

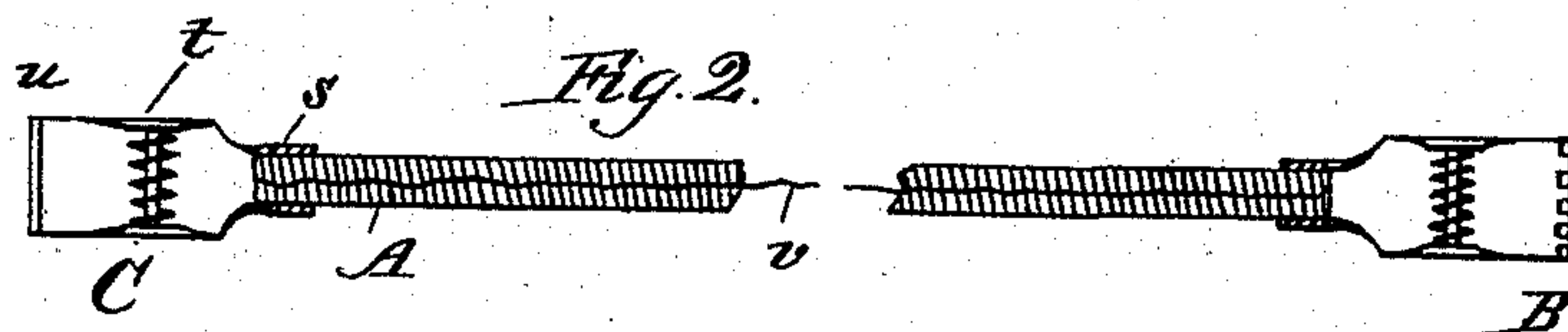
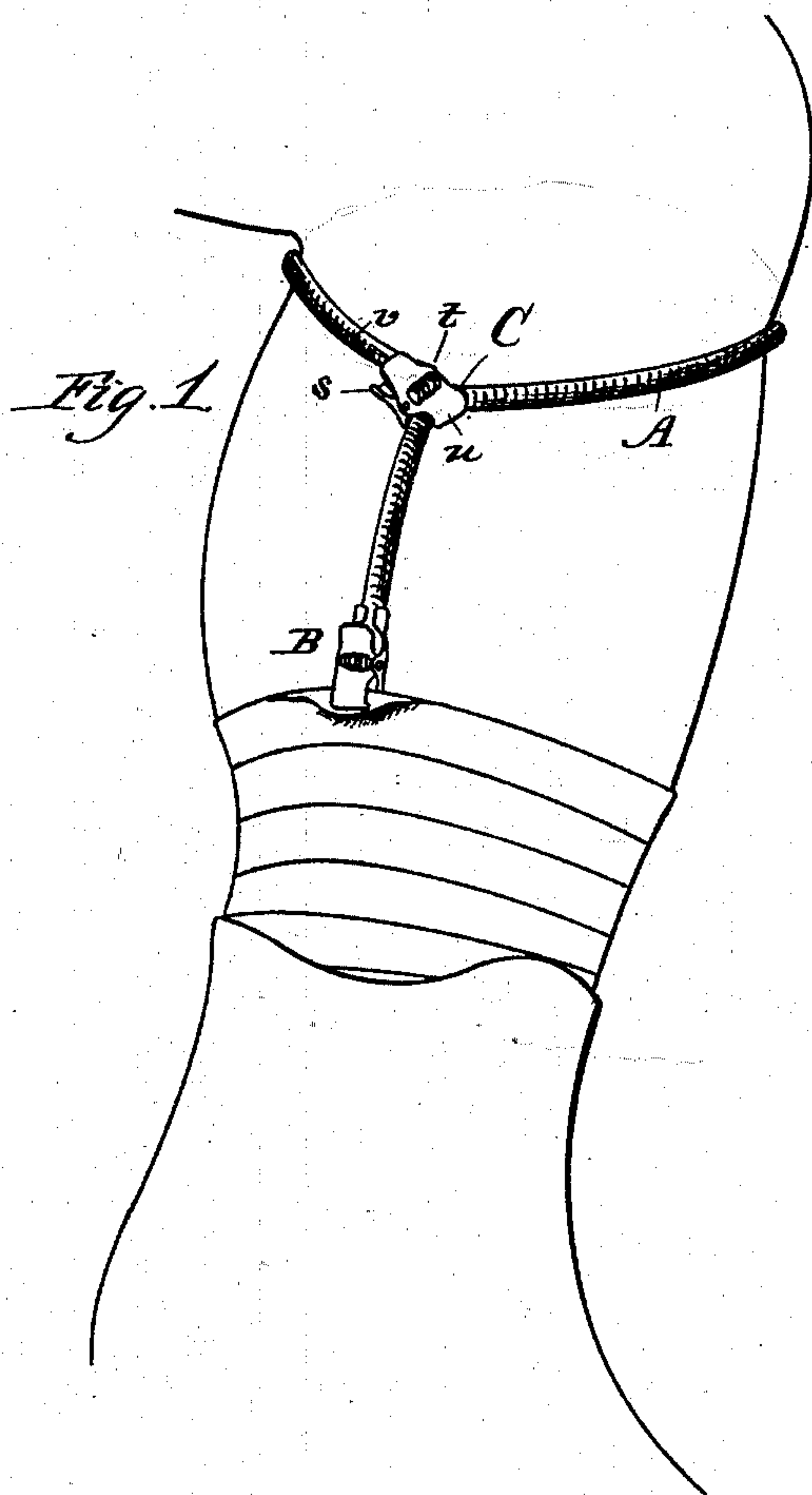
(No Model.)

E. H. RUSSELL.

STOCKING, HOSE AND SLEEVE SUPPORTER.

No. 249,261.

Patented Nov. 8, 1881.



WITNESSES.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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STOCKING, HOSE, AND SLEEVE SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 249,261, dated November 8, 1881.

Application filed August 13, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ELIJAH H. RUSSELL, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stocking, Hose, and Sleeve Supporters; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a leg with my device attached as a stocking-supporter; and Fig. 2, a sectional view of my device, showing the stay.

My invention is in the nature of an improvement upon those supporters in which an elastic fibrous band is provided with a clasp at each end—one to grasp the fabric to be supported, and the other, by means of teeth, to grasp the elastic band itself, and thus form a loop around the limb of the wearer—my object being to produce a device which shall be more comfortable to the wearer and more convenient in the matter of regulation and adjustment to the exact length required than those above referred to.

To this end my invention consists in forming the supporter of a single helical wire spring provided at one end with a clasp adapted to grasp and hold the fabric to be sustained, and provided at the other end with a clasp adapted to receive and wholly or in part to encompass the wire spring, whereby the latter may be doubled upon itself and inserted in the last-named clasp to form a loop to encircle the limb of the wearer, all as hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the drawings, A is a coiled wire spring, containing a stay in the form of an internal slack non-elastic cord, *v*, secured at each end of the spring, to prevent the stretching of the same beyond the limit of its elasticity. I make no claim to the stay, however, for I am well aware that it is old, having been used for analogous purposes (as a band for pocket-books, for example) for the past thirty years or more.

B is a clasp at one end of the spring A, for the purpose of grasping and holding the fab-

ric. This clasp may be of any kind adapted to effect the desired object; but I prefer to employ the well-known form shown in the drawings. No particular description of this clasp is necessary here, as it is fully described in Letters Patent of the United States No. 202,924, dated April 30, 1878.

C is a clasp at the end of the spring A, opposite to the clasp B, and of a construction similar to the latter, except that the teeth are omitted and the outer ends, *u*, curved toward each other, as shown, to adapt them wholly or in part to encompass the spring A when it is inserted within them, and, by reason of the spring *t*, to retain it in place against any tendency to escape in a lateral direction. To insert or remove the spring A pressure is exerted upon the thumb-piece *s* of the clasp C, thereby separating the ends *u* to a sufficient extent for the required purpose.

To apply the above-described supporter to a man's sock the clasp B is first attached to the top of the sock, and then the portion terminating in the clasp C passed around the leg, above the largest part of the calf, and the body of the spring inserted within the said clasp, as shown.

To apply the device as a sleeve-supporter the loop around the arm should be formed below the point at which the fabric is grasped by the clasp B.

To adjust the supporter to just the proper length it is only necessary slightly to loosen the clasp C by pressure of the thumb and allow it to slide along the spring. The proper length being reached, the clasp is released, when it holds the spring firmly. This matter of adjustment has heretofore been one causing some difficulty and annoyance.

Care should be taken not to stretch the coiled spring in short lengths, but always, when stretching it, to hold it by its opposite ends, since, if held at two points near together and then stretched, it is evident that the amount of extension will be insufficient to take up the slack of the stay *v*, whereby the spring between the points held is liable to be extended beyond the limits of its elasticity, and thus

spoiled. No such accident, however, can ever occur in the ordinary and proper use of the device.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure
5 by Letters Patent, is—

In a stocking, hose, or sleeve supporter, the combination, with the coiled spring A, of a clasp upon one end of the spring, adapted to grasp and hold the fabric, and the clasp C

upon the opposite end of the spring, having its outer ends curved toward each other, thus forming, when closed, a tubular eye to receive and hold the spring, substantially as described.

ELIJAH H. RUSSELL.

In presence of—

WM. H. DYRENFORTH,
HORATIO ANDERSON.