook of wire, it will be evident that it may be made from cast metal, and also that the sleeve *g* may be otherwise stopped.

While designed as a clasp for the purposes of wearing-apparel, it will be evident that the device may be used for other purposes—as, for instance, snap-hooks.

I am aware that it is not new to arrange a sleeve upon the body of a hook-clasp to close the mouth of the hook and also engage the end of the hook, and therefore do not wish to be understood as broadly claiming such device.

I claim—

The herein-described safety-clasp, consisting of the loop *d*, parallel sides *e c*, extending from said loop, the one terminating in the pointed hook *b*, the other shorter, so as to form the mouth *f*, the sleeve *g*, arranged to slide on said parallel sides, and the spring *h*, all substantially as described.

FRANK ARMSTRONG.

Witnesses:
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