

ELIZABETH S. WELDON.

SKIRT-SUPPORTER.

No. 173,699.

Patented Feb. 15, 1876.

Fig. 1.

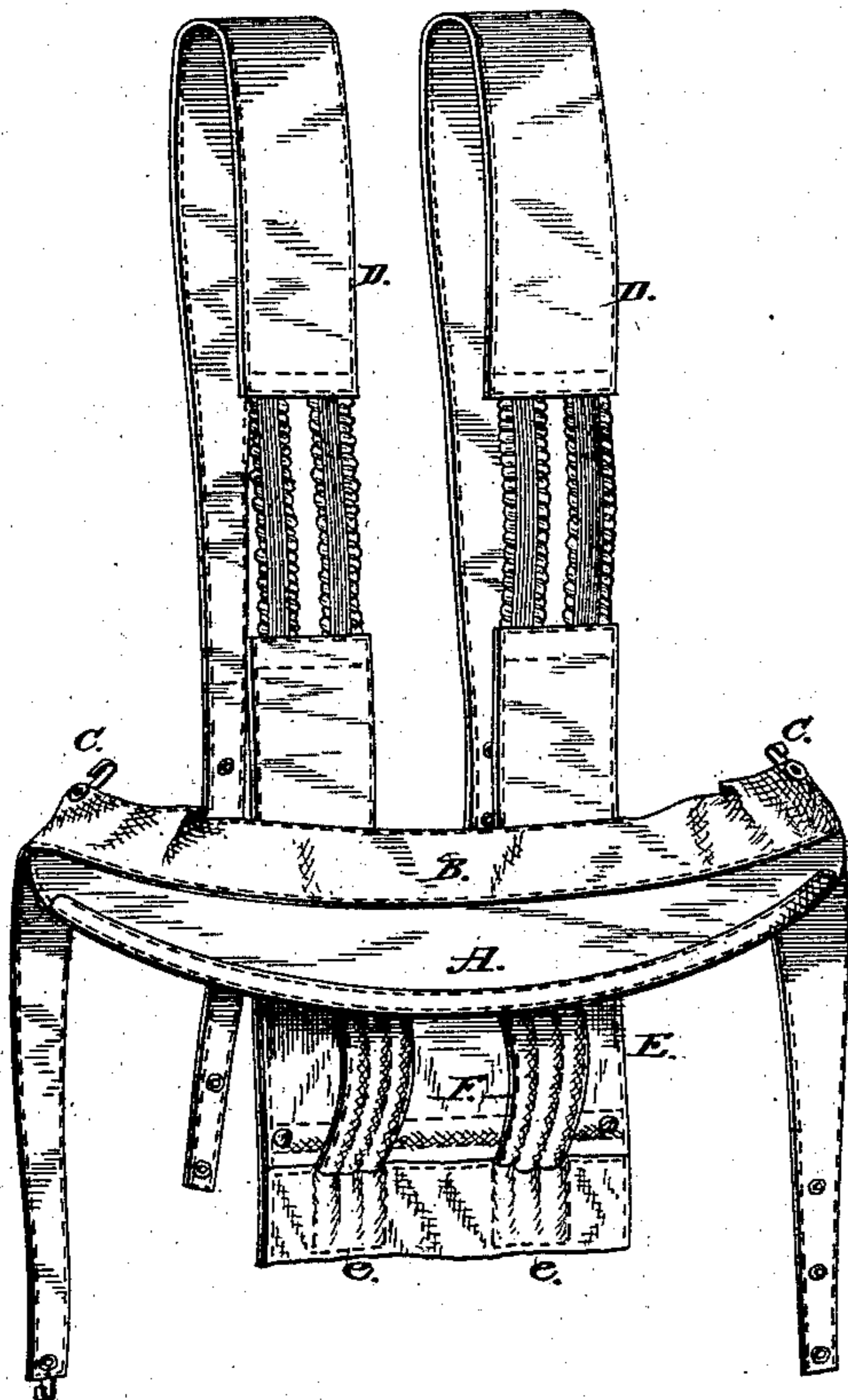


Fig. 2.

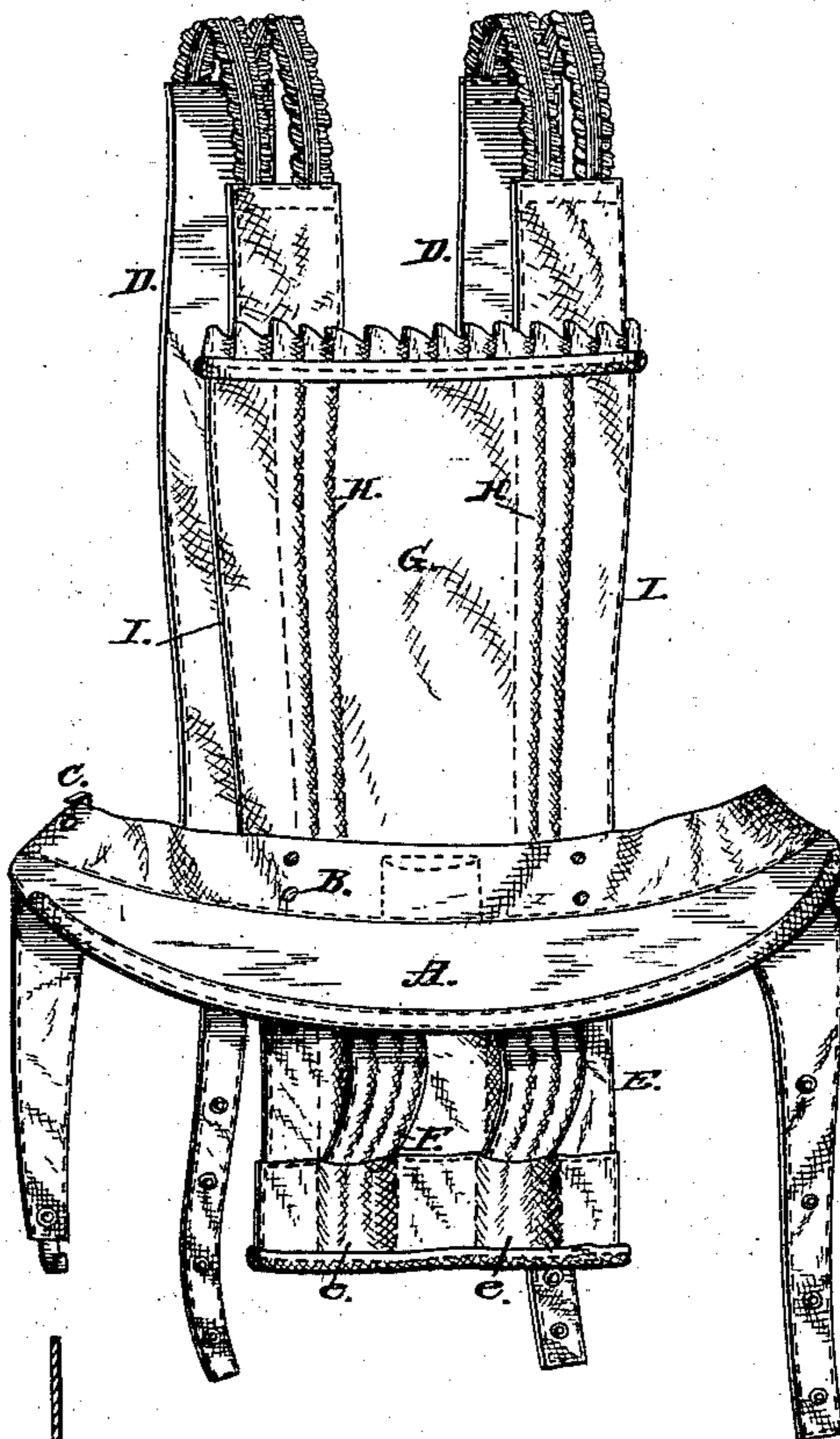
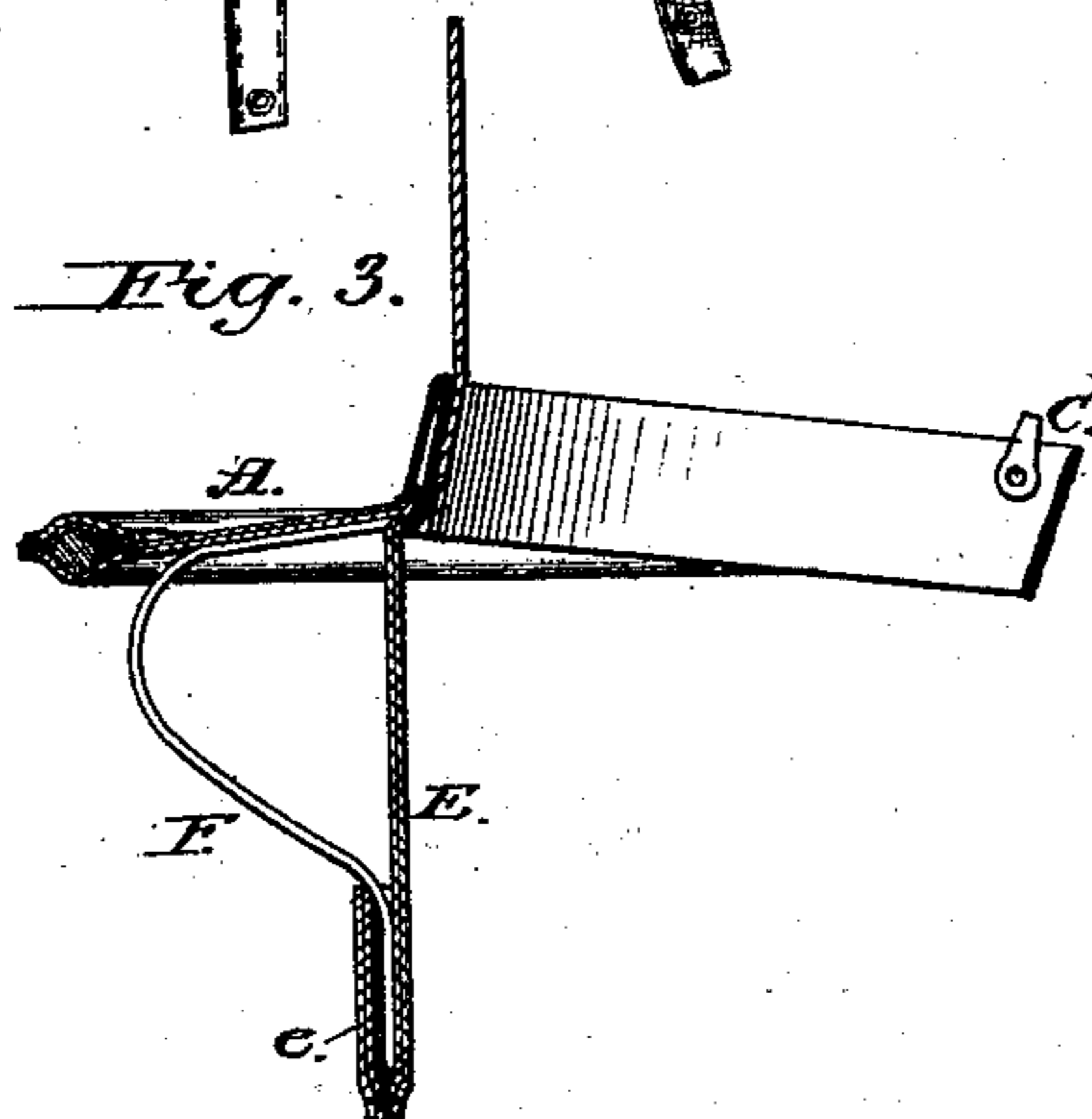


Fig. 3.



Attest:

Geo. H. Graham.  
J. S. Coombs

Inventor:

Elizabeth Howell Weldon

By James L. Norris.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ELIZABETH S. WELDON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN SKIRT-SUPPORTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 173,699, dated February 15, 1876; application filed October 23, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ELIZABETH STOWELL WELDON, of New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Ladies' Wearing-Apparel, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to certain improvements in ladies' skirt-supporters, its object being to furnish a support for those portions of the clothing usually secured around the waist and supported by the hips, so as to throw the weight of the same upon the shoulders, and relieve the hips, and, further, to furnish a brace or stay for strengthening the back of the wearer; and it consists, first, in a crescent-shaped strip of woven fabric attached to a belt to be secured around the body, and provided with straps to pass over the shoulders, the crescent-shaped support being kept distended by a rib or strip of flexible material, and supported from below by means of one or more bent springs, the upper ends of which are attached to the under side of said crescent-shaped strip, the lower ends resting in pockets in a depending strip of fibrous material, as hereinafter more fully specified; and, second, in combination with the belt, straps, and crescent-shaped support for the clothing, of a brace or stay adapted to conform to the shape of the back, and extend from between the shoulder-blades down to the small of the back when secured to the person of the wearer, and form a substantial and efficient support for the back.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of my improved skirt-support without the back-braces; and Fig. 2 a view of the same, showing the back-brace attached. Fig. 3 is a sectional view.

The letter A represents the support for the clothing, of such shape as to fit closely to the body of the wearer. This may be made of any suitable material, but it is most conveniently formed of a crescent-shaped strip of fabric, around the outer edge of which is secured a rib of elastic metal or other material, *a*, by means of which the strip is kept properly distended. The inner edge of said strip or support is attached to a belt, B, adapted to fit around the waist of the wearer, and provided with a buckle at one end for fastening, and

with hooks C C, by means of which the loose ends of the straps D D, which are securely attached to the back of the belt at their other ends, and extend over the shoulders of the wearer when in place. The letter E represents a strip of fabric secured to the inner edge of the crescent-shaped support, to the lower edge of the rear of the belt, or between said support and belt. Said strip is provided with the pockets *e e* on the outside, in which the ends of the curved springs F F are adapted to rest, the upper ends being securely attached to the under side of the support A, said springs serving to keep the support A in a horizontal or nearly horizontal position when secured to the body of the wearer. The straps D D may be made of elastic or non-elastic material, as desired; but it will generally be found preferable to construct them of non-elastic bands with elastic insertions *d d*, as shown in the drawings. The letter G, Fig. 2, represents the brace adapted to fit neatly to the back when in place. Said brace may consist of one or more metal, whalebone, or other strips of material sufficiently elastic to bend to the shape of the back. It will be found most convenient, however, to construct the braces of a series of stays, H H, confined between two sheets of fabric, I, in such positions as to fall upon both sides of the spine when attached to the person. To the upper end of said brace, which falls between the shoulder-blades, are attached the bands or straps D D, which pass over the shoulders of the wearer, and are secured at the ends, as hereinafter described. Said bands may be made of suitable material, and each may be provided with a short elastic insertion, *d*, in order to allow the same to yield to the motion of the wearer for the sake of comfort and convenience; or the whole may be made of elastic material.

The belt B is secured at the center to the brace A by sewing, or by means of rivets, eyelets, clasps, or any other convenient fastening device; but it will be seen that the belt can be dispensed with, and the support G attached directly to the brace A, and provided with straps at each end for the purpose of fastening around the waist. The strip E, when the brace is employed, may be a continuation of

the fabric forming part of the brace; or it may be attached to the belt or support A, as before described.

The device is secured to the body of the wearer by passing the straps E over the shoulders. The ends of the belt are then fastened around the waist, and the straps secured to the same at the sides by means of the hooks L on the belt and the eyelets M in the bands. When thus applied it will be seen that the support will serve to hold the skirts and other clothing usually fastened around the waist, the whole weight of the same being thrown upon the shoulders, relieving the hips of strain, allowing the clothes to be worn much looser than heretofore, and thus adding greatly to the health and comfort of the wearer, and, when the brace is employed, forming a strengthening-support for the body.

I am aware that a skirt-supporter composed of rings confined to a corset by a band or strap, and provided with a supporting-band connecting all the rings together, is not new; and I am also aware that a corset has been constructed with a rib for supporting a lady's skirt, and such I disclaim; but,

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The crescent-shaped strip A of woven fabric, provided with a flexible rib or strip around its outer edge to keep it distended, and attached at its inner edge to a belt, B, adapted to be fastened around the body and over the shoulders by means of straps D, in combination with the springs F attached to the under side of said crescent-shaped strip, the lower ends resting in pockets e in the depending-strip E, substantially as described.

2. In combination with the belt B, straps D, and crescent-shaped support, the brace or stay G, provided with the springs H H, and adapted to conform to the back of the wearer, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of the subscribing witnesses.

ELIZABETH STOWELL WELDON.

Witnesses:

W. H. MELICK,  
W. READ.