De Forest & Gilbert,

Corset Spring.

No. 73,440. Patented Jan. 21. 1868.

Fig 1

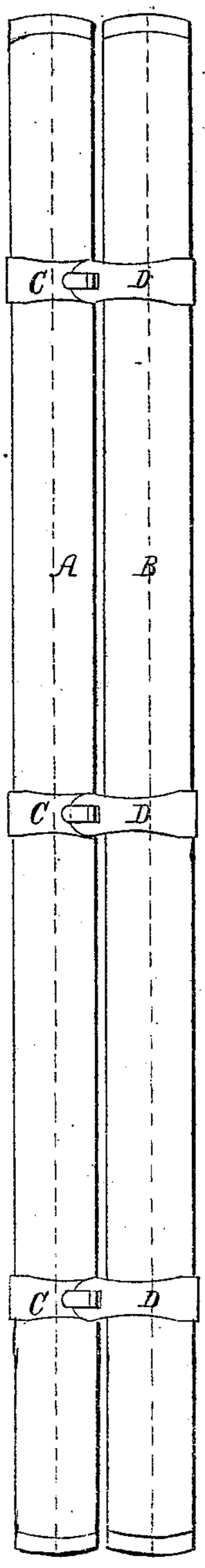


Fig. 2

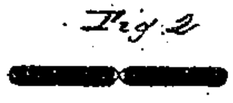
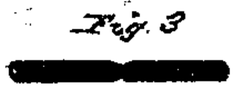


Fig. 3



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Letters Patent No. 73,440, *dated January* 21, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSET-SPRINGS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, T. B. DE FOREST and T. S. GILBERT, of Birmingham, in the county of New Haven, and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Corset-Steels; and we 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 front view, and in

Figures 2 and 3, transverse sections enlarged.

This invention relates to an improvement in the steels such as are used for corset-fronts, and to which the clasp is attached, and consists in uniting two or more narrow strips of flat steel, secured so as to retain them in their position of edge to edge by the clasp which surrounds them.

In order to the clear understanding of our improvement, we will proceed to describe the same as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

A is the one steel, B the other, C the hooks, D the eyes, in general appearance similar to the common corset-steels.

To form each of the steels, A and B, we take two or more pieces of covered wire, and stitch or secure them together, edge to edge, then over the several parts place the hooks or eyes, as the case may be, so as to retain them in the flat or edge position, as seen in fig. 1. This construction is shown enlarged in section, fig. 3, the black denoting the wire or steel, and yellow the covering; or, if preferred, we insert two or more wires into the braiding-machine, the machine being constructed so as to braid around and between the wires, as denoted in fig. 3, and thus unite all the wires by the process of covering. Then the wires are cut to a proper length, and their ends protected by a metallic clasp, as denoted in fig. 1.

By this construction the steels are produced at much less expense than the broad steel, and are far superior, in that when formed of a single broad plate they frequently break, and the steel is thereby destroyed, whereas, by our improvement, if one of the strands of wire breaks, others are left so that the steel, though injured, is not destroyed

Another method but we think not as practical, is to form in a fabric several pockets, and insert the wires into the respective pockets, and clasp and finish as before described.

We do not wish to be understood as broadly claiming uniting several wires within a covering, edge to edge, as such is not new; but having thus fully described our invention,

What we do claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The herein-described corset-steel, consisting of two or more wires or steels, united and secured in position by the clasps, in the manner specified, as an article of manufacture.

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Witnesses:
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