

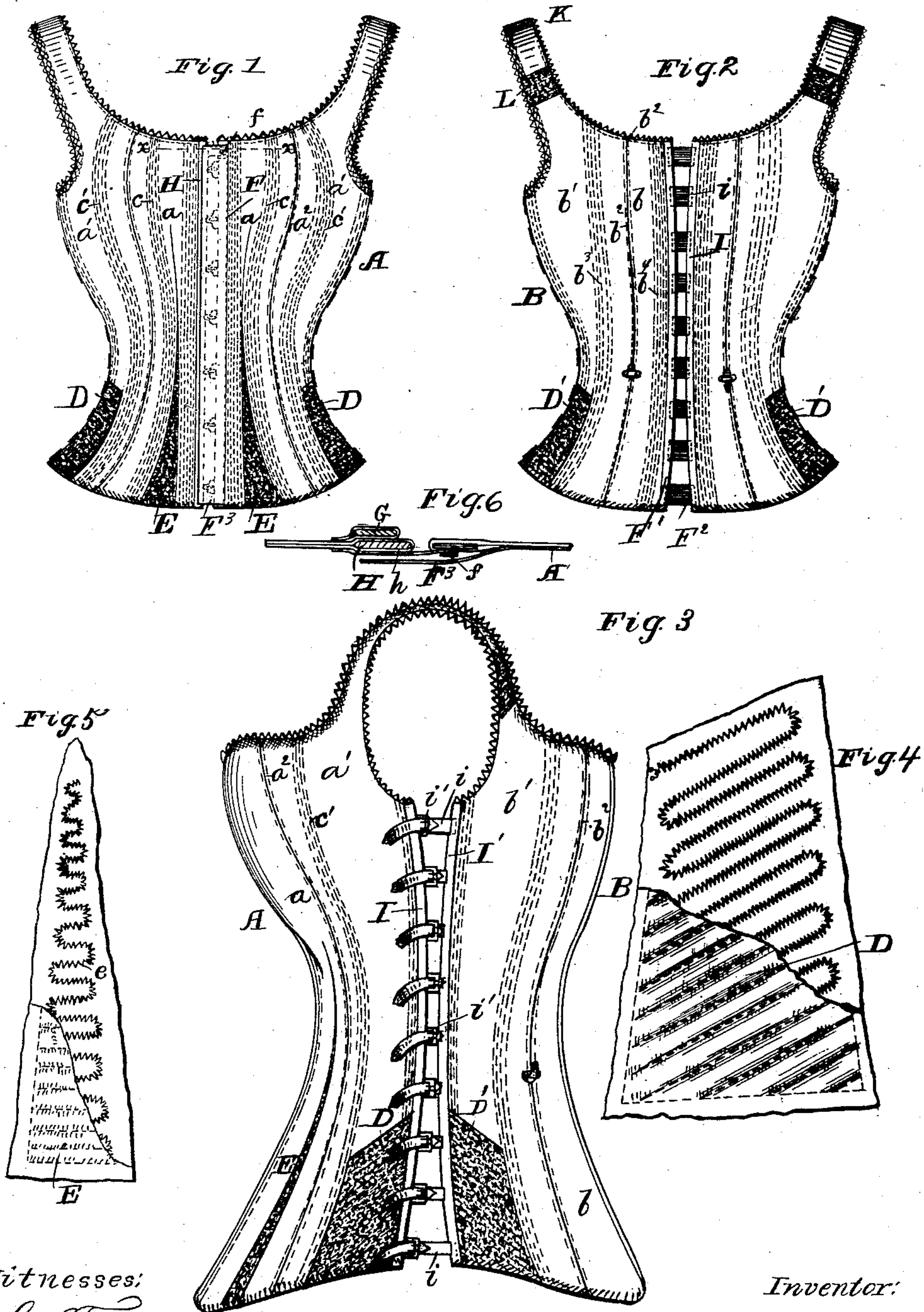
(No Model.)

B. EPPERLY.

CORSET.

No. 367,747.

Patented Aug. 2, 1887.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BELLE EPPERLY, OF LAMAR, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO
MARY W. TUCKER.

CORSET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 367,747, dated August 2, 1887.

Application filed November 24, 1886. Serial No. 219,805. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BELLE EPPERLY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lamar, in the county of Barton and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corsets, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to corsets, it pertaining to improvements therein of such nature that a superior form is given to each article as a whole, and whereby there shall be more elasticity at the various points requiring it than is incident to corsets as heretofore made, and by which adjustments can be obtained at all places where they are desirable, the object being to give greater ease and comfort to the wearer and to provide a support and stay for the form without causing the injuries incident to many of these articles as now made.

Figure 1 is a front view of a corset embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a back view. Fig. 3 is a side elevation. Fig. 4 is a view of one of the hip-gore pieces. Fig. 5 is a view of one of the abdominal gore-pieces. Fig. 6 is a section on the line $x x$, Fig. 1.

In the drawings, referring to Figs. 1, 2, and 3, A represents, generally, the left front of the corset, and B the left back, it being understood that the corset as a whole is made in four parts suitably joined, those upon the right, front, and back being similar to those upon the left, except that they are conformed to the right side of the wearer.

The front part, A, like each of the other three general parts, consists, mainly, of two sections of cloth, (preferably drilling,) there being two sections shown at a and a' , joined by a seam at a^2 . At $c c'$, respectively, are strong cords, which are used as a substitute for whalebone, one of my objects being to dispense entirely with the use of whalebone, the cording running from the top edge to the lower, as shown. I insert a flexible elastic hip-gore in the front, A, as shown at D, and another, to be described, in the rear part.

The hip-gore D is made of drilling, having a spirally-coiled wire spring inserted, which runs diagonally backward and forward across the hip. There is but one coil of spring for each gore, each end being caught by a hook

and fastened in the seam which secures the gore in the corset. It will be understood that the gore-pieces, such as that at D, are made separately and then inserted into place in the corset. The spring is so arranged as to have the expansion and contraction thereof occur on lines which are inclined to the vertical edges of the gore—that is, the front and rear edges. The spring is so situated as to have short connecting parts and prolonged longitudinal parts, the expansion and contraction occurring in these longitudinal parts of the spring.

At E the section a of the corset is gored, a narrow tapering triangular piece being removed and a separately-formed gore-piece, E, being inserted. It is made in the manner described for the gore-piece D—that is to say, with a small spiral spring, e , inserted into pieces of the cloth, which are gathered so as to allow the spring full play.

At the front edge of the left front, A, there is a steel, F, provided with clasps for the purpose of detachably connecting it to the right front. This steel extends but part way from the bottom to the top, there being a button-support and button inserted at f above the upper end of the steel F. When this button is in engagement with the right front, it insures that the corset-steels shall not become unclasped by the movements of the body. The part which engages with the button f is shown at h . In order to cover the steel and protect the corset-clasps and prevent them from showing through the dress, I provide a flap, F^3 , of cloth by extending the section a of the drilling sufficiently far toward the right side—that is to say, the steel F is placed sufficiently far from the edge to provide this flap.

G is a covered steel stay at the edge of the right front, so arranged that when the corset is clasped it will lie beneath the clasps and next to the person, thus acting as a protection and doubling the support.

H represents an ordinary corset-steel secured to the right front, adapted to be clasped to the steel F.

I I' are steels, which, so far as concerns their general character, may be of the usual style. They are respectively attached to the side edges of the front and back parts, A and B,

and lie immediately beneath the arm, they extending from the top edge to the lower of the corset. One of them, preferably the front one, is provided with flat brass buckles i' , of such construction as not to hurt the person, and so situated as that the person shall be protected from them. I have shown and prefer to use nine of these in each series; but the number can be varied, if desired.

i i are elastic straps secured to the back steels I' , each opposite to a buckle i' . They are readily attached or removed, as they are fastened by inserting them into the seam. They may be of any required length, and may be all of the same length, or those in each series may vary. By means of them adjustments can be attained at any point up or down the side of the wearer, so that the corset can be made to conform at all times to the person. At the same time the connection is such that there shall be no inconvenience to the wearer, and the fit shall be securely preserved.

D' represents a hip gore at the side lower corner of the back piece, being constructed and shaped similarly (preferably) to the gore at D and secured in place in a similar manner.

The back piece, B , like the front, is formed in two sections, b b' , united by a seam at b^2 , each having cording, as at b^3 b^4 . At the rear edges of the back part there are steels F' F' , which may be of the ordinary character, if desired. They are joined by means of sections of elastic F^2 F^2 , separate from each other, and thereby capable of yielding independently of each other. Preferably the distance between the steels widens from the center upward and downward.

At M there is a skirt-supporter, there being one on each side of the back. It is a flat brass hook pointed at the top, with an abrupt base, to prevent the skirt from slipping off. The skirts are supported by means of eyelets on the skirt-band.

K represents the shoulder-piece cut from the cloth forming the section a' of the front, it extending up and backward, and is adapted to be joined to the elastic piece L at the shoulder. These parts are so constructed as to avoid binding at the shoulder and arm.

By having the flexible gore-pieces D D' at the corners of parts A and B and opposite to each other, and arranging the series of elastic straps so as to pull directly upon these gore-pieces, I can not only provide for numerous adjustments, but can attain a close fit at the hips under all adjustments. The lower straps, i , pull directly on the longitudinal lines of the coiled springs, the latter being arranged on lines inclined to the vertical edges of the gore-pieces, as above described. This is the pre-

ferred arrangement, as the greatest flexibility is thus provided; but sufficient can be obtained under other arrangements of the springs.

I am aware of the fact that heretofore use has been made of some of the matters which I have shown and described, such as the dress or skirt support, the flexible shoulder-straps, gore-pieces containing coiled springs, and flexible straps below the arm, and I do not claim such matters, broadly; but I believe myself to be the first to have so arranged the parts which I have combined as to produce a corset having the advantageous features incident to the one shown and described.

What I claim is—

1. In a corset, the combination, with the front part, A , and the rear part, B , of the hip-gore D , having the coiled spring at the outer lower corner of the front part, A , and the hip-gore D' at the opposite corner of the back part, B , and a series of flexible strap-and-buckle connections between said front and rear parts of the corset, the straps at the lower end of said series being arranged, as set forth, to pull directly on said gore-pieces, substantially as described.

2. In a corset, the combination of the front side part, A , the rear side part, B , the front gore-piece, E , tapered to a point, containing a coiled spring, the hip-gore piece D at the outer lower corner of the front part, A , containing a coiled spring, the hip-gore piece D' , containing a coiled spring at the opposite corner of the rear part, B , the said side gore-springs having their longitudinal lines inclined to the vertical edges of the gore-pieces, and the separately-adjustable flexible bands connecting the front and rear parts, A B , substantially as set forth.

3. In a corset, the front side pieces, A , each having at its rear lower corner the hip-gore D , provided with a coiled spring, arranged, substantially as set forth, to have the longitudinal lines thereof inclined to the vertical edges of the gore, in combination with the back pieces, B , flexibly connected to the front pieces, A , and to the said hip-gores, substantially as described.

4. In a corset, the combination of the front side piece having a steel at the front edge extending but part way up the corset, the button above the steel, the opposite front side piece having a steel at the edge and a flap to engage with the aforesaid button, and the supplemental steel situated behind the clasps, substantially as described.

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

BELLE EPPERLY.

Witnesses:

E. C. GOULD,

H. C. TIMMONS.