(Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

S. B. FERRIS.

CORSET.

No. 271,618. Patented Feb. 6, 1883.

Fig: 2

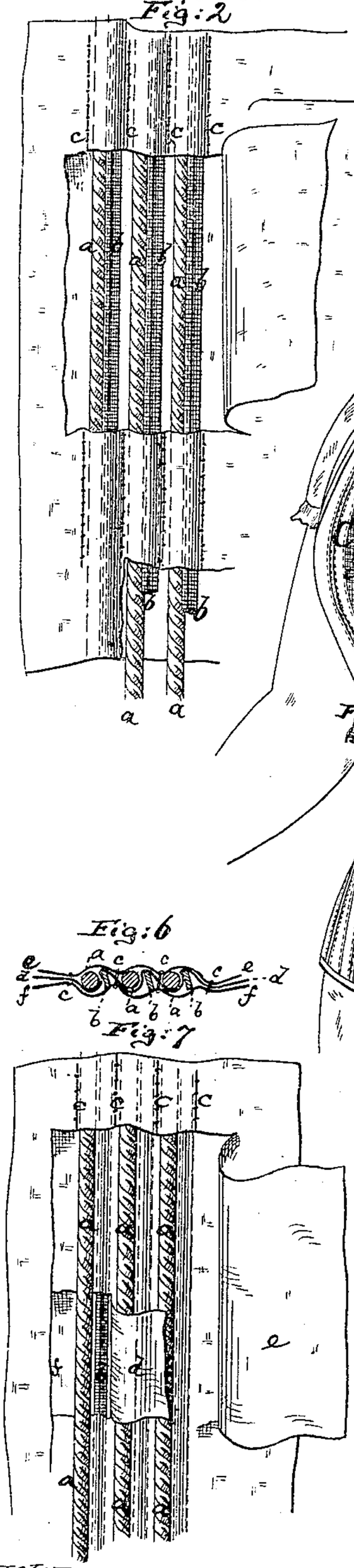


Fig: 3

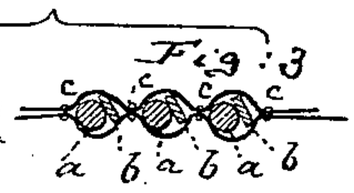


Fig: 1

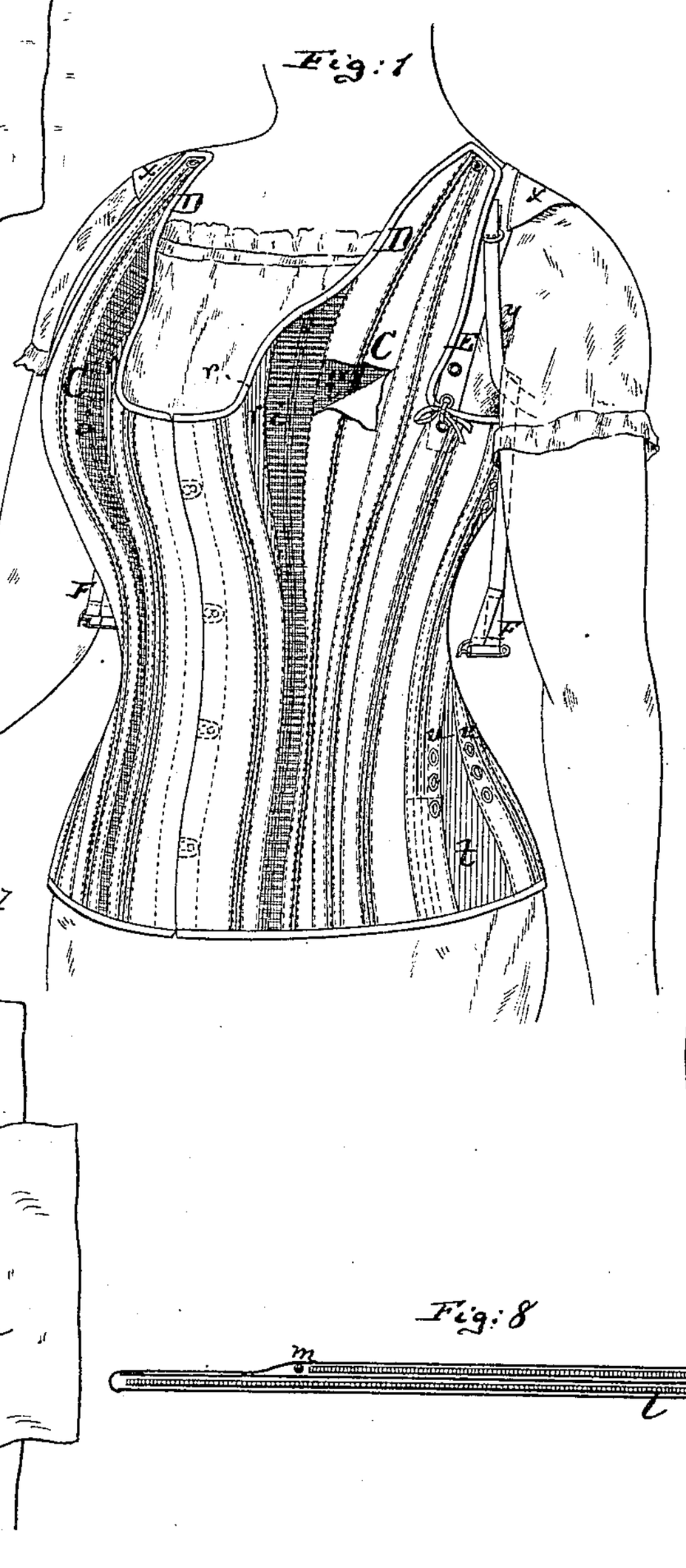


Fig: 4

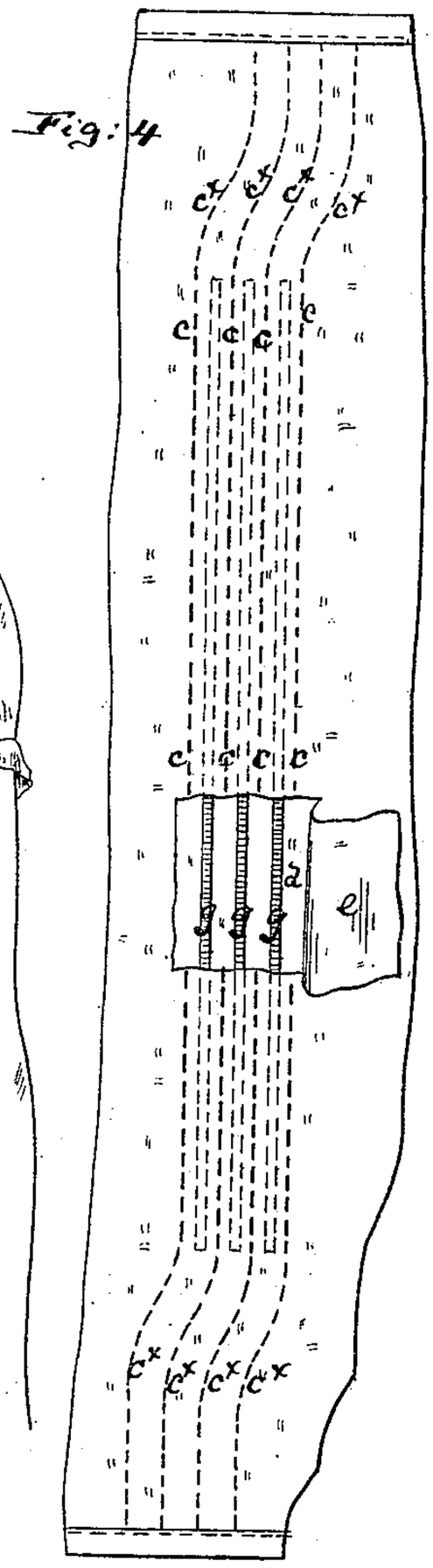


Fig: 6

Fig: 7

Fig: 5

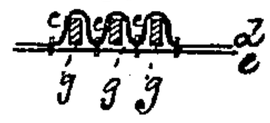
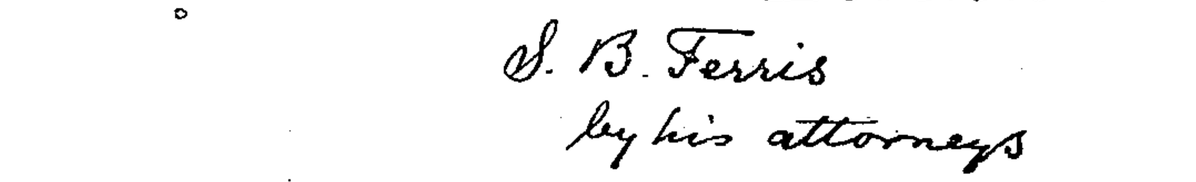


Fig: 8



Witnesses:
Henry A. Parker.
John C. Dumbridge.

Inventor:
S. B. Ferris
by his attorneys
Briesen & Betts

(Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

S. B. FERRIS.

CORSET.

No. 271,618. Patented Feb. 6, 1883.

Fig: 11

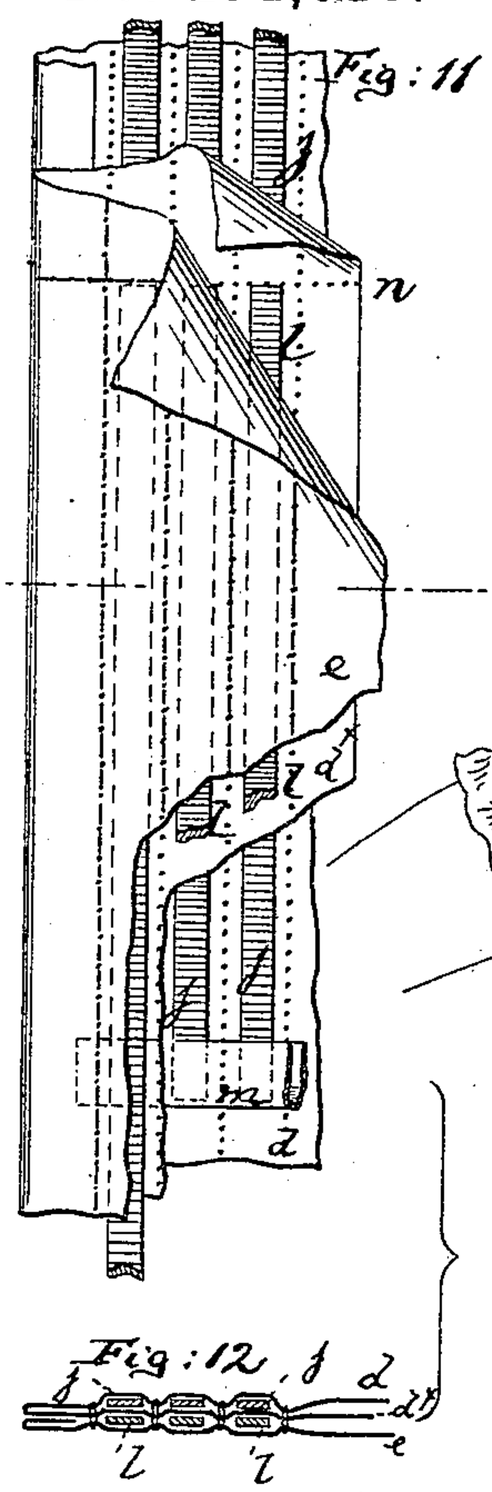


Fig: 12.

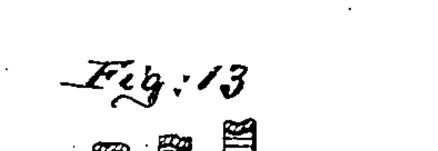


Fig: 13

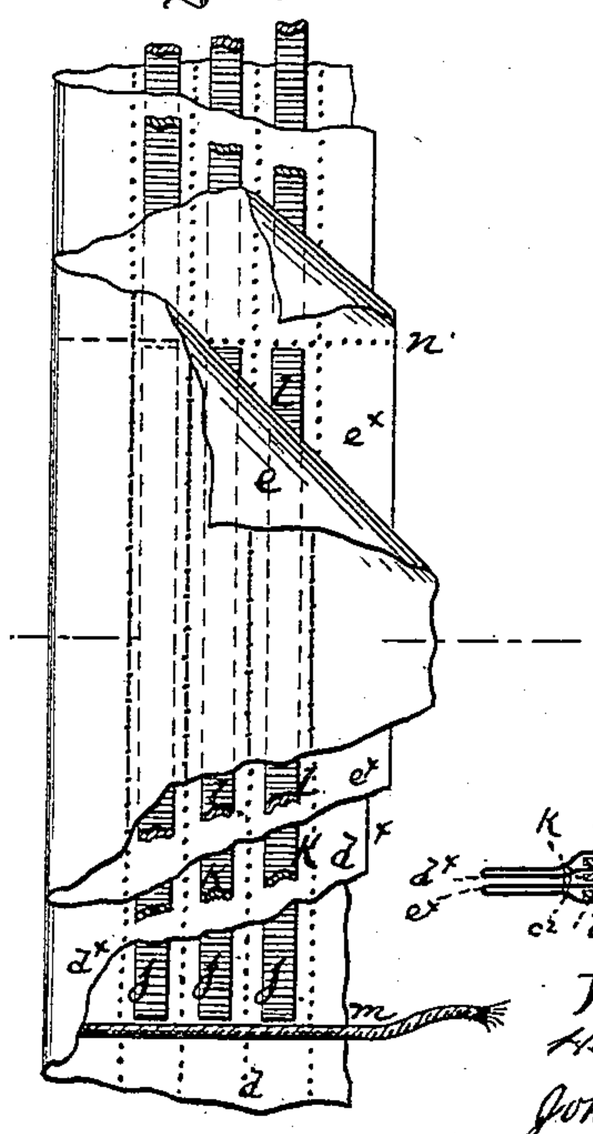


Fig: 9

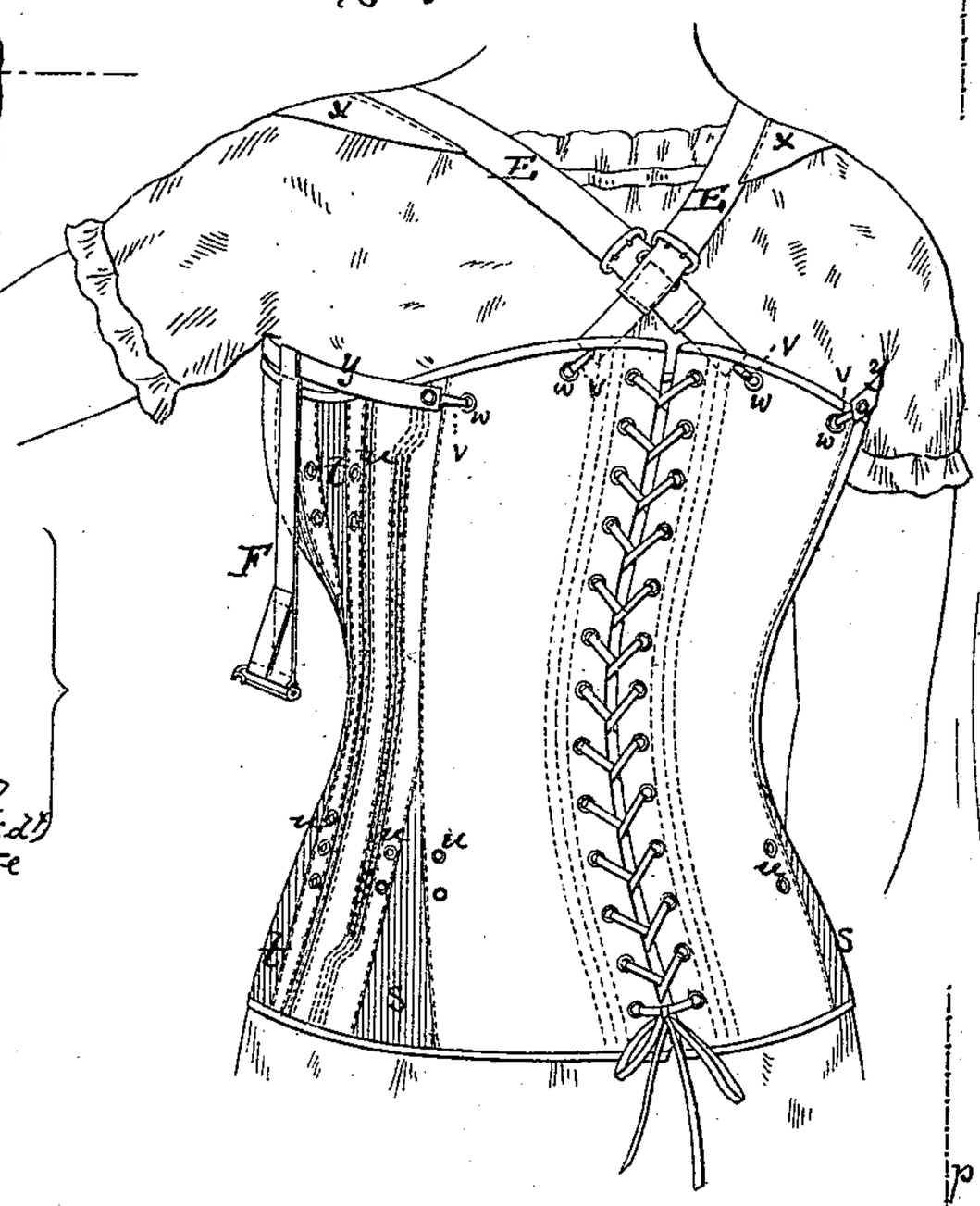


Fig: 10

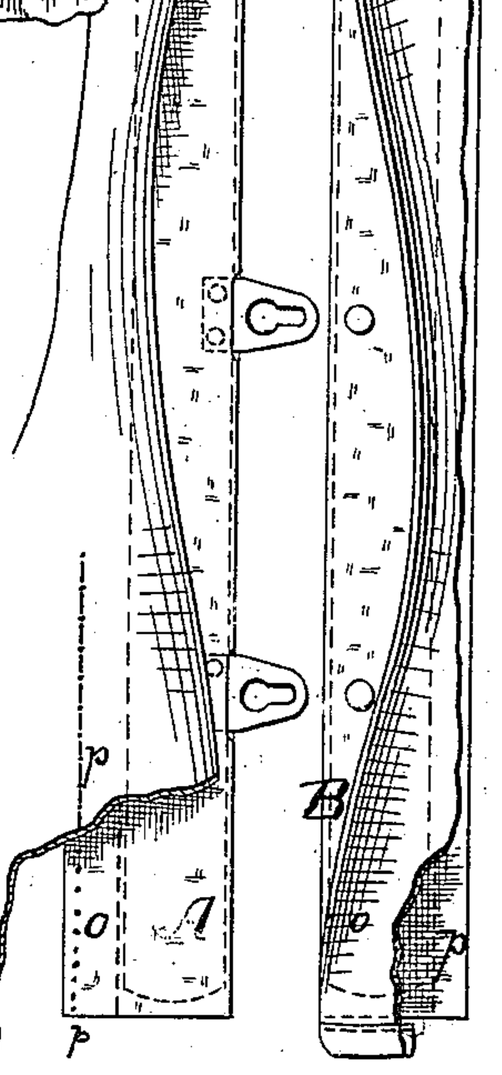
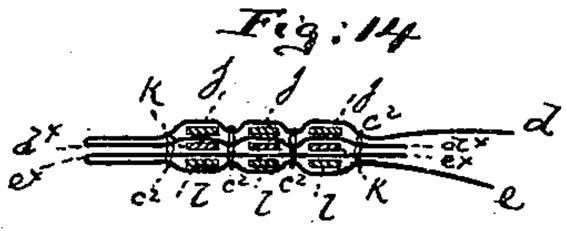


Fig: 14



Witnesses:
Henry F. Parker
John C. Tumbridge

Inventor:
S. B. Ferris
by his attorneys
Briesen & Betts

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SHERWOOD B. FERRIS, OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 271,618, dated February 6, 1883.

Application filed February 4, 1882. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SHERWOOD B. FERRIS, of Brooklyn, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented an Improved Corset, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved corset. Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are detail views showing parts thereof. Fig. 9 is a back view of the corset; Fig. 10, an enlarged face view of the corset-clasps. Figs. 11, 12, 13, and 14 are further detail views of the corset.

This invention has for its object to improve the construction of a corset, and also its fit; and it consists of various features of improvement that relate to the stiffening of the garment and to the arrangement of the gores therein, to the manner of attaching the clasps, and to other features of construction that are hereinafter more fully described.

The invention also consists in a new arrangement of shoulder-straps and their combination with skirt-supporters, that is hereinafter more fully specified.

The first object of the improvement relates to the use, in combination with cord stiffeners, of adjacent bone stiffeners.

In Figs. 2 and 3, 6 and 7, is shown the cord stiffener *a* side by side with thin bone stiffeners *b*, there being always a cord *a* and a bone *b*, held between two rows, *c c*, of stitches. In a two-ply corset—such as is shown in Fig. 3—the bones and cords are contiguous in each pocket formed by the two rows of stitches; but in a three-ply corset—such as is indicated in Figs. 6 and 7—the cord *a* may be between the thicknesses *d* and *e* of cloth, and the bones *b* between the thicknesses *d* and *f* of cloth, and yet each cord and its corresponding bone will be held between two rows of stitches *c*. Cords inserted in corsets are useful as stiffening devices, and have already been used, but they do not give the desired support in all parts; and hence I have deemed it desirable to insert them, in conjunction with the bones, at the same time that the stitching is done, by means of which the cords and the bones are confined in place. One bone may be placed close to two cords, or vice versa, if desired. The cord is usually inserted in the corsets, at the same time that the stitching is done, by means of an attachment to the sewing-machine, which is called a "corder," and I propose to insert the bone *b* or equivalent stiffening device into the pocket at the same time that the cord is run in. A skilled operator can insert the bone *b* or its equivalent at same time that cord is run in with the usual corder; but it is more readily inserted by the use of a slight attachment to the usual corder in the shape of a narrow channel for the bone to run through; or it may be inserted by hand. The cords should be the full length of the corset, (see Fig. 2;) but the bones are shorter, being only placed where they are needed as stiffeners. Hence the cords and bones must be separate from one another to enable the latter to be properly located.

In some parts of the corset the cords are not used in combination with bone. Here I insert narrow strips *g*, of bone or equivalent structure, standing edgewise between the two thicknesses *d* and *e* of the fabric that constitutes the body of the corset. This is clearly shown in Figs. 4 and 5. By having the bone set on edge in the corresponding pockets of the corset I obtain great stiffening, together with light weight, and as the bone is inserted at the time the stitching is done, I am able to secure the bone in position, when desired, by simply curving the stitching, as shown at $c^{\times}$ in Fig. 4, at the ends of the pockets for the bones. The bones inserted edgewise, as stated, should be beveled or rounded at the ends, so as not to cut through the fabric.

In some parts of the corset, instead of stiffening by bones, I place one or more layers of tampico or grass cloth or other stiff fabric into the body of the corset as a face for the corset, over or under which I run the cord *a*. Such a section of tampico is shown at *i* in Fig. 1. If the tampico is used in more than one ply or thickness, it should all be placed with the stronger fiber of the fabric running up and down, so as to give the most support. Two-ply tampico may be used with cord, which may be run in without other cloth, thus producing a complete section of the corset of tampico; or one ply of cloth and one ply of tampico may be used, as at $i^{\times}$. For the bones that are to lie flat in the corset, I cause in the corset which is indicated in Fig. 14 the folding edges $d^{\times}$ and $e^{\times}$ of the plies *d* and *e* to be turned in

parallel with the body of the corset, so as to give material for the extra pockets of three sets of bones, *j k l*, which can thus be arranged in three thicknesses—that is to say, the three bones between two rows, c^2, of stitching, as clearly indicated in Fig. 14. Having folded the margins $d^\times$ and $e^\times$ as far as desired and made the stitches c^2, I stitch across one margin and its body—say between $e^\times$ and *e*—at one point, and across the other margin—say between $d^\times$ and *d*—at another point. This cross-stitching shortens the pockets for the bones *j* and *l*, but does not shorten the pocket for the middle bone, which is between the parts $d^\times$ and $e^\times$, and I am thus enabled to have the bones *j* between *d* and $d^\times$, say, extend from the top of the corset to the cross-seam *m*, the bone *l* between *e* and $e^\times$ from the bottom of the corset to the cross-seam *n*, and the bone *k* between $d^\times$ and $e^\times$ from the top to the bottom of the corset; or, as in Figs. 11 and 12, I may only use two bones, *j* and *l*, in pairs, the bone *j* extending from the top of the corset up to the seam *m*, and the bone *l* from the bottom of the corset to the seam *n*. In the latter case the margin $e^\times$ need not be turned in as far as in Fig. 14. It will thus be seen that there are pockets formed for short overlapping bones, as in Fig. 8, and in the structure shown in Fig. 14 also for long central bones. Instead of rows of stitching *m* and *n* to form the terminals for the pockets, I may use cross-strips of folded cloth, as at *m* in Fig. 11, or cord, as at *m* in Fig. 13, to terminate these pockets, and these strips or cords can be stitched fast with the stitches c^2, thus avoiding the use of additional cross-seams.

The clasps for the corset are shown at A and B in Fig. 10. Each of these clasps is inclosed in a corresponding pocket having a marginal flap, *o*. The corset itself is finished in front as if it were to have no clasps, and I then attach the clasps to either the inner or outer face of the corset by stitching its marginal flap at *p* to the corset-body. This allows me to readily rip off the clasp when it is desired to have the corset washed or a new clasp put in place.

Another object of my invention has reference to the bosom-pad. The bosom-pads of my corset are marked C in Fig. 1, and each made of series of pieces or sections to form the usual hollow for the reception of the bosom. Each pad C is continued upward beyond and above the bosom to form prolongations D D, which fit into the hollows in front of the shoulders and extend up to the top of the shoulder-blade, and thus fill the parts that are usually padded by dress-makers.

In order to make the corset to fit various sizes of figure, I provide it with peculiar soft gores—namely, a wedge-shaped gore, which is absolutely flexible and not stiff at any point, is inserted at *r*, (see Fig. 1,) near the front of the bosom, and another such soft gore may be inserted at *s*, at or near the hip; and a third long soft gore, wider at the ends and narrow in the middle, and extending the full length of the corset, is inserted in each side, as shown at *t* in Fig. 9. The curved edges of the piece *t* are stitched to straight edges of the adjoining parts of the corset. These soft gores allow the corset to expand more than the usual size, and allow it also to overlap where these soft gores are formed, and to become therefore quite small. To facilitate the drawing in of the corset at the places where these soft gores are employed, I provide the corset with eyelets *u* near said gores, which are clearly shown in Fig. 9 contiguous to the soft gores *t* and *s*.

The shoulder-brace E, which is made according to my invention, is removably attached in front, at the outer portion of the bosom-pad, as shown in Fig. 1, carried over the shoulder to the back of the corset from right to left and from left to right, its rear ends crossing each other and being attached to hooks *v*, that are capable of turning in the eyelets *w*, which are formed for their reception in the corset-body. The upper part of the strap E, that rests on the arm, has an enlarged or widened pad, *x*. (Shown in Fig. 1.) An under-arm strap, *y*, connects by a buckle in front of the arm with the main strap E, goes under the arm and back to the body of the corset, as shown in Figs. 1 and 9. The front end of the strap *y* can be readily adjusted by the wearer, being within convenient reach. From these under-arm straps are suspended the skirt-supporter straps F. The hooks by which the under-arm strap *y* is fastened to the back of the corset can also turn in eyelets *w*.

My corset, as arranged with the shoulder-brace, can be used with or without the same, as the shoulder-brace is detachable, being tied in front and fastened by hooks at the back.

I claim—

1. In a corset, the stiffening-bones *g*, inserted edgewise between the thicknesses of cloth, so that their shortest edges will be parallel with the face of the corset, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a corset, the stiffening-bones *g*, made wider than they are thick, and held edgewise by two rows of parallel stitching that form pockets for the same, so that their shortest edge will be parallel with the face of the corset, substantially as specified.

3. A corset having its fabrics *d* and *e* doubled inward at $d^\times$ and $e^\times$ to form extra pockets for two or more transverse sets of bones, substantially as specified.

4. In a corset, the fabrics *d e*, folded double to form extra pockets, in combination with the bone *j*, cross-seam or cross-support *m*, bone *l*, and cross-seam or cross-support *n*, all arranged substantially as specified.

5. The combination of the overlapping bones *j* and *l* with the bones *k*, of full length, and with the two sheets *d e* of fabric, which sheets are doubled to form pockets for all said bones

in transverse direction, substantially as specified.

6. The corset, combined with the detachable shoulder-strap E and with the under-arm strap *y*, which is secured by a buckle in front of the arm to the strap E, substantially as described.

7. In a corset, the bone-pockets, made with curved ends $c^{\times}$ obliquely across the bones, to prevent longitudinal movement of the bones that do not enter the curved parts of the pockets, as herein shown and described.

SHERWOOD B. FERRIS.

Witnesses:

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WILLIAM H. C. SMITH.