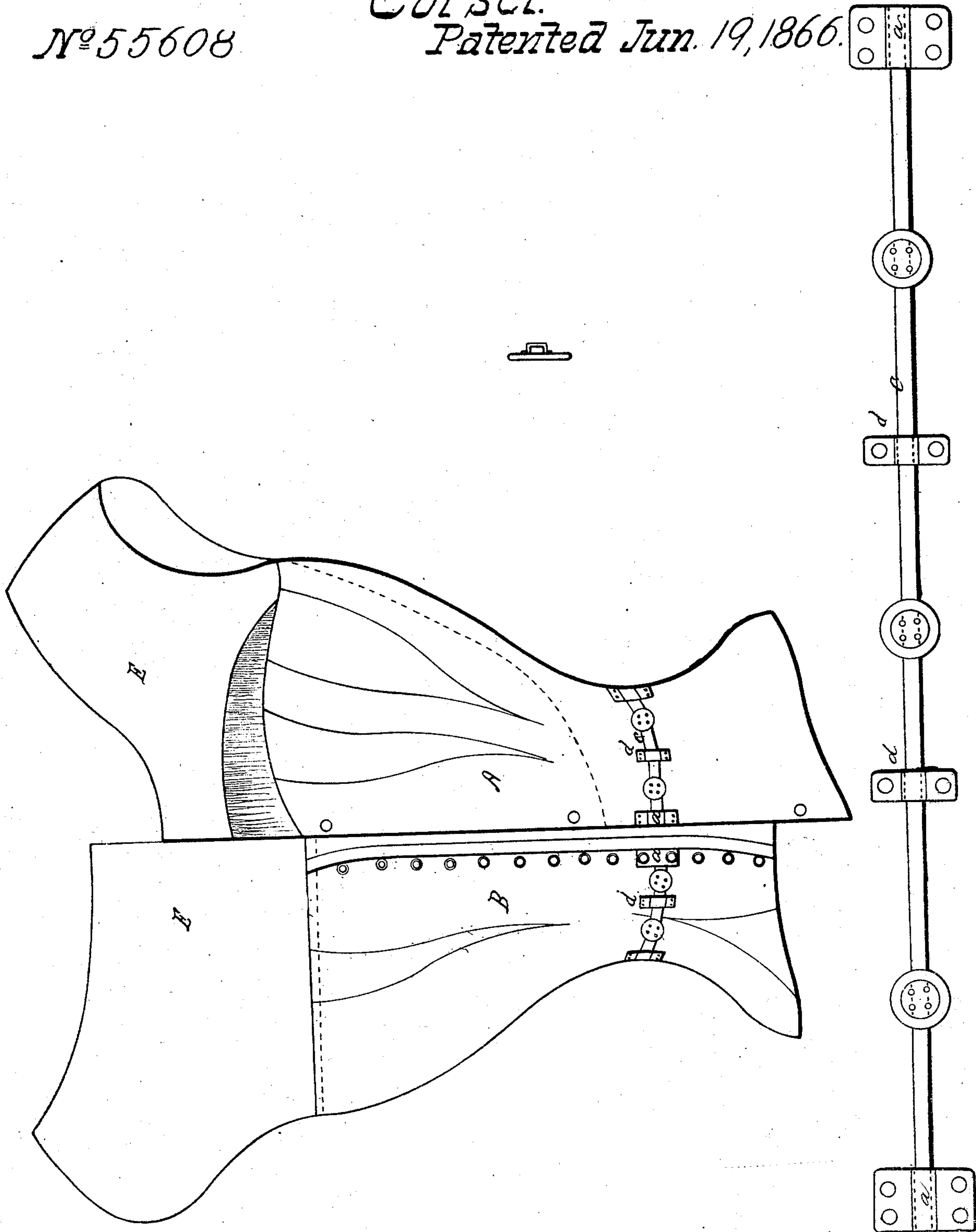


E. Blakeslee.

Corset.

Patented Jun. 19, 1866.

N<sup>o</sup> 55608



Witnesses.

John H. Shumway  
H. A. Home

Inventor.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ERASTUS BLAKESLEE, OF PLYMOUTH, CONNECTICUT.

## IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET AND SKIRT SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 55,608, dated June 19, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ERASTUS BLAKESLEE, of Plymouth, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Skirt and Corset Supporters; 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, one-half front and one-half back view with my supporters attached; Fig. 2, a detached view of the skirt-supporter; and in Fig. 3 an edge view of the button of the skirt-supporter.

My invention is designed to sustain the entire weight of the skirt from the shoulders, the corset itself being the medium of such supporter; and it consists, first, in the attaching to the body of the corset adjustable buttons to which the skirt is attached; second, in the peculiar construction of the button, whereby it is made adjustable; and, lastly, in the peculiar manner of combining a waist with the corset, so that the downward strain upon the corset bears entirely upon the shoulder of the wearer.

To enable others to construct and apply my improvement, I will proceed to describe the same as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

A is the front, B the back, of the corset, of any known construction. Upon each side, and extending from the front to the back, I fix a flat skirt-wirespring, C, which I term a "stay," or its equivalent. This I secure so that it may be taken therefrom at pleasure by means of metal sockets *a*, (see Fig. 2,) and stayed at intervals by metallic loops *d*. These sockets and loops are secured to the corsets by common metal eyelets or equivalent device.

Fig. 3 shows the construction of the button, which differs from other buttons in this respect, that in place of holes or eyes for stitches I form upon the back of the button a metal loop, so that the button will slide freely on the stay C. Thus constructed the button is adapted to other purposes.

To insert the stays, place them through the loops *d*, setting thereon the requisite number of buttons, spring the stay until each end will enter the sockets *a*. In this position the corset is ready to receive the skirt. In the band of the skirts form button-holes corresponding to the number of buttons on the stays C, and button the skirt onto the said buttons.

The adjustment of the button is required when it is desired to tighten or loosen the corset, for if the corset is loose the two parts of the corset spread from each other, thus removing the two center buttons farther from each other, while the button-holes in the bands remain the same. By this adjustment the buttons slide on the stay to accommodate the button-holes in the band. By this arrangement the skirt is attached entirely to the corset.

To support the corset and skirt thus attached, construct a yoke, E, in the usual manner, passing over the shoulders and secured to the back of the corset near its top, as denoted by the broken red line, Fig. 1, the front extending down and secured to the inside of the front of the corset nearly, as denoted by red line, Fig. 1, which leaves the front of the corset loose and free, making the shoulder-strap sufficiently strong to sustain the weight without inconvenience or discomfort to the wearer.

Having therefore thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The stay C, when arranged upon the body of the corset so as to secure and support the skirt, substantially as described.
2. In combination with a corset, buttons constructed and arranged so as to be self-adjusting on the stay C, as and for the purpose specified.
3. A corset-supporter constructed substantially as described, and attached to the corset in the manner herein set forth.

ERASTUS BLAKESLEE.

Witnesses:

JOHN E. EARLE,  
JOHN H. SHUMMAY.