

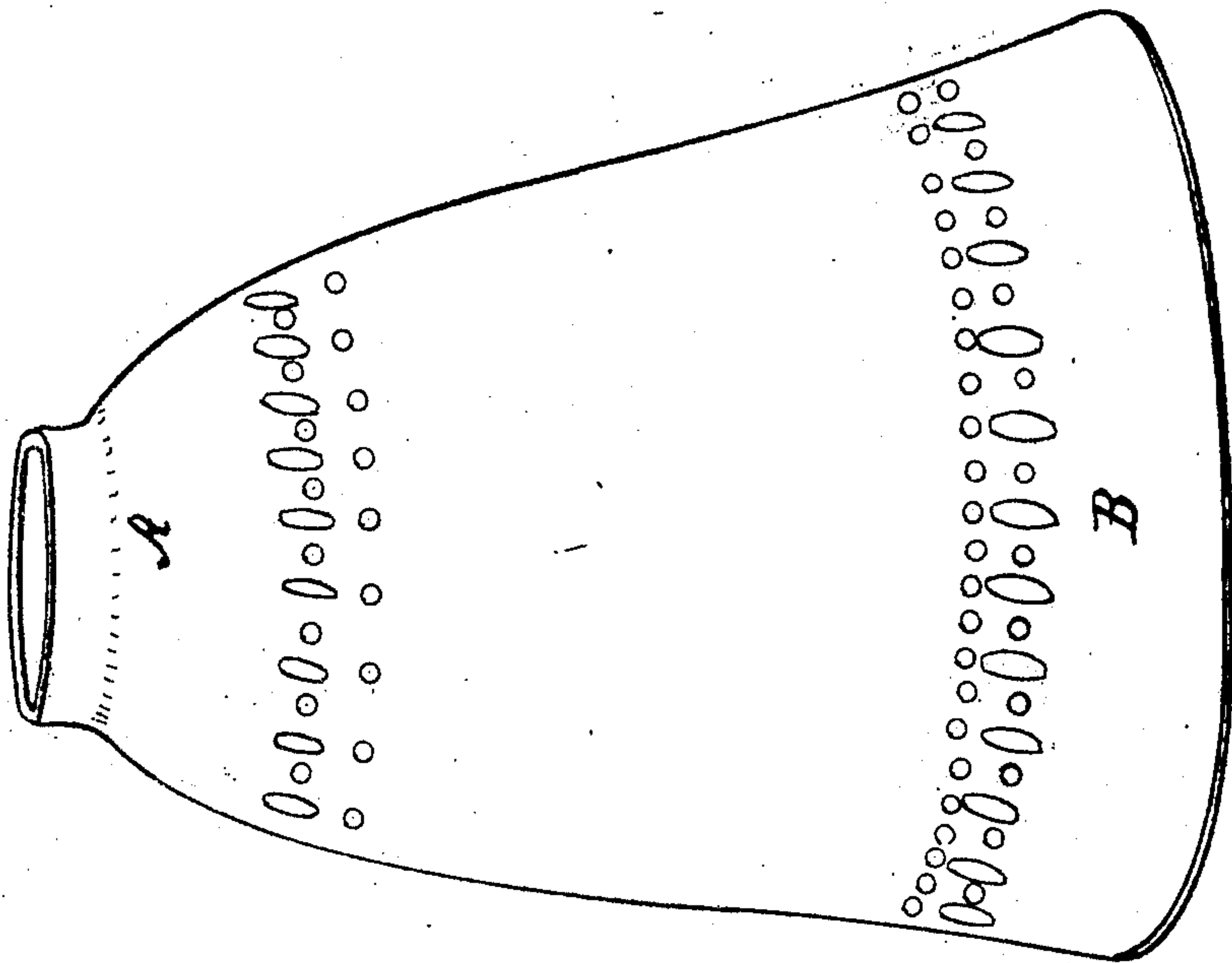
*A. W. Boynton.*

*Hoop Skirt.*

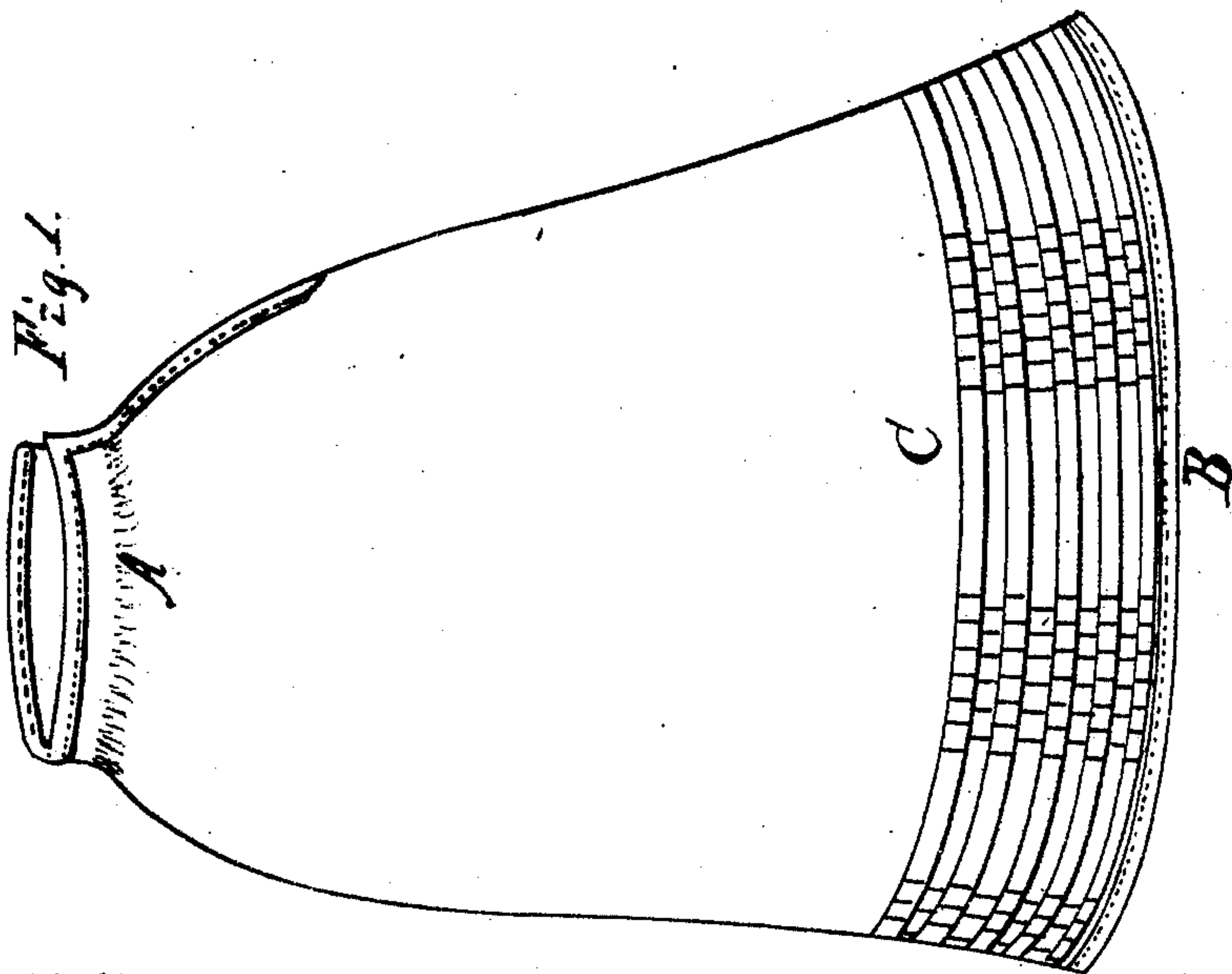
*No 45578*

*Patented Dec. 27, 1864.*

*Fig. 2*



*Fig. 1*



*Witnesses.*

*L. W. Boynton  
R. Fitzgerald.*

*Inventor.*

*Almayer W. Boynton*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALMANZOR W. BOYNTON, OF NORWALK, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN LADIES' FELTED SKIRTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **45,578**, dated December 27, 1864; antedated December 3, 1864.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ALMANZOR W. BOYNTON, of the town of Norwalk, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ladies' Skirts, as a new article of manufacture; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction, character, and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which make part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a skirt ready for use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a skirt merely felted and formed, ready to have the waistband cut open for use.

My improvement consists in manufacturing a whole skirt in one piece by felting the material, and in giving it the desired form or shape so as to constitute a skirt ready for use, except simply cutting open the waistband and extending the slit downward as far as desired, and so that when the skirt is stiffened (as it may be) it will not only serve as a valuable garment for all purposes for which a skirt is ever worn, but will enable a lady to entirely dispense with hoops, and yet retain the desired form or shape of the lower part of her dress.

I make the skirt of wool, (or any other material which is susceptible of being felted,) whole and in one piece, by felting the material in the same manner as for hat-bodies, &c., without tearing the bat or stopping on the parts. When wool is used, I wind the sliver of carded wool, as it comes from the doffer of the carding-machine, onto a suitable cone or former, as in making hat-bodies, and when fur or other material is used I blow the material onto a perforated hollow cone, or deposit it on the cone by any other known means, and I distribute the material as it may be needed for strength, firmness, &c.—that is, I make the upper portion, as at A, and the lower portion at B somewhat thicker than the central part, with a suitable taper, because the top and bottom are liable to greater strain, and because by so arranging the stock or material it will tend to make the skirt assume and retain its appropriate shape, (whether worn as an inside or outside garment,) and yet leave the central part sufficiently flexible to

be convenient when stooping or sitting down, and I felt these bats in the usual manner.

To give the skirt its proper shape, as shown in the drawings, I place the felted bat onto a proper block or former, and work it to the shape of the block by a process similar to that used in planking hats.

When the skirt is thus formed, any lady can cut open the waistband in the desired place, and continue the slit downward to the desired extent, when the skirt will be ready for wearing.

When desired, the skirts may be stiffened with water-proof stiffening or otherwise (in the same way that hats are stiffened) to the extent deemed necessary. Most of the stiffening should be used at or near the top and bottom, and extended in a varying degree toward the central part, as is deemed necessary, though the top and bottom should be stiffened enough to make them retain their shape under all ordinary circumstances, while the central part must be sufficiently flexible to yield readily for stooping, sitting down, &c. When the skirt is thus stiffened, there will be no occasion for wearing hoops.

When desired, the waistband and bottom may be bound with any suitable material, and the lower portion of the skirt may be made thoroughly water-proof, so that it will not absorb the moisture from the walk, &c., and so that, when soiled, it may be wiped clean with a sponge or otherwise; and the skirt may be ornamented by printing, embossing, or embroidering, as indicated at C, Fig. 1, in any form which the fancy may dictate and to any extent which the tastes of the ladies may require, and it may be perforated for ventilation, &c., as in Fig. 2, to any extent desired; and it may be made of any reasonable weight, to suit the market, for either inside or outside garments.

These skirts may be made the color of the material, as white wool or mixed or colored, as may be desired.

The advantages of my improvement consist in that I can make the most serviceable skirt which has ever been made of any textile fabric, and furnish it at much less expense compared with its usefulness; and in that, while it is a valuable garment for every purpose for which a skirt is ever worn, when



stiffened, as above described, it will enable a lady to dispense with the inconvenience of hoops, which serve but the one purpose of giving shape to the other clothing being worn.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, as a new article of manufacture, is—

A whole skirt for ladies, of one piece of felt-ing, substantially as herein described and set forth.

ALMANZOR W. BOYNTON.

Witnesses:

L. W. BOYNTON,  
R. FITZGERALD.