

(Model.)

W. J. MILLER.  
Corset.

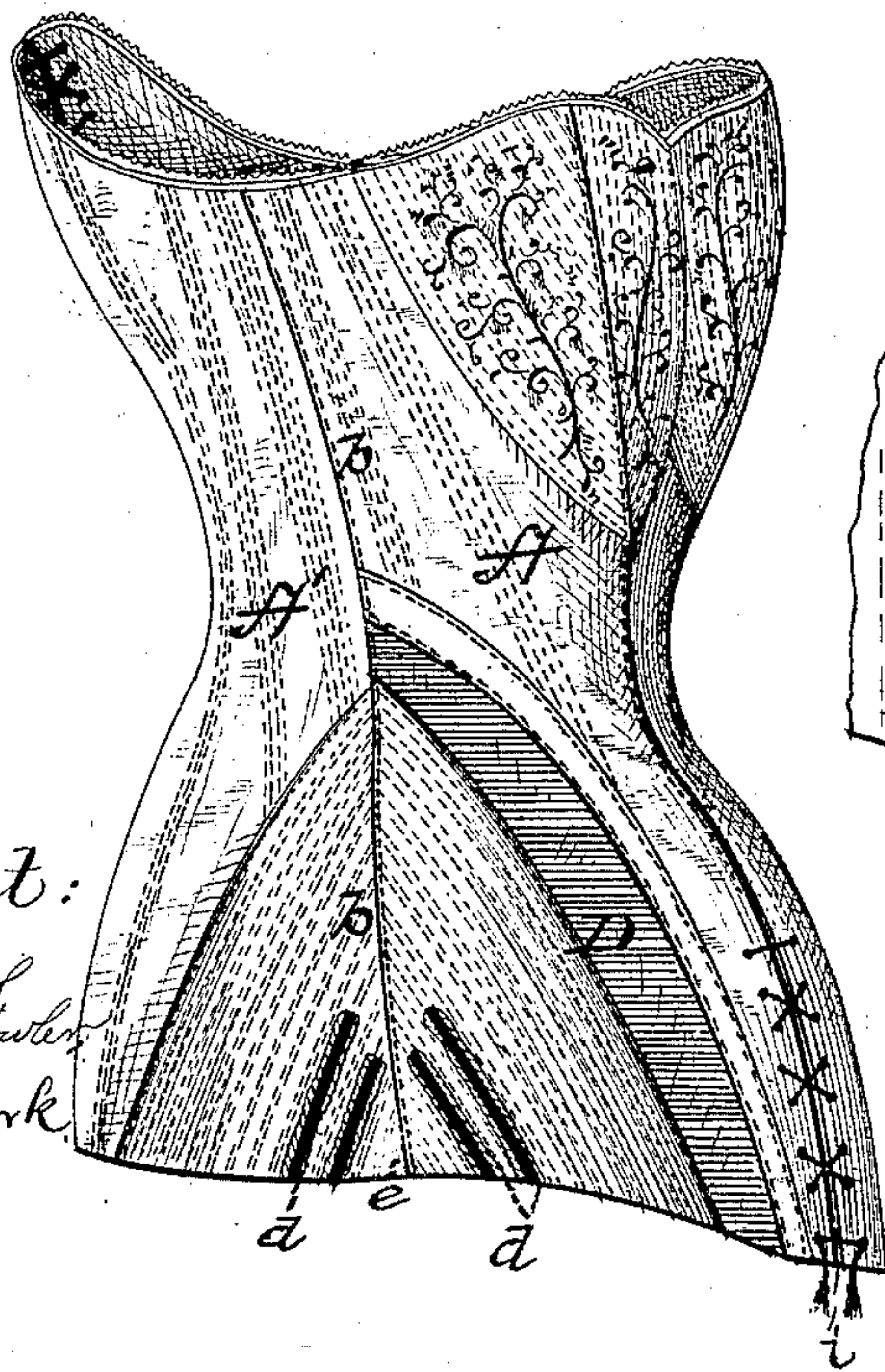
No. 233,001.

Patented Oct. 5, 1880.

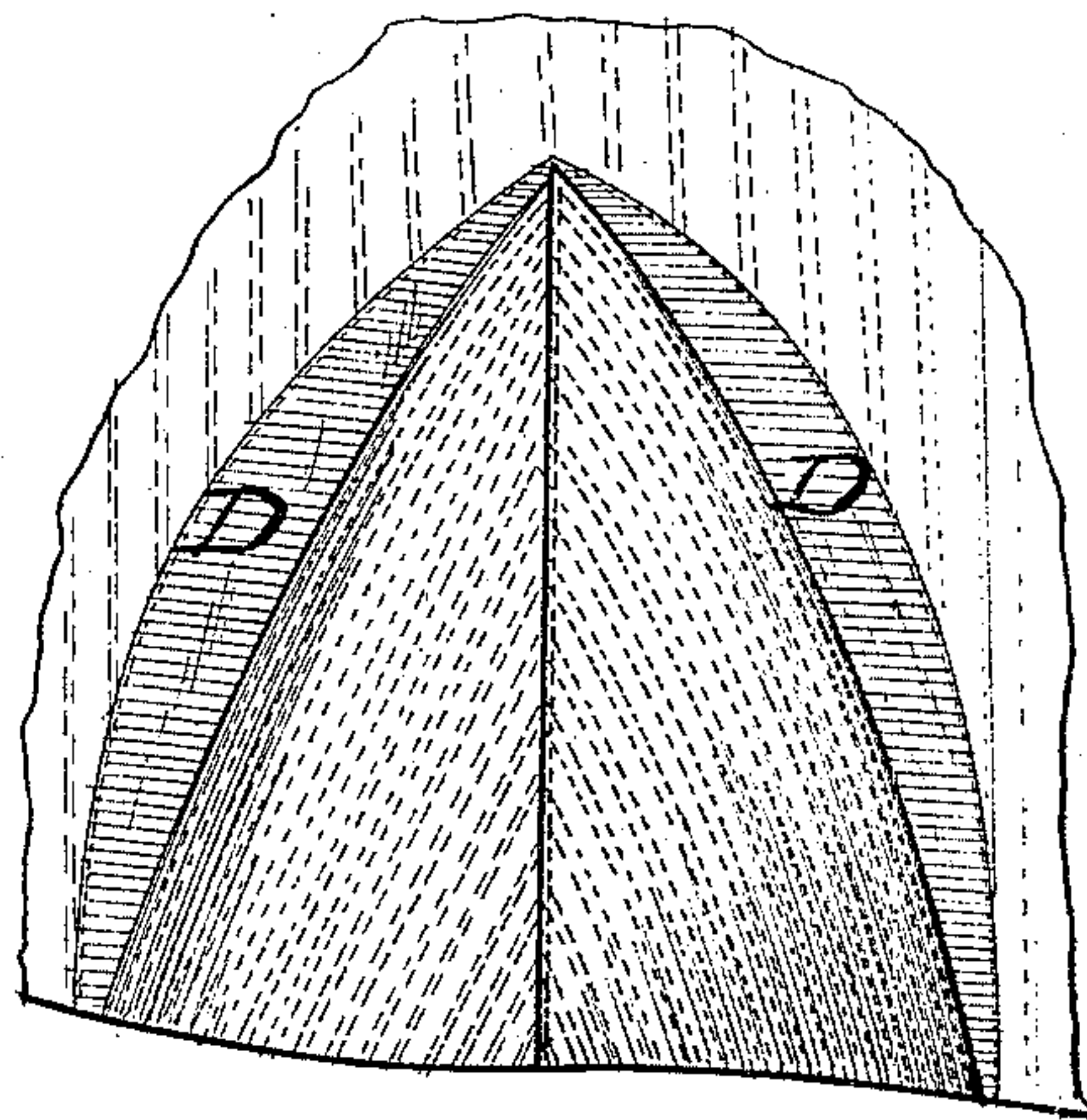
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Attest:*

*J. Miller Taylor,  
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*Inventor:*

*Wm. J. Miller,  
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Attorneys.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM J. MILLER, OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF OF HIS RIGHT TO JAMES M. CURTIS, OF SAME PLACE.

## CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 233,001, dated October 5, 1880.

Application filed July 13, 1880. (Model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. MILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Detroit, in the county of Wayne and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of corsets the object of which is to secure an easy and comfortable fit at the hips of the wearer.

Great difficulty is experienced by wearers in fitting the corset comfortably over the hips, and some efforts have been made to remove this difficulty in the manufacture of corsets; but so far as my knowledge extends they have not proven entirely satisfactory.

My improvement is intended to overcome this difficulty; and therefore it consists, first, in an expanding self-adjusting bone-stiffening formed by inserting the whalebones or stays in diagonal pockets, so as to form a miter directly over the hip; second, in forming curved spaces without bones or stays in front or rear of the hip-whalebones, to secure flexibility to that portion of the corset most liable to break; and, finally, in the novel construction of the corset, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth and specifically claimed. These improvements permit the rest of the corset to bend and adjust itself to the body of the wearer, and allow the body of the wearer to bend freely, and do not disturb or break the whalebones over the hips.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of the upper portion of a female with my improved corset adjusted to the body. Fig. 2 is an enlarged side view of the corset with a few of the pockets broken away to show the diagonally-arranged whalebones. Fig. 3 is a side view of the hip part, showing a modification of the curve spaces without whalebones arranged on opposite or both sides of the diagonally-arranged whalebones.

In the annexed drawings I have shown my

improvements applied to a corset composed of two parts, united by the ordinary lacing behind and by the usual fastening in front; hence I do not wish to confine my improvements to this style of corsets.

In the manufacture of the corset, which is in the usual way, the side portion of each half is formed with a dividing-line, *b*, extending from the top at a point under the arm of the wearer to the bottom over the hip-bone. The breast or front section, *A*, and rear section, *A'*, are united on this line, thus constituting a seam. That portion of the material intended to fit over the hip is made full, and each section at this point is formed with a number of diagonal pockets, *d*, varying in length, the shortest being at the lower corner, *e*, of the material. Within these pockets, which are preferably closed at their upper ends before the sections are united, are inserted the whalebones or stays corresponding with the length of the pockets, so as to form a miter-joint directly over the hip, for the purpose hereinafter described.

The whalebones or stays are introduced into the pockets from the bottom or lower edge of the corset, and extend upwardly on a slight curve up to the most projecting part of the hip-bone, the opposite bones in the other section meeting to form a miter. The sections are now sewed on the line *b*, forming a seam, and the stays are held from displacement or further upward movement by the formed seam running down over the center of the hip-piece. The stays thus inserted and meeting at the center-seam line form a convex triangle or natural contour for the hips that closely fits over them and makes a perfect-shaped sloping hip, the most pleasing feature of the feminine form. This feature of inserting the whalebones or stays in the hip-piece at angles, so as to form a miter directly over the hip-bone, which forms a natural contour for the hip, and retaining them from upward displacement by the seam, is important, since the hip-piece will not lie flat, but will retain a natural curve fit for the hip, whereby the desired fine-shaped hip on the wearer is obtained; also, an easy and comfortable fit at the hip is secured without imposing any strain or discomfort to the wearer.



On a line with the diagonally-arranged stays in the breast-section and the laced slit *i* is a boneless curved space or web, D. The object of this curved space or web, which may be arranged in front or rear, or both front and rear, as seen in Fig. 3, is to secure flexibility to that portion of the corset most liable to break, and to allow the body to bend without disturbing the stays over the hips. This curved space or web D is formed by running a bone or stay on a curve just above and just below the space to secure the desired perfect fit. The object of this second feature of the invention is to give ease and flexibility to the hip-piece in its adjustment, thereby making this factor an essential element for the other. Without this factor—the curve space—the mitered stays would not work with ease on the hip, but on the contrary would cause discomfort to the wearer. Thus by combining the two features above described the hip-pieces will closely cover the hip-bones, and the curve boneless spaces will readily permit the hip-pieces to conform to the movement of the body.

I claim the right to cut and then sew up the space, or the space can be formed without cutting it at all.

I am aware that curved stays arranged in the hip portion, in combination with an open

flexible joint with lacing means capable of being adjusted and laced over the hips of the wearer, is not new; but

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A corset having an expanding self-adjusting stay-stiffening formed of stays of different lengths inserted in diagonal pockets of corresponding lengths, and arranged substantially as described, so as to form a miter directly over the hip-bone, as set forth.

2. In a corset, the flexible curved web D, constructed substantially as described, and arranged in front or rear of the hip-line and hip-stays, for the purpose of securing flexibility to that portion of the corset most liable to break.

3. The combination, in a corset, of the expanding self-adjusting stay-stiffenings, constructed substantially as described, with the curved portions without stays arranged in front or rear of the hip-stays, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM J. MILLER.

Witnesses:

THOMAS BRADY,  
JNO. B. CORLISS.