

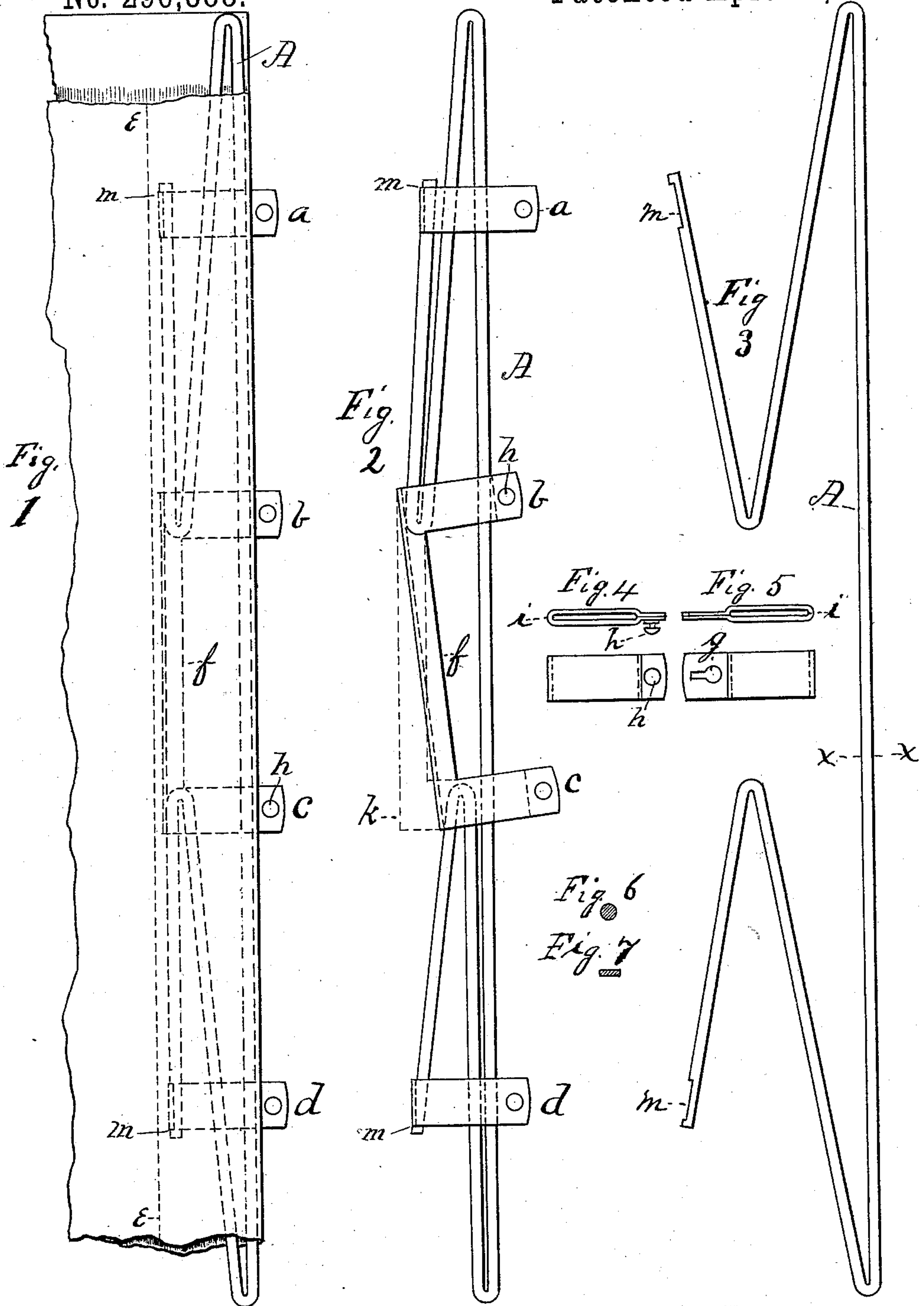
(No Model.)

C. A. STEVENS.

COMBINED ELASTIC CORSET BUSK AND CLASP.

No. 296,888.

Patented Apr. 15, 1884.



Witnesses
James Middleton
Robert C. Baldwin

Inventor
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By his Atty. Louis S. Day.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. STEVENS, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

COMBINED ELASTIC CORSET BUSK AND CLASP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 296,888, dated April 15, 1884.

Application filed July 2, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. STEVENS, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Combined Elastic Corset Buses and Clasps, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to an article of manufacture known as a "corset-busk;" and it consists of a corset-busk having a peculiar zigzag or waving form, upon which is arranged a series of movable clasps. This novel arrangement of the necessary fastening devices upon the angulated corset-busk admits of a lateral vibratory movement of each clasp independently, or the whole series collectively, thereby furnishing a simple and convenient elastic fastening device for the corset, which retains the functions of the corset-steel heretofore in use—*i. e.*, providing the necessary vertical support and form for the body of the wearer.

In the drawings, Figure 1 represents a detached portion of a corset, showing one of the closing-edges having one of my improved corset-buses, A, secured thereto. Said corset-busk and appurtenant clasps are shown in this view by both solid and broken lines. The corset material is represented as being removed at the top, also at the bottom of this view, that the relative positions of the corset-busk and corset material could be more easily discerned, by which it will be seen that the corset busk and clasps are placed between the folded material, with the ends of the clasps protruding through the edge of the corset, as at *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*. The corset-busk A is retained in this position by stitching the corset material together near the back edge of the corset-busk, as represented by the broken line *e* and *e*. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the improved corset busk and clasps. The points of the angulated corset-busk, upon which the clasps *a* and *c* in this view are superimposed, are represented in a compressed position. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are views of detailed parts of the elastic fastening device, being set forth more fully hereinafter. Fig. 6 shows a cross-section of a piece of round wire, of which the angulated corset-busk, Fig. 3, is made, Fig. 7 showing

the same cross-section after it has been flattened.

A piece of round spring-wire of the required length, being bent upon itself at the ends to form a spring of the peculiar waving form represented in Fig. 3, is then submitted, without heating, to sufficient pressure, by passing it longitudinally between steel pressure-rolls or some similar process which will flatten the busk, and a cross-section on line *x x* will resemble the flattened busk as shown in Fig. 7. While this process of flattening the wire in a cold state increases the elasticity of the same, it also renders the wire thin, enabling the use of very flat and thin tubular clasps, which avoid a bulky and cumbersome appearance when placed in the corset.

While I prefer the corset-busk made in the manner described, I do not confine myself to that particular mode, as I am aware that various ways may be resorted to to produce an angulated corset-busk—*e. g.*, a punch and die of the requisite angulated form may be used to punch them from thin strips of sheet metal, &c. Narrow strips of thin metal of the required length, being bent into the shape shown in Figs. 4 and 5, form the flat tubular bands or clasps *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*. In the solid projecting end so formed either a stud, *h*, or the slot *g* is provided, to be used in the usual manner of hooking the corset together. The two central clasps, *b* and *c*, are connected by the cross-bar *f* for the purpose of strengthening the corset-busk as a vertical support to the wearer, and may be dispensed with without impairing the efficiency of the improved corset-busk. By the narrow oblong aperture *i*, Figs. 4 and 5, the clasps are adapted to be located upon the angulated corset-busk, in the manner described, and while they are capable of a lateral movement upon the busk, they also serve as bands to surround the same, thereby preventing any twisting of the angulated busk. The niches *m m* at the ends of the angulated busk A, Fig. 3, serve as a means of retaining the end clasps, *a* and *d*, in position.

Having described the different parts of my improved elastic fastening device, the operation and functions of the same are as follows, viz: As the elastic fastening device is adapted to be used in conjunction with other forms of corset clasps, buses, &c., a corset provided

with one or more of my improved corset-busks, when placed about the body, owing to the novel arrangement of the several parts of the improved elastic fastening device, it will readily adjust itself to any movement of the wearer which causes any strain to come upon the clasps, said strain causing a lateral movement of the clasp, and bringing the point upon which it is superimposed into the compressed position, as *a* and *c*, Fig. 2, which at once recoils upon being relieved of the strain, carrying the clasp back to its former position, as shown by dotted lines at *k*, Fig. 2. The yielding of the longitudinally-bent corset-busk allows the movable fastening devices to freely act laterally thereupon, and as the chest is expanded and contracted in the act of breathing, so will the corset adjust itself to such movement when provided with the improved elastic fastening device.

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

1. As a new article of manufacture, an elastic fastening device for corsets, consisting of the angulated busk *A*, bent upon itself at the ends to form a spring, and secured to the end clasps by niches *m m*, together with the movable clasps *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, provided with studs and slots; the whole being arranged to operate substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a combined elastic busk and clasps for corsets, the angulated busk *A*, having movable clasps *a b c d*, with studs and slots, and a cross-bar, *f*, connecting the clasps *b* and *c*, and niches *m m* on the ends of the busk for retaining the clasps *a* and *d* in position, substantially as shown, and for the purpose set forth.

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

CHARLES A. STEVENS.

Witnesses:

LOUIS S. DAY,
OSCAR H. STEUER.