(No Model.)

T. S. GILBERT.

CORSET.

No. 309,385. Patented Dec. 16, 1884.

Fig. 2

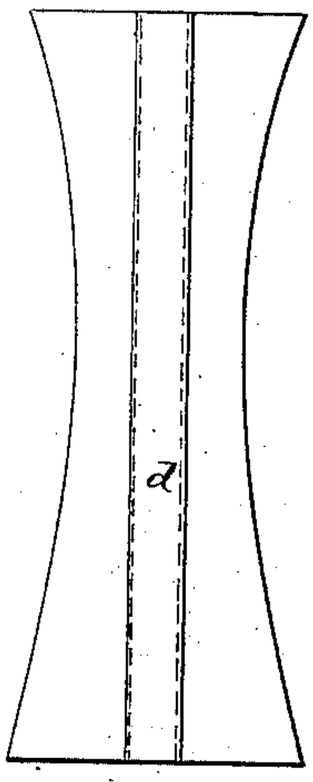


Fig. 1

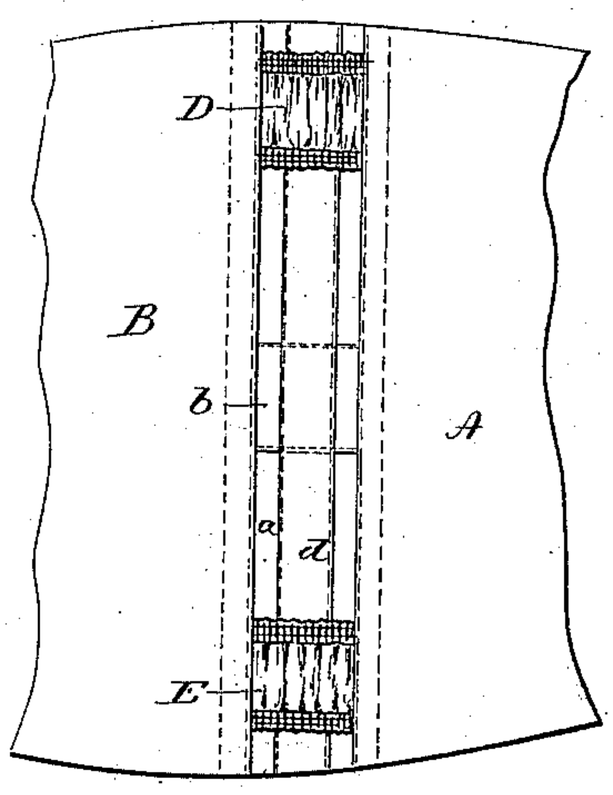


Fig. 3

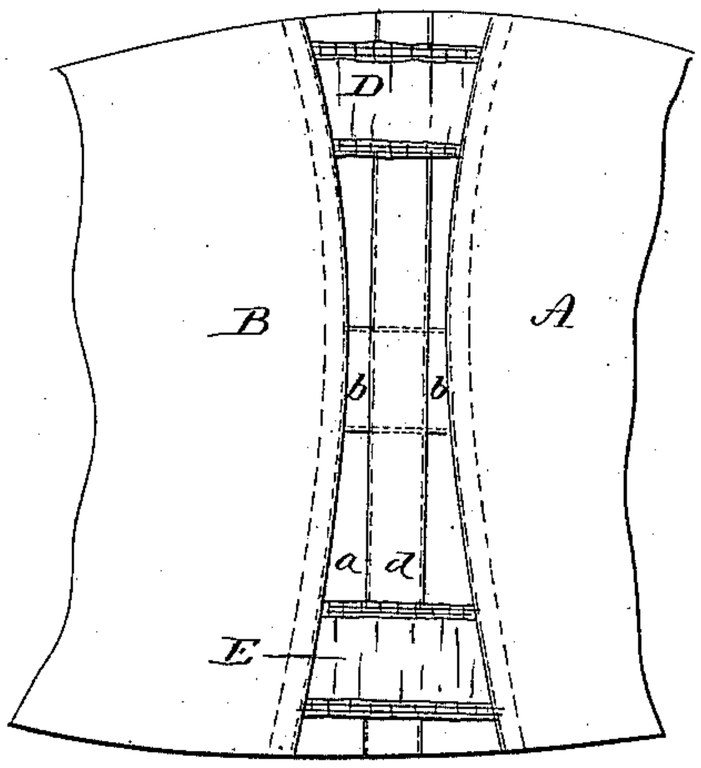


Fig. 4

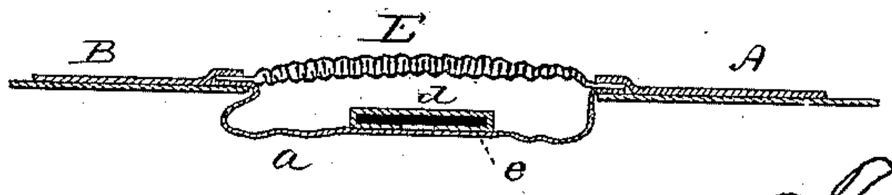
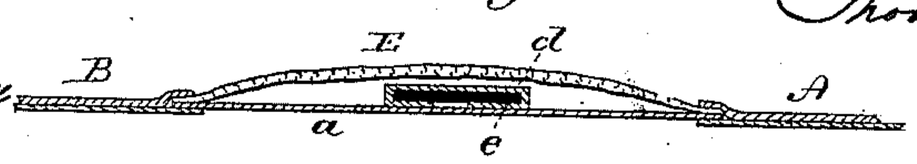


Fig. 5



Witnesses.
J. R. Shumway
W. C. Earle

Thomas S. Gilbert
Inventor
By Atty
Thos. H. Earle

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS S. GILBERT, OF NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR TO MAYER, STROUSE & CO., OF SAME PLACE.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 309,385, dated December 16, 1884.

Application filed January 28, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS S. GILBERT, of New Haven, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Corsets; and I do hereby declare the following, when taken in connection with accompanying drawings and the letters of reference marked thereon, to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, and which said drawings constitute part of this specification, and represent, in—

Figure 1, a side view; Fig. 2, the hip-section detached; Fig. 3, a side view showing the sections substantially as in position when on the person; Fig. 4, a transverse section below the elastic connection E, looking upward and in the contracted condition; Fig. 5, the same as Fig. 4, but in the extended condition.

This invention relates to an improvement in corsets with special reference to the side or hip section—that is, the section which extends from under the arm downward over the hip—and particularly to that class in which the section is made self-adjusting at the top and bottom to more readily conform to the shape or movements of the wearer. In this class of corsets an opening is left over the hips from the bottom upward, and across this opening an elastic strap or band extends, and with a like opening and elastic strap at the top. At the waist-line an inelastic connection is made across the opening. These openings permit the garments to gather between the two edges, and in the movements of the body tend to work in that direction, to the discomfort of the wearer. To overcome this difficulty the opening or space between the front and rear portions has been entirely filled with elastic material; but while such construction overcomes the above-mentioned difficulties the elastic material makes the corset so warm at that point that the discomfort is greater than that above mentioned. Again, the openings in the upper and lower part of the hip-section prevent the introduction of a vertical hip-stay, which is desirable at that place.

The object of my invention is to overcome these difficulties; and it consists in the construction of the corset, as hereinafter described, and more particularly recited in the claim.

A represents the front, and B the rear, portions or sections of a corset, the space between being the hip-section, or that part of the corset which lies under the arm and extends down over the hip. In this space between the edges of the front and rear sections a section, *a*, is introduced. This section is cut in shape as seen in Fig. 2, in width at the top and bottom corresponding to the extreme distance required at those points in the corset when upon the person. It is made from a thin single thickness of material soft and pliable, its edges introduced between the corresponding thicknesses of the front and rear sections and there stitched. On the waist-line a connection, *b*, is made between the front and rear sections of inelastic material, so that there will be no yielding at that point.

Across the top and outside the section *a* an elastic connection, D, is made between the edges of the front and rear section. This elastic material in its contracted condition causes the section *a* to full up into the space between the two edges and inside the elastic connection. Across the bottom is a like elastic connection, E, between the two edges of the front and rear sections, which in its contracted condition also causes the section *a* to full up, as above and as seen in Fig. 4.

On the section *a*, and extending from the bottom upward, a broad pocket, *d*, is formed, into which a stay, *e*, is introduced. (See Fig. 4.) This stay stands in a vertical central line on the hip-section. As the sections A B are forced from each other by the shape of the wearer, as seen in Fig. 3, the connections D E extend, the section *a* correspondingly extending, as seen in Fig. 5. The operation at the top is substantially the same. The section *a* fills the space between the front and rear sections, so as to prevent the garments of the wearer from working outward, as they would do were no such filling introduced. This section *a* also serves to limit the extension of the elastic connections, and therefore protects them from an over extension. The vertical stay *e* is retained in its place by the connections *b* and by the section *a*, which fills the space between the front and rear sections, and gives as firm a support to the wearer as if the section were made solid and the stay introduced therein. The elastic connections give the same free-

dom to the corset as when the section is left entirely open. The section *a* is so light that it leaves the corset practically open above and below the waist-line, so far at least as the comfort of the wearer is concerned.

While I prefer to make the hip-section with the elastic at the top as well as at the bottom, the section may be made from the waist-line upward of double thickness, and in the usual manner of making corset-sections, the lower part made of a single thickness of thin material, and so as to give the freedom and self or automatic adjustment over the hip.

I claim—

In a corset, the front section, A, and rear section, B, the hip-section made from thin pliable material *a*, an inelastic connection, *b*, between said sections across the hip-section at the waist-line, an elastic connection between the front and rear sections across the hip-section above and below the waist-line, and the stay *e*, arranged in a vertical pocket centrally on the hip-section, substantially as described.

THOMAS S. GILBERT.

Witnesses:
JOHN E. EARLE,
JOS. C. EARLE.