

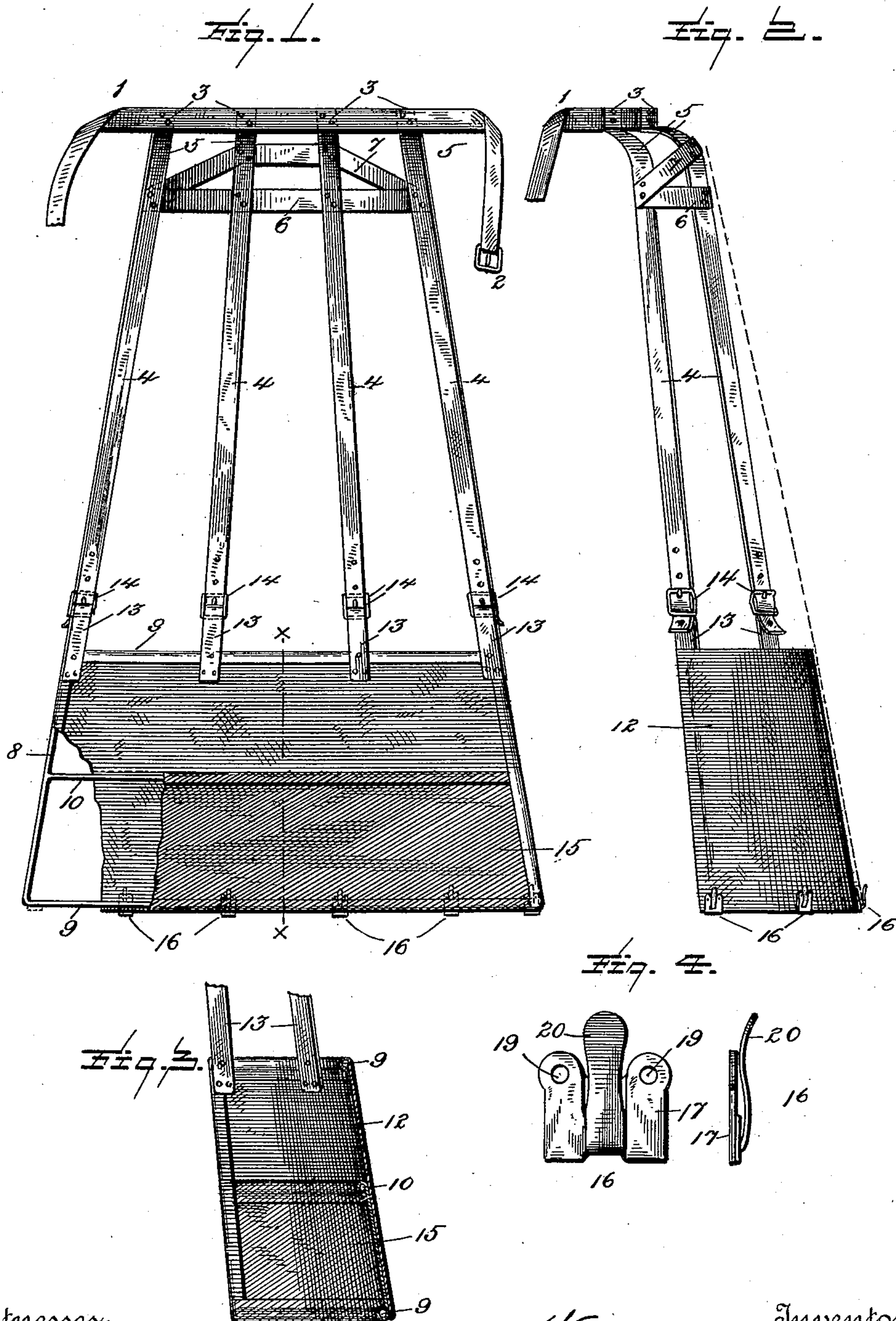
(No Model.)

W. F. SMITH & A. B. CATTERALL.

SKIRT PROTECTOR.

No. 401,078.

Patented Apr. 9, 1889.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM F. SMITH AND ALBERT B. CATTERALL, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

SKIRT-PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 401,078, dated April 9, 1889.

Application filed January 15, 1889. Serial No. 296,440. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM F. SMITH and ALBERT B. CATTERALL, citizens of the United States, residing at Syracuse, in the
5 county of Onondaga, State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Skirt-Protectors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention has relation to skirt-protectors for ladies, and among the main objects in view are to provide a protector designed to be fastened to the waist of the wearer or to the bustle, and which is designed to take the
15 place of the usual skirt-reeds and other dress shaping and supporting devices, the entire structure, while being pliable and light, also being capable of production at a minimum cost.

20 Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features will be particularly pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is an
25 inside elevation of a protector constructed in accordance with our invention, and Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail in vertical section on the line $x x$ of Fig. 1, and Fig. 4 is a detail in front and side elevation of the preferred form of fastener for
30 securing the edge of the skirt to the protector.

Like numerals of reference indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

35 1 represents the waistband, one end of which is provided with a buckle, 2.

Depending from the waistband and secured thereto—in this instance by eyelets 3—are a series of tapes, 4, which, near their upper ends,
40 are curved, as at 5, or provided with a fullness, which is maintained by means of a transverse connecting tape or other band, 6, and a diagonal similar band, 7, the bands being riveted to the tapes 4 at their intersec-
45 tions.

8 represents the protector-frame, and the same is of rectangular shape and curved to conform to the dress; and it consists of oppo-
50 site transverse steel or other metallic ribs, 9, and an intermediate similar rib, 10, and end

vertical ribs, 11. Over the frame thus described is mounted a suitable covering of cambric or other material, 12, the edges of which are sewed or otherwise secured to the opposite transverse ribs, 9. 55

Riveted or otherwise secured to the upper edge of the cambric or other covering, 12, are a series of upwardly-projecting short tapes, 13, provided at their free ends with buckles 14, the tapes agreeing in number with the se-
60 ries of tapes 4, which in this instance are four, they being considered sufficient, though they may be increased or diminished as desired. By means of the buckles 14 the protector may be lengthened or shortened to adapt the same
65 for persons of varying height. The inner surface of the protector-frame, from the lower transverse rod, 9, to the central rod, 10, is covered with a water-proof material, preferably rubber, 15, the edges of which are secured to
70 the above-mentioned rods.

Applied to the lower edge of the frame 8, and upon its outer surface, are a series of dress-receiving and securing clamps, 16. (See Fig. 4.) 75

The manner of using the protector is as follows: The same is employed under the dress or other skirts, the lower edge of the protector agreeing with that of the dress. The
80 clasps 16 being opened, the edge of the dress is inserted and the clasps closed thereupon. By this means the inner surface and the lower edge of the skirt are prevented from becoming spattered with mud, and are supported at a
85 suitable distance above the heels of the wearer. Any well-known clasp, 16, may be employed; but we prefer the form herein shown, in which 17 represents the securing-plate, provided with rivet-holes 19, and upon the plate is mounted a pivotal spring-actuated
90 tongue, 20.

If desired, the diagonal braces 6 may be made of some resilient material, whereby a bustle may be dispensed with. It will also be apparent that the waistband 1 may be
95 omitted and short straps project from the tapes 4, by which the tapes may be secured directly to the bustle.

Having described our invention, what we claim is—

The combination, with a series of depending tapes, of a protector-frame formed of steel ribs and bent to conform to the shape of the dress and having an outer covering of cam-
5 bric and an inner facing of rubber, the lower end of the frame being provided with a series of dress receiving and securing clamps, and the upper end of the protector being provided with a series of short tapes having buckles

for connection with the depending tapes, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM F. SMITH.

ALBERT B. CATTERALL.

Witnesses:

FRANK HOPKINS,

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