To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. TAYLOR, of Greenville, in the county of Greenville and State of South Carolina, have invented a new and Improved Tether, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to that class of devices employed to tether animals; and its object is, first, to so connect and support the rope by which the animal is held that the animal will be given a free, wide range, but will never be in danger of being caught by “slack rope,” and, second, to so arrange the apparatus that the main strain on the standard will be at a point very near the ground.

To the above ends the invention consists in certain details of construction and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side view of my tether, the same being shown partly in section to disclose the construction of the parts; and Fig. 2 is a plan view of the apparatus. Figs. 3 and 4 illustrate a modified form of construction.

A A represent two light foot-beams, that are placed at right angles the one to the other, and securely united at their centers to form the supporting-base of the tether. Projecting directly up from the center of the base formed by the beams A A is a short rigid bolt or post, a, that forms the pivotal support for the revolving standard B, the lower end of which is socketed at b to fit over the post or bolt a. In the construction shown in Figs. 1 and 2 the top of the standard B is slotted, and in the slot so formed there is mounted a swinging arm, E, by means of a pin or bolt, c, so that the arm E will turn with the standard and will oscillate on the bolt c. The short end e of the arm E carries a weight, H', and to the long end of the arm there is secured a pulley, m'. The tether-ropes q are secured to an eye, e', which is carried by the long end of the arm E, and from its point of attachment passes around the pulley k, thence over the pulley m' and down to a swivel-ring, d. A pole, F, is suspended from the ring d, so that two fractional animals or a cow and her suckling calf may be tethered by the same machine. Instead of using a pole, F, two animals, if they were peaceable, might be tethered by the rope q by simply attaching two ropes, as q', of equal length to the swivel-ring d, for the standard B revolves so easily that each animal's rope is kept at the same tension, no matter what position the animals may take, provided they have equal lengths of rope from the ring d.

As the animal approaches the standard B, the weight H' carries up the long end of the arm E, which carries with it the pulley m', and as the animal goes away from the post the long end of the arm E will be pulled down and the weight H' elevated, the range of motion being limited, however, by a check-cord, w, which may be adjusted as desired. There are several holes, w, in the arm E, through which the pin c may be passed to secure the arm to the standard B, and the weight H' may be hung at any desired distance from the end of the arm, and thus the tension on the rope q and the length of the range may be regulated.

A pin, S, that projects outward from the base of the standard B, as shown in Fig. 1, prevents the animal from passing between the standard B and the rope q.

Referring now to the construction shown in Figs. 3 and 4, C is a cross arm that is supported by a brace, D, which extends from the standard B to the under side of the arm C. The arm C carries four sheaves, e, f, g, and h, which are mounted in double blocks secured at either end of the arm, and a fifth sheave, k, carried by lugs i, is fixed near the base of the standard B. A weight, H, to which there is secured a pulley, n, is suspended by means of a cord, p, which passes over the sheaves e and g, and carries a pulley, m, at its free end. The length of the rope or cord p is so adjusted that the weight H will just clear the ground when the pulley m is brought up against the sheave g.

The cord to which the animal is attached is shown in dotted lines, and is lettered q. This cord q is made fast to the arm C at s, and passes downward under the sheave of the pulley n, then up and over the sheaves f and h, then
down to the sheave $k$, up to and over the movable pulley $m$, and on to the animal that is to be secured by the tether. With this construction, as the animal draws on the cord $q$, the pulley $m$ is slightly lowered and the weight $H$ raised, and as the animal approaches the standard $B$ the gravity of the weight $H$ will act to lower it, and thereby keep the rope $q$ untangled in it. The main strain on the standard $B$ will be at its base, where the pulley $k$ is attached, and I am consequently able to make the parts light and portable, so that the apparatus can be moved from place to place.

In setting up the tether care should be taken to place the base upon a level surface, where it is securely held by spikes $t$, that are driven into the ground.

I am aware that a tether has been heretofore constructed with a base, a vertical post secured thereto, a horizontally-swinging arm on the top of the post, pulleys at opposite ends of the said arm, and a rope secured at one end to the arm and passed through a pulley on a weight and then through the two pulleys on the swinging arm, and I do not claim the same as of my invention. The tendency in said construction was for the post to be pulled over, as the strain was entirely on the upper end of the post, whereas in my construction the strain is transferred to the bottom of the post, where the leverage is very short, and the post would stand many times the strain that a post would where the pulley was at the top instead of the bottom.

In practice I propose making the pivoted cross-bar longer from its pivotal point to the end of its long arm than the length of the standard from its base to the pivotal point, so that when the animal ranges to the extent of the rope the outer end of the long arm of the pivoted cross-bar will be drawn to the ground and serve as a brace for the standard. The outer pulley, $m'$, will be set back somewhat from the end of the cross-bar, so as not to touch the ground when the end of the bar is on the ground.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. The combination, with the standard $B$, of a pulley, $k$, at its base, a cross-arm at the top of the standard, and a weight and pulley supported from opposite ends of the said arm, of a cord, $q$, secured to the said cross-arm and passed around pulley $k$ and through the pulley supported from the cross-arm, the weight acting on the cord to draw it taut, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the revolving standard, of a swinging arm weighted at one end and a tether-rope, secured to the unweighted end of the swinging arm, passing about a pulley located near the base of the standard and over a pulley carried by the unweighted end of the swinging arm, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the standard $B$, arm $E$, formed with holes $r$, $v$, and carrying weight $H'$, of a rope, $g$, secured to the unweighted end of the arm $E$ and passing about the pulleys $k$ and $m'$, substantially as described.

4. The combination, with the standard $B$, arm $E$, and weight $H'$, of a rope, $g$, secured to the unweighted end of the arm $E$ and passing about the pulleys $k$ and $m'$, and having a swivel-ring, $d$, secured to its end, substantially as described.

5. The combination, with the standard $B$, arm $E$, weight $H'$, and a rope, $g$, secured to the unweighted end of the arm $E$ and passing about the pulleys $k$ and $m'$, of a swivel-ring, $d$, and a pole, $F$, substantially as described.

Witnesses:

A. R. Smith,

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JAMES H. TAYLOR.