(No Model.)

J. R. RHEUBOTTOM, Dec'd.,

H. E. RHEUBOTTOM, Administrator.

CORSET.

No. 339,320. Patented Apr. 6, 1886.

Fig. 1.

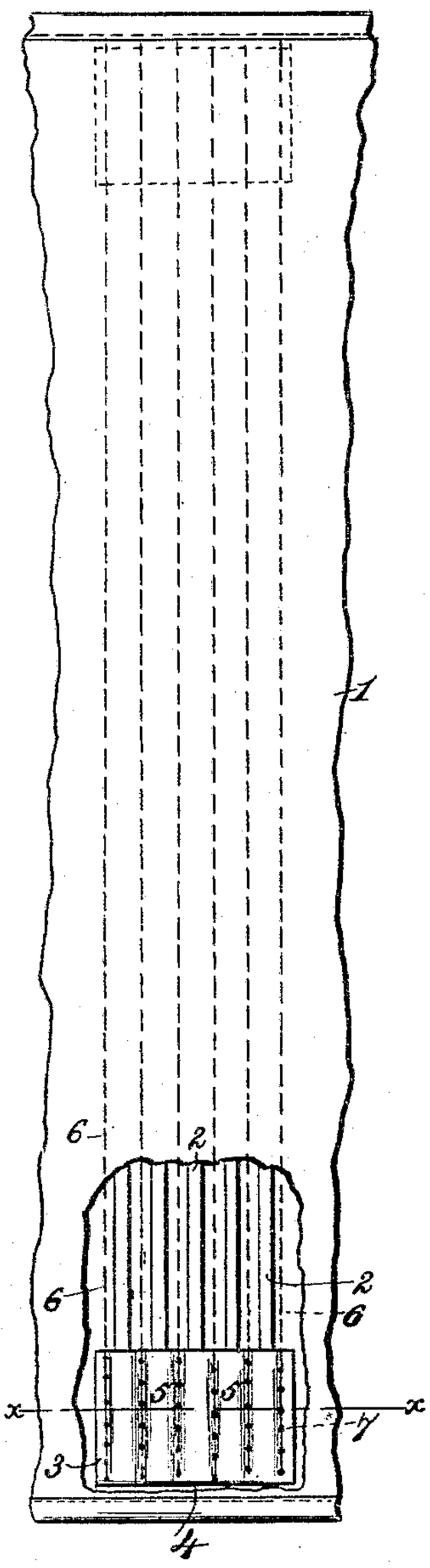

Fig. 2.

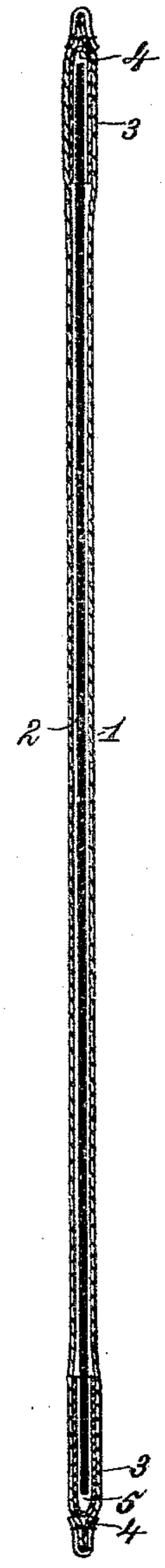

Fig. 3

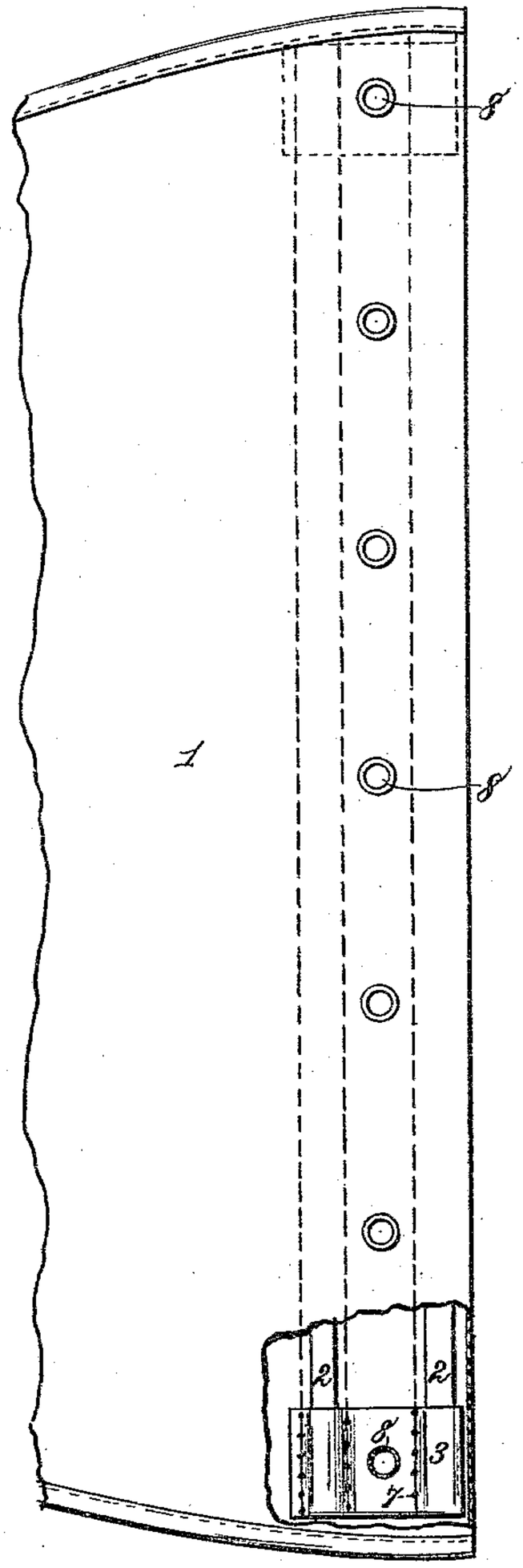

Fig. 4.

Witnesses.
Robert Garrett.
J. A. Rutherford

Inventor.
James R. Rheubottom.
By James L. Norris.
Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM, OF WEEDSPORT, NEW YORK, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO FRANK M. MACK, OF SAME PLACE; HOMER E. RHEUBOTTOM ADMINISTRATOR OF SAID JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM, DECEASED.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 339,320, dated April 6, 1886.

Application filed August 25, 1885. Serial No. 175,307. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Weedsport, in the county of Cayuga and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Clasps and Shields for Corset-Stiffeners and Bustles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improved clasp and shield for fastening corset-stiffeners, or for securing strips of horn, whalebone, metal, or other like material in various articles, and for protecting corsets and like articles from wear and chafing by the ends of such stiffeners.

The invention consists of a clasp or shield made of a double strip of thin flexible metal, stitched or otherwise secured to or within a corset, bustle, or like article, and loosely inclosing the ends of the steels or stiffeners, in such a manner as to allow the stiffeners to move endwise in the clasp or shield without moving or tending to move the latter, whereby the free and unattached ends of the steels or stiffeners are prevented from coming in wearing contact with the body of the article.

In the annexed drawings, illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a broken plan view of a portion of a corset or like article with stiffeners and clasps or shields applied. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 3 shows my invention applied to the back of a corset, or to the strip that supports the lacing-eyelets. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

Referring to these drawings, the numeral 1 designates a portion of a corset or other like article, having the usual places for insertion of stiffeners 2, of whalebone, horn, metal, or other material.

In order to secure these stiffeners or steels 2 without confining their ends rigidly, but in such a manner as to prevent the ends of said stiffeners from coming in wearing contact with the cloth, I employ at each end a clasp or shield, 3, that is secured to the corset or like article, and adapted to inclose loosely the adjacent ends of several stiffeners. The shield or clasp 3 consists of a doubled strip of thin flexible metal. These clasps or shields 3 are firmly secured to the corset or like article, preferably by the stitching that forms the pockets in which the stiffeners are inclosed. Each clasp or shield is made sufficiently wide to inclose the ends of two or more adjacent stiffeners, and is secured to the corset or like article in such a way that its doubled portion or fold 4 will be at right angles to the longitudinal axes of the stiffeners. It will thus be seen that each clasp 3 is closed on its folded edge, and that this folded edge 4 limits the longitudinal movement of the stiffeners and prevents their ends from coming in contact with the cloth body of the corset or like article. The clasps or shields 3 are also secured to the corset in such a way as to be divided longitudinally into pockets 5—one for the reception of each stiffener end. These elongated pockets 5, closed at one end, are formed by the stitching 6 and lines of perforations 7, produced by the needle in attaching the clasp or shield to the article, the action of the thread serving to draw the thin light substance of the clasp more closely together through the line of stitching, with the effect of loosely inclosing the stiffener ends in the intervening pockets. The stiffeners 2 and their clasps or shields 3 are thus preferably secured at suitable points between the inner and outer thicknesses of the corset during its manufacture. It is obvious, however, that the clasps or shields may be secured to the corset by any other means, as well as by stitching, and they may also be formed, before attachment, with longitudinal corrugations for the lines of stitching or other fastenings, such corrugations serving to define the location of the elongated pockets that are to receive the ends of the stiffeners.

By referring to Fig. 3 it will be seen that at the back of the corset, or where lacing-eyelets 8 are required, the pockets 5 and stiffeners 2 can be so arranged as to afford a sufficient space for inserting said eyelets between the stiffeners, and they may also be inserted through the clasps 3 and constitute their fastening or a part thereof. It is obvious that by thus loosely confining the ends of the stiffeners or steels in elongated pockets 5, closed

at one end, said stiffeners can be so arranged as to have sufficient movement endwise to obviate undue rigidity of the corset, and yet prevent wear and chafing of the corset by the ends of said stiffeners.

It is well known that corsets and corset-covers are greatly exposed to wear from the ends of the metal, horn, or whalebone strips used for stiffeners, as these stiffeners are usually cut square at the ends, thus forming cutting-edges that finally wear through the corset. To overcome this difficulty the ends of such stiffening-strips have sometimes been inclosed separately in metallic tips; but as these tips were secured to the stiffening-strips and moved therewith, they were but an imperfect protection against chafing and wear of the corset-cloth. An open-ended clasp or fastening, with sharp points for securing it to a corset, and having an eyelet for limiting the play of the stiffeners, has also been employed, each stiffening-strip having its separate clasps. This, however, I do not claim.

By my invention a corset, bustle, or like article is furnished with a number of clasps or shields, each firmly secured to the article by stitching or otherwise, and having two or more elongated pockets closed at one end for receiving the ends of the stiffening-strips, which are thereby held from wearing or chafing contact with the corset. Thus all chafing of the ends of the strips or stiffeners 2 is confined to the interior of the elongated pockets 5, and is not expended upon the corset, as would be the case if the ends of the stiffening-strips were not fully covered by immovable shields attached to the corset.

It is obvious that my improved clasps and shields can be readily attached to a corset, bustle, or other article in any required manner to allow the necessary margin for trimming and binding.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with the stiffeners or stays of a corset, of a clasp or shield consisting of a doubled strip of thin metal formed with a series of elongated pockets, in which the ends of the stiffeners or stays are loosely arranged to slide longitudinally therein independent of any movement of the clasp or shield, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a corset and its stiffeners 2, of the clasps 3, securely stitched in a stationary position to the corset, and having a series of elongated pockets, 5, closed at one end, for receiving the ends of said stiffeners, substantially as described.

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

JAMES R. RHEUBOTTOM.

Witnesses:
H. E. RHEUBOTTOM,
WM. HENDERSON.