

J. D. BANFIELD.

Corset.

No. 197,588.

Patented Nov. 27, 1877.

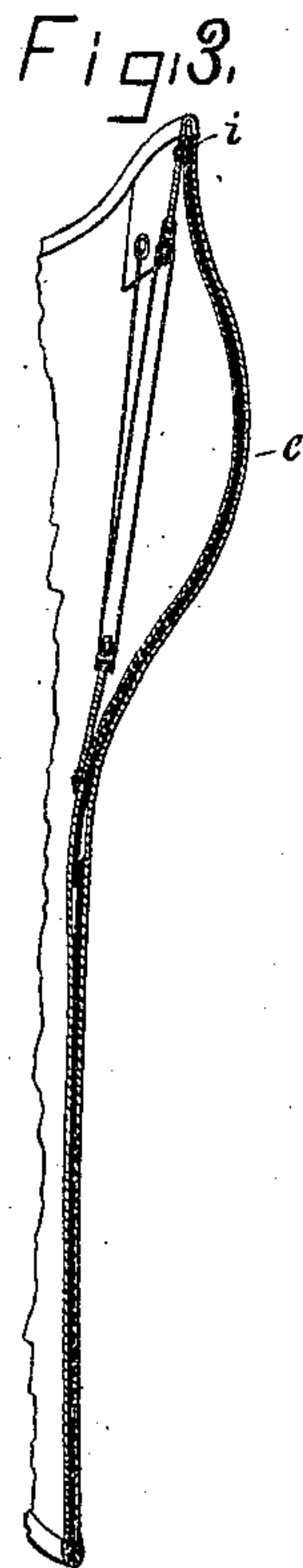
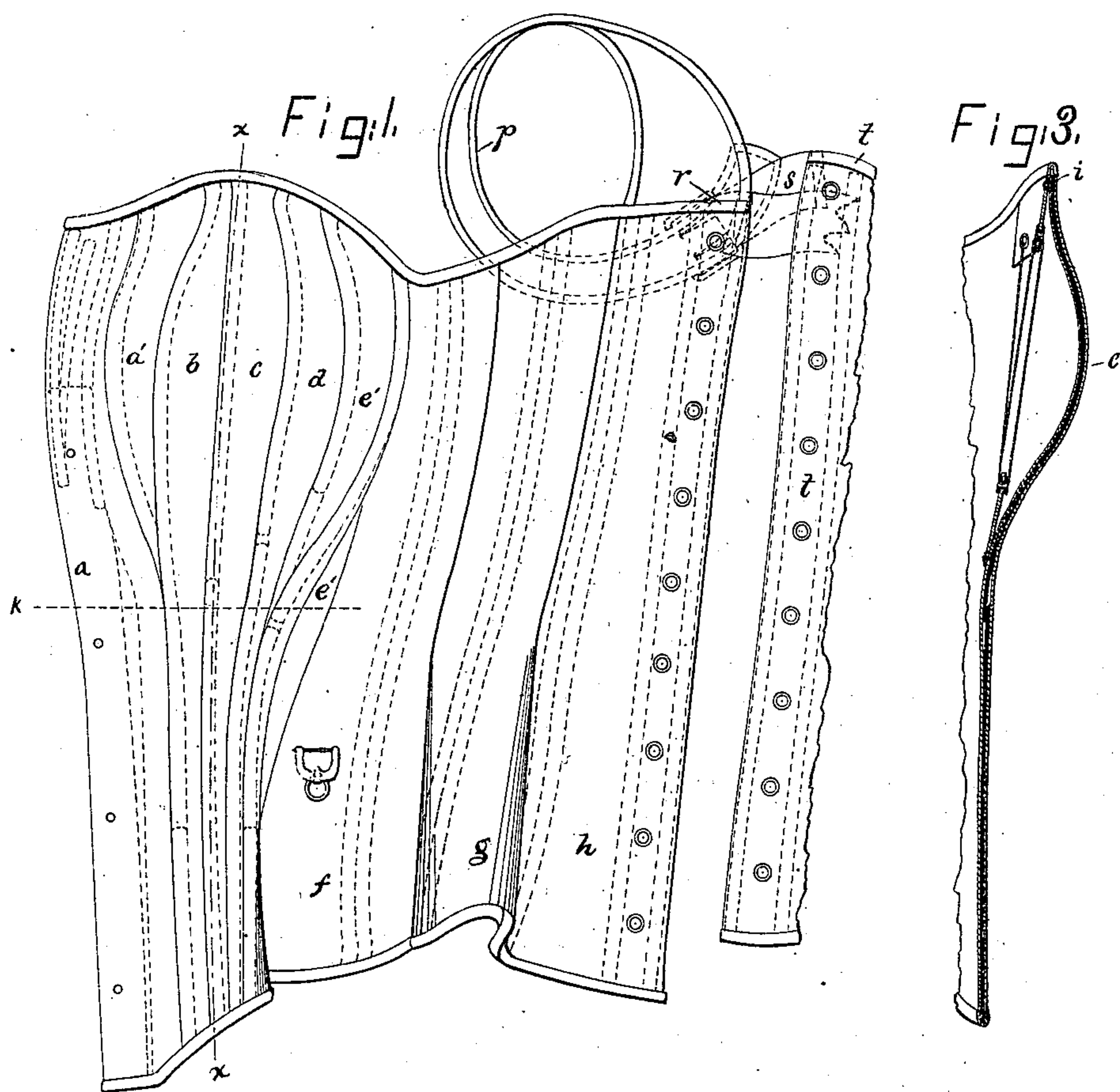


Fig. 2.

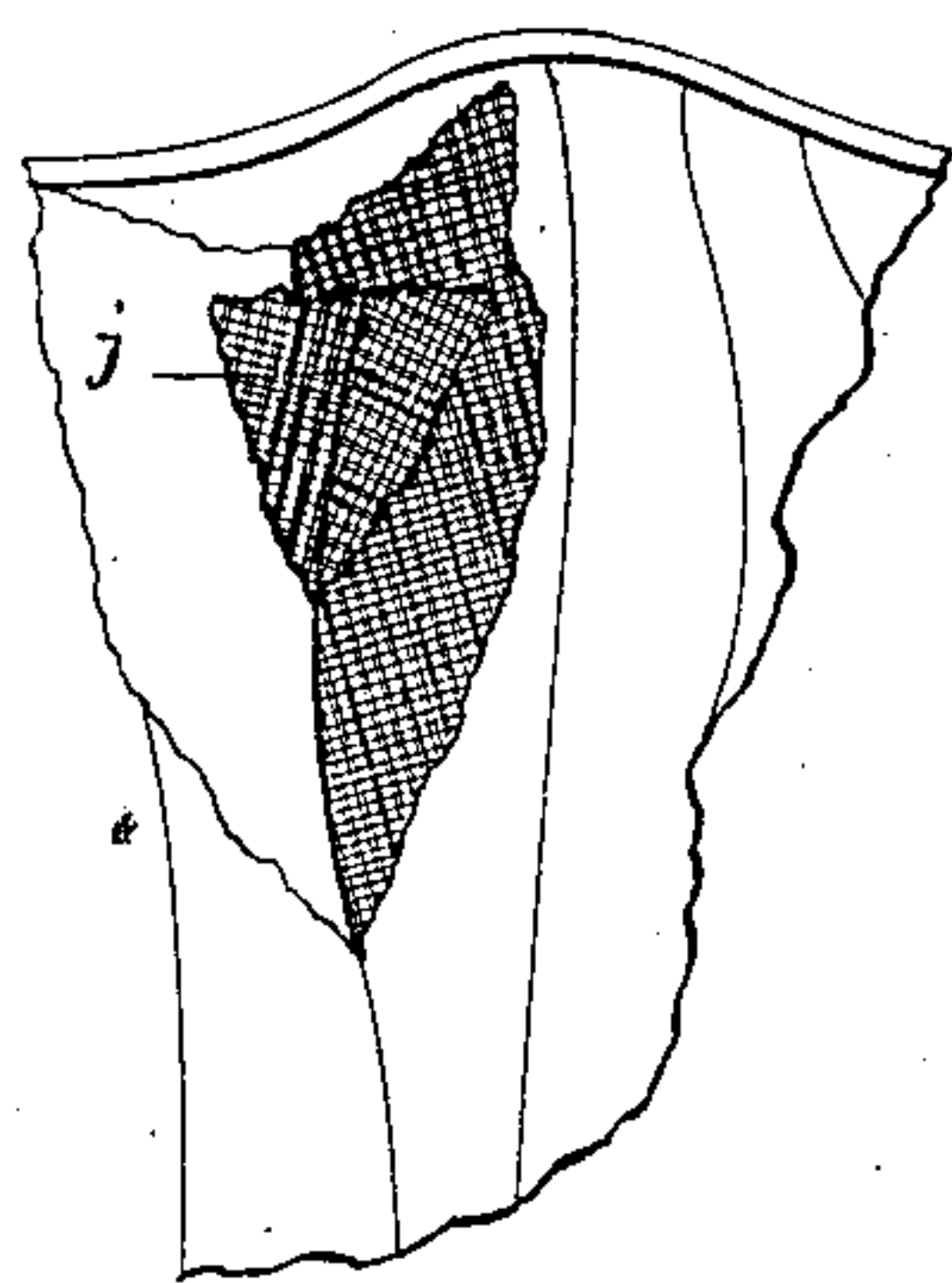
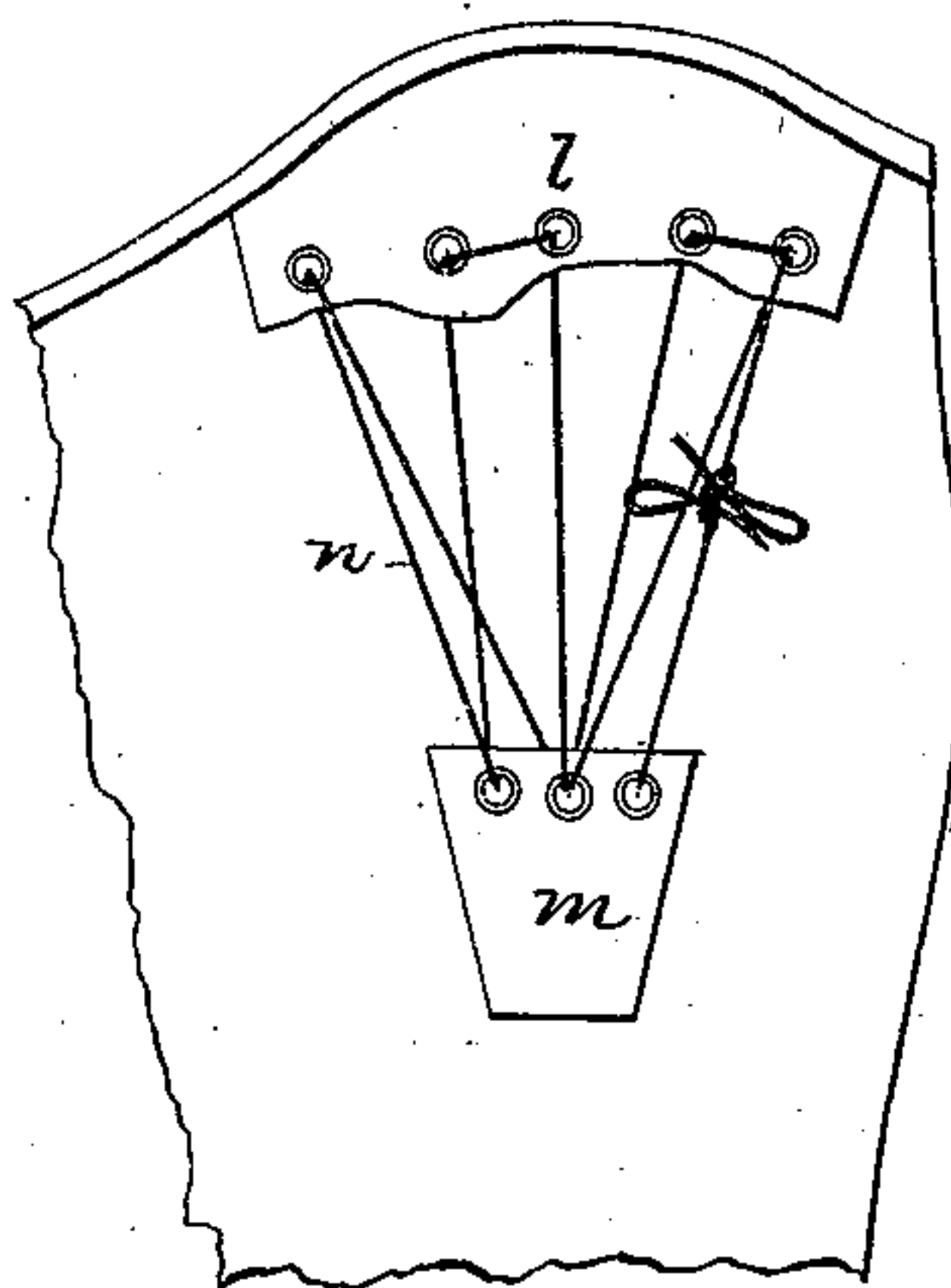


Fig. 4.



Witnesses,
C. C. Perkins.
W. J. Pratt.

Inventor.
Julius D. Banfield
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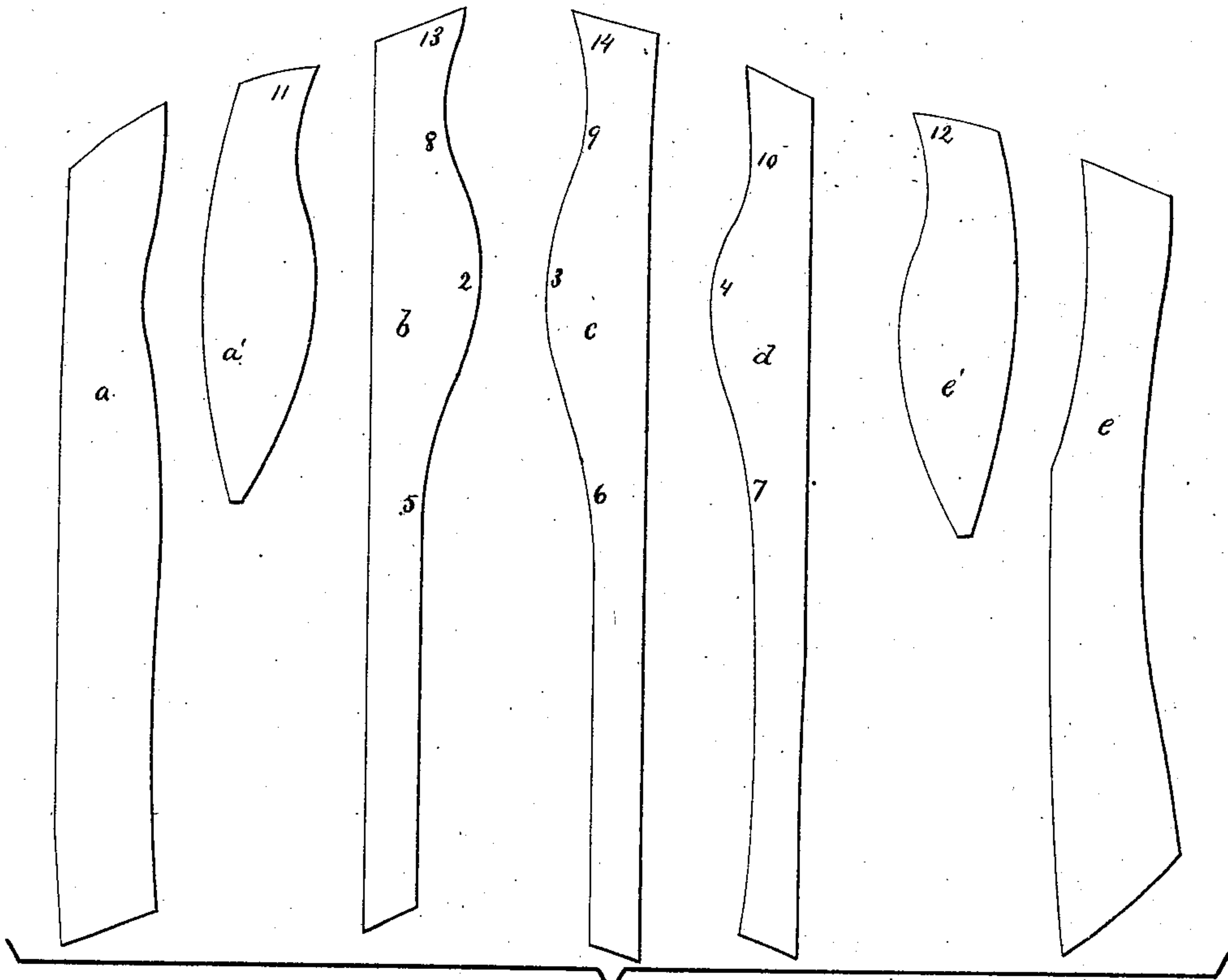


Fig. 5.

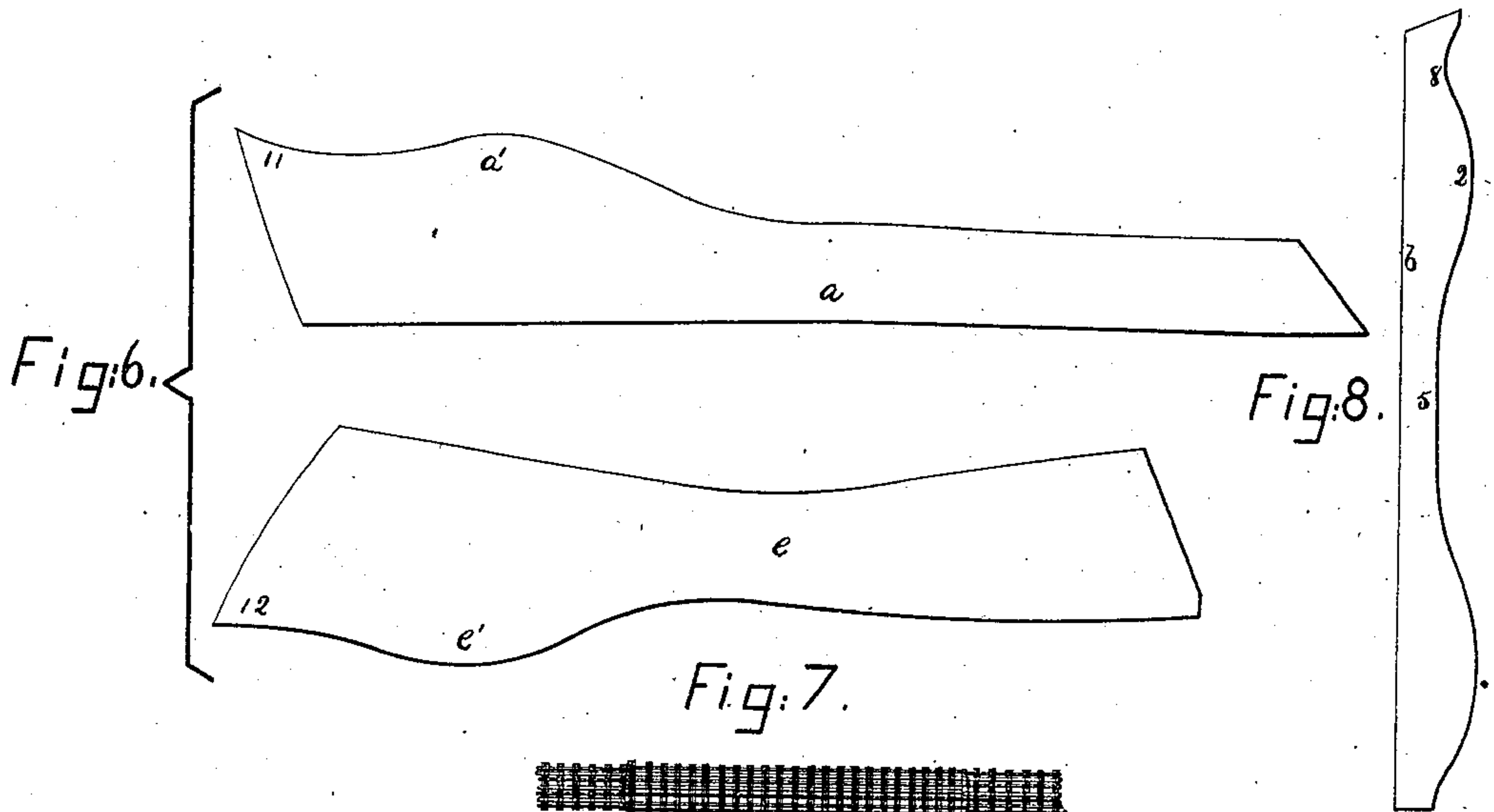


Fig. 6.

Fig. 8.

Fig. 7.

Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JULIA D. BANFIELD, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORSETS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **197,588**, dated November 27, 1877; application filed November 16, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JULIA D. BANFIELD, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improved Corset, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to corsets, and has special reference to the bust-forming portions, which are made to represent what is known as a "full bust."

The invention consists in a corset having bust portions provided with hair-cloth, which gives to the bust great elasticity coupled with lightness; also, in a novel stiffening composed of folded pieces of grass-cloth, or equivalent, substantially as described, in place of the usual bones or cane; also, in the combination with a corset, of a shoulder-brace, connected at one end with one side of the back of the corset, and adapted to be connected at its other end with the back of the opposite half of the corset.

Figure 1 represents, in perspective, one half of one form of corset embodying my invention, and a portion of the back of the other half broken away; Fig. 2, a detail, showing the bust part broken out to exhibit the hair-cloth; Fig. 3, a section on the line *x x*, Fig. 1; Fig. 4, an inner side view of the bust portion. Fig. 5 represents the pieces composing the front or bust portions of one-half of a corset. Fig. 6 is a modification to be referred to; Fig. 7, a grass-cloth stiffening-strip to be used instead of bone or cane; Fig. 8, a modified form of front piece.

The front of the corset shown in the drawings is composed, each half, of pieces *a*, *a'*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *e'*, and back pieces *f*, *g*, *h*. The pieces *a* and *e*, forming the extreme sides of the bust of the corset, are joined by a seam to gore-pieces *a' e'*, or these pieces *a e* may be cut, as in Fig. 6, with portions like *a' e'*, forming a part thereof. The pieces *b c* are widened or made full, at 2 3 4, to form the central portion of the bust, and contracted at 5 6 7 8 9 10, opposite the top and bottom of the bust, and above the contracted portions 8 9 10 the upper ends of the pieces are again made full, as at 13 14, so as to cause the upper edge of the corset to round or turn away from the person, and prevent such upper edge from pressing the breast of the

wearer unpleasantly. The upper portions 11 12 of the gore portions *a e* are also widened for a like purpose. The section, Fig. 3, shows the upper end *i* of the corset turned outward above the bust portion. These different pieces are stitched together edge to edge, in any usual way, and suitable pockets are formed to receive stiffening, bones, or cane, or a substitute therefor, devised by me, such substitute being grass-cloth or equivalent, folded into narrow strips, and inserted into the pockets, instead of the bone.

When sewing the edges of the pieces *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, &c., together it is preferred to place them as shown in Fig. 5.

This corset, as in others, is composed of two thicknesses of material. Between these two thicknesses, at the bust portion, I insert hair-cloth, *j*, (see Fig. 2,) cut to the proper shape. This hair-cloth is seamed in by the stitches uniting the parts *a a' b c d e e'*, and extends down to about the line *k*. The hair which composes the weft of the hair-cloth will extend preferably diagonally about, rather than vertically from, the top to the bottom of the bust, as I have ascertained that that enables the bust to more surely retain its original shape, and assume it after compression. I prefer to use two thicknesses of hair-cloth, and in such case the hair-weft will cross in opposite directions. This hair-cloth is quite stiff, yet very elastic, and easily retains itself in its original shape. The bust stiffened with hair-cloth is more agreeable to the person, as it is softer, lighter, and more flexible than a close series of parallel bones, and is cooler, for the hair-cloth permits ventilation to a considerable extent.

As a stiffening material, instead of bones and cane, I propose to stiffen this corset by stiffening-pieces made of thin folded grass-cloth, as in Fig. 7, it having a weft of a stiffer material than its warp, extending from the upper to the lower edge of the corset, either in one or more pieces; but, instead of grass-cloth, bone or cane may be used, as now common. By the use of hair-cloth as the bust-stiffening, I am enabled to dispense with the strip of bone or cane commonly extended across the bust from side to side in other full-bust corsets. Full-bust corsets, as now made, press at the

upper portion of the corset back upon the breast, and are uncomfortable to the wearer. To obviate such objection, the top edge of the corset is expanded above the protruding bust portion, as shown in Fig. 3.

To cause the bust portion to project more or less, I attach to the interior of the bust portion, at bottom and top, two connecting-pieces, *l m*, which are provided with eyelets or equivalents, into which I run a cord or tape, *n*. By means of this cord or tape I can draw the upper portion of the bust down, and cause the center of the bust to protrude more or less. This method of varying the size of the bust may be employed in a corset in which the hair-cloth stiffening is omitted.

I am aware that pieces of cloth have been sewed at the inside of the corset, at the sides of the bust, and that such pieces have had extended between them a piece of cloth stiffened with cane and bones; but I am not aware that a corset-bust has ever been adjusted by drawing the bottom and top portions thereof together.

It is obvious that a corset-bust drawn together from the bottom and top will cause the bust to assume a more natural position than if drawn together from the sides.

It is obvious that the broadened upper ends of the pieces composing the bust may be omitted, and yet the pieces will form a full bust. For a very full bust more than three pieces, such as *b c d*, may be employed.

The shoulder-brace *p* is connected with the corset-back at *r*, and, after passing about the shoulder at that side of the corset, is passed behind the back of the person, and its end is suitably connected with a strap, *s*, secured to the other half, *t*, of the corset.

It is obvious that hair-cloth may be used in the full busts of corsets of any other well-known pattern different from the pattern of corset shown in the drawing.

Instead of hair-cloth, or with it, I may employ grass or cane cloth as an equivalent material; but I prefer the hair-cloth as being the most durable. A corset having its bust stiffened with hair-cloth may be washed without destroying the bust.

The hair-cloth may be further stiffened by rows of stitching.

The skirt-supporting attachment is provided with a pin hinged to one end of the U-shaped piece of metal *u*, the opposite end being bent to form a hook for co-operation with the pin. At the lower portion this attachment is provided with a lip, *w*, to receive a ring, *x*, to be attached to the skirt or other garment.

I am aware that busts have been stiffened by quilting, and that canvas has been used as a stiffener. The bust is more liable to bend longitudinally than transversely. By placing the hair transversely it gives the bust its greatest strength in the direction most needed.

If it is desired to form an abdominal corset, wherein a rounded portion is made to fit the

abdomen, I have only to extend the pieces 5 6 7 downward, and provide them below the waist with full portions 2 3 4. In such case each piece 5 6 7 will have two broad portions like 2 3 4; but those at the lower end of the piece will be broader than at the upper portion, to adjust them to the abdomen.

I have herein described that the two thicknesses of hair-cloth are so placed that the weft of hair crosses in opposite directions. So far as that feature is herein described I disclaim it, as I intend to hereafter file an application therefor. I have herein shown a bosom-pad corset in which gores tapering toward each end are inserted between separate sections, the edges of which are sewed together below the gore in a seam parallel to the edge of the corset; but this feature I disclaim in this application, as I propose to file a separate application therefor.

I am aware that the use of hair-cloth for corsets has been described; so I do not broadly claim the employment of hair-cloth, except, as hereinbefore described, for the formation of the bust.

I claim—

1. The combination, with the corset, of hair-cloth, or its described equivalent, inserted between the face and lining of the corset, and cut and secured in the corset to form a full-bust corset, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a corset, of stiffening-pieces of folded cloth having a stiff weft, substantially as described.

3. In a full-bust corset, the outwardly-curved or expanded upper portion *i*, formed above the top of the bust proper, substantially as and for the purpose described.

4. In a full-bust corset, a bust-forming piece or pieces, made broad at or near the center of the bust, then contracted above such broad portion, then made again broad to form the upper edge of the corset, substantially as described.

5. A corset the front portion of which is composed of three pieces, *b c d*, shaped as shown and described, and extended from the bottom to the top of the corset, and of pieces and gores *a e* at the side thereof, all substantially as described.

6. The gore-pieces *a'*, cut to present a widened portion, 11, at the top, substantially as and for the purpose described.

7. As a new article of manufacture, a full-bust corset provided with means for drawing the upper and lower portions of the bust toward each other to adjust the extent of protuberance of the bust, substantially as described.

8. The bust, and connecting-pieces joined thereto, at the upper and lower portions of the bust, in combination with the adjusting cord or tape, to operate to draw down the top of and expand the bust, substantially as described.

9. One or more bust-forming pieces located

at the central portion of the bust, such pieces having one side made straight and the other side curved or bulged, as at 2, and made smaller above and below the broadest part of the curved portion 2, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name

to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JULIA D. BANFIELD.

Witnesses:

G. W. GREGORY,

W. J. PRATT.