

(No Model.)

R. S. WILLARD.
GARMENT SUPPORTER.

No. 357,137.

Patented Feb. 1, 1887.

Fig. 1.

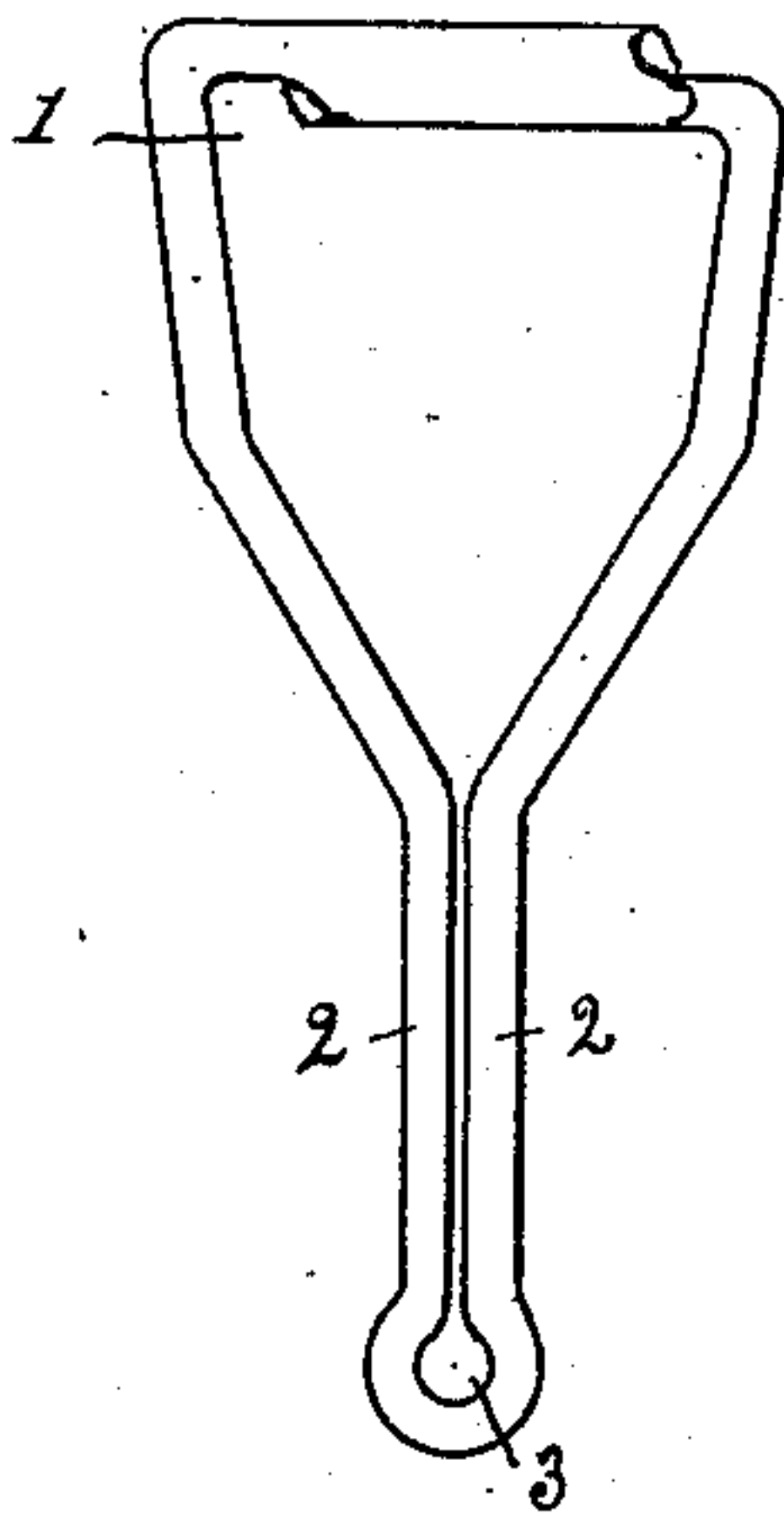


Fig. 2.

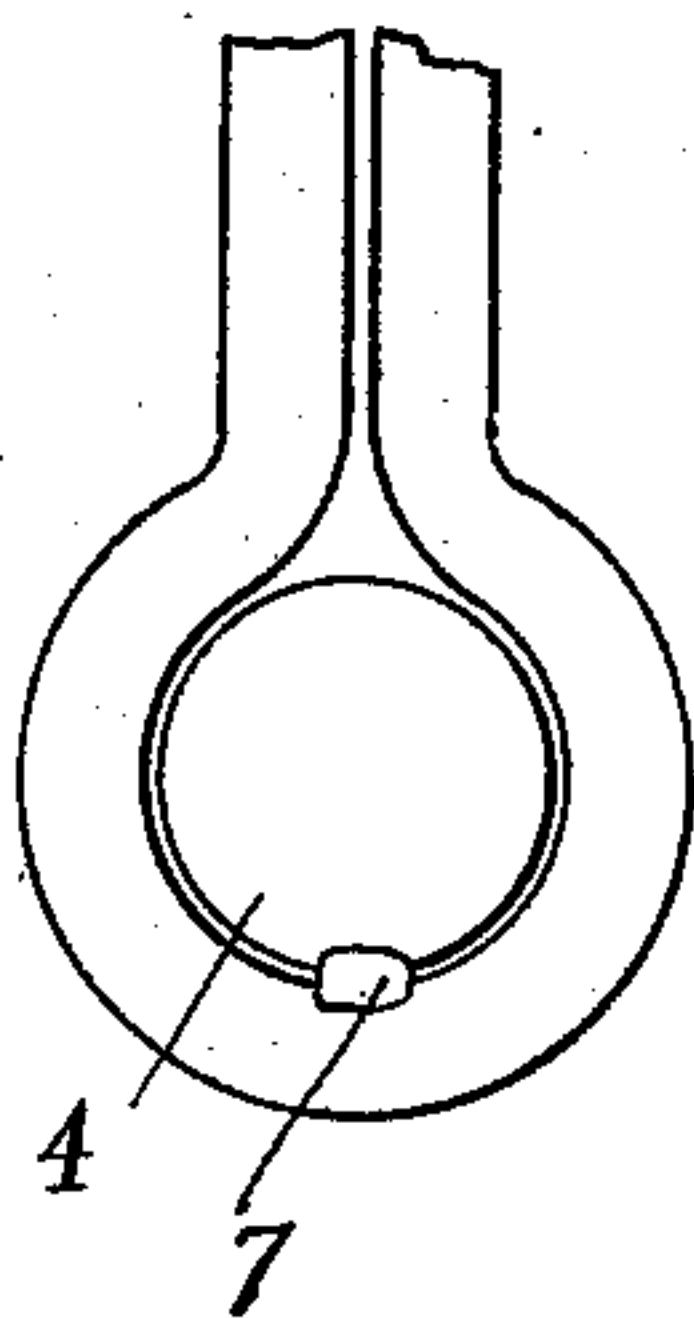


Fig. 4.

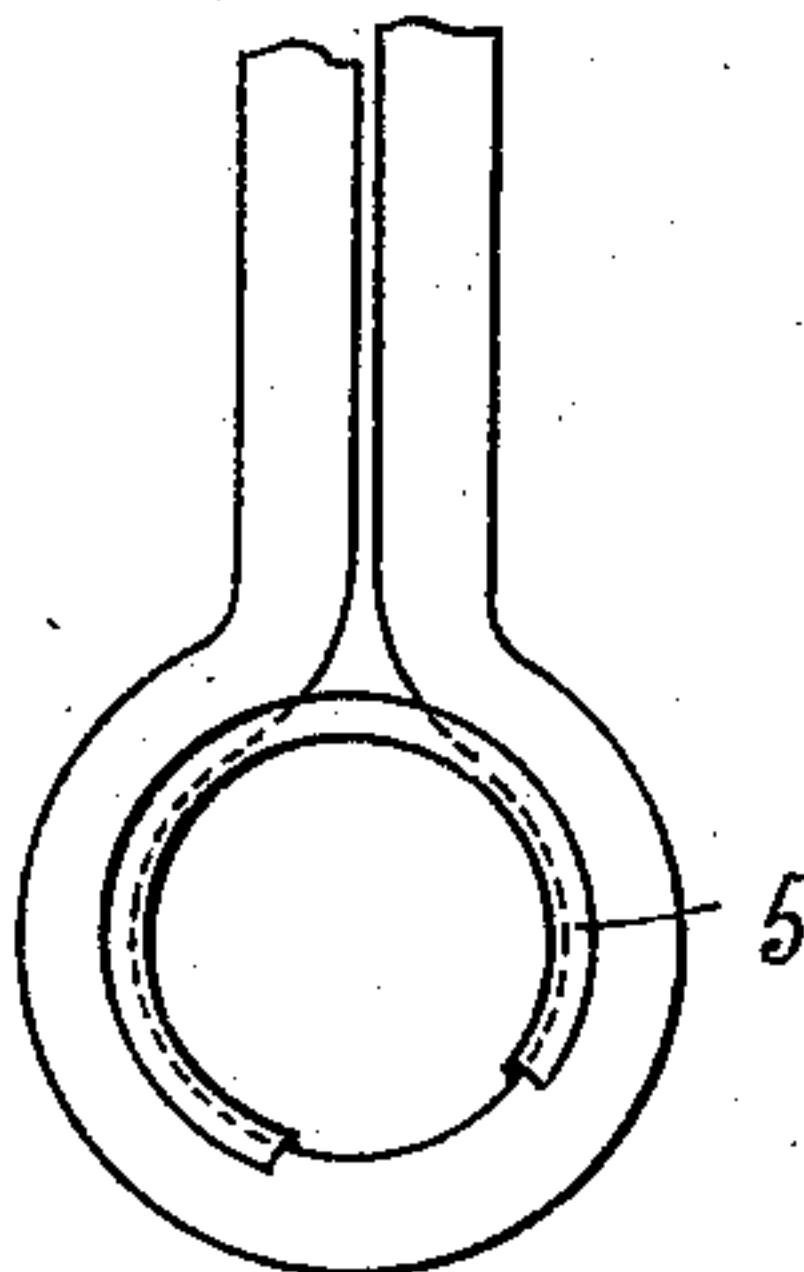
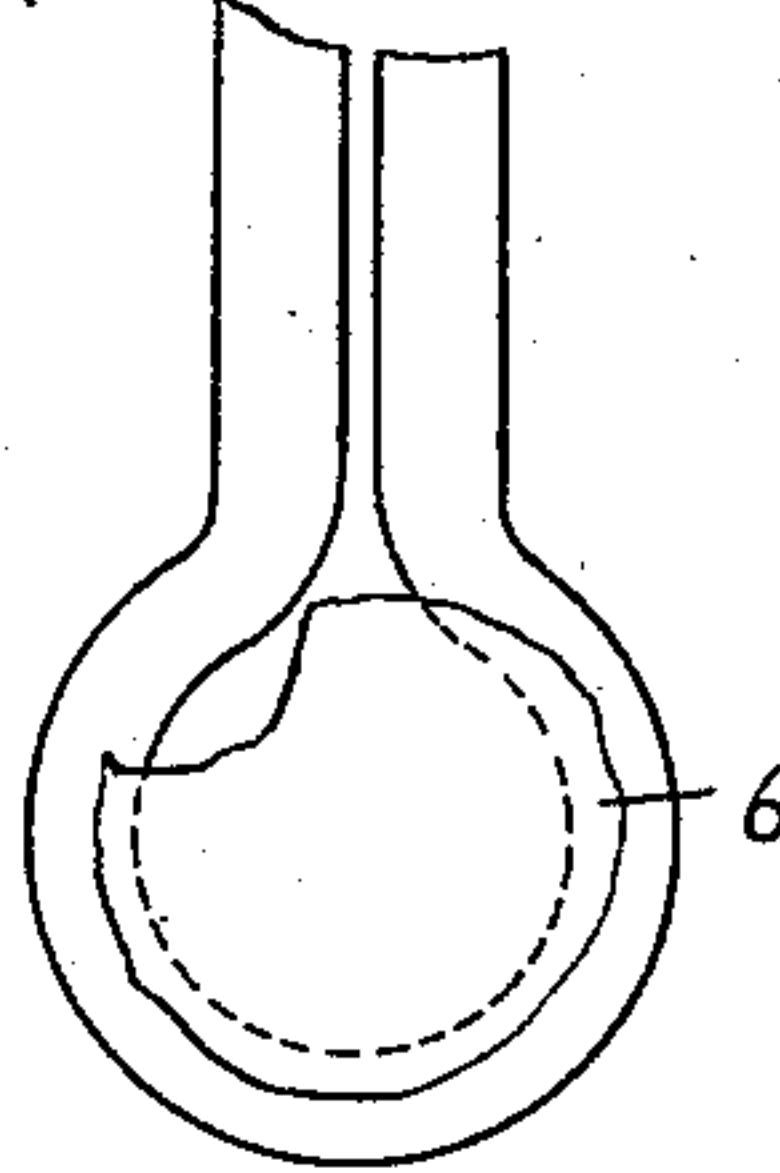


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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GARMENT-SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 357,137, dated February 1, 1887.

Application filed November 13, 1886. Serial No. 218,768. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RODNEY S. WILLARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Albans, in the county of Franklin and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Garment-Supporters; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an article made of spring-steel wire, provided at one end with a loop for the attachment of a strap and at the end opposite said loop with an eye, and with intermediate parallel spring-holding wires or jaws.

The object of my invention is to provide means for supporting a garment—such as a stocking—by parallel spring clasp or pinching wires, in connection with a device to prevent the garment from being drawn down into the eye; and it consists in the device herein-after described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a plan of the supporter; Fig. 2, an enlarged view of the eye with an eyelet inserted therein; Fig. 3, a similar view representing the eye as filled with a solid piece; and Fig. 4 represents a filling-piece secured in the eye at one point with solder or other projection.

The upper loop is indicated by 1, the parallel holding-wires by 2 2, the eye by 3, a flanged filling therefor by 5 and 6, and a fastening of solder by 7. As will be understood, a strap or band is usually secured in the upper loop, 1, and fastened above to a garment on the person of the wearer. A piece or fold of the garment to be supported is drawn into this loop and pressed down between the parallel spring-wires 2 2 and is there held. These wires, which normally lie close together and in contact, are spread apart slightly, but through their whole extent, by the insertion of the fold. An eye, 3, is provided, which obviates the sharp angle that would be formed were the

wire simply bent upon itself without such eye or equivalent.

If the eye above described is not guarded in some manner, the garment supported is liable to be drawn down into it by accidental or exceptionally violent pulls, and then, if the fabric is light and thin, to be drawn entirely out; or if it be coarse it may become packed in the eye in such manner as to be removed only with difficulty. To obviate this evil without impairing the elasticity of the eye or obstructing the movement of the parallel holding-wires, I insert in the eye a piece of metal or other suitable material shaped to nearly or quite fill the opening in the same and extended laterally and circumferentially, as shown at 4 on the drawings, to partly embrace the wire of which the eye is composed, and in such manner that it will be retained securely in position in said eye. For this purpose an eyelet of usual form is suitable, or a solid piece of metal or other substance provided with a circumferential groove or its equivalent may be used.

According to one method which I have devised for carrying my invention into effect, I place in the eye a piece of soft metal, which is smaller circumferentially than the eye and thicker than the wire. This piece of metal is then flattened and spread superficially at its ends by the aid of a die and hammer, or in any known way; or a simple ring of metal of the proper dimensions may be inserted and then expanded at the ends, as customary in securing eyelets in position. Other ways of carrying out the invention will be obvious to skilled mechanics.

Instead of a circumferential groove small projections at different points might be made to serve the same purpose, and solder may in some cases be used at one point to secure said piece in place, as illustrated in Fig. 4. It should not, however, be rigidly secured by solder or otherwise around the main part of the circumference of the eye, as in such cases it would impair the elasticity of the device. Preferably the eyelet or other piece should not quite fill the eye, though it may do so and not defeat the operation of the device, as the movement of the wire when the holding-jaws are spread by the insertion of a fold of cloth or other object is outward, and the slight motion

of the wire of the eye would not be checked, though it were normally filled by an eyelet or other piece.

Having thus described my invention, what
5 I desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

A garment-supporter provided with holding jaws or wires terminating in an eye having secured therein a piece or eyelet, substantially

as described, whereby a garment is prevented from being drawn into said eye. 10

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

RODNEY S. WILLARD.

Witnesses:

ALBERT P. CROSS,
STEPHEN E. ROYCE.