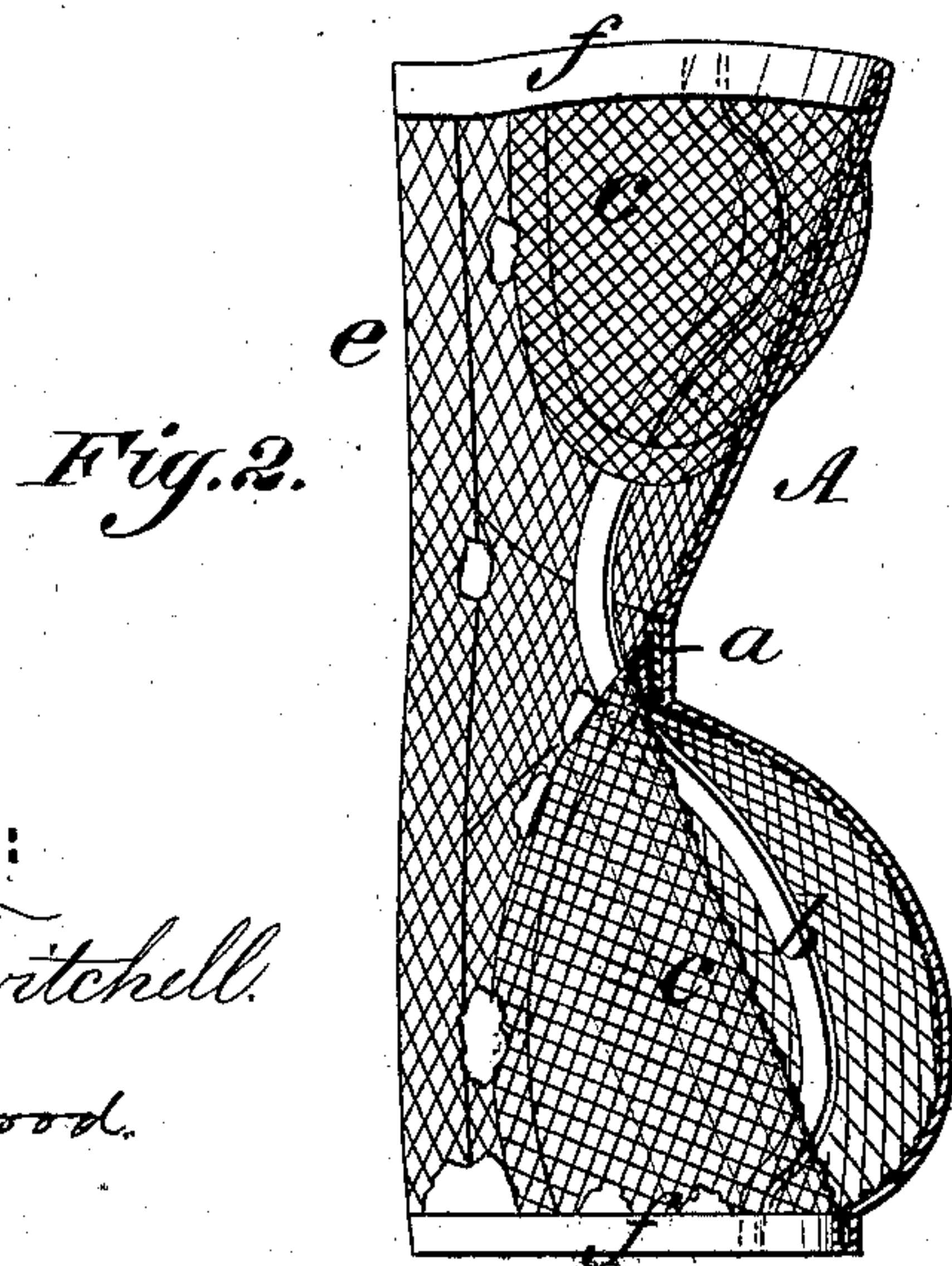


(Model.)

I. E. BANKER.
Corset.

No. 241,589.

Patented May 17, 1881.



WITNESSES:

Donn J. Twitchell.

B. G. Underwood.

INVENTOR:

I. E. Banker.

BY

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IMOGENE E. BANKER, OF BROOKLYN, ASSIGNOR TO HERSELF AND HENRY PUNCHARD, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 241,589, dated May 17, 1881.

Application filed August 24, 1880. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, IMOGENE E. BANKER, of Brooklyn, Kings county, New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Corsets, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to furnish corsets that will give proper shape and can be worn without discomfort; and, further, to dispense with paddings and other devices used to give form to ill-shaped persons, which paddings absorb perspiration and become uncleanly.

By this construction I obtain a corset that is light and cleanly, with the necessary flexibility, and furnishing support where required. It is also durable in material and shape.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved corset as applied to use, and Fig. 2 is a section of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

I use wire-gauze, preferably of steel, and plated with silver or other metal that will prevent rust.

The corset is made in two main portions, A A', as usual, fitted with steels *e* at the edges, secured by folding the gauze upon them, and provided with eyes at the back for laces and hooks and eyes at the front. These portions A A' may be each in a single piece, stamped or otherwise brought to shape, or in two or more pieces secured together. When put together these partitions should be of the shape it is desired to give the person, and to maintain that shape, and at the same time give support to the wearer, the corset is provided with bands *a* around the waist, having wide front portions, cross-bands *d* beneath the breasts, and bands *b* extending from top to bottom at suitable distances apart. There are also bands *f* at the top and bottom edges of the corset. The bands *a b d* are preferably

made of spring-brass silver-plated, and are attached to the wire-gauze on the inner or outer side by pins or rivets, by soldering, or in any suitable manner.

By this construction I obtain a corset stiff enough to retain the shape and to give support, yet having the necessary flexibility.

To render the corset comfortable it should fit the body snugly, and as perfect forms are an exception, the faults of shape must be corrected. This has heretofore been done by paddings to fill out the breast and obtain width at the hips, or by the still more objectionable mode of tight lacing, all of which is unclean, unhealthy, and uncomfortable. For this purpose I provide inner linings, C, of wire, formed of the shape required and attached to the corset at the places required to be fitted to the person. In some cases—as, for instance, a very fleshy person—these linings are not required, the simple corset being all that is necessary to obtain shape, and such persons can wear this corset with comfort when the ordinary corset would be uncomfortable and become quickly soiled.

It will be seen that no cloth or other material liable to become soiled is used. The corsets can be easily kept clean and are durable.

I am aware that wire-gauze has been used in corsets in connection with cloth and soft paddings. Such I do not claim.

I am aware that wire-gauze has been used in corsets, and that corsets have been lined with other material; but

What I claim as new is—

In combination with a wire-gauze corset, the waist and hip sections held in shape by the elastic metallic bands *a b*, arranged as shown and described.

IMOGENE E. BANKER.

Witnesses:

GEO. D. WALKER,
C. SEDGWICK.