

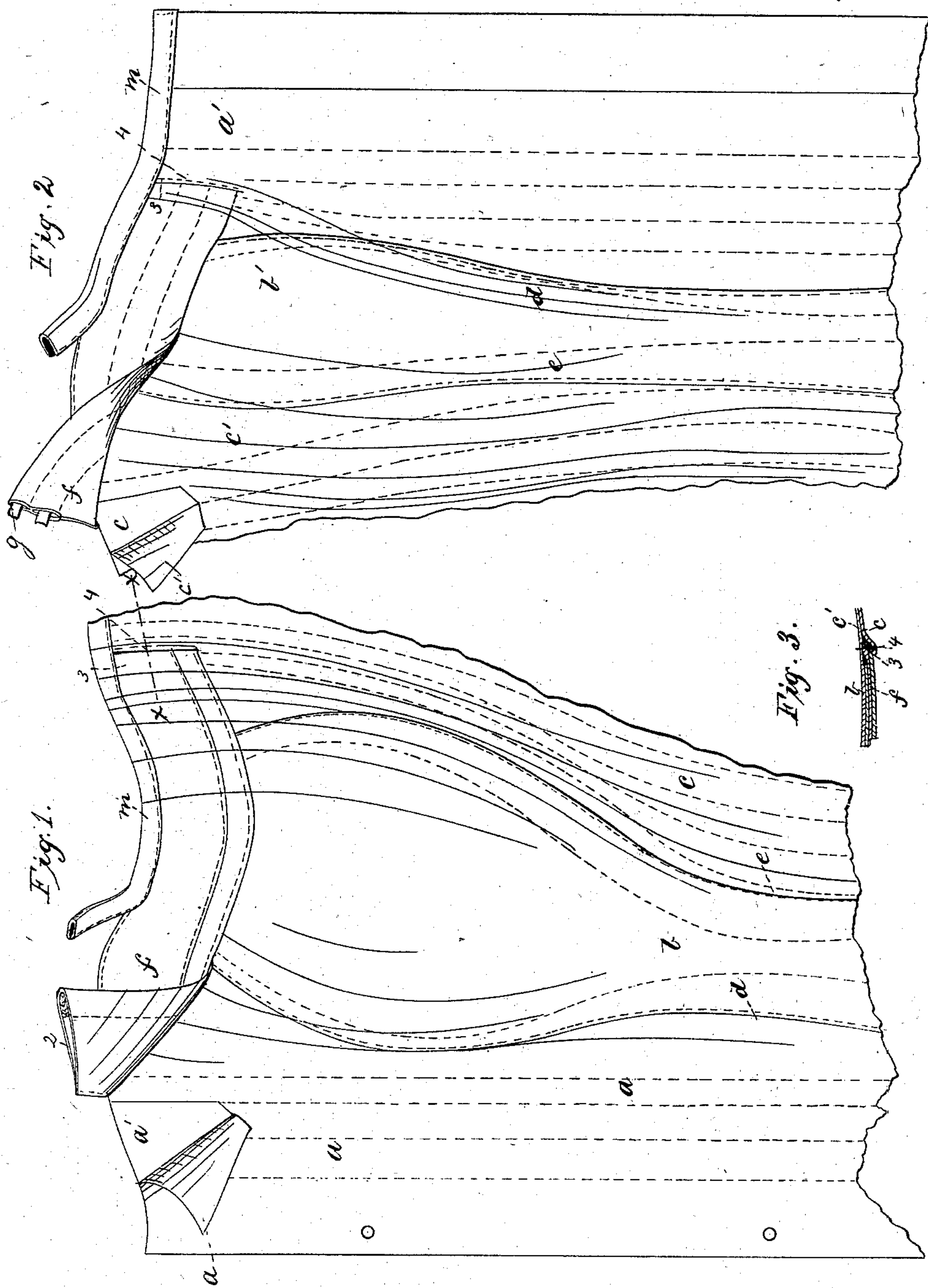
(Model.)

C. H. WILLIAMS.

CORSET.

No. 254,786.

Patented Mar. 7, 1882.



Witnesses.

Arthur Reynolds
Bernice J. Noyes

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Chas. H. Williams,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES H. WILLIAMS, OF WORCESTER, ASSIGNOR TO THEODORE C. BATES, OF NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 254,786, dated March 7, 1882.

Application filed April 19, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES H. WILLIAMS, of Worcester, county of Worcester, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Corsets, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

This invention in corsets relates to improvements whereby the breast portion of a goreless corset may be kept distended by a distending-piece, which is extended across only a portion of the upper part of the breast, the invention consisting in inserting and securing such distending-piece in pockets formed in the material of the front and side sections of the corsets, as will be hereinafter fully described.

Figure 1 represents in front elevation a sufficient portion of the breast part of a corset to illustrate my invention, the breast-distending strip being disconnected at one end to show my improved manner of securing it to the breast part of the corset, the said figure showing the distending-strip applied outside the breast portion, as I prefer to thus avoid a projecting rib or piece inside the breast portion, next the person. Fig. 2 is a like view of a modification, showing the distending-strip connected with the corset, inside the breast portion; and Fig. 3, a cross-sectional detail on the line *x x*, Fig. 1.

The front or breast portion of the corset, partially shown in Fig. 1, is composed of three pieces, *a b c*, connected by seams *d e*, each of the said pieces being extended from the bottom to the top of the corset. The upper parts of the pieces *a b c* are broadened to give proper fullness to the breast-covering portion of the corset. These parts *a b c* are old. I desire to keep them distended.

The breast portion has been kept distended by a distending-piece extended from or near the steel, across the top of the pieces *a b c*, and secured inside the breast-covering portion into the seam uniting the outer edge of piece *c* with the side of the corset.

In corsets in which gores are used the distending-strip for the breast portion has been applied exteriorly; but such strip has been sewed in with the seams uniting the back and front with the side pieces. This strip must hence be of unchangeable and excessive length,

and is not adapted to the motions of the body. Hence its ends are apt to hurtfully bear against the body, producing great discomfort, if not positive injury. By my invention of pockets to receive the strip I am enabled to make such strip of any desired length and to place it in just such position as is best suited to the requirements of the motions of the body and demands of the trade.

It is the aim of this invention to distend and keep the breast-covering portion distended by a shorter strip than heretofore used. The ends of the distending-strip are inserted in slits made in one of the two thicknesses of cloth composing the portions *a a' c c'*, the said portions being, as is well understood, composed of two layers or thicknesses of cloth, as represented in the section, Fig. 3, the rear side or inner layers being marked *a' c'*.

In the practice of my invention, the vertical seams having been sewed, the front parts, *a c*, are each slit, as shown at the left of Fig. 1, forming pockets or spaces for the reception of the ends 2 of the narrow band-like distending-strip *f*, which may be suitably stiffened by bones, cords, canvas, or any other suitable flexible or stiffening material, and the raw or overlapping edge, outside the distending-strip at its ends, is then fitted or turned in, as shown at 3, Fig. 3, and stitched through at 4, the said stitches also passing through the end of the distending-strip and the innermost thickness of the corset material.

The upper edge of the distending-strip and the upper edges of the part *b* and portions of parts *a* and *c* are united and inclosed by the binding *m*.

Both ends of the distending-strip *f* being joined with the corset between its outer and inner plies or thicknesses, as at the right of Fig. 1, enables me to produce a stiffened or distended breast portion without a projection or rib of any sort within the corset, and the parts of the corset-breast between the ends of the distending-strip and the extreme outer edges of pieces *a c* are left to conform easily to the shape of the breast of the wearer of the corset, and not to bear too hard on the person.

It is obvious that this distending-strip may be placed inside the corset-breast, as in Fig. 2. In this last figure the slit to receive the ends

of the shortened distending-strip, stiffened at
g, is inserted between the inner and outer
layers of thickness or plies of cloth *a a'* and *c*
c' through slits made in the inner layers, *a' c'*,
5 and said slitted edges are turned in or felled
and stitched at 3 4, as referred to in connec-
tion with Figs. 1 and 2.

I claim—

10 In a corset having a goreless breast portion,
as set forth, the distending-strip *f*, combined
with the pieces *a* and *c*, and pockets or slits

made in the material thereof to receive and re-
tain the ends of the said distending-strip, sub-
stantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name 15
to this specification in the presence of two sub-
scribing witnesses.

CHARLES H. WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

FRANK W. RUGGLES,
H. H. FAIRBANKS.