(No Model.)

W. F. OSBORNE.

BUSTLE.

No. 376,394. Patented Jan. 10, 1888.

Fig. 1

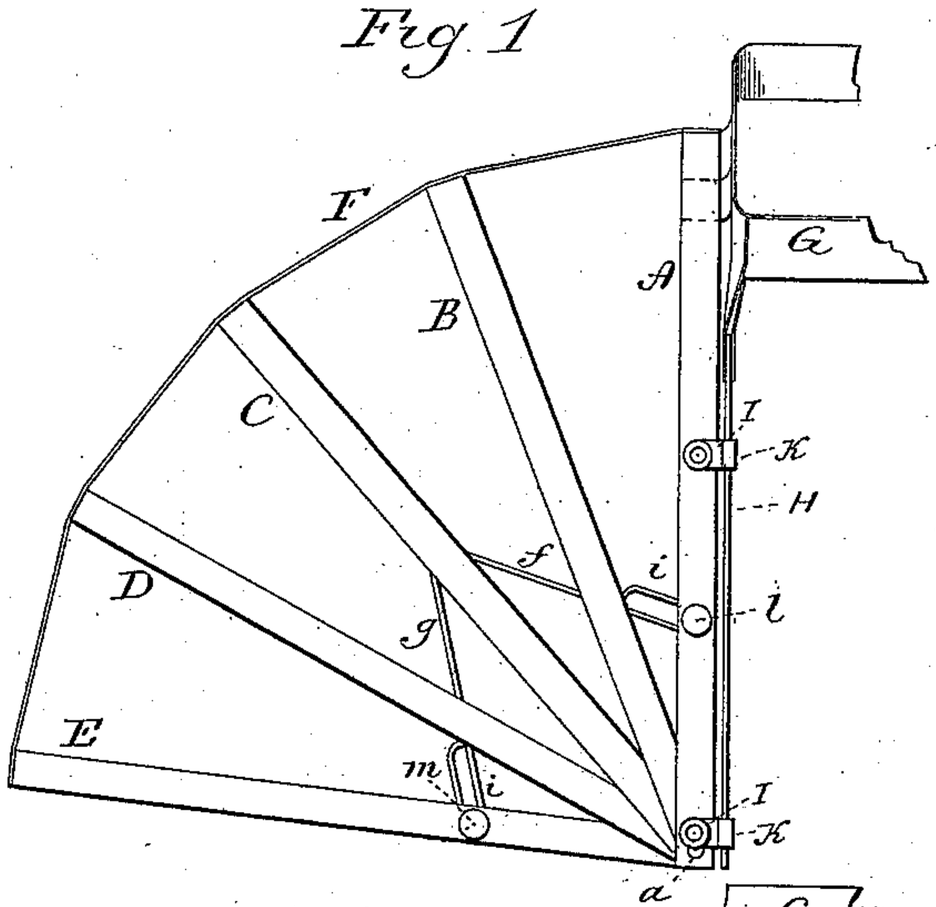


Fig. 2

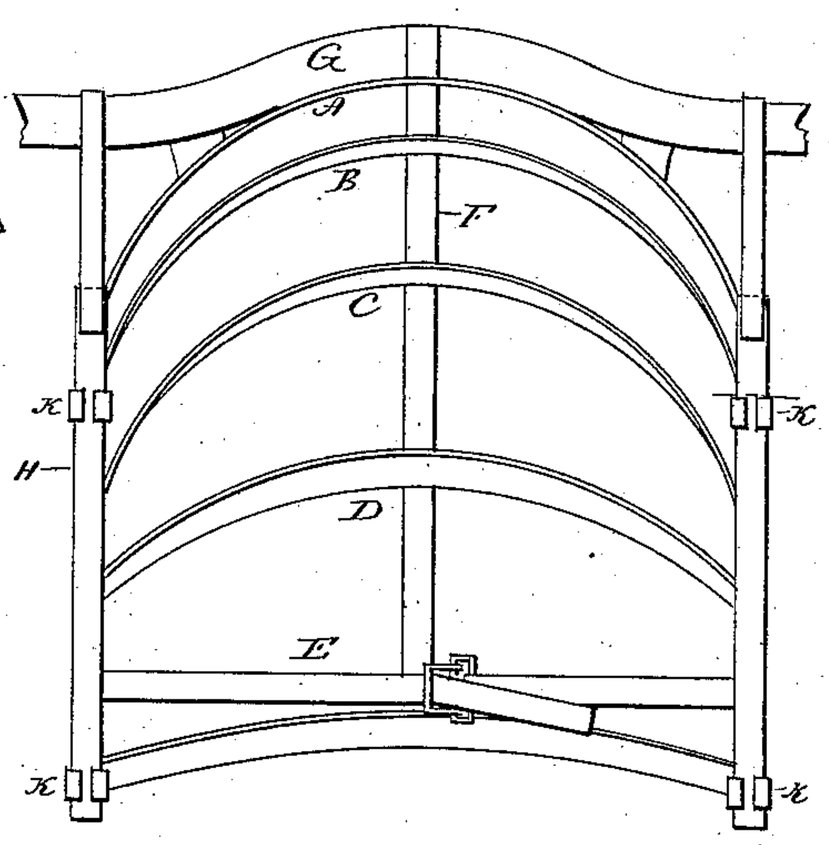


Fig. 3

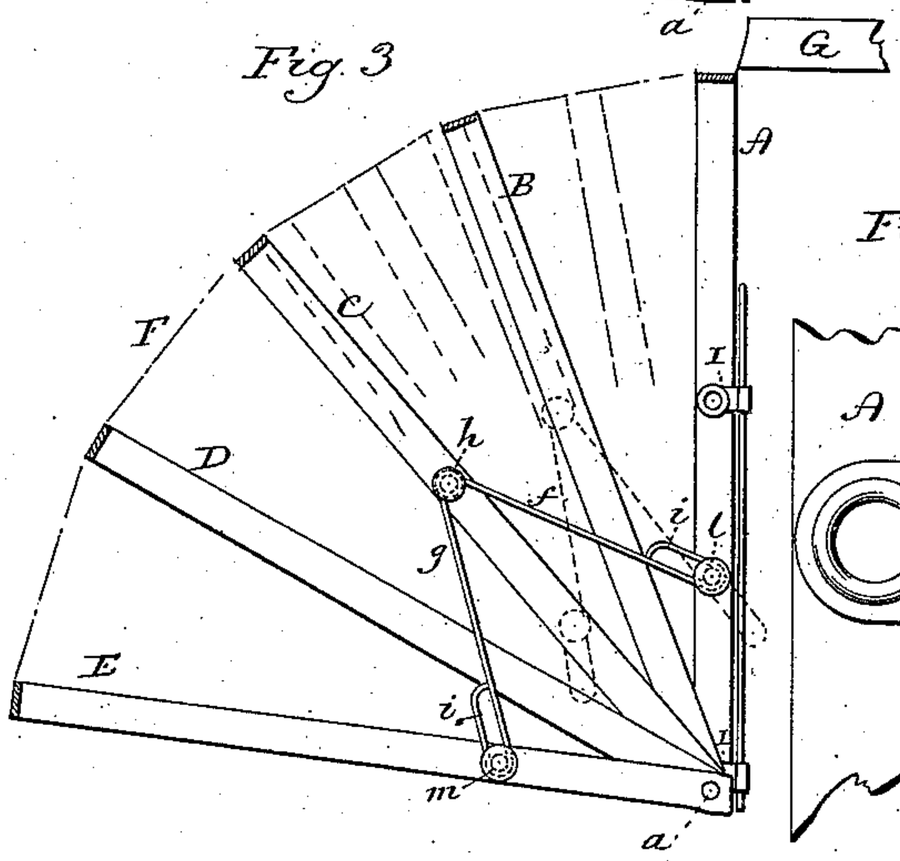


Fig. 4

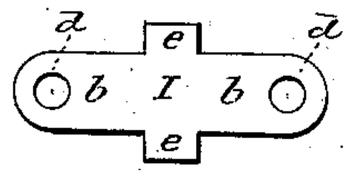


Fig. 5

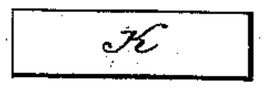


Fig. 6

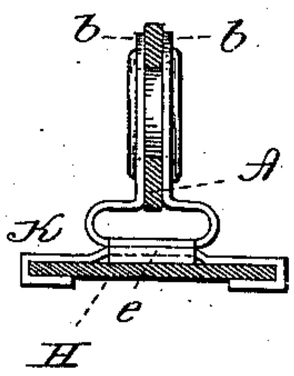


Fig. 7

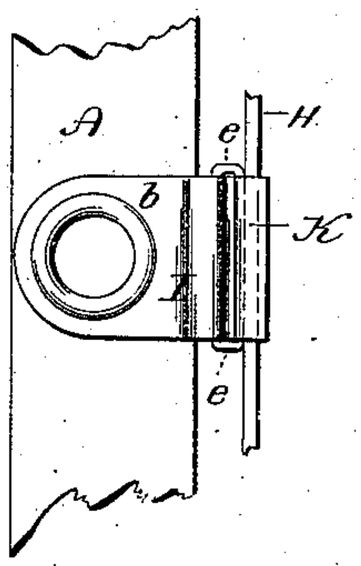


Fig. 8

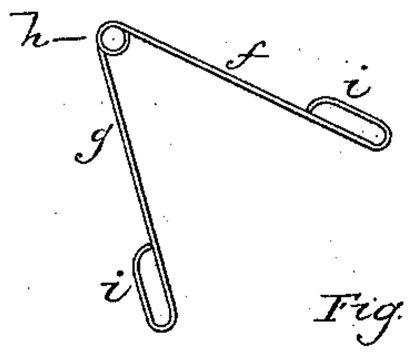


Fig. 9

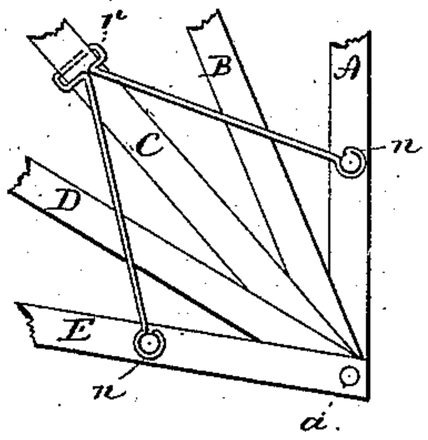


Fig. 10

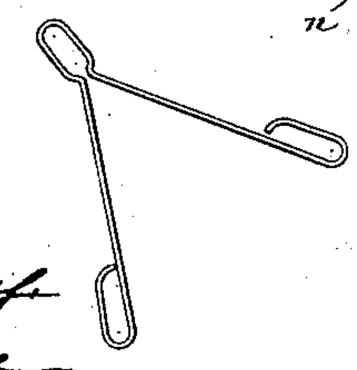
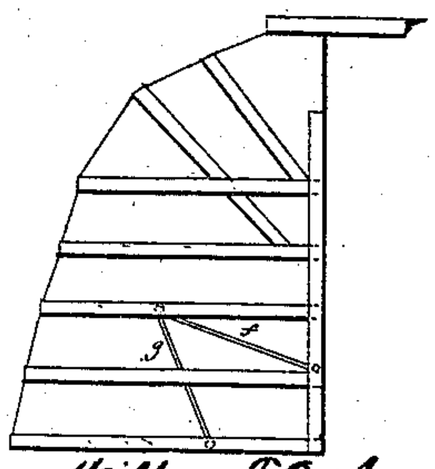


Fig. 11.



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John C. Earle.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILBUR F. OSBORNE, OF ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT.

BUSTLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 376,394, dated January 10, 1888.

Application filed September 19, 1887. Serial No. 250,066. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILBUR F. OSBORNE, of Ansonia, in the county of New Haven and State of Connecticut, have invented a new Improvement in Bustles; 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 of the bustle complete; Fig. 2, a front view of the same; Fig. 3, a vertical section of the same, showing the spring; Fig. 4, the blank for the one part, I, of the clip; Fig. 5, the blank for the other part, K, of the clip; Fig. 6, an edge view of the clip, showing it as applied and enlarged; Fig. 7, a side view of the clip as applied, enlarged; Fig. 8, one of the bustle-springs detached; Fig. 9, a modification of the bustle-spring; Fig. 10, a modification; Fig. 11, a modification showing the invention as adapted to different styles of bustle.

This invention relates to an improvement in that class of bustles which are made from several U-shaped elastic bows, the ends respectively united at a common center, and so that they may swing toward or from each other to bring them accordingly into a collapsed or expanded form, and so that as the wearer sits the bustle will collapse against the body, but expand to its normal position immediately on rising.

My invention relates to a peculiar distending-spring which permits the collapse of the bustle, but reacts, when free, to expand it.

The bustle, as common in this class of bustles, is made of several U-shaped bows, A, B, C, D, and E, more or less. The bows are made from flat wire, and the several ends at each side are brought together to a common pivot, *a*, where they are joined, and so that they may turn thereon toward or from each other, and the several bows are connected by a flexible tape, F, or otherwise. The bow A is the bow which stands next the body, and is provided with the usual strap or band, G, by which it is secured around the body.

To give a bearing upon the body broader than the edge of the bow A would otherwise give, I apply to each side of the body-bow A a bearing-piece, H, which are flat pieces of metal or any suitable material, and may be the same as that from which the bows are made, and these bearing-pieces are secured to the bow A by clips of peculiar construction. The clips are made in two parts, blanks for which are represented in Figs. 4 and 5. The parts are both made from sheet metal. The one part, I, is in the shape of a cross, the two longer arms *b b* having a like hole, *d*, at the end. The other arms, *e e*, extend at right angles thereto, or nearly so, and should be no more in length than half the width of the second part, K, of the clip. The second part, K, is simply a flat strip of metal, in length somewhat less than twice the width of the bearing-pieces H. The two longer arms of the clip are bent toward each other, and so that they may be set onto the vertical bow A, as seen in Figs. 6 and 7, the holes *d d* corresponding, and so that an eyelet may be introduced through the said holes and through the upright as a means of securing the clip to the bow A.

The part K is set upon the under or reverse side of the part I, and the arms *e* are turned back and closed upon the part K, as indicated in Figs. 6 and 7, which firmly unites the two parts of the clip and holds the part H in a plane substantially at right angles to the plane of the two arms *b b*. The part K is bent around the part H and closed thereon, as seen in Fig. 6. This firmly unites the bearing-piece H to the vertical bow A. Two or more such clips may be employed, as represented in Fig. 1. These clips may be made as articles of manufacture and sold independent of the bustle, to be applied by manufacturers of bustles. The bearing-pieces are applicable to various styles of bustles having a vertical bow against the body.

A spring is desirable to distend the bustle and hold it in that condition, yet yield to the collapse or contraction of the bustle. The spring which I have devised for this purpose is of V shape, made from wire, *f g*, Fig. 8, representing the two legs. At the apex *h* one or more convolutions are preferably introduced into the wire, so as to form an eye or loop, and in each of the free ends of the two legs a

loop, *i*, is formed by bending the wire back upon itself. One of these springs is applied to each side of the bustle, and, preferably, upon the inside. The apex of the spring is fixed to one of the intermediate bows—say C, as seen in Fig. 3—by any suitable pivot through the bow and loop of the spring. The legs extend one, *f*, toward the arm A, where its loop embraces a stud, *l*, and the other leg, *g*, extends, say, to the lower bow, E, where its loop *i* embraces a stud, *m*. These loops allow longitudinal play of the legs of the spring, and so that as the bustle is collapsed, as indicated in broken lines, Fig. 3, the two legs of the spring will be brought nearer together, the loops sliding over their respective studs to permit such movement. Then, when left free, the spring reacts and throws the bows A E asunder, and the several bows, being connected, are correspondingly distended.

Instead of attaching the springs to the bows with loops at the free ends of the legs of the spring and the pivot at the apex, the legs may terminate in a short loop, *n*, (see Fig. 9,) and the apex made in the form of a loop, *r*, which will embrace an intermediate bow—say C—and so as to slide thereon. The loops *n n* being respectively secured to a pivot on the extreme bows A E, the action of the spring will be the same as before, except that now the loop *r* of the spring will slide upon the central bow, while the two ends will be fixed; or the spring may be made with a loop at its apex and at both ends, as seen in Fig. 10—the loop at the apex arranged to slide upon the intermediate bow and the loops at the ends to slide on the pivots. The collapse in any case brings the ends of the springs nearer together, so as to contract the spring. Then the reaction of the spring expands the bustle.

I have represented the bustle as of that class having all the bows terminating at a pivot common to all; but it will be understood that the same spring is applicable to other bustles in which the bows are pivoted separately to the body-pieces, as in Fig. 11. My invention is therefore not to be understood as limited to any particular class of bustles.

I claim—

1. The herein-described clip, consisting of the one part, I, in the form of a cross, the two arms *b b* of the cross turned toward each other and brought into substantially parallel planes, the second part, K, arranged upon the reverse side of the part I, and the other two arms, *e e*, of the part I closed upon the said part K, and so as to secure the said part K to the part I in a plane at right angles to the plane of the said arms *b b*, substantially as described.

2. A bustle consisting of several bows pivoted by their ends to a body-bow, combined with a V-shaped spring, its two legs connected to two of the bows, which said two bows are themselves hinged together between the points of connection of the two legs of said spring, and the apex of the said spring connected to a bow intermediate or between the said two bows to which the legs are connected, the said spring being constructed at its ends with loops to form said connections, substantially as described.

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