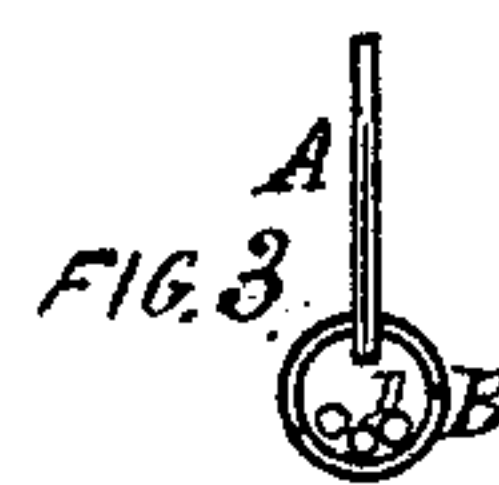
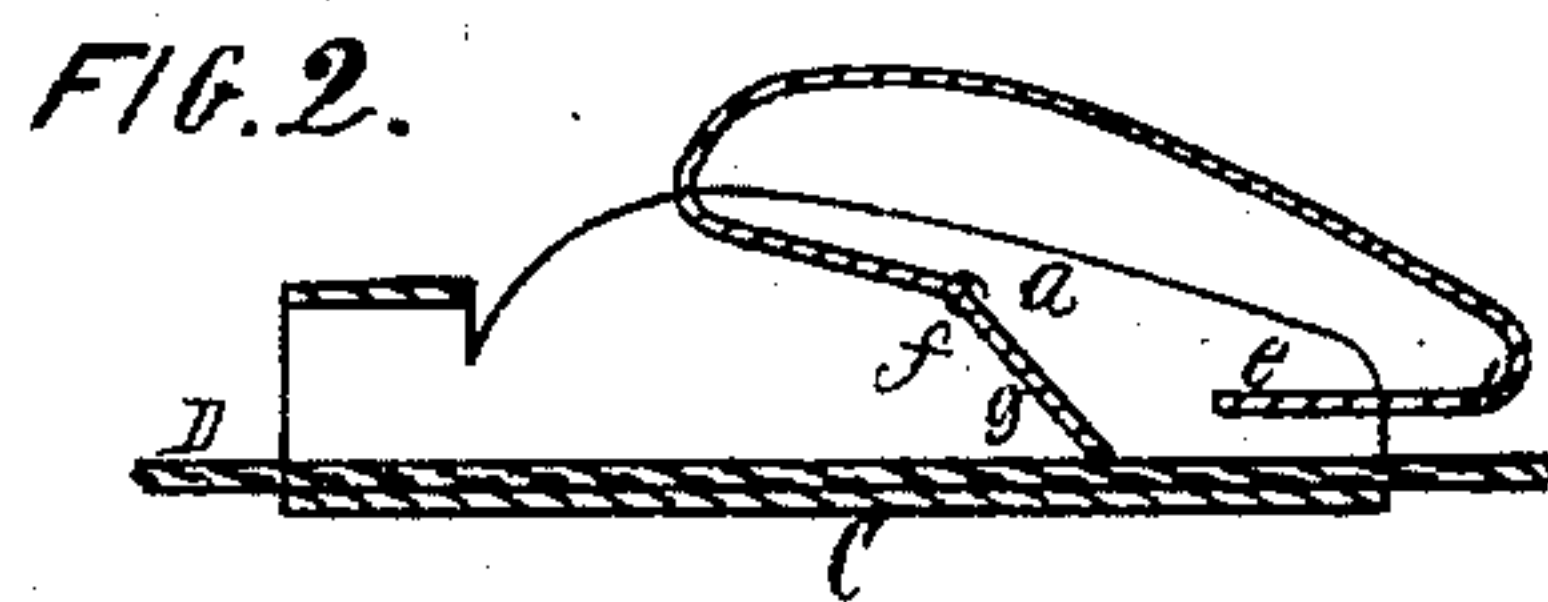
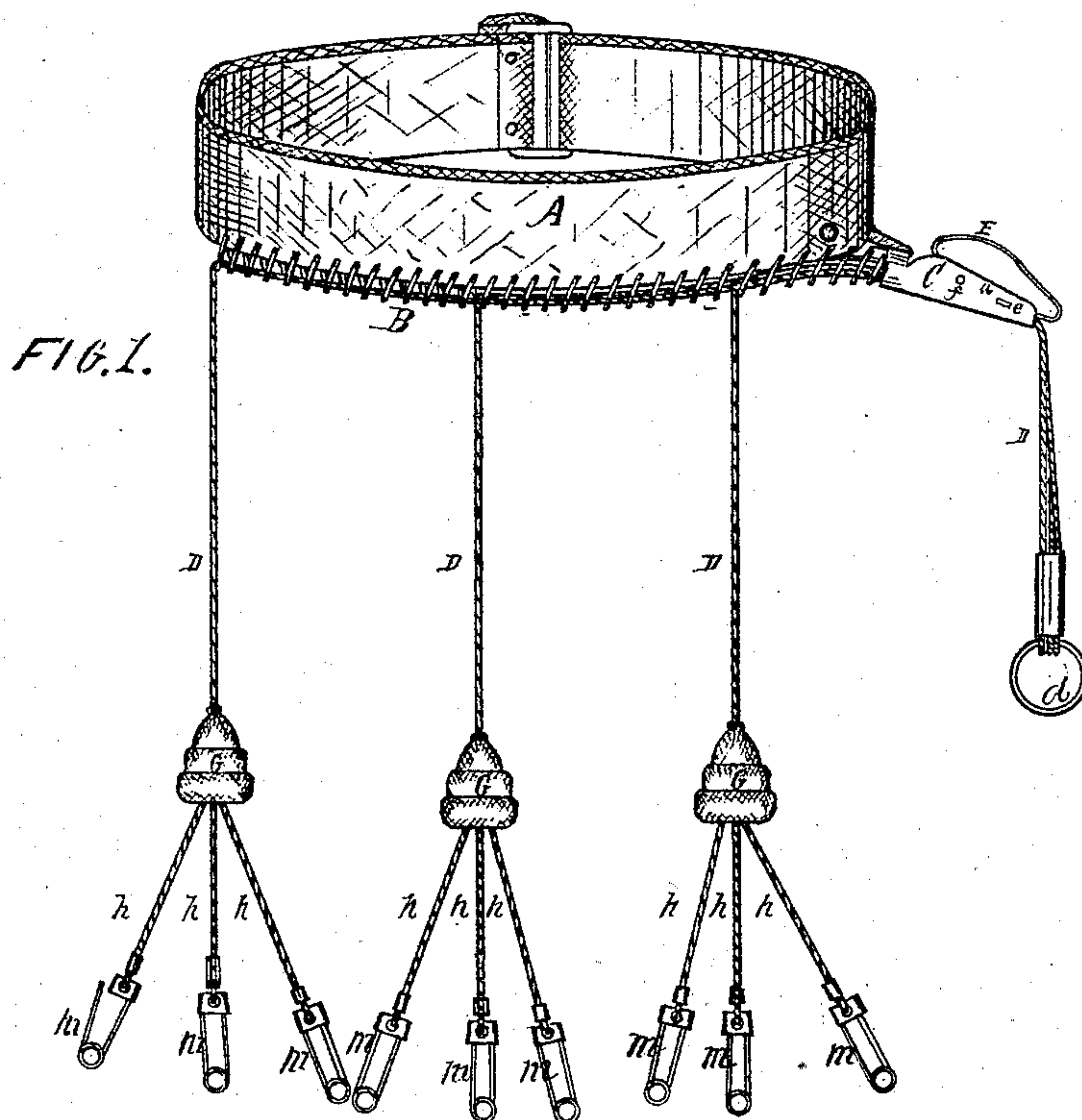


MARY DEWEY.
Dress-Elevators.

No. 151,205.

Patented May 26, 1874.



WITNESSES
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MARY DEWEY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN DRESS-ELEVATORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 151,205, dated May 26, 1874; application filed March 13, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARY DEWEY, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Dress-Elevator; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a dress-elevator embodying my said invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged vertical longitudinal section of the clasp employed in securing the cords in adjustment; and Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the waistband, showing the manner of securing the cord-guide thereto.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in the several figures of the drawing.

My invention has for its object to provide a mechanism by which the skirt of a lady's dress may be elevated and secured in adjustment at any requisite height from the pavement; and to that end it consists in a metal wire cord-guide coiled through the lower edge of the waistband, and adapted to receive a series of weighted cords which are attached to the lower portion of the skirt, and so united as to move simultaneously, whereby the skirt may be elevated, the weights acting to move the skirt downward to its normal position when the cords are relieved. It further consists in the construction of the spring-clasp, which acts to secure the cords in adjustment, as I will now proceed to describe.

In the drawing, A is the waistband, which is composed of plain webbing, and adapted to be buckled around the waist of the wearer. B is the cord-guide, consisting of a wire coiled in tubular form, and secured to the waistband by passing the coils through the lower edge of the latter, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3. C is the cord-clasp, composed of a strip of sheet metal bent at its sides, forming ears *a*, which serve to guide the operating-cords. This clasp is permanently attached to one end of the guide B, the latter being disengaged at its end from the waistband to admit of the same. D is the operating-cords, which are made of different lengths, and united firmly together at the end

to which the operating-ring *d* is attached. These cords pass loosely through clasp C and guide B, and depend from the latter between the coils at different points, which may be determined to suit the convenience of the wearer. E is a spring-catch, which is composed of a strip of sheet metal bent upon itself, as shown in Fig. 2. The lower part of the rear portion of this spring-catch is permanently secured to the ears *a*, as shown at *e*, and the lower part of the forward portion is pivoted to the upper edge of the ears, as shown at *f*, the short portion or arm *g* below the pivot extending downward, and is adapted to bear upon the cords, compressing the latter against the base of the clasp. The arrangement of this arm *g* is such that by the tension of the spring the cords are held firmly at any adjusted point; but to relieve itself from contact with the cords when pressure is applied to the arc or upper surface of the spring, the pendent end of each of the cords D is provided with a weight, G, and with several additional cords, *h*, as shown in Fig. 1. Attached to the lower end of each of these cords is a clasping-pin, *m*, which may be of any suitable kind, adapted to secure the ends of the cords to the dress-skirt.

By this construction of cord-guide and its manner of attachment to the waistband, the latter is made flexible, and the cords are protected by the coils of the wire, thereby insuring a free and uniform movement of the same, and also enabling the position of the cords to be changed so as to depend from the coils at any desired point without injuring the flexibility of the band.

To use my invention, the waistband A is attached to the inner side of the dress-waist, and clasp C passed through the same into the pocket. Cords *h* are then secured to the lower portion of the skirt at the requisite distance, one from the other, and at equal distances from the lower edge of the same. The wearer then buckles band A around her waist, and to elevate the skirt the cords D are drawn through clasp C by means of ring *d*, and are held at any adjusted point by the compression of arm *g* of the spring. When the skirt is to be lowered it is only necessary to press upon the upper surface of the spring-catch E, which elevates the lower end of arm *g* from contact with

the cords, releasing the same, and the gravity of the weights carries the skirt downward to its normal position.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. In a dress-elevator, the spiral cord-guide combined with the waistband by passing the coils through the lower edge of the band, as described.

2. The cord-clasp C, combined with the cord-guide B, and provided with the spring-catch E, pivoted as described, whereby arm *g* of the

spring is adapted to hold the operating-cords in adjustment, as specified.

3. The dress-elevator consisting of the waistband A, spiral cord-guide B, having its coils passed through the band, the weighted operating-cords D, provided with the clasping-pins, the cord-clasp C, and spring-catch E, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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